

County voters pass 10 of 14 amendments

With a total turnout of only 1161 voters casting ballots county-wide, 10 of the 14 Texas Constitutional amendments were passed in the Nov. 4 election.

The amendments, their numbers and votes cast for and against were:

#1, for, 399; against, 728;
#2, for, 777; against, 337;
#3, for, 551; against, 542;
#4, for, 774; against, 296;
#5, for, 563; against, 511;
#6, for, 420; against, 668;
#7, for, 613; against, 478;

#8, for, 455; against, 687;
#9, for, 406; against, 605;
#10, for, 664; against, 415;
#11, for, 667; against, 415;
#12, for, 776; against, 314;
#13, for, 717; against, 378;
#14, for, 737; against, 365;

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NEWSBRIEFS

Increased sales tax goes into affect locally

According to Eagle Lake City Secretary Lucille Perry, local merchants should be collecting an additional 0.5% for state sales tax. The rate increased from 7.75% to 8.25% when voters last spring approved the 0.5% increase Rice Hospital District requested.

Do you want to be mayor?

Letters of interest from any person who is interested in being appointed to the office of mayor of the City of Eagle Lake will be received until the voting by Eagle Lake City Council at its Nov. 11 meeting. These letters may be submitted at any time to the City Secretary prior to Council's vote.

According to law, any person who is a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, has not been determined mentally incompetent by judgement of a court or convicted of a felony, has resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the City of Eagle Lake for 12 months and is a registered voter may be considered.

Started Christmas shopping yet?

Christmas is right around the corner, so come and fill your stockings with holiday crafts, clothes and food! You are invited to join Alpha Delta Phi for their 2nd Annual Holiday Silent Auction at the home of Mary Kay Cook, 507 N. McCarty, on Monday, Nov. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Door prizes and refreshments will be given. Proceeds benefit the sorority's scholarship fund. Happy holidays and thank you for your support!

Merchants... check your lights

Downtown merchants are reminded to check their Christmas lights to make sure they're in working order before the Lighted Christmas Parade set for Saturday, Dec. 6.

E.H. Henry alumni meeting is Monday

The E.H. Henry Alumni meeting is set for Monday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry site. All members are urged to attend.

DAR luncheon, auction Nov. 10

The John Everett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will host a Veteran's Day Luncheon and Silent Auction Monday, Nov. 10, at the Lutheran Educational Building in Columbus. The auction begins at 11 a.m. with the luncheon following at noon. The auction will consist of baked goods and Christmas items. Guest speaker for the luncheon will be Mr. John Matthews of Eagle Lake. The luncheon benefits the DAR scholarship fund that is given to three students from Colorado County. Tickets may be purchased from members or at Simmons Lumber in Columbus for \$10. Anyone is welcome.

American Legion to decorate graves

Members of the Eagle Lake American Legion Post 108 will decorate veteran's graves with flags Saturday, Nov. 8, in observance of Veteran's Day which is Tuesday, Nov. 11. The flags will be placed on graves at 9 a.m. Saturday and removed at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12. If you can help with this project, be at The Depot or at the cemeteries at 9 a.m. Monday. In the event a veteran's grave is unintentionally missed, after Nov. 10, call Fred Frnka at 234-2065 or Walter Lee Bauer at 234-2478.

Members of the Post are reminded that the annual Ladies Night Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Eagle Hill.

Cholesterol/triglyceride screening set

A cholesterol/triglyceride screening will be held 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center Lab, Wharton, for \$8 (Non-Fasting, \$5). You must pre-register by calling 409-532-2500, ext 1300.

KC dinner set for Tuesday, Nov. 11

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a chicken fried chicken breast dinner on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. The dinner plates will be served at 710 E. Main for \$5 each, to-go only. Proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund and local charities. Also, the Rice High School Flag Corps will be selling deserts at the same location. They are raising money for Winter Guard Competition. Tickets are available from any KC member or may be purchased in the serving line.

NPSOT to meet Thursday

The Columbus Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will meet at the Nesbitt Memorial Library, 529 Washington in Columbus, Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. Tim Kiphart, a landscaper and consultant who lives in Brenham, will present a program entitled "Fall Colors and Textures". This will be the last meeting for the year; no meeting is scheduled for Dec. Guests are always welcome. For more information, call 409-732-5058.

Senior Citizen's dance is Friday

A Senior Citizen's dance will be held Friday, Nov. 7, at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. with music by the Zetka's. Admission is \$5 per person; door prizes will be given. The public is invited.

Rice CISD early release day is Nov. 14

Friday, Nov. 14, is an early release day for schools in the Rice CISD. School will be dismissed at 1 p.m. in order to allow parents to pick up report cards and set up conference times with teachers, if needed. Call your child's school and teacher to arrange a conference time.

'Christmas in the Park' is Sunday

Plan now to attend the Schulenburg FCE Club's "Christmas in the Park" craft and food show Sunday, Nov. 9, at the American Legion Hall in Wolters Park from noon to 5 p.m. There will be craft booths with lots of Christmas gifts and ideas; free food display and sampling; recipes, a drawing with nine hand-made items (including a fully decorated Christmas tree) and three hands-on demonstrations. Admission is only \$1.

Defensive driving course to be held

A six-hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel for Nov. 12 and 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Ag. Building in Columbus, located at 316 Spring Street. To pre-register for the course, call 409-732-2734 or arrive a few minutes early for the first evening.

Gardiner to visit Middle School

John Reynold Gardiner, author of *Stone Fox*, will be coming to Eagle Lake Middle School cafeteria Thursday, Nov. 6, from 5 to 6 p.m. His presentation will include an easy to write stories. All students, parents and siblings are invited to attend this wonderful occasion. We hope that you will join us in giving him a warm welcome to Eagle Lake!

New Town Community having fish fry

The New Town Community will sponsor a fish fry to benefit the sewer line project Saturday, Nov. 15, at White Cloud Baptist Church. Plates will be \$5 each. To place your order, call 234-7948, 234-7623 or 234-3042.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 3)

Council discussion runs from new mayor to dogs

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council voted Oct. 28 to fill the vacated office of mayor by appointment due to the resignation of David Mann.

Mann had previously announced his resignation informally after accepting a new position that will require him to move to Rosenberg.

"I encourage Council to keep heading the way they're heading. Every woman and man on Council has one agenda and that's what is good for Eagle Lake," said Mann.

"You haven't had hidden agendas as some would believe. You are not responsible for those who don't read agendas, notices or newspapers. Continue to act with character, integrity and backbone."

"You would have done a whole lot more if you had a pot of money. The community has its head in the sand on some issues, such as drugs. These issues must be addressed. I'm proud to have served with you," concluded Mann.

In presenting Mann with his nameplate (as a "souvenir"), Councilwoman Barbara Pidgeon said, "This is a great loss to our City but we wish you success."

Council approved receiving letters of interest from anyone who qualifies to hold the office. Those letters will be received by City Secretary Lucille Perry until the vote is taken at Council's Nov. 11 meeting.

Approximately 30 individuals

gathered at the most recent meeting to express strong support for the appointment of Councilwoman René Cooper-Scott. She had been appointed mayor pro-tem by Mann upon his taking of office.

"We are here tonight in numbers, not as a black and white issue, but in support of awareness and fairness. René Cooper-Scott is qualified," said Joyce Christal.

Rev. Kaiser, Dave Curry, Brenda Hemphill and Willie Dancy also addressed Council, each reiterating Cooper-Scott's qualifications.

Although she was not present at the meeting, Mann read a letter from her stating that she had received air fare to Calif. as a birthday gift and was on the West Coast visiting relatives.

Council had the choice of appointing or calling a special election to allow voters to elect a new mayor.

The only date available under law before the May election would be the third Saturday in Jan. The term will automatically end in May 1998.

Council did not feel that it was financially feasible to hold a special election.

If the new mayor is appointed from the current Council, a new alderman also would have to be selected.

Council addressed the requirements for dog licensing within the City and possibility of amending the ordinance.

City staff feels, as the ordinance presently exists, it is unfair to those dog owners who follow the law and

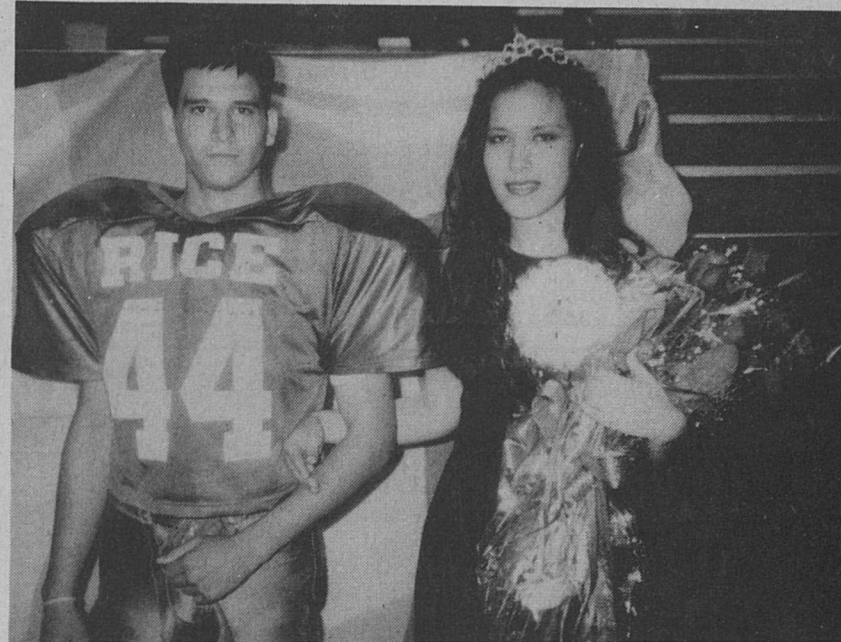
register their dogs. The elimination of the registration and a stronger penalty for failure to register the dogs were both discussed.

According to Perry, only 154 dogs in the entire City had been registered as of the Oct. 28 meeting.

City Manager Ron Holland was instructed to draw up a new ordinance

with several options from which Council could choose. According to Council, public health and assurance that a dog has had a rabies shot are the objectives of the ordinance.

The new ordinance draft will address methods to guarantee a dog has a rabies vaccination and will contain (See Council, Page 4)



1997 Rice Homecoming Queen

Juliet Martinez, escorted by Jose "Joe" Garza, was named Rice High School's Homecoming Queen last Friday night during halftime of the Rice-Hempstead football game. At the pep rally earlier in the day, Pete Rangel was named Homecoming King.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

Business Expo '97 is Nov. 22 in Columbus

What's this excitement about Business Expo '97?

The buzz around town is that the Colorado County Economic Development Organization (CCEDO) is hosting the first ever county-wide business expo Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbus KC Hall.

Rumor has it, the group will give away free hot dogs to the public the day of the show.

Finally, there have been some whispers that CCEDO will also give away one great door prize, compliments of Magnolia Oaks Bed and Breakfast.

This time the grapevine is absolutely correct!

CCEDO Executive Director DeNae Park said Business Expo '97 is a great opportunity for area businesses to show off their products and services to a county-wide audience.

"The purpose of the expo is to educate the public on just what businesses we have in the County. With that knowledge, we hope more citizens will choose to shop Colorado County first," Park said.

Park added that County businesses have been very receptive to the idea. "After selling booths for a week, there were only 16 left out of the original 44," she said.

Booth space, 8'x12', costs:

8'x12' booth with no electricity, \$35;

8'x12' booth with electricity; two booths with no electricity,

\$60; and, two booths with electricity, \$80.

For more information or to reserve a booth, please call DeNae Brassard

Park at 409-732-8774.

If you wish to participate in the show, booths must be paid in full by Monday, Nov. 10, at 5 p.m.

EL Police report quiet Halloween

"Halloween night in Eagle Lake was one that the entire community can and should be proud of," says Chief Keith Webb of the Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD).

According to Webb, all "trick or treaters" appeared to have had a good time. The police department didn't receive any calls of criminal mischief nor did they observe anyone being unruly in our community.

A big thanks goes out to all the parents who supervised their children's activities so well.

The ELPD reports these calls and cases for the week ending Nov. 4.

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, Chief Webb went to Eagle Lake Primary School and gave the entire student body lectures on "Just Say No To Drugs" and pointers on how to have a safe Halloween. Prizes and treats were handed out to all of the students.

At 10:38 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa arrested Ruben Alex Molano

on an outstanding warrant issued by a 25th Judicial District Court Judge stemming from an Eagle Lake drug arrest last year.

After processing at the police department, Molano was transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 10:45 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson met with a complainant at the police department and took a report of a truck burglary in which assorted tools were stolen.

On Oct. 29 at 12:59 a.m., Officer Tim Crume was recalled to A Street after previously being called to the residence concerning family violence.

Deborah Cantu was arrested, processed and transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 7:35 a.m., Officer Ochoa arrested Frederick Wilks on a blue warrant from the state.

After processing, Wilks was transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 7:58 a.m., a resident on Eighth Street called to report a bicycle that was left on her property. If you are missing a bicycle and can identify it, check by the police department to see if it's yours.

At 12:50 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to a suspected theft in the 200 block of Boothe Drive. The money was later located. No further action was taken.

At 3:18 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox responded to a call in the 600 block of E. Main in reference to a civil problem. It was resolved without any criminal action.

On Oct. 30 at 4:16 p.m., Officer Crume, Lt. Johnson and Chief Webb responded to a possible deceased person on Second Street.

Chief Webb later called for EMS and then Judge Mary Lou Szymanski who ruled the death was from natural causes after an inquest.

At 7:25 p.m., Officer Bill Lattimore was dispatched to a fight in progress in the 600 block of E. Main. Upon his arrival, he could find no one involved in a fight.

At 8:51 p.m., Officer Lattimore met with subjects in reference to criminal mischief and filed a report.

On Oct. 31 at 4:30 p.m. dispatch

received a call of a suspicious vehicle in the "Flats" area. Officer Crume responded to the call, but was unable to locate the vehicle described by the caller.

At 10:22 p.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to Lakeside Drive in reference to a suspicious person standing in the road. Lattimore located the subject and learned that she had been involved in a dispute. Officer Lattimore advised her to stay out of the roadway.

On Nov. 1, Officer Carl Risk received a complaint of loud music on Waverly Street.

Risk was unable to locate any music, but found a large crowd of people in a yard. The crowd disbursed and no further action was necessary.

On Nov. 2 at 6:14 p.m., Officer Lattimore met with a subject in reference to a civil matter. The complainant was advised to speak with the judge about the matter.

At 6:43 p.m., Officer Lattimore spoke with a subject in reference to a welfare concern. Officer Lattimore investigated the matter and later found that the subject had returned home and was okay.

On Nov. 3, Officer Ochoa was dispatched to Tate Avenue in reference to criminal mischief to a vehicle. Information was gathered and a report was filed.

At 10:04, Officer Lattimore was dispatched to S. McCarty in reference to suspicious noises. The suspects were gone, upon Lattimore's arrival.

On Nov. 4 at 1:24 a.m., Officers Lattimore and Risk responded to an alarm on the outskirts of town at the request of County Deputy Doug Peterson. At ground level, the building was secure with no signs of forced entry.

Oct. 1997 Summary

ELPD's Oct. summary lists 182 calls answered; 111 miscellaneous, 37 disturbances, 11 criminal mischief, seven accidents, seven thefts, five assaults, four burglaries.

Officers investigated 53 criminal cases, cleared 129 and made 30 arrests (22 misdemeanor, four felony and four juvenile).

Officers issued 85 citations and 84 warnings.



Homecoming Court

The 1997 Homecoming Court at Rice High School included nominees and their escorts, from left, Tiffany Wilkerson escorted by Clint Gertson, Risa Waddell escorted by J.P. Pope, Latoya Timms escorted by Kendrick Pipkins, Queen Juliette Martinez escorted by Joe Garza, and Christie Aldridge escorted by Jamarus Brooks.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing