



Sunday,
June 15

FCC has toll-free number

The Federal Communications Commission is operating a toll-free National Call Center where residents of Texas can call without charge for information on any question about communications.
That toll-free number is 1-888-CALL FCC (1-888-225-5322).
The TTY toll-free number is 1-888-TELL FCC (1-888-835-5322).
The FCC toll-free numbers use the new 1-888 sequence, not the older 800-toll-free service.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Check it out!

...Grace Lutheran's signboard, that is. It's a great way to get your weekly dose of spiritual humor. If you enjoy the signboard, try coming in on Sunday mornings at 10:30. We would love to have you at 408 N. Stevenson.

CGCMC has new unit

It's here! Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center (CGCMC) is proud to announce it's newest service - the Hyperbaric Medicine Unit. You are invited to attend the Hyperbaric Medicine Unit's open house Wednesday June 25, beginning at 4 p.m. Stop by... ask questions, meet the staff and see the chamber. For more information about his community service provided by CGCMC, call 409-282-6109.

E.H. Henry Alumni meeting tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry Historical site.

PEM offers local heritage program

For approximately four weeks this summer, the Prairie Edge Museum (PEM) will provide a program emphasizing our local heritage and cultures, local plants and wildlife, and pioneer methodology. Enrollment is for students who have completed grades first through fifth. There will be two teachers, Jeanne Jackson and Betty Janish. More details will be in next week's *Headlight*.

Title I program meeting June 17

A Title I Program information meeting for all Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) and Eagle Lake Primary School parents will be held at ELMS Tuesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is plan the Title I Program for the 1997-98 school year.

Lissie Methodist schedule ice cream social

The Lissie United Methodist Church (LUMC) will host its annual ice cream social and community sing along Sunday, June 29, with ice cream being served between 5 and 7 p.m. The evening Sing Along will begin at 7 p.m. with selections from the congregation. It will last approximately one hour. This is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and good singing. An invitation is extended to everyone.

Bake sale at Heritage House

Heritage House is planning a bake sale Friday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please come by to help our residents. For more information, contact Linda Tillman at 234-3591.

Defensive driving course

A six hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel for June 23 and 24 in Columbus at the Agricultural Building, 316 Spring St. For more information or to register for the course, call 409-732-2734 or arrive a few minutes early.

Seminar registration extended

The Directors of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District have extended the registration deadline for the Teacher Seminar to June 13. The two day seminar, June 24 and 25, is open to all educators, kindergarten through high school. Registration fee is \$60, payable to Colorado SWCS. The mailing address is Colorado SWCS, 316 Spring, Columbus 78934; or call 409-732-2773.

Getsemani Baptist Church to host VBS

Join your friends and partners and be a part of the fun, Bible study, crafts, games, and tasty vittles at the wildwest Vacation Bible School (VBS) you've ever seen. The fun will be at Getsemani Baptist Church, 901 B Street, June 23-27 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 409-234-2714.

Head Start accepting enrollment applications

The Head Start program is a pre-school program offering comprehensive services to three and four year-old children and their families at no charge. Cent-Tex Family Services Inc. has selected children who will begin attending Head Start in Sept.; however, there may still be slots available at the Head Start Center in your community. Please contact Andreana Ledesma at 303-7737 ext. 23 or 1-800-484-6634 code 7737 for more information or for an enrollment application to be mailed to your home. If the center in your area is currently full, children applying will be placed on the waiting list until a slot is available.

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.

'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-Juneteenth Gospel Fest is June 14

A Pre-Juneteenth 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.

Juneteenth Celebration slated for June 14

A Juneteenth Celebration is slated for Saturday, June 14. For more information, call 234-5651, 234-2467, 234-5067 or 234-7948.

House Bill 3572 awaiting governor's signature

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer
House Bill 3572, giving the Colorado County Attorney's office the

power to prosecute felony crimes, is awaiting the governor's signature.

The bill, filed April 11 and authored by State Representative Robby

Cook and sponsored by Senator Ken Armbrister, passed the House of Representatives May 25, made it through the Senate May 26, and was sent to the

governor May 27.

The bill sets the salary of the county attorney at about \$85,000, the same as the District Judge. The salary will be paid by the state.

The present salary of the county attorney is \$29,920 and is paid from Colorado County's General Fund.

According to County Attorney Julian Moore, the state will contribute an additional amount for operation of the office, approximately \$22,500.

Currently, the county attorney handles misdemeanor cases. Felony cases are prosecuted through the district attorney's office, headquartered in Seguin and covering four counties.

The rationale in favor of the bill is that it will allow the County to move cases more quickly and increase fine and fee collections.

The new system will take effect Sept. 1.

A similar system is already in operation in Fayette County.

The Colorado County Commissioner's Court and Colorado County Bar Association had previously endorsed the proposed bill.

Athletic Director Roark names staff

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer
tant, as well as teaching physical education at Rice High School.

Patrick Willis will join the Raider staff as a varsity assistant and head track and powerlifting coach. He comes to Rice from Kerens High School.

Tammy Henry, a recent graduate of Prairie View A&M University, will assume the duties of girls' track and assistant volleyball and basketball coach.

Steve Hernandez, who will teach special education at Eagle Lake Middle School, will join the Rice High School staff as an assistant in football and basketball. Hernandez is presently employed at La Pryor.

Larry A. Wutrich, a Wharton

coach, will coach the Raider baseball program.

Other new employees approved for contracts were Deborah Politsch, who will teach pre-kindergarten at Eagle Lake Primary School; Kimberly McFall, band and music, ELMS; Lorie Van Gorp, freshmen English at RHS; and Lynda Appelt, a half-day teacher at ELPS.

Resignations were accepted from Rhonda Mieth and Jim Crews, a coach, at RHS; Suzie Rinehart in the co-op; and Stan Miller, music and band at ELMS. Retirement/resignation was also accepted from Appelt.

The Board reinstated a local policy for accrued state leave for RCISD (See School Board, Page 7)

There may still be hope for 'Old Jail' building

The saga over the old County Jail continued to surface during Monday's regular monthly meeting of the Colorado County Commissioners' Court.

A total of 18 people paraded before the Court to offer "public comment" against the demolition of the old jail. A majority of those citizens asked that the Court place the item on the ballot in the next election to let the voters decide the building's fate.

It was at the conclusion of that segment that Precinct 3 Commissioner Tommy Hahn said that he would ask for an emergency meeting as soon as possible to discuss the situation further.

"I will ask the Judge (Vince Slominski) to call an emergency meeting

to discuss all the comments made here today," said Hahn. "I have had a lot of comments (outside the Court) about tearing it down. Of course, none of them are here this morning."

That meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m. today (Thursday).

It was reported that Recovery Contractors Inc. of Pearland was scheduled to begin the demolition process with the removal of the asbestos today (Thursday).

"Can't we ask the contractor to wait?" asked Hugo Helmscamp and, with that, Slominski responded that he would make the call to the Pearland company, asking it to hold off until after the issue is settled.

The Court had appointed a com-

mittee in Sept. 1995 to conduct a feasibility study on the old jail. A few months later, that group recommended the demolition. It was after that announcement that a group of concerned citizens asked for the Court to reconsider.

Since that time, Slominski had an architectural firm say that it would cost as much as \$168,000 just to refurbish the first floor of the building. Recovery's bid to demolish the structure is only \$33,852.

Crockett Leyendecker, who has led the fight to save the old jail, presented the Court with a letter, dated June 9, from Jamie Wise of the Texas Historical Commission's Division of Architecture.

It noted that the old jail was within the Colorado County Courthouse District that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

"Though your County Judge and Commissioners' Court have made a substantial effort to save the building, it appears that the building's historical designation was not understood," said Wise.

"Since there continues to be local support for preservation of this property, we encourage you, the Commissioners' Court and County Judge to make one more attempt to seek a viable alternative to demolition.

"Our agency is willing to meet and assist in this endeavor at your earliest convenience," said Wise in the letter.

He also pointed out that historic county jails across Texas, including Gonzales, Milam, Caldwell and Bastrop Counties, have received successful rehabilitation and adaptive use.

"The National Register listing opens the door to several funding sources that we strongly encourage you to consider," said Wise.

Leyendecker reminded the Court that the old jail was one of the "strongest buildings in Columbus" and once it is destroyed "another historical building will be gone."

He said that a gentleman, later identified as W.A. Schindler, had offered to pay \$25,000 to \$30,000 to buy the building, and he and his wife, Dorothy, would match that offer.

"I did offer the price to buy it... just in case you want to tear it down," said Schindler. "You can take what I will pay for it and the money you were going to use to demolish it, and buy any place in town for parking."

One of the considerations for the property site was to use it for additional parking for Courthouse visitors.

Tom Fleming, a candidate for sheriff in the last election, said that the Court should consider public safety before tearing it down.

(See Commissioners, Page 6)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending June 9.

Last week, Jerry Retzlaff of IGA Foods filed a complaint with Chief Keith Webb regarding a fraudulent scheme in which an Eagle Lake female resident forged documents in an effort to falsely obtain credit so that she could open a charge account. The incident occurred during the end of 1996. The resident ran the bogus account up to \$586 in six weeks.

Chief Webb conducted the investigation which led to the recovery of all of the money lost by the IGA Store. The suspect has not been charged at this time pending further investigation involving a governmental agency.

On Wednesday, June 4, at approximately 3 p.m., Chief Webb received an anonymous tip that there was marijuana in and being sold from Solar Hills Apartments, Apt. #3.

Webb and Sgt. Jack Knox went to the location and received permission to search the residence from the renter and occupant of the apartment, Martina Soliz Zapata. Zapata stated she was home alone.

During the search of the apartment, two males were found hiding inside. Knox located and recovered a large baggie containing individually wrapped and sealed bags of a green, leafy substance believed to be marijuana. He also located two small electronic scales, two police-type handheld radios, a hand-written document indicating a drug sales business and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia.

Zapata, from Eagle Lake, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana over two ounces.

Felipe Ray Melendez, also of Eagle Lake, was arrested on three outstanding County Court warrants as well as being charged with possession of marijuana over two ounces.

Chance Anthony Thornhill of Louisiana and Texas was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana over two ounces. Thornhill was also wanted by Colorado County for violation of his felony probation.

Lt. Clem Johnson and Officers

Brian Ochoa and Keith Norman assisted in the arrests and processing of the above individuals.

Chief Webb has been investigating a burglary of a residence which occurred May 5. The investigation led to the recovery of the stolen property and the arrest of two juveniles. A 13-year-old Hispanic female and a 13-year-old Hispanic male were arrested and detained on June 4. The two juveniles were transported to a Victoria Juvenile Detention Center.

On June 5, the two juveniles appeared in Colorado County Juvenile Court before Judge Vince Slominski for a detention hearing. Chief Webb and Juvenile Probation Officer Rosemary Ashner testified. The hearing resulted in continued detention for the two, who are scheduled for another hearing June 18. The burglary investigation, which also involves at least one adult female, continues.

On June 3 at 1:47 a.m., Officer Bill Lattimore was dispatched to the police department to meet with a complainant. After the meeting, Lattimore and

Officer Carl Risk were asked to stand-by while she picked up her small child. No other action was necessary.

At 3:05 a.m., Officer Lattimore was flagged down by a complainant in regard to her juvenile daughter running away. A report was filed.

At 6:01 p.m., Sgt. Knox received a call to meet a complainant who desired assistance in removing property from a residence. Knox went to the residence and found the problem was resolved. No other action was taken.

On June 4 at 7:18 a.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to Beaks Street in reference to a disturbance. Upon arrival, Meichell Harvey Thomas was arrested for an outstanding warrant, processed at the police department, then transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 7:06 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to a vehicle accident at B&B Food. Jean Carpenter McInteer, driving a 1991 Chrysler, was backing out of a parking space and backed into a

(See Police, Page 10)



Museum receives substantial grant

Prairie Edge Museum recently received a \$2,000 grant from the York Group Inc. in partnership with "The York's Children's Foundation".

The monies will be used toward a program emphasizing local heritage and cultures, local plants and wildlife and pioneer methodology at the museum.

Pictured here, from left, are Austin Winter, York Group Inc.; Larry and Lana Dulany; Museum Curator Bill Harrison; Helen Craig; Museum Board President Obie Rhodes; Grace Cooper, museum treasurer; and Board Vice President Melvin Schmidt. (See Page 6 for related story.)

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas