

## Schools schedule Open Houses

An Open House is scheduled at the Sheridan School for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. A brisket supper with all the trimmings will be served for \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Be sure and visit the Science Fair in the gym and see the Western Art display in the library in addition to

a visit with your child's teacher. Eagle Lake Primary School will hold its Open House Tuesday, March 3. Their Science Fair will also be available for viewing as well as their Book Fair being held all week, March 2 through 6.

# Eagle Lake Headlight

Feb. 26, 1998

(USPS 163-760)  
Volume 94, No. 49  
10 Pages Plus 3 Inserts  
Eagle Publishing, Inc.  
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.  
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067  
409-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Beauty pageant extravaganza is March 14

A Beauty Pageant Extravaganza will be held March 14 in Columbus at the Mansfield Library. Competition is open to all young ladies under the age of 20. Winners will ride in the Columbus FFA Parade. Call Jana Birmingham, 409-758-3040, for details.

### Greater Union schedules Youth Revival

The Greater Union Youth Annual Revival will be held March 16 through 20 beginning at 7 p.m. each night. Rev. David Everson of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Brookshire will be the evangelist. Rev. L. Robertson, Pastor, Dave Curry, Youth Director.

### Rice, Columbus host tennis tournament

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 28, Rice High School and Columbus High School will co-host their First Annual Consolidated Tennis Tournament. All singles entries, both girls and boys, will play in Columbus. All doubles will play at Rice. All Saturday matches will be played in Columbus. Play begins on both campuses at 8:30 a.m. Come out and support our athletes! Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs!

### Meet the candidates is March 4

A meet the candidates session will be held March 4 at 7 p.m. at Didner Hall, 310 N. Stevenson in Eagle Lake. Candidates running for county judge, county clerk and J.P. have been invited. Come out to see and meet those attending.

### Baseball game to benefit Rookies

The Rice Rookies will take on the Rice Raider varsity baseball team in benefit action Saturday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Veteran's Park in Weimar. Admission is \$3. Barbecue sandwiches and hot links will be sold. Proceeds benefit the Rice Rookies baseball team.

### Singles Dance is this Friday

The Fort Bend County Singles will sponsor a public dance on Friday, Feb. 27, 1998 at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by the City Polka Boys. Door prizes will be given. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information call 409-793-4573.

### Open house, ribbon cuttings set for Saturday

An Open House and Ribbon Cutting for dentist Dr. John B. Myres' new clinic at 700 S. McCarty, is scheduled for this Saturday, Feb. 28, from 3 to 6 p.m. The clinic is at the north end of the buildings which house the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic and Eagle Lake Drugstore.

An Open House at Tony Tyler's Studio, 123 E. Main in Eagle Lake, in the former Farm & Home Supply location, is also set for Saturday, from 4 to 8 p.m.

### GCMC meeting is March 3

Senior Friends will be hosting a program on Advance Directives and the Medical Power of Attorney on March 3 at 7 p.m. in the classrooms at Gulf Coast Medical Center (GCMC). Larry Wadler, attorney, will present this very informative program. Forms and a notary will be available that night. RSVP to Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

### Eagle Lake, Garwood Lions set mop, broom sales

The Eagle Lake and Garwood Lions Clubs will hold their annual mop and broom sales. Eagle Lake's will be on Thursday, March 5, in front of the Municipal Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Garwood's will be at the Garwood Lions Hall Wednesday, March 4, starting at 8 a.m.

They'll be selling mops, brooms, brushes and many other items, all made by the blind. Plan to come by and help the blind help themselves. For more information on the Garwood sale, call 758-3441.

### CCA to meet tonight

Combined Community Action Inc. will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Murphy's General Store in Winchester. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

### Christian Women's Luncheon is March 12

The Christian Women's Annual Luncheon will be held at the First Baptist Church, in Eagle Lake, Thursday, March 12, at 11 a.m. Tickets will be available at all churches or contact Mrs. Esther New at 234-3430.

### CCHF meeting is March 3

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity will meet Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Columbus. If you have any questions call Rosemary Lewis, 1-800-324-5369, or Lois Quenneville, 234-5129.

### World Day of Prayer is March 6

The World Day of Prayer at the First Presbyterian Church will be held Friday, March 6, at 9:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

### Community craft, rummage sale is Feb. 28

The Sheridan Lakes Ladies Auxiliary will hold a community-wide craft and rummage sale on Saturday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 7, on Lot #11 starting at 8 a.m., watch for signs and flags. Proceeds will go to the Ladies Auxiliary.

### First Lenten Luncheon is March 2

The first community Lenten Luncheon at the United Methodist Church will be held on Monday, March 2. It will start at 11:45 a.m. with guest speaker Ronald Gertson. Come join us for soup, sandwiches, desserts and singing. Love offerings will be accepted with half going to the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. The community is invited to help celebrate the holy season.

### Study guides for TAAS available

Parents and students - you can get study guides for the TAAS tests! The Texas Education Agency is creating these study guides to help students strengthen the skills that are tested on TAAS. Study Guides for high school students are available now, and guides for the other grades 3rd through 8th will be ready this summer. Each guide contains information, sample questions and activities that can help students on TAAS. For more information, contact your school.

### Guías de Estudio para TAAS

Padres de familia y estudiantes—Ustedes pueden obtener Guías de Estudio para la prueba TAAS! La Agencia de Educación de Texas está creando guías de estudio para ayudar a los estudiantes a reforzar las destrezas que se evalúan en TAAS. Las Guías de Estudio para los estudiantes de secundaria ya están disponibles, y las guías para los otros grados de tercero a octavo estarán disponibles este verano. Cada guía contiene información, ejemplos de preguntas y actividades para ayudar a los estudiantes con la prueba TAAS. Para mayor información, llame a su escuela.

### APC Festival needs auction items

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival is scheduled for March 27 and 28 and auction item donations are needed. Call Ernie Sommerlatte at 234-3452. (See Newsbriefs, Page 5)

## LCRA announces historic water rights acquisition

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) announced last week it has agreed to acquire the largest block of privately owned water rights on the Colorado River, one of the oldest in Texas and the oldest rights on the Colorado.

The acquisition will give the people of this region an assured source of drinking water for the next century.

It will be the largest dollar amount paid for the acquisition of water rights in the history of Texas.

The LCRA has agreed to acquire essentially all of the assets of Garwood Irrigation Company, a privately owned business which supplies irrigation water to farmers in Colorado and Wharton Counties.

The agreement eventually will cost the LCRA the equivalent of \$75 million for the assets which include 133,000 acre-feet per year, or 43 billion gallons, of water rights.

Garwood Irrigation Company is owned by Lehrer Interests of Colo-

rado County.

The acquisition, which the LCRA considers crucial to the basin's long-range water planning, is subject to negotiation of a final agreement with Garwood and approval by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

LCRA will pay for the water with revenues from sales. Since LCRA is not tax supported, no tax dollars will be involved.

"With the Garwood water rights, a

child born in the year 2000 in this area will have an assured source of drinking water for his or her lifetime," said LCRA General Manager Mark Rose. "We are telling the people of this region that water will not be a restriction to population and industrial growth in the 21st century, even during a repeat of the worst drought on record."

The Garwood water rights, which date back to Nov. 1, 1900, are the most senior large water rights within the Colorado River basin and the largest block of senior water rights available in the state.

The acquisition will mean LCRA will have first call on almost all of the normal and drought-period flows of the River before any other user can take the water.

Announcement of the acquisition came exactly 63 years to the day of the first LCRA Board meeting Feb. 19, 1935.

At that first meeting, the Board set in motion the development of Buchanan and Mansfield Dams, whose reservoirs produced about a 100-year supply of municipal and industrial water for the region. The Garwood acquisition will add 40-50 years of water, re-creating a 100-year supply, when existing sources are included.

While the acquisition will not have a direct impact on the levels of the Highland Lakes, it would have an indirect impact, Rose said.

"By acquiring Garwood's water rights, we are making sure it will not be bought up by a public or private entity that would transfer the water outside the basin," Rose said. "Instead, it will be in the hands of a public authority responsible under state law to manage the waters of the lower Colorado River."

The Garwood acquisition will translate into a "virtual" reservoir of about 101,000 acre-feet (33 billion gallons) of firm, dependable water for municipal and industrial customers per year.

This will occur without the environmental and other complications of building an actual reservoir, Rose added. The 33 billion gallons are roughly equivalent to five Lake Austins or 28 Town Lakes.

"The Garwood Irrigation Company has been a pioneer in the development of the rice industry in Texas and in the development of water resources," Rose said. "Bill Lehrer (Garwood owner) has served the people of Central Texas well by agreeing to LCRA's acquisition of these rights in the district. He has set aside a history of water fights with the LCRA (See Water, Page 10)

## Council moves ahead with park

By Lynda Appelt  
Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council authorized City Manager Ron Holland to acquire ownership of donated properties (golf course, swimming pool and community center) at its recent meeting.

These properties have been donated to the City for its municipal park.

Council also authorized negotiations to be initiated for the purchase of those properties identified in the grant application that are needed for the park.

Each agreement reached with the

owners of these properties will be brought to Council for final approval before the purchase is made.

Eagle Lake was awarded a park grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for \$500,000. The Lower Colorado River Authority will contribute an additional \$200,000.

The City's match will be the value of the acquired land.

"We are to the point where we need to start acquiring property for the park," said Holland.

Deeds have been drawn up by City Attorney Don Bendy.

Council discussed policies under which the Eagle Lake Community Center should operate after the trans-

fer of title to the City. The main topics were security requirements, and sale and consumption of alcohol. Policies will be finalized at a later date.

A contract of services will be negotiated with the Eagle Lake Recreation Center (ELRC) for the operation of the golf course.

It will replace the present lease agreement.

Under the contract, the City will pay ELRC to manage the public course. The contract also will deal with revenue from the course and management of said revenues.

"It's not the City's intent to suggest any actual changes in the way the (See Council, Page 10)

## County Commissioners told 911 should be finished by Nov. 1998

Colorado County Commissioners' Court, as well as a limited number of concerned citizens, received an update on the County's 911 program from Dale Alexander, 911 rural addressing coordinator, during Monday morning's meeting, Feb. 23.

It was the same report Alexander had presented to Commissioners Feb. 18, but he returned to Monday's session to repeat his presentation since it was on a regularly-scheduled Court date.

The update came just two weeks after Maybelle Barnett, a Columbus citizen, had questioned why a job that was originally scheduled to take eight months was now in its third year.

Alexander says he expects to be finished with the project in Oct. or Nov. of this year if "we are able to stay on track."

He said the bulk of the problems were created when the hired, Sedgewick & Associates, hired in May 1995 to assist with the rural mapping, did not fulfill its obligation.

The County has since contacted the company by letter, stating a breach of contract.

"This is not unique to Colorado County. There are a number of other counties that were having problems with vendors. It is a widespread problem," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert, a member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) 911 Committee.

Alexander pointed out that the state attorney general's office is currently investigating 27 vendors for fraud or not having fulfilled their contracts.

It also was noted by Barnett in the Feb. 9 meeting that Alexander's appointment as the 911 rural addressing coordinator had expired in mid-1997.

County Judge Vince Slominski expressed his appreciation to Barnett for bringing that fact to the Court's attention and it, in turn, reappointed Alexander to the position through Dec. at a cost of \$1,500 per month. Alexander's salary, as well as other monies for the project, is funded through the H-GAC.

"I realize that we've been in the project for awhile, but we had some problems with it. We now have the program heading in the right direction and hope to put it in the maintenance mode in the near future," said Alexander. "Once we are able to do that, there will be very little to do... only issue new addresses."

Alexander added that he is currently adding three part-time people to help "gather the information" in an

effort to speed up the process.

In other business, the Court:

- Adopted a resolution of support for the construction of the Colorado County Central Appraisal District's new office building to be located at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 90 and FM 806 in Columbus;

- Approved the purchase of a new tractor for Precinct 3 in the amount of \$22,337 from Potter Ford Tractor of Columbus;

- Approved a lease agreement at a cost of \$51.52 per month for a new Xerox printer for Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Francis Truchard's office;

- Denied a request by Nolan Renz for reimbursement for an on-site sewage facility training certification course, but will reconsider it at budget time; and

- Announced that the opening of the juvenile boot camp facility in Eagle Lake is now expected for April 21.

## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Feb. 23.

On Feb. 17 at 7:48 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident on W. Post Office at Cemetery.

Mary Munoz Sosa, driving a 1985 Lincoln, collided with the rear bumper of a 1998 Dodge pickup being driven by Ludivina Cantu Esparza. Both are from Eagle Lake.

Reportedly, Esparza was attempting to turn onto Cemetery and failed to control the speed of the pickup. Esparza was cited for failure to control speed.

An assault was reported to Officer Ochoa at 1:25 p.m. on E. State Street. He gathered information and submitted a report.

At 3:28 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to E. Main in reference to a theft. Investigation led to the recovery of the property and charges are pending.

At 11:03 p.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to B Street in reference to a disturbance. He met with the complainant and advised her it was a civil problem. No police action could be taken.

On Feb. 18 at 11:28 a.m., the police department was advised of a fight in progress with a gun involved on B Street.

Officer Ochoa, Chief Keith Webb and Sgt. Knox responded to the call and later arrested Simon Norris III for disturbance with a weapon, manufacturing marijuana and failure to identify to a police officer.

Norris was processed and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 3:35 p.m., Sgt. Knox assisted a DPS Trooper with the auto theft division in locating a subject and vehicle. Sgt. Knox was dispatched to the

700 block of Tate Street at 7:55 p.m. in reference to a possible burglary. No suspects were located and the building was found to be secure.

At 6:20 p.m., Chief Webb executed a municipal warrant on Clifford Williams, who was already confined to CDC on an unrelated charge.

On Feb. 19 at 6:41 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to 100 Boothe Drive in reference to a fight in progress. He contacted the suspects who advised that they were playing. No further action was taken.

At 9:17 p.m., Officer Crume responded to a welfare concern at Lake and Prairie Streets.

On Feb. 20, at 4:24 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to the 500 block of S. Austin Road in reference to a fight. He contacted the juveniles involved and the matter was resolved at the scene.

Officer Crume met with a complainant at the police department at 4:40 p.m. and took a report of a theft. The case is under investigation.

At 6:02 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to a disturbance on Shirley Street. No police action was necessary.

On Feb. 21 at 3:43 a.m., Officer Carl Risk, while on patrol, located a vehicle being pulled out of a ditch at FM 1093 and FM 3013. An accident report was filed and citations for disre- (See Police, Page 10)