

LCRA proposes three river dams

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is in the process of creating three dams along the Colorado River from Columbus to Wharton to help increase the river basin's water supply, with a dam below Altair to be completed by 2003.

The project was first announced in Wharton, where a "channel dam" is scheduled for completion by 2005. A third dam, planned just north of Columbus, is

scheduled for completion by 2007.

Proposal of the dams came from a feasibility study conducted by the LCRA along the river downstream from Austin to help increase the basin's downstream water supply by more than 2 billion gallons annually.

The best alternatives, from an economic and environmental basis, were to be three "channel dams" at (See Dams, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Headlight

Dec. 4, 1997

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 94, No. 37
10 Pages Plus 1 Insert
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
409-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

NEWSBRIEFS

Post offices schedule 'Customer Appreciation Day'

The following area post offices will hold a "Customer Appreciation Day" Friday morning, Dec. 5: Altair, Egypt, Garwood, Glen Flora, Nada and Sheridan.

All customers (route and box patrons), as well as members of the community, are invited to join the postal workers in Christmas cheer in appreciation of their patronage throughout the year. Contact your post office for the time(s) Friday morning (each office has set up their own time).

Entries sought for Christmas parade

Entries are still being sought for the 9th Annual Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas Parade which will be held Saturday, Dec. 6. Line-up time is from 4 to 5:20 p.m.; judging, 5:20 p.m.; parade time, 6:45 p.m.

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will sell hamburgers on the square; the Eagle Lake Pilot Club will be selling snacks and hot chocolate; and the Cub Scouts will sell cold drinks.

Entertainment on the square by Gary Tise will precede the parade. Parade entry forms are available at the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, *Eagle Lake Headlight* or from Lynda Appelt. Call 234-5878 for parade information or to volunteer to help with the line-up. Parade officials hope to make this the largest ever!

Cholesterol/triglyceride screening is Dec. 10

A cholesterol/triglyceride screening will be held Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 7 to 9 a.m. at Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center Lab in Wharton. The cost of the screening is \$8 (Senior Friends \$5). You must pre-register by calling 409-532-2500, ext. 1300.

Museum now open every day for visitors

The Prairie Edge Museum (PEM) is now open for visitors every day, Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Senior Citizen's Christmas Dance Friday

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

Donations for Fink family being accepted

Donations for the Patricia Fink family, whose home was a total loss in a fire on Thursday, Nov. 20, are being accepted at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake. A trust fund has also been set up at the First National Bank of El Campo. Donations of clothing and other household items are also being accepted. Call Eagle Lake Middle School for more information. You may bring your donations by the school office.

Thrift Shop sale set for Dec. 13

The next sale at the Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be Saturday, Dec. 13. The ladies remind you to come by and shop this day and get a jump-start on your Christmas shopping!

Defensive driving course is Dec. 10, 11

A six-hour defensive driving course will be held in Eagle Lake Dec. 10 and 11 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Wintermann Library. To pre-register, call 409-234-5411. If unable to pre-register, arrive a few minutes early the first evening for registration.

Study Club Christmas party to be held Dec. 10

The Eagle Lake Study Club Christmas Party will be held at Keiler's Hotel in Fayetteville Dec. 10. Members will meet at the library at 1 p.m. The speaker will be Louis Polansky.

Little League meeting tonight... don't miss it!

The Eagle Lake Little League will meet Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Anyone and everyone interested in the 1998 season needs to be at this meeting including T-ball, minor, major and softball coaches and parents.

Sealy Fantasy of Lights Parade is Saturday

The Sealy Chamber of Commerce announces the 11th annual "Fantasy of Lights Parade" and "Fantasy Park" on Saturday, Dec. 6. Beautifully lit floats, a marching band, local service organizations and other exciting entries will parade through Sealy's delightfully decorated homes and businesses. The city is truly an awesome inspirational sight for the holidays. Contact the Sealy Chamber of Commerce for additional information, 409-885-3222.

Blood Drive scheduled in Nada this Sunday

Nada Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive on Sunday, Dec. 7, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada in the church library from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Richard Lesak at 409-282-2706 or Betty Webb at The Blood Center, 1-88-GV-BLOOD, ext. 234. The holiday season is a critical time for those in need of blood. Usage is typically up, while donations, nationwide, tend to be down. Please give the gift of life.

'A Huge Christmas in a Tiny Town' is Dec. 6

Come to "A Huge Christmas in a Tiny Town" in downtown Garwood Saturday, Dec. 6, with arts and crafts booths, country store and tea room opening at 10 a.m. Special entertainment throughout the day includes Darrell and his accordian at 11:30 a.m., the community choir at 2 p.m. and Stephen and his quartet at 4 p.m.

Hamburgers by the Garwood VFD will be served from 4 to 8 p.m. and the Lions Club will have a drawing and drink booth. The live nativity will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Santa. There will be something for everyone, so make plans to come and spend the day.

Merchants... check your lights

Downtown Eagle Lake merchants are reminded to check their Christmas light to make sure that they are in working order before the Lighted Christmas Parade set to take place on Dec. 6.

'Small Town Christmas' set for Dec. 14

The Sheridan Lions Club is holding meetings each Sunday at 4 p.m. in preparation for the "Small Town Christmas" program slated for 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at Logan Park in Sheridan. Zelda Walker and Brent Pittman encourage all to attend.

RMC Pink Ladies need volunteers

The Rice Medical Center Ladies Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) needs volunteers. Talk to any Pink Lady or come by the Hospital auxiliary room for more information.

Duarte accepts Council position...

Prison in Eagle Lake is real

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council appointed Mike Duarte to fill the seat vacated when Councilman Michael Cooper was appointed mayor during its meeting Nov. 25.

This is Duarte's third time around. After serving 17 years as a Councilman, including mayor pro-tem, Duarte "hung up his hat", but answered the City's call in 1995 after no one filed for one Council position and was appointed to serve until the next election.

With his present appointment, Duarte will again serve until the May 1998 election.

Council adopted an ordinance establishing a new economic development rider allowing Central Power and Light to offer new business customers a lower rate for electrical services.

Approval came after a public hearing in which no comment was offered.

According to CPL representative Brian Hale, the former economic development rate rider expired in Dec. 1996.

"We've had a rate break since 1992. There have been 3,200 jobs in our customer service area credited to this device since it was implemented, so CPL wanted it put back on the table so you (the City) have a tool to use to attract employment and economic development. This certainly gives you a competitive edge," said Hale.

Council declared a structure located at 719 N. McCarty and another at 105 W. Davitt in violation of the dangerous dilapidated and/or substandard building ordinance.

These buildings were brought to Council's attention by citizen complaint. Letters of notification have been sent to the property owners and

proper time will be given for the owners to repair or remove the buildings.

If no action is taken by the owners, the City may then remove the building at the owners' expense, assess fines or file a lien on the property.

Council learned the 1,000-bed prison facility is still very much "on go".

"The public's not hearing much, but there's a lot going on. We're excited about the prison coming to town and we want CSC to know that," said Cooper.

The first feasibility study is complete and 120-acre land option located east of FM 3013 between the two (See Council, Page 10)

Anderson named first 'Builder'

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Masonic Lodge #366 of Eagle Lake presented its first-ever Community Builders Award to Becky Anderson in a formal presentation Nov. 18 at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The Award is the highest honor bestowed by a Masonic Lodge to a non-Mason.

Eagle Lake Lodge #366 Master Archie Scott presented the award to Anderson.

Scott told those gathered for the occasion, "This is the first time (presenting the award) for our lodge and we plan to continue. We looked at numerous individuals and every one of them was a community builder, but Becky Anderson stood out above the rest."

The award is presented to one who makes unselfish efforts to make their community a better place to live.

Becky married Mark Anderson in Nov. 1967, moved to Eagle Lake and has made tremendous contributions to church, community, politics, hospital

and economic development in the 30 years since.

It was noted that Becky, mother of (See Award, Page 7)



On hand for the Masonic Lodge's presentation of the Community Builder's Award were, from left, Mark and Becky Anderson, Archie Scott, Master of Eagle Lake Lodge #366 who presented the award, and Masonic Grand Treasurer Arvol Willingham, speaker for the evening.

Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt

Entries for Lighted Parade given line-up

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce 9th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade is this Saturday, Dec. 6, scheduled to begin at 6:45 p.m.

Line-up will be from 4:20 to 5:20 p.m. Judging is from 5:20 to 6:30 p.m. Entries and their positions, as of press time, are:

1. Eagle Lake Police Department; 2. VFW Post 8783 Color Guard; 3. Boy Scout Troop Color Guard; 4. Parade Marshal John Parker in an anti-

que car courtesy of Dan Canaris; 5. State Representative Robby Cook and Family; 6. State Senator Ken Armbr- (See Parade, Page 10)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Dec. 1.

On Nov. 26 at 1:48 a.m., Officer Tim Crume conducted a traffic stop in

the 300 block of Mills Street which resulted in the arrest of Antonio Casas for outstanding warrants. After processing at the Police Dept., Casas was transported to the County Jail for confinement.

Lt. Clem Johnson met with a complainant at the Police Dept. at 2:45 p.m. about a civil matter which was resolved without any action.

At 2:49 p.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to C Street in reference to a burglary. Information was gathered and a report filed.

At 2:54 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to B Street in reference to an assault that had just occurred. Statements were taken and a report filed.

At 5:40 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Shirley Street in reference to a disturbance. After talking with the complainant, he did not want to file charges and signed a non-prosecution waiver.

At 8:54 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to S. McCarty Street in reference to barking dogs.

At 10:29 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Cemetery Street in reference to (See Police, Page 10)

LCRA awards two local grants

By Lynda Appelt

The Prairie Edge Museum (PEM) will receive a facelift thanks in part to a \$12,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

Wood and masonry surfaces of the museum building will be repaired and repainted. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$15,000. Both the City of Eagle Lake and the PEM have contributed funds to the project.

The Rock Island Volunteer Fire Department also received a \$25,000 grant from LCRA and the San Bernard Electric Cooperative to help pay for a new fire station.

The two presentations were made at the San Bernard Electric Building in Columbus on Wednesday Nov. 26.

The \$78,000 fire station will be built on Main Street and include areas to store fire fighting equipment and room to hold meetings and prepare food.

The Eagle Lake and Rock Island grants were two of 28 grants totaling \$488,532 awarded in Nov. through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. The program provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments and other nonprofit entities in LCRA's 58-county electric and water service area.

The grant program was created by LCRA Board of Directors in 1995 following legislation enacted by the Texas Legislature authorizing the LCRA to assist communities in its service area.

The LCRA Board set aside more than \$1 million for grants made in fiscal year 1998 as one way for LCRA to give something back to the communities it serves. The grant funds come from revenues generated by LCRA,

primarily from the sale of electricity. No tax monies are involved.

An 11-member Board, made up of

LCRA general manager, three Board members, and seven electric and water customers, awards the grants.



Pictured above, accepting a check on behalf of the Prairie Edge Museum is Rev. Obie Rhodes, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Museum. Also on hand were, front row, from left, County Judge Vince Slominski; Bill Harrison Sr., Museum co-curator; George Cason, immediate past chairman of the LCRA Board; Eagle Lake Mayor Michael Cooper; and Rhodes. In back are, Marion Bahlke, LCRA; Bruce Hicks, LCRA Irrigation Operations Manager; Ken Taylor, LCRA Operations Manager; Joe Wegenhoft, LCRA Environmental Coordinator; Rollin Baker, Museum co-curator; and Colorado County Commissioner Sonny Spanihel.

In the picture below, Bob Anderson accepts a check on behalf of the Rock Island Volunteer Fire Department. Also pictured, in front, from left, are: Pat Anderson, Rock Island VFD; Bob Anderson; John Adams, LCRA General Manager; and Cason. In back are Hicks; Keith Nance, VFD; Colorado County Commissioner Richard Seifert; Taylor; Wegenhoft; Slominski; and Bahlke.

Headlight Photos by Lynda Appelt



New logo for City vehicles

Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland shows off the new logo designed by Public Works Director Graham "Buster" Beisel for all City vehicles, including garbage trucks, etc.

Citizens will also begin seeing white City trucks instead of red. The new trucks have recently arrived.

Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt