

FCE profiles...

Labaj, a role model for all

By Betty Leopold
Who is Henry Labaj?
He is a valued, behind the scenes kind of guy who should be a role model for the citizens of our community.

Henry Michael Labaj, one of seven children, was born in Nada on April 15, 1920, to Anna (Gerla) and Fred D. Labaj.

Two of his brothers, Clement and Fred A. Labaj, and a sister, Loretta Morton, are deceased.

Two brothers, Raymond T. and Lawrence Labaj, and a sister, Martha Prihoda, still live in Nada.

As a young man in the 1930s, Henry started to make a difference in Nada through a lot of hard work.

He volunteered to help build the parish hall with lumber from the old St. Mary's Church.

He also helped dig the holes (with a shovel) for the poles that would allow the R.E.A. to bring electricity to rural Nada.

He and his brother, Clement, also dug graves in the Nada cemetery and were paid \$7 a grave.

On Feb. 19, 1942, at the age of 21, Henry enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps.

He still remembers his response to: "give your name, rank, serial number"... Labaj, Henry M., Corporal, 18062552, Sir.

First, he was a clerk, 055, nontypist, and later he was put in the 82nd Repair Squadron, serving in India for three years.

He was near the famous Taj Mahal, at Agra in northern India. This was a major repair depot for war planes. They had to find the parts, repair the planes and send them back



Henry Labaj

into action.

Henry courted his dear wife, Mary Prihoda of Nada, for eight years and before he was discharged on Oct. 3, 1945, Henry asked Mary to join him in Kearns, Utah, where they were married six days later on Oct. 9, 1945.

They made their home in Houston, where for 14 years Henry did auto upholstery.

Then they moved back to Nada, where he added furniture refinishing and restoring, and radio and TV repair to his line of work.

He also drove the school bus for a year for St. Mary's School children.

In about 1958, Walter Gold offered him a carpentry job which lasted for 22 years.

He became a "jack of all trades"

and "master" of every task he performed in building and repair.

He does his very best in all the jobs he takes on and does some very beautiful wood work. Some of his talents can be seen in St. Mary's and rectory.

He designed and constructed the additions to the side altars, made the two back tables for display and storage, the table before Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the transporting table for Our Lady of Fatima.

Henry also made lovely display boxes for the traveling statues. He designed and built the Founders Tree that is on the back wall of St. Mary's Church. The funds collected will be used to remodel our church, and Henry has donated a \$1,000 leaf.

Henry has been called on many occasions to do repair at the church, rectory and grounds, and when asked for a bill, he just cheerfully responds, "You don't owe me anything."

When the statues from St. Mary's were being repainted, he did much of their transportation back and forth to an artist near Schulenburg.

If Msgr. Victor called Henry, he did his best to serve. Many times, he would see things that needed repair and would get it done without any praise or recognition.

He is also known as "Mr. Fix It" to a lot of widows and ladies of the community who need his repair expertise.

He also looks in on his sister, Martha, on a daily basis and takes his sister-in-law on her errands and to church each weekend.

Henry is a member of St. Mary's Church, Nada Knights of Columbus Council No. 3371, K.J.T. and is a weekly Eucharist adorer.

Mrs. Labaj is a diabetic and has other health problems which cause her to be dependent upon her husband for getting her ready for the day, cooking, cleaning, shopping, etc. He monitors her health and gives her insulin shots. He is very devoted to her.

They enjoy taking rides to visit churches and cemeteries where relatives and friends are buried.

Henry and Mary will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary this Oct. 9, 1997.

He enjoys gardening and working in his shop. He is a cat lover who even builds elaborate little homes for his cats.

Henry Labaj is a man who has quietly, and without recognition, done much for the community.

He always has a friendly smile and a hug for those he meets.

You will not find a more devoted worker and faithful friend than Henry Michael Labaj.



Marsalia manages 'Rent to Own'

Melanie Wiese Marsalia is managing the new Ace Rent to Own "Your Hometown Furnishing Store" located at 105 N. McCarty in Eagle Lake.

Born and raised in Eagle Lake, she was a 1991 graduate of Rice High School and a 1994 graduate of the Bradford College of Business.

She invites everyone to stop by and check out all of their rent to own merchandise.

Headlight Photo by Leslie Risk

SW Bell Local Plus Q&A
Q. What is Local Plus?
(See Bell, Page 8)



VFW gives... the United Way

Len Matula, Commander of VFW Post #8783, recently presented a check to Tom Reed, chairman of the United Fund, as Matula's organization's contribution to the local United Way Campaign.

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas

Pharmacy & Your Health

EAGLE LAKE DRUGSTORE
Steve K. Balas, RPh

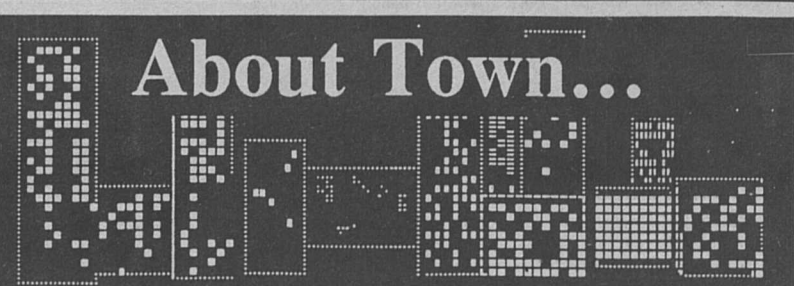
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24 Hour Emergency Phone: 234-3834

Medicines Most Often Prescribed for Anxiety

For most of us, anxiety is a normal but short-lived reaction to routine stresses. Anxiety becomes a problem only if it persists and prevents us from leading normal lives. When we are anxious, we may become apprehensive and tense. We may not be able to think clearly or sleep well. Some persons may have difficulty breathing and experience signs of fear, such as diarrhea, sweating palms, or a pounding heart. Panic attacks are a more severe form of anxiety. Persons who live with "free-floating" anxiety experience a constant state of anxiety without cause.

One of the best nondrug remedies for anxiety includes dealing directly with the problem before the anxiety becomes disabling. However, medications are sometimes needed to help alleviate anxiety symptoms. Medicines prescribed most often are members of the benzodiazepine chemical family. Commonly used benzodiazepines include *alprazolam* (Xanax), *temazepam* (Restoril) and *diazepam* (Valium). Starting doses for the benzodiazepines are usually low and are increased gradually until the anxiety begins to subside. Side effects may include drowsiness, confusion, and problems with coordination. Avoid alcohol when taking these medicines. Other medicines prescribed for anxiety include *buspirone* (Buspar) and the antidepressants.



•The Pilot Club International Convention was held July 19-22 in Honolulu, Hawaii, with over 1,400 Pilots and their guests in attendance. Mary Ann Kaluza was the delegate from the Pilot Club of Eagle Lake.

Pilot International is a global organization working to improve the quality of life in local communities and throughout the world.

•Sarah Marie Navarro had another enjoyable birthday this past Saturday, July 26. Family members and friends gathered to help her celebrate her 5th birthday. Sarah received many gifts, including a lot of clothing that will come in handy since she will be a kindergarten student at Garwood School in Aug.

Thanks to all of those who attended to make this a very special day for her.

•Kent Turner of Pattison made a

"Hole in One" on #7 at the Eagle Lake Golf Course with an eight iron while playing in the Wednesday evening scrambles. Way to go, Kent!

•Tammy Valles, Administrator at the Heritage House in Eagle Lake, would like to extend best wishes to Eagle Lake Home Health during their accreditation survey with JCAH. If the Heritage House can be of any assistance, feel free to call, Valles said.

•You won't be hearing Colorado County Sheriff's Department dispatcher Michael Korenek on the radio any more. He has taken a position with Harris County Constable, Pct. 5.

We're sure the law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel in the County will miss him, as will media in Colorado County, radio and newspapers.

He was one of the best. Good luck to you, Mike!

NEW HOURS!!!

Thomas Clinic

610 S. Austin Road, Eagle Lake
409-234-2551

**Now Offering
Expanded Hours!**

Appointments are now
scheduled from 8:30 a.m.
through 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday
(this includes through the lunch hour)

Saturdays 8:30 through 11 a.m.



Raymond R. Thomas, M.D.
R. Russell Thomas, Jr., D.O., M.P.H.
Leonard Bornstein, M.D.
Lois Goodwin, PA-C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON COLORADO COUNTY CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Colorado County CAD will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 1998 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 12, 1997, at 1:30 P.M. in the Colorado County Courtroom Grand Jury Room 3rd floor.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget is \$471,210.

The total amount of decrease over the current year's budget is \$8,550.

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 9 employees and the current budget has 10 employees.

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

Colorado County Central Appraisal District
P.O. Box 10
Columbus, Tx. 78934

Phone 409-732-8222

Colorado County Couthouse Report

DISTRICT COURT CASES FILED

Marvin Nathan Winstead vs Jared Heath Mahalic and Donald Mahalic, personal injury.

State vs 1989 Mercury Marquis for forfeiture, alleged use during a drug deal.

DIVORCES FILED
Sandra K. Hopkins and Don K. Hopkins; filed 7-28-97.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE
APPLICATIONS**
Gayle Lee Speck and Sandra Ann Troups; filed 7-28-97.