

Crime Stoppers list auction items

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers are very excited about the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Dance and Silent & Live Auction Saturday, March 14, from 8 to 12:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center on Walnut.

A partial list of items received for auction is: a \$100 savings bond, a silver dollar coin set, several beautiful potted plants, a two-gallon Igloo cooler, a 1/2 gallon Igloo pitcher, a giggling rabbit, a Beanie Baby (collector's item), a barbecued ham, Annalia's Garden Bath essentials and

(See Auction, Page 10)

Only 15 Days Left Until Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival



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Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

Belen of Judea Mission to hold garage sale

Belen of Judea Mission, 1000 East E. Street in Eagle Lake, will hold a garage sale Saturday, March 14, to raise money for its building fund. They will also be accepting love offerings. For more information, call G.A. Rodriguez at 234-3718 or Pastor Ruth Olvera at 758-3003.

'Life after Loss' meeting is March 17

The monthly Life After Loss support group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 312 Depot in El Campo. This month's program, "Helping Yourself Heal," will be facilitated by Kathy Springer, Hospice Social Worker. For additional information, call 409-543-9487.

Legion Post #108 to meet March 24

W. Cherry-M. Perry Post #108 American Legion of Eagle Lake will have an important quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the sun room at the Fred Frnka home, 618 Melody Lane.

Business will include the election of 1998-99 officers and discussion of projects for the year. These projects will include: the display of flags on graves of deceased veterans; the disposition of flags which have been retired from service because of age, etc.; the annual distribution of toys to needy children at Christmas-time; and ladies night meetings in July and Dec.

All members and interested veterans are urged to attend.

St. Mary's School to hold registration

St. Mary's School in Nada will hold pre-registration March 25 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. This registration is for first graders and any students that will be attending St. Mary's for the first time. Please bring the student's birth and baptismal certificates, immunization record and social security card.

St. Mary's Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color and nationality or ethnic origin.

Booster Club meeting set for March 18

The Rice Raider Booster Club will meet on Wednesday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the PAC Center. Members are encouraged to attend.

APC Festival volleyball tournament set

The Eagle Lake Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival (APC) will hold a volleyball tournament Saturday, March 28, on the lawn beside the Community Center. The first game is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. There is a \$40 entry fee per team. You may pick up applications at *The Headlight* or Laker Printing. For more information, call Joe Lee Perez at 409-234-7365.

Senior Friends to visit casino

Senior Friends will be going to the Isle of Capri Casino March 26. Be at Gulf Coast Medical Center at 7 a.m. ... we'll return about 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person. You must RSVP by calling Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

Horseshoe players wanted

Horseshoe players are needed to participate in the Eagle Lake Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival Saturday, March 28, on the lawn next to the Community Center. Games will start at 12:30 p.m. Sign-up is \$7.50 per player and you must provide your own horseshoes. Partners will be drawn. For more information, call Pinto Broesche at 409-234-5981. You can pick up applications at *The Headlight* or Laker Printing.

Dog, cat vaccinations clinic to be held in Garwood

A dog and cat vaccination clinic, sponsored by the Garwood Lions Club, will be held at the Garwood School shop Friday, March 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$8.

Class of 1946 plans reunion

The Eagle Lake High School Class of 1946 is planning a reunion for June 12 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. They will also honor the football squad of 1945 (bi-district champions). For more information, contact Melvin Selph, 740 Willowwick, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979; call 512-552-2704.

Entries needed for APC Festival royalty

Entries are now being taken for Miss Eagle Lake, Junior Miss Eagle Lake, Little Miss Eagle Lake and Little Mister Eagle Lake which will be chosen during the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival. If you are interested, call the Chamber of Commerce Office at 409-234-2780 before March 17.

St. Patrick's Day party scheduled

Join Senior Friends for a St. Patrick's Day party and a program on the accessing the Internet from your TV. March 17 at 2 p.m. at the Gulf Coast Medical Center Classrooms. Bring your favorite Green appetizer or dessert. Be sure to wear green! RSVP to Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

Lions Club to serve barbecue dinner March 22

The Eagle Lake Lions Club will hold a barbecue chicken dinner Sunday, March 22, for \$5 per plate at the Eagle Lake Golf Course. Serving is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You may get your tickets from any Lion.

APC Festival to include talent show

Attention! Attention! Attention! Come join the fun at the Attwater's Prairie Chicken (APC) Festival Talent Show to be held Saturday, March 28, starting at 1 p.m. on the Eagle Lake Square. All ages, individuals and groups are welcome. There is no charge to enter and prizes will be awarded.

Defensive driving course scheduled

A defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel in Eagle Lake March 17 and 18 at the Wintermann Library. Class hours are 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information call 234-5411 or show up a few minutes early the first evening for registration.

Donations accepted for scholarship fund

Sheridan Elementary and Jr. High Student Council would like to thank all the people who have donated money to the Sheridan Scholarship fund. This scholarship is available to any senior who has graduated from Sheridan Elementary and goes on to graduate from Rice High School (RHS). In the past our school has been able to give scholarships to deserving RHS seniors. This year we would again appreciate any donations to this fund so we may carry on this fine tradition. Anyone desiring to make donations may contact the office at Sheridan Elementary School 234-7334. Any and all help will be appreciated.

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.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

Reed, Kearney garner County Democratic votes

Tuesday's Primary Elections didn't set any records as far as turnout is concerned, but those who did take the time to vote overwhelmingly passed the three propositions statewide.

In local races, most positions were unopposed in the Democratic Primary except for the nomination for Colorado County Judge (involving the choice between Jim Kearney and Leonard Peters) and a four-way race for U.S. Representative, District 14 (Margaret Dunn, Tom Reed, Loy Snear and Roger M. Elliott).

Local Republican Primary candidates had no opposition.

Starting with those of local interest, the results of Tuesday's elections in Colorado County were:

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Colorado County Judge: James (Jim) Kearney, 1433, 65.04%; Leonard Peters, 770, 34.95%; District Clerk: Harvey Vornsdad (I), 1821, 100%; County Clerk: Dale Alexander, 1459, 100%; County Treasurer: Joyce M. Stancik (I), 1875, 100%; County Surveyor: Leonard W. Frank (I), 1766, 100%; County Commissioners Precinct 2: Johnnie Elstner (I), 368, 100%; County Commissioner Pct. 4: James Raabe, 317, 100%; Justice of the Peace Pct. 1: Dottie Dungen (I), 477, 100%; Justice of the Peace Pct. 2: Ed Hanzelka Jr. (I), 445, 100%; Justice of the Peace Pct. 3: Francis J. Truchard (I), 473, 100%; Justice of the Peace Pct. 4: Mary Lou Szymanski (I), 411, 100%; County Chairman: Sandra Robinson, 1474, 98.92%; Precinct Chairman: no declared candidates; Proposition #1: Yes, 2027, 96.29%, No, 78, 3.7%; Proposition #2: Yes, 1793, 85.05%, No, 315, 14.94%; and Proposition #3: Yes, 1756, 88.68%, No, 224, 11.31%.

U.S. Representative District 14: Margaret Dunn, 223, 10.48%; Tom Reed, 1163, 54.67%; Loy Snear, 682, 32.06%; Roger M. Elliott, 59, 2.77%; Governor: Garry Mauro, 1360, 100%; Lt. Governor: John Sharp, 1636, 100%; Attorney General: Jim Mattox, 1440, 73.61%; Gene Kelly, 295, 15.08%; Morris L. Overstreet, 221, 11.29%; Comptroller of Public Accounts: Paul Hobby, 1452, 100%; General Land Office Commissioner: Richard Raymond, 1405, 100%; Commissioner of Agriculture: L.P. (Pete) Patterson, 1394, 82.63%; Ernesto L. De Leon, 293, 17.36%; Railroad Commissioner: Joe B. Henderson, 1104, 68.31%; Gary Dugger, 512, 31.68%; Supreme Court Justice Place 1: Mike West-

position #3: Yes, 1756, 88.68%, No, 224, 11.31%.

glen, 1358, 100%; Supreme Court Justice Place 2: Rose Spector, 1353, 100%; Supreme Court Justice Place 3: David Van Os, 1325, 100%; Supreme Court Justice Place 4 (unexpired term): Jerry Scarbrough, 1377, 100%; Criminal Appeals Court Judge Place 1: Charles F. (Charlie) Baird, 1367, 100%; Criminal Appeals Court Judge Place 2: Winston Cochran, 1343, 100%; State Senator District 18: Ken Armbrister (I), 1543, 100%; State Representative District 28: Robert L. (Robby) Cook (I), 1890, 100%; Appeals Court Justice Dist. 1: George Ellis, 1383, 100%; and, Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 1: Geoffrey (Jeff) Hutson, 1321, 100%.

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Colorado County Judge: Al Jamison, 425, 100%; County Clerk:

Darlene Hayek (I), 449, 100%; County Commissioner Pct. 2: Herbie Helmcamp, 131, 100%; County Commissioner Pct. 4: Darrell D. Gertson, 55, 100%; Justice of the Peace Pct. 3: Chuck Glynn, 129, 70.49%; Carolyn Bertsch Easton, 54, 29.50%; County Chairman: Jean Halfmann Ellis, 390, 98.48%; and, Precinct Chairmen: no declared candidates.

U.S. Representative Dist. 14: Ron Paul (I), 418, 100%; Governor: R.C. Crawford, 12, 2.26%; George W. Bush (I), 517, 97.73%; Lt. Governor: Rick Perry, 413, 100%; Attorney General: Tom Pauken, 76, 16.20%; John Cornyn, 163, 34.75%; Barry Williamson, 230, 49.04%; Comptroller of Public Accounts: Carole Keeton Rylander, 392, 100%; Gen- (See Election, Page 5)

Endowed scholarship honors Renee Balas

Saturday, Feb. 28, the University of Texas Pharmacy School held a Recognition Dinner at the Alumni Center in Austin. During this function, a beautiful plaque was presented to Steve and Linda Balas of Eagle Lake commemorating the endowed scholarship in pharmacy set up in their daughter's name.

An identical plaque was also presented to Steve and Trevor Bullard, Renee's husband and son.

Also attending the function was Renee's brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Tess Balas of Eagle Lake.

The Renee Balas Bullard Scholarship was established in honor of Renee "whose enthusiasm for the future of pharmacy and higher education led her family, friends, and colleagues to establish in her memory the scholarship in pharmacy."

Through this endowment, a pharmacy student will be awarded a scholarship every year in memory of Renee.

Anyone who would like to contribute to this scholarship (See Scholarship, Page 3)



County Grand Jury issues 14 indictments

The Colorado County Grand Jury returned 14 indictments Friday, March 6. Cases were presented by First Asst. County Attorney Joe Fling. Indicted were:

- Gilbert Ruiz, two counts of intoxication assault;
- Gilbert Ruiz, possession of a controlled substance;
- Gilbert Ruiz, aggravated assault;
- Billy Joe Machac, driving while intoxicated (DWI) (felony);
- Hector Balderas, possession of marijuana;
- Eduardo Ernesto Canales, possession of marijuana;
- Pertis Foster, possession of a controlled substance;
- Joshua Ryan Zarate, prohibited

- substance in a correctional facility;
- Juan Silgero Velasco, DWI (felony);
- Kirby Alan Gordon, possession of controlled substance;

- Vickie Yvette Drake, theft;
- Kenneth Raymond Colson, intoxication assault;
- One indictment was sealed as of press time.

School Board okays school calendar

Students in the Rice Consolidated Independent School District will begin classes on Aug. 11 and end the

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer
year on May 27, according to the 1998-99 school calendar adopted by the Rice CISD Board of Trustees at its Monday night meeting, March 9.

Staff will begin Aug. 6 and finish on May 28 with new staff in-service on Aug. 5. Students attend classes 180 days; teachers for 187.

The Board voted to adopt a resolution, as presented by Chief Appraiser Billy Youens of the Colorado County Central Appraisal District, to support the construction of a new office facility for the CAD.

Approval was given by the Board several months ago on the project at a cost of \$370,000. After the facility was designed and bids submitted, the price exceeded the approved amount.

The new facility will be constructed by Quicksilver Construction, the low bidder, at \$418,350.

The actual borrowed amount will be \$318,350 since CAD has \$100,000 in the bank and the lot is paid for. The note is scheduled to be paid in 15 years, but Youens told the Board that an expected surplus should allow payoff in seven or eight years. The average surplus over the last five years has been \$43,892.67.

According to Youens, site work, mainly drainage problems, at a cost of approximately \$25,000 drove the cost higher than expected.

The 5,400 square foot building is to be constructed at the intersection of (See School Board, Page 4)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending March 9.

On March 3, at 8:03 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson received a call of a person not returning reportee's clothing. Johnson stood by while clothing was gathered. No other action was necessary.

At 11:14 a.m., Lt. Johnson received a report of suspicious persons on C Street. A search was made, but subjects were not located.

At 12:51 p.m., Lt. Johnson received a report of a possible break in on "B" St., but upon investigation, the report was unfounded.

At 8:43 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to "A" St. in reference to a civil matter.

On March 4, at 7:09 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to Sixth St. in reference to a hit and run accident. Investigation later lead to Ana

Castillo being cited for failure to control speed and failure to comply with requirements upon striking an unattended vehicle.

At 11:25 a.m., Officer Ochoa was contacted in reference to several checks being forged. Ochoa obtained a statement and filed a report and the case is being investigated.

At 2:13 p.m., Officer Ochoa and Lt. Johnson were dispatched to Boothe Drive in reference to a disturbance. The matter was handled at the scene. No other action was required.

On March 5, at 9:13 a.m., the police department was advised of a road hazard where a vehicle was broken down on E. Main. Chief Keith Webb stood by until the vehicle could be moved off the roadway.

At 2:07 p.m., Lt. Johnson was dispatched to a civil disturbance on A (See Police, Page 5)

Eagle Lake 'drug bust' nets 21 grams 'crack'

On Saturday, March 7, the 24th and 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force, Eagle Lake Police Department and Colorado County Sheriff's Department executed a narcotics search warrant in Eagle Lake. Two subjects were arrested for possession of a controlled substance, crack cocaine.

Approximately 21 grams of crack cocaine were seized with a street value of \$3,213.00.

Arrested were Anthony Ray Hemphill, age 32, and Bianca Ann Centeno, age 24. Both subjects were transported to the Colorado County Detention Center.

\$689 in U.S. currency, one car and personal property were also seized.

Commissioners hear Pct. 2 employee's grievance

Colorado County Commissioners conducted a grievance hearing Monday morning in regard to Precinct 2 employee William Harrell being suspended two weeks without pay following a diesel spillage incident Feb. 13.

Harrell had followed proper grievance procedures: he had met with his supervisor, Precinct 2 Commissioner Johnnie Elstner, to discuss the situation and later filed a formal grievance with Elstner.

The next step was for Harrell to ask for a hearing before Commissioners' Court. However, according to County Judge Vince Slominski, the Court could hold a hearing, but could not make any decisions.

"By law, we can't make any decisions. Each department head is responsible for their own department," said Slominski.

The item was listed for possible executive session, but Harrell requested the matter be discussed in open Court.

According to Harrell, he was fueling a diesel tank at the Pct. 2 Barn in Weimar on the morning of Feb. 13 when he went to help another employee.

"The automatic shutoff did not shut off and there was a small overflow," said Harrell.

He also stated that had happened on several other occasions.

Elstner said he later questioned Harrell about the diesel spill and he never reported that the nozzle did not shut off.

"He was questioned about the diesel spill and did not report it," said Elstner. "As you other Commissioners know, it's our policy that we must (See Commissioners, Page 6)