

Included in this issue...

## Headlight's salute to Rice High School Graduating Class of 1997

(Commencement Exercises scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday, May 29, at Raider Stadium. If raining, they will move indoors to Raider Gym.)

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## Raider Band members excel in competition

Congratulations to the saxophone quartet (Tim Galvan, Rebal Canaris, Delana Smith and Laine Labay) for earning a III at State Solo and Ensemble.

A III rating at state is extremely good, according to Band Director James Talton. A III is considered the equivalent of a I at the region level.

The saxophone judge was extremely difficult. At 12 p.m., he had not awarded any first divisions.

Congratulations also to Delana Smith for earning a II at State Solo and Ensemble on her piano solo.

A II is an excellent rating. At the state level, it is considered to be better than a first division.

The requirements for this level of contest are very high. Students have to memorize and perform their works flawlessly. To make it to the state level is an honor. To perform this well at the state level is EXCELLENT.

Talton sends a thank you Rice High School and Jr. High Band for making the Baccalaureate special.

The music was excellent and added a distinct level of grace and honor to the graduating class of 1997.

High School performers were Labay, Smith, Canaris and Pete Rangel. Jr. High Band performers were Rhonda Peroni, Johana Lopez, Kaycee Wilkerson, Amanda Labay, Robyn Alleyway, Chris Rodriguez and Anthony Salinas.

## Rice hires new athletic director

Russell Roark, currently coaching at Cuero High School, will be Rice CISD's new athletic director.

The 34-year-old Monahan High School graduate met with the student body at Rice High School Tuesday, May 27. "I have never coached a losing season and I don't intend to start," was one of his comments.

Roark and his wife, Toni, have two children, 6-year-old Alyssa and Wade, five.

After graduating from Texas Tech University, Roark coached one year at Bastrop Jr. High before returning to Tech to complete educational requirements and obtain a teaching certificate.

While at Tech, he served as student assistant coach helping with the secondary under Carlos Mainord, now part of the coaching staff of the Chicago Bears professional football team.

In 1989, Roark took a position at Kempner High School in Sugar Land, coaching the 9th grade football team

and assisting with basketball and track. While at Kempner, he was also head JV football coach and varsity defensive back coach.

At his most recent position, at Cuero, he was varsity coach for receivers and defensive backs as well as special teams and passing game coordinator. He also coached track.

## Council okays pursuit of private prison

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council voted 4-1 to pursue information in regard to a 1,000-bed privately-operated prison to be located in Eagle Lake at its May 13 meeting.

René Cooper-Scott cast the dissenting vote after Council was told by Mayor David Mann that the private vendor, Management Training Corporation (MTC), addressed the fact that there is the possibility of housing out-of-state prisoners if the facility is not full.

The first contracts would be with the Texas Department of Corrections.

Mann emphatically expressed that Consultant Billy Don Everitt, who was the consultant for both the City's last attempt at a state prison that was

unsuccessful and the secured juvenile facility, has been informed that City funds will be expended only in the event the City is successful in its bid to locate the prison in Eagle Lake.

"If we say we will pursue, we're not committing any finances," Mann said. "The only agreement we will consider with Everitt is performance only if we get it."

Mann and City Manager Ron Holland recently toured a facility near Henderson operated by MTC.

Both Mann and Holland agreed that what they observed was a well managed, well run facility from top to bottom.

"In all my prison ministries I've never seen a clearer picture of excel-

lent discipline, attitude and relationship between wardens and inmates," said Mann.

Education and rehabilitation play an important role in the facility's operation.

Mann pointed out that the facility would be a lock-down type unit.

"We're only asking tonight if you, as a Council, are willing to begin the process and pursue," said Mann.

Holland said the pre-construction conference for the juvenile detention facility had been held earlier in the day and Drymalla Construction would begin to "turn dirt" immediately.

Work has also begun on the housing project.

Council voted to enter in an agree-

ment to accept sewer from New Town residents.

Colorado County will sponsor a STEP grant application to fund the New Town sewer project with those residents having to provide the labor.

Richard Dancy, representing the New Town Water Corporation, was present at the meeting to answer any questions Council had concerning New Town tying into the City's sewer system.

Holland told Council the City will maintain all inspection rights as residents tie into the City's line.

Dancy told Council that New Town has been trying since 1990 to get a sewer project under way. "Now it seems like a reality. I'm glad the County and City are so receptive to our project," said Dancy.

According to Holland, the City will negotiate finance with the water corporation at a later date.

Council authorized the advertisement for bids on water and sewer lines to the new housing project units on Airline.

City Engineer Craig Kankel has completed the engineering study for the water and sewer extensions to serve the new apartments to be built near the airport.

It is important for the lines to be installed before Skytec does any road construction at the site, according to Holland.

In other business, Council: • Adopted a resolution honoring Police Lt. Clemon Johnson as Colorado County's Officer of the Year.

• Awarded the bid for airport construction to Denehl Construction in the amount of \$423,004.01; and

• Discussed the growing problem of "loose" dogs in the City which is forbidden by ordinance, as well as the large number of residents who have not registered their dogs as required by City ordinance with plans to alleviate the problem being formulated.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Singles dance is Friday

The Fort Bend Singles will sponsor a public dance on Friday, May 30, at 8 p.m. at the Needville K.C. Hall with music provided by The Country Playboys. Door prizes will be given. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 409-793-6557 or 793-4573.

### Cheerleading mini-camp is June 23-26

A cheerleading mini-camp will be held June 23 through 26. Time and place for elementary students are 9 to 10 a.m. at Sheridan, Eagle Lake and Garwood Schools; and Jr. High Cheerleaders, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Garwood. The cost is \$10 per person. Come join the fun; everyone's welcome.

### New Child Development Center to open

A New Beginnings Child Development Center, a full service child care center, is now accepting pre-enrollment applications for the 1997-98 school year and for full time child care. This center is scheduled to open in Aug. For more information, call Martha M. Flores at 234-2785.

### 'Dream Machine' is summer reading theme

Imagine! Explore! Invent! And more! All at the Eula and David Wintermann Library. Children ages four through completed fifth grade are invited to sign up for The Incredible Dream Machine 1997 Texas Reading Club. When you join this club, you can read some fantastic books, earn some awesome awards and attend some great activities. Story hour will be Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 and movies will be shown Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:30. This program is sponsored annually by the library and the Texas State Library. Fill your days with fun! Call 234-5411 for more information.

### Pre-Juneenth Gospel Fest is June 14

A Pre-Juneenth Gospel Fest will be June 14 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Alleyton from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be games, rides, food and good gospel music. If you are interested in having booth space, call 409-234-7267 or 281-342-7557; the fee is \$25. If you're looking for a good time, organizers guarantee this is the place for you! They say you'll have a Hallelujah time!!!

### Class of 1977 planning reunion

Can you believe it's been 20 years since the Rice High School Class of 1977 graduated? Plans are in the works for a class reunion and help is needed! If you can help in any way, the organizers would love to hear from you. Call or write A.S.A.P.: Cynthia Tomchesson Treybig, 7403 Quiet Glen Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77479, 281-343-1695; or Denise Rucka Thompson, P.O. Box 247 Garwood, TX 77442, 409-758-9027. Messages left at the home Kathy Frenzel Stephens, were not received. Please contact Treybig or Thompson. Parents and friends... addresses are still needed for some class members. Please call and leave a message, or write, if you have current addresses.

### Parish of the Nativity schedules picnic

The Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake, will hold its June Picnic Sunday, June 8, at 310 N. Stevenson, Our Lady of Perpetual Help grounds. Serving of the barbecue chicken and sausage dinner will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adult plates are \$5; kids plates \$3 (curb service available, adult plates only). There will be amusements, games and an auction (at 1 p.m.). A drawing will be held immediately after the auction. Enter the horseshoe pitching and/or volleyball tournaments. For more information, call 409-234-2842.

### My Friend's House having camp, registration

The United Methodist Church's My Friend's House will begin a "Summer Camp" program on June 2. The camp is offered to all pre-school and primary school children. My Friend's House is also having pre-registration for pre-school age children. Enrollment is limited, so call soon. For more information, contact Gail Gertson at 409-234-3330.

### Class of 1987 plans reunion

Rice High School Class of 1987 will be holding a 10-year reunion at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center (golf course) Saturday, May 31, with activities beginning at 10 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch for you and your family and/or guests. For more details, call Lesley Matthews at 409-234-5713 (daytime) or Stacey (Causey) Hlavinka at 409-335-7546 (evenings).

### Juneenth Celebration slated for June 14

A Juneenth Celebration is slated for Saturday, June 14. Parade and booth entry deadline has been set for Sunday, June 1. A Mr. & Miss Juneenth Contestants will also be chosen Friday, June 13. Deadline for entry is also June 1. For more information, call 234-5651, 234-2467, 234-5067 or 234-7948.

## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending May 27.

On May 20, at 9:30 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was assisting at Municipal Court when he was advised by the judge of a subject with outstanding warrants.

Officer Ochoa arrested Timothy Ray Ramirez, processed him at the police department, then transported him to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 3:29 p.m., Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to Johnny D. Hutchins Drive in response to a report of a school bus/automobile accident.

The bus driver, Raymond Sandacz, backed into a parked car belonging to Jean Leopold as he was attempting to go around another bus.

There were no injuries, no damage to the bus and damage to the front left of the Leopold vehicle.

At 10:22 p.m., Officer Risk received a loud music call in the 600 block of Fairview Street, but upon his arrival was unable to locate any music.

At 10:28 p.m., Officer Risk was dispatched to Boothe Drive in reference to an unwanted guest.

The subject was escorted off the property and no further action was required.

On May 21, at 5:30 p.m., Officers Ochoa and Keith Norman conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Boothe Drive which resulted in the driver being arrested for driving while license suspended.

After processing at the police department, Richard Duque of Garwood, was transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 5:50 p.m., a two-vehicle accident was reported in the 800 block of E. Main.

Involved were a 1982 Chevrolet pickup, driven by Edward Thomas Upson of Eagle Lake, and a 1988 Chevrolet Blazer, driven by Ricardo Vargas.

Reportedly, Thomas was driving west bound in the 800 block of E. Main, preparing to turn into a private drive, when Vargas' vehicle collided with the rear of Thomas' vehicle.

On May 22 at 12:21 a.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to Church Street in reference to suspicious persons, but no one was located.

At 12:31, Officer Crume was dispatched to Commerce Street in reference to phone harassment and a report was filed.

At 12 p.m., the police department was advised by Union Pacific Railroad of Denver of an unwanted rider on a train that was entering Eagle Lake.

When the train stopped at the depot, Lt. Clem Johnson searched the train but was unable to locate the subject.

Johnson then located the subject in the 300 block of Main Street and was advised by the subject that he had gotten off the train to get some food.

The subject was identified and advised to get some other type of transportation, as he was not wanted on the train.

At 10:40, Officers Risk and Crume received a call of a domestic dispute as well as a call concerning a woman with a gun.

The calls were related. All parties were located at a residence on Boothe Drive.

After investigation, Linda Semora was arrested for deadly conduct, processed at the police department, then transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 8:56 p.m. on May 23, Officer Risk received a loud music call on Seventh Street, but was unable to locate any loud music in the area.

On May 24 at 12:24 a.m., Officer Bill Lattimore was dispatched to Rice Medical Center in regard to an assault victim.

After meeting with the victim, who refused to prosecute, no further action was taken by Lattimore.

At 12:26 a.m., Officer Risk received a call on phone harassment. After meeting with the complainant, no action will be taken at this time.

At 1:12 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to an activated alarm on FM 3013.

The building was secure and the key holder reset the alarm.

At 1:28 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to the police department to meet with a complainant in reference to a lost dog.

The complainant later called back and advised that she had found her dog.

At 7:19 p.m., Officer Risk was dispatched to a disturbance call on West Main Street. After meeting with the subjects, the matter was settled at the scene and no further action was required.

On May 25 at 6:36 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of children shooting a BB gun on First Street. Officer Risk checked the area, but was unable to locate the subjects.

On May 26 at 1:10 a.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to East State Street in reference to a family disturbance.

A report was taken, but the victim did not want to file charges. No other action was taken.

At 3:20 p.m., the theft of a bicycle

was reported to Sgt. Jack Knox. The case is under investigation.

At 4:24 p.m., Sgt. Knox and Chief Keith Webb were dispatched to B Street in reference to a burglary in progress.

Upon the officers' arrival, the suspects were gone.

Since no entry had been made nor damage done by the juvenile suspects, the complaint did not wish to pursue the matter further.

At 7:39 p.m., Officer Risk was contacted to do a civil standby on Schley Street.

After items were removed from the residence, no other action was taken.

On May 27 at 9:22 a.m., Officer Ochoa was advised by Juvenile Probation of a juvenile runaway.

Ochoa checked by the residence, verified the information and submitted a report.

## Gangs in Texas

By Texas Attorney General Dan Morales

Since 1991, my office has been tracking youth gang problems in our state, especially in our larger cities. The Attorney General Gang Reports reflect the views of police and sheriff's departments: gangs are a growing menace to public safety and the future of our young people.

We are encouraged by our state's decreasing crime rate and the progress we have made in the area of juvenile crime.

I am concerned, however, because the gang problem in Texas is apparently still getting worse, not better.

How can you tell whether your community has a gang problem?

Some signs of gang problems in schools are a rise in truancy, an increasing number of social groups with unusual names and young people wearing tattoos, beads and uniform colors.

Not every child who experiments with gang styles is a gang member. But the presence of gang style and subculture is not a healthy element in a child's environment.

Graffiti (names and symbols painted on walls and other surfaces) is significant, too. "Tagging" or graffiti that consists of only names and pictures, is not necessarily gang-related. It is vandalism, however, a costly nuisance.

When gang names, challenges and symbols appear, the situation is more serious, especially if signs and gang

names are crossed-out. Gangs challenge one another by painting over each other's graffiti.

Your local police or sheriff's office may be able to help you decipher the sometimes cryptic signs.

Graffiti is not confined to walls; look for gang signs on school notebooks, books and papers, too.

Finally, a rising incidence of confrontations, "stare-downs" and racial tensions, should be taken very seriously. "Show-bys" (display of weapons) and "drive-by" shootings are clear signals that gang activity is well out of hand.

What can we do about gangs?

First, acknowledge the problem. In some communities, residents and

(See Gangs, Page 10)

## Forage field day scheduled

The Texas Agriculture Extension Service and the Colorado County Extension Beef and Forage Committee is sponsoring a Forage Field Day beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, June 6, hosted by Delton Hollmann at his pasture located east of Columbus.

On site, those attending will view different forage types including Coastal, Jiggs and Tifton 85 bermuda

(See Forage, Page 10)