

Wintermann Library offers amnesty

The Eula and David Wintermann Library is offering an amnesty period during the month of Aug.

This means you can return overdue books, videos, magazines and audio books without paying a fine!

Please locate library materials you may have overlooked and return them, as the Library is in need of them.

Remember, you cannot check-out anything until all overdue items are returned.

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NEWSBRIEFS

ELMS students to pick up schedules

Room assignments for 5th through 8th grades will be given when students pickup their books and schedules Tuesday, Aug. 5, and Wednesday, Aug. 6, in the school cafeteria. Aug. 5: 5th grade, 9 a.m. 12 noon; 6th grade, 1-4 p.m. Aug. 6: 7th grade, 9 a.m. to 12 noon; 8th grade, 1-4 p.m.

ELPS pre-registration is Aug. 4

Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) will hold a final pre-registration date Monday, Aug. 4, from 3 to 6 p.m. Students new to the area, as well as any pre-kindergarten or kindergarten student not already registered, should be registered. School begins Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 8 a.m. for all students in the Rice CISD. This pre-registration will help teachers and staff get ready for your children when they arrive Aug. 12. If you have any questions concerning pre-registration, please call the school office at 234-3587.

Ministerio de milagros

La Iglesia La Vina del Senor, 1300 East State Street, Eagle Lake invita al publico que vengan a recibir sus milagros. Los Hermanos Jose y Sylvia Barrera estaran con nosotros Agosto 10, 1997 at las 2 p.m. Los Hermanos Barrera ministrando en la palabra, ministerio musical y platificacion de dentadura.

Ministry in miracles

The Vine of the Lord Church, 1300 E. State Street in Eagle Lake, invites the public to come and receive your miracle. Jose and Sylvia Barrera will join us Sunday, Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. They minister through the word of God and through music. Come receive your miracle.

Thrift Shop open this Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open this Saturday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Be sure to stop by and checkout their specials. By the way, the thrift shop is in need of children's clothing. If you have any, please drop them by. They would appreciate it.

Band practice starts July 31

Freshman members of the Mighty Raider Band will begin practicing July 31, from 8 to 11 a.m. The entire band will practice from Friday, Aug. 1, through Friday, Aug. 8, 8 to 11 a.m.

Raider Boosters to meet

The Raider Booster Club will host a "Meet the Coaches Night" Monday, Aug. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Pool. All Rice athletes and prospective booster club members are invited. Dues may be paid that day.

Class of 1976 plan reunion

Rice High School Class of 1976 is planning a reunion for Sept. 27 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Anyone with information on '76 graduates, such as addresses, may contact Denise Austin Janow, 409-234-2418; or Carolyn Bowen Baird, 234-5864.

Important City Council meeting Aug. 12

The Aug. 12 agenda of the Eagle Lake City Council will include action upon the removal of motor vehicles from the appraisal roll. There will be no public hearing. In lieu of a hearing, the Council is asking citizens to attend the meeting to express their opinion on the subject.

KCs schedule fried chicken dinner

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus will be holding a fried chicken dinner Sunday, Aug. 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 710 E. Main. Tickets for the meal are \$5 each and may be purchased from any KC member.

Voelkel family reunion is Aug. 3

The Voelkel family reunion will be held Sunday, Aug. 3, at Harmonie Hall in Shelby. Barbecue will be provided, so each family is asked to bring either a vegetable, salad or dessert. Mealtime will be about 12:30, so come early and allow enough time for visiting. A silent auction will again be held. Baked and canned goods, needlepoint or arts and crafts items which anyone is willing to donate will be greatly appreciated.

VA office has new hours

Effective Aug. 4, 1997, business hours for the Department of Veterans Affairs Houston Regional Office will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, for personal and telephone interviews. All other VA offices will remain open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Regional Office is located at 6900 Alameda Rd., Houston, Texas, 77030; 1-800-827-1000. Assistance is provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the Internet at <http://www.hic.net/houstonva>.

4-H Council to sponsor dance

The Colorado County 4-H Council is sponsoring a Back-To-School Dance for members and their guests on Friday, Aug. 8 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Veteran's Community Center, Columbus. The dance will have a Hawaiian theme and a prize will be awarded for the best costume. 4-H members may bring one guest; admission is \$3 per person. 4-H'ers are asked to bring a snack item for the refreshment table. The concession stand will be open to sell sodas. Door prizes will be given. For more information, call 409-732-2530.

Fourth grade orientation is Aug. 11

An orientation for fourth grade students will be held Monday, Aug. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Eagle Lake Middle School cafeteria. Topics to be discussed will be bus routes, schedules, dress code, etc. You will also be able to meet the teachers and see the classrooms.

Time for 1998 Seniors to 'say cheese'

Prestige Portraits will be taking portraits of the 1998 seniors at Rice High School Wednesday, Aug. 6, from noon to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Aug. 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You should receive information in the mail regarding your scheduled time.

Senior Citizens' dance Friday

A Senior Citizens Dance will be held Friday, Aug. 1, at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 to 11:30 p.m. with music by The Country Playboys. Admission is \$5 per person; door prizes will be given. The public is invited.

St. Mary's sets registration date

Registration for St. Mary's School in Nada will be held Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 7 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. in the school library.

Community Center has new number

The Eagle Lake Community Center has a new phone number: 409-234-7890. Reservations and all bookings remain the same. The office has also been moved. If you have any questions, please call the new number.

55 and over fitness classes offered

Rice Medical Center is providing free 55 and over fitness classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 to 9:45 a.m. Anyone interested in joining or, if you would like more information about the classes, call 409-234-5571. (See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

'They're as serious as a heart attack'...

Council learns CSC wants prison here

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council heard the "bad news/good news" story concerning the construction of a 1,000-bed adult prison facility in the City of Eagle Lake at its July 22 meeting.

Mayor David Mann related the receipt on July 15 of "bad news" — an answer of "no" from Management

Training Corporation (MTC) — and the "good news" — a letter of intent from Correctional Services Corporation (CSC) on July 17 to build a 1,000-bed facility in Eagle Lake.

CSC is the private vendor that is presently constructing the juvenile boot camp facility in Eagle Lake.

CSC's chief operating officer, Mike Garretson, who presented Mann with the letter of intent, instructed the

mayor to go ahead and get options on a land site, obtain a site survey and an environmental study and "bill us."

"These folks are as serious as a heart attack" said Mann.

According to Garretson, "CSC wants this facility to be the showplace of all our facilities; therefore, the architect will be chosen very carefully."

"With the two facilities, (the boot

camp and 1,000-bed facility), a mile or so apart, we'll be able to bring prison-seekers to Eagle Lake and say 'what do you want to see,' " said Garretson.

The educational program will be self-contained and CSC will do its own hiring.

According to Garretson, CSC's operation will provide 330-350 jobs. MTC had projected 250 jobs.

Following the discussion, Council adopted a resolution of support for CSC to construct the facility.

CSC requested the resolution include two specific items. First, Eagle Lake needed to deal exclusively with CSC; in turn, CSC committed to Eagle Lake and will not consider any other Texas location.

Secondly, the Council needs to agree to enter into an inter-local agreement with other jurisdictions in order to obtain inmates for the facility should the Texas Department of Criminal Justice not be able to fill all 1,000 beds.

CSC President James Slattery feels that a resolution including these points will help solidify the support of the CSC board of directors who meet on Aug. 12.

Council discussed the removal of motor vehicles from the appraisal roll. The item will be placed on the agenda for the Aug. 12 meeting.

Council is encouraging citizens to attend the meeting to express their opinions.

In other business, Council:

- Approved amendment No. 1 to the Airport Participation Agreement, authorizing the engineer to proceed with construction at the Eagle Lake Airport;

- Discussed truck parking off of Glen Flora Road as it pertains to the City's truck permit ordinance;

- Discussed a change in the rate of pay for a mechanic from \$8 per hour to \$10 per hour; and

- Heard a request from Dave Curry concerning a water leak at his residence.

For permitted restricted wild animals...

County doesn't want responsibility

Colorado County Commissioners' Court announced plans to not allow restricted wild animals within the County's boundaries unless an individual and/or business is in possession of a permit from the United States Department of Agriculture.

As of Sept. 1, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will no longer be in charge of issuing permits and/or regulating the restricted wild animals through its department, according to

Game Warden David Perry.

And, the Court made it clear that it did not want the County to have that responsibility either.

However, a vote on the item was tabled until the Aug. 11 meeting when an official order will be established.

Among the restricted wild animals are: lions, tigers, ocelots, cougars, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, hyenas, bears, lesser pandas, binturongs, wolves, apes, elephants and rhinoceroses.

According to Perry, TPWD will not issue permits for such animals and will not be responsible for spot checks to inspect the facilities to house them.

"We have had some problems with restricted wild animals in the past. There are problems with maintaining the proper facilities and they're awfully expensive to feed," said Perry.

There are currently four individuals in the County that carry USDA permits and only two of those are presently in possession of restricted wild animals.

Perry added that if an individual carries a USDA permit then they were not required to have a state permit.

"I think it should be our policy to prohibit (the restricted wild animals), unless they are under USDA regulations," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert.

"The County will still have some enforcement if someone comes into the County without a permit."

Following a 30-minute executive session in which the salary of EMS Director Marc Jordan was discussed in relation to the 1998 proposed budget, the Court voted 3-2 to grant him an increase.

Jordan will earn a salary of \$24,000 per year without benefits, beginning in 1998, up from his current salary of \$19,902.

Leon "Sonny" Spanihel made the motion to grant the increase. It was (See Commissioners, Page 10)

Grocery business closes after 57 years

When IGA Foods, formerly Wilcox Minimax, closed its doors last Wednesday evening, July 23, it was for the last time under the ownership of Gerald Retzlaff.

The building has been locked since then; the only sign of life is a security guard who is on duty 24 hours a day.

Robert Wilcox, previous owner who sold the store to Retzlaff, was contacted by this office in order to find the reason(s) for the closing and possibilities for the future.

He had no comment.

Retzlaff could not be contacted for a comment.

Thus, after 57 years of serving Eagle Lake, first under the direction of Robert P. Wilcox Sr. and Ben McElhinney, the business is no more.

Robert Wilcox Jr. joined the business in May of 1948 after graduating from SW University.

Bob and his wife, Betty, were instrumental in the construction of the present building in 1965, as well as additions and improvements made over the years.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending July 28.

On July 22, at 4:48 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox met a complainant at the police department who advised that his vehicle had been burglarized. A report was filed and the case is under investigation.

At 11:09 p.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to the 400 block of Waverly in reference to loud music. The subject was located and issued a summons.

On July 23, at 12:03 a.m. Officer Crume was dispatched to Mills Street in reference to theft. Officer Crume contacted the complainant and a report was taken.

At 3:05 a.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to the 1200 block of East Main in reference to an accident. As a result of the investigation, Dana Elaine Gilchrist was arrested for driving while intoxicated, processed and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 4:01 p.m., Sgt. Knox received a report of loud music on Milam Street. The music was located and the subject agreed to turn the music down to come into compliance.

On July 24 at 3:50 a.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to 2nd Street in reference to criminal mischief. A report was filed and the case is under investigation.

A 8:58 p.m., Officer Crume conducted a routine traffic stop in the 100 block of Allen Street which resulted in the arrest of the driver, Ramiro Rico, for driving with a suspended license and evading arrest. After processing at the police department, Rico was transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 10:02 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to W. Main Street in reference to criminal trespass. The subject was contacted and issued a criminal trespass warning.

on July 25, at 8:16 a.m., Lt. Clem

Johnson met with a complainant at the police department and later on Lake-side Drive in reference to criminal mischief. The investigation revealed that juveniles were involved.

Criminal mischief on Seaholm St. was reported at 1:30 p.m. to Lt. Johnson who investigated the scene and filed a report.

At 2:35 p.m., Officer Crume was contacted at the police department in reference to harassment. A report was filed.

At 7:47 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to 1600 East Main Street in reference to a disturbance, which was resolved at the scene.

On July 26, at 1:01 p.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to Seaholm Street in reference to criminal trespass. The suspect was later located and issued a criminal trespass warning.

A subject reported a stolen bicycle to Officer Ochoa at 1:34 p.m. and the investigation continues.

At 8:27 p.m., Officer Carl Risk received a call of a burglary of a residence on N. Lake Street, but the prob-

lem was a civil matter.

At 9:32 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to E. State Street in reference to a civil matter.

On July 27, at 6:07 a.m., Officer (See Police, Page 10)

County clerk lists polling places for Aug. 9 election

Colorado County Commissioners agreed recently to consolidate the County's precincts for the upcoming Aug. 9 election due to the shortness of the ballot. Locations for casting your vote will be:

Precinct Number(s)	Precinct Name	Place Designated to Hold Election
1 & 2	Columbus/Glidden	Veterans Memorial Hall, Columbus
3 & 17	Altair/Eagle Lake	Eagle Lake Community Center
4 & 5	Garwood/Nada	Lions Hall, Garwood
6 & 7	Rock Island/Sheridan	Rock Island Community Center

(See Election, Page 2)



Movin' right along

The duplexes being built on Heritage Lane by the Eagle Lake Housing Corporation are moving along at a fairly fast clip. As can be seen in this photo, the crews are almost ready to begin the inside work.

Michael Cooper, president of corporation, had previously said their completion target is Oct. It looks like they'll make it with no problem.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing