

WHIP is USDA's latest wildlife program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's newest wildlife

program and it's for people who want to restore degraded native wildlife habitat on private lands.

"WHIP is a voluntary program which provides both technical assistance cost-sharing to restore degraded

native habitat on private land," explained Dennis Neuman, District Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"Participants who own or control land agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan which contains wildlife habitat practices to be installed on the land.

"In addition, if the landowner agrees, wildlife agencies like the Texas Department of Wildlife Fish-

eries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, or private organizations like Ducks Unlimited may also provide expertise or additional funding to help complete a project."

The wildlife habitat development plan is prepared in consultation with Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District.

The plan describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat, includes list of practices and a

schedule for installing them and details the steps necessary to restore and maintain the habitat for the list of the agreement.

"USDA and the participant enter into a cost-share agreement to restore degraded native habitat," said Neuman. "The agreement generally lasts 5 to 10 years from the date the contract is signed. The landowner agrees to maintain the cost-shared practices and allow USDA access to monitor for effectiveness of the practices."

The NRCS agrees to provide technical assistance and pay up to 75% of the cost of installing the wildlife habitat practices.

Land is not eligible for WHIP if it is currently enrolled in the Water Bank Program, Conservation Reserve Program and/or the Wetlands Reserve Program.

The sign-up for WHIP is in progress at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation offices and the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District office at 316 Spring Street, Columbus.

For more information, call 409-732-2773.

All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available on a non-discriminatory basis.

Tex-A-Syst is for well water testing

City water is continually tested to make sure it is not contaminated, but what about all the country folks who draw their water from wells?

The Tex-A-Syst program has been designed with those people in mind.

The program is designed to give well users the opportunity to have their water screened.

"If the sample turns out positive for harmful bacteria, the well owner will be referred to the local health department," said Dean Venghaus, president of the Colorado County Farm Bureau.

Some harmful bacteria can cause discomfort for humans and also reduce livestock performance.

"Water wells should be checked every year or two because they can easily be contaminated by a septic system or other source," said Venghaus.

Annual testing will give users peace of mind and make sure that management practices associated with a private well are not causing a

problem with their drinking water.

Besides the water screening, the Tex-A-Syst program has a series of publications and videos that will outline ways to reduce the risk of ground

water contamination. The series includes an assessment survey to help well owners determine the pollution potential based on soil and other geological characteristics.

MILITARY NEWS

Navy Seaman Rossie J. Lujan

...son of Rick D. and Martha S. Bagley of Eagle Lake, recently helped the guided missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay win the 1997 Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet Air Warfare Excellence Award.

The award is given annually to a command which has made the most significant contribution to the development of air warfare in the Seventh Fleet, whose area of operations is in the western Pacific. Lujan's command won the award primarily for its effort with the USS Independence Task Group.

Homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, Lujan's ship is one of the most powerful warships ever put to sea. The computer-based AEGIS weapons system is the heart of the ship's war-fighting capability. It centers around a powerful radar that enables the crew to detect, track and fire on more than 100 targets at a time.

The 1996 graduate of Rice High School joined the Navy in July 1996.

Jason A. Marcinko

...son of Doris A. Collins and Edward J. Marcinko of Eagle Lake, has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program.

The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$40,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career specialty.

Allen, a student at Rice High School, will report to Fort Jackson, Columbia S.C., for basic training on July 7, 1998.

Did You Know...

•Harry S. Truman, without the period, is the full name of the 33rd President.

•The adding machine was invented by the Frenchman Pascal in 1642.

Sales tax

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14.9% over the April 1997 payment of \$7.3 million. Year-to-date, San Antonio has received a 10.5% increase in local sales tax payments.

The Austin sales tax allocation for April was \$6.7 million, reflecting a healthy increase of 15.9% from the April 1997 payment of \$5.8 million. For the first four months of 1998, Austin's sales tax rebates are 10.4% more than those for last year.

Ft. Worth's \$3.9 million sales tax allocation was 9.8% more than the city's rebate of \$3.5 million for April of last year, putting year-to-date rebates 8.9% ahead of 1997.

Arlington received \$3.5 million in sales tax allocations, virtually unchanged from the payment for the same month last year, however, the city's rebates are running 2.4% ahead of those for the first four months of last year.

April sales tax rebates to some other Texas cities and their increases year-to-date were:

Amarillo, \$2.6 million, up 5.3%; Lubbock, \$1.7 million, up 3.7%; Beaumont, \$1.5 million, up 2.7%; Mesquite, \$1.4 million, up 5.1%; and

Waco, \$1.3 million, up 4.9%

Other cities in our area, the amount of their sales tax rebate this month along with the change from the same

month last year are:

Columbus, \$49,349.34, up 16.53%; Weimar, \$9,157.73, up 32.34%; Sealy, \$67,857.50, up 62.16%; Bellville, \$16,592.88, +8.75%; El Campo, \$117,312.75, down 2.53%; and Wharton, \$71,407.84, +11.65%.

Year-to-date for the above cities and the change from last year are: Columbus, \$238,091.71, +14.65%; Weimar, \$41,260.66, +15.10%; Sealy, \$365,923.11, +63.85%; Bellville, \$78,970.19, +5.58%; El Campo, \$551,129.15, +4.70%; and Wharton, \$327,188.51, -0.44%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$38,716.86, up 14.17% from last year's payment of \$33,910.34. Austin County received \$57,590.38, up 21.23%. Wharton County received \$84,045.22, up 1.98%.

Year-to-date figures for these counties are, Colorado, \$186,125.61, up 4.88%; Austin, \$281,673.22, +15.50%; Wharton, \$399,178.95, +11.51%.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation is scheduled for Friday, May 8.

*Sealy increased their portions from 1% to 1.5% in Oct. 1997, therefore, this is not an accurate comparison.

Ag census

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impact on all farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses in the state and in the nation. It's important to the entire agricultural community that the 1997 Census of Agriculture be complete and accurate.

Far-reaching decisions made by farm organizations, farm suppliers, bankers, local, state and federal policy makers and many others will be based upon this information.

If you have not yet completed and returned your Census form, we ask that you do so today.

If your Census form isn't returned, TASS must contact you either by telephone or in person, and it is costly to make these contacts.

Help keep the cost of the Census down by taking the time to return your form now.

If you haven't received a form, have misplaced it or need assistance in completing it, call the Census help line toll-free at 1-888-424-7828.

Please, file or call now so TASS won't have to contact you!

Sheriff

Continued from Page 1

and Peterson responded to a call concerning a burglary of a habitation on FM 949.

The complainant reported one television, one VCR, three remote controls, one Remington bolt action 222 caliber rifle with scope, and one Browning 12 gauge shot gun stolen.

At 10:11 p.m., Deputies Benavides and Peikert responded to a call concerning an inquest on FM 102.

Wednesday, April 8, at 9:40 a.m., Deputy Schmidt responded to a call concerning a criminal mischief at Vox Populi. One juvenile was cited for criminal mischief Class C.

At 1:15 p.m., Deputy Schmidt responded to a call concerning a juvenile at the Eagle Lake Middle School. One juvenile was cited for Class C assault.

At 3:20 p.m., Deputy Pavlicek traveled to Fayette County to pick up Shawn A. Norris, 25, of Weimar for order revoking probation.

At 6:04 p.m., Deputies Benavides and Peikert responded to a call concerning a vehicle fire on I-10 westbound.

Thursday, April 9, at 1 p.m., Deputy Peterson responded to a call concerning a burglary in Rock Island.

The complainant reported that someone had taken two Uniden CB radios from his combines which were located in his barn.

At 1:40 p.m., Deputy Peterson responded to a call concerning a criminal

misconduct in Garwood. The complainant advised that subject(s) had shattered a glass door.

Friday, April 10, at 12:06 a.m., Deputies Benavides and Peikert responded to a call concerning a subject in violation of an emergency protective order.

Jose Angel Velazquez, 32, of Columbus was arrested.

Saturday, April 11, at 12:07 a.m., Deputies Peikert and Benavides initiated a traffic stop. After investigation, the driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Monthly Summary March 1998

The March summary from the Colorado County Sheriff's Office lists 103 civil papers served; 134 civil papers processed; 72 traffic citations issued; 78 traffic warning citations issued; three inmates transported to ISF in Houston; six juveniles transported to juvenile detention in Rockdale; five juveniles picked up from Rockdale Detention Center to be brought back for hearings; two juveniles transported to Juvenile Detention Center in Victoria; three mental patients transported to Austin State Hospital;

Also, 66 arrests made by Colorado County Sheriff's deputies; 93 criminal and civil complaints answered; and 28,010 miles driven while transporting, patrolling and civil process.

Mural

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When other teams come to our school, it will show them what we are made of." - Brandie Bartlett, 6th grade

"Do you know the meaning of pride? Webster's Dictionary defines it as a feeling of something achieved, done or owned. Our pride is we never give up, and we have lots of teamwork. The wall is our symbol of this dedication." - Aimee Bubela, 7th grade

"The wall represents a building block to our future success and hopefully the younger kids can continue our winning tradition." - 8th grade

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Real Estate

Lee Briscoe & Associates

Office Columbus Home
732-3847 Texas 732-3697

15.738 Acres: 2 miles west on Hwy. 90-A.

Vet clinic: working pens & 2 bedroom living quarters.

24 Acres at Sheridan. Good hunting and has two accesses. Priced for quick sale!

11.5 Acres: two lakes, bldg., pier, very nice!

2-19 wooded acre tracts: on Lake Sheridan Road.

3BR, 2B mason CONTRACT swimming pool, enclosed yard to appreciate!

Advertising in the Headlight Classifieds!

TRULY PROPERTIES
129 N. McCarty 409-234-3776

HOUSES...

PARTRIDGE LANE: 3BR, 2BA, formal living/dining room combo, den w/fireplace, brick.

GUADALUPE AVENUE: 3BR, 1BA, dining room, frame w/siding and 1BR, 1BA trailer.

PEYTON LANE: 3BR, 2BA, formal living room w/fireplace, formal dining room, sunroom, brick.

W. CENTER: 3BR, 2BA, living room/dining room combo, office; recently renovated.

CEMETERY STREET: 3BR, 1BA, dining room; Perma stone.

PECAN VALLEY: 2BR, 1BA, frame; with 10 acres.

N. AIRLINE: 4BR, 3BA, den w/fireplace, formal dining room, 1-1/2 story brick w/wood siding, large corner lot (2 ac.) WHL sprinkler system.

LAUGHLIN ROAD: 3BR, 3BA, formal living room & dining room, den, office, brick; recently remodeled; with 2.5 acres.

DOBBINS: 3BR, 1BA, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, frame; recently renovated. FHA loan available.

E. MAIN: 3BR, 2BA, den, formal dining room, frame.

N. LAKE: 2BR, 1BA, formal dining, frame w/siding; large lot w/shed and small bldgs.

S. MCCARTY: 3BR, 2-1/2BA, large den w/fireplace, formal dining room; brick; 0.76 acres.

COMMERCIAL...

4.4 ACRES: corner of FM 3013 & Hwy. 90-A.

2.7 ACRES: corner of Hwy. 90-A & Glen Flora Road.

E. MAIN STREET: 1.67 Acres commercial frontage.

HWY. 90A & GLEN FLORA ROAD: 1.87 Acres commercial frontage.

W. DAVITT: Four one-bedroom apartments with CA/CH; brick.

W. PRAIRIE: West Prairie Apts. (Former Methodist Church); 8 units; approx. 1 acre.

E. MAIN: Former Santa Fe Depot; renovated into office space and two apts. Owner finance. Make an offer!

E. MAIN: Former "Snack Center"; 1,800 sq. ft.; fully equipped.

6.8 ACRES: Choice commercial property, 1,100 Ft. FM 3013 North frontage.

THREE BUSINESS BLDGS. on Main St. Good location.

LOTS...

PECAN VALLEY: 5.83 Acres.

PARTRIDGE LANE: 100' x 150'.

N. LAKE: 84' x 135' with fence.

WAVELLY: Corner lot; 80' x 135'. Price reduced!

DONOVAN ST.: 75' x 188'

BALUSEK DR.: 2.85 Acres; Owner finance. Make an offer!

LAND...

FM 3013 & Wharton County Line: three tracts, total of 48 acres; wooded with tank & gravel pit.

120 ACRES: CR 48-1/2 near the A&M Experiment Station.

PECAN VALLEY: 1.20 Acres.

FM 3013 & Glen Flora Rd.: frontage; 2,180 acre industrial site.

E. WAVELLY: 5-1/2 Acres across from airport; recently cleared.

Owner finance; \$25,000.

38 Acres inside city, facing FM 3013.

90 Acres rice land inside city, 25'x50' steel bldg., FM 3013 frontage, will divide into two tracts.

SANDY BENDY 234-3925

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Repairs & Services

Neuendorf Water Well Service, Inc.

COMPLETE WATER WELL DRILLING SERVICE
Parts, Pumps, Tanks, Windmills, Iron Filters, Water Softeners, Solar Pumps
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ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

Remodeling Plus

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"Complete Electrical Service"

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* 24 Hour Service

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Eldon Penner, President

El Campo

409-543-6659

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Real Estate

LEYCO REAL ESTATE

Established 1978 • 903 Front St., Columbus, Texas

409-732-3302

•50 ACRES with end of road seclusion and majestic woods, this property is hunter perfect! A camper w/room attached is all you need for comfy living just west of Sheridan on 90-A. Priced at \$125,000.

•404 MILLS STREET: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home in quiet neighborhood near the school.

•AH! WILDERNESS! Tracts from 5-22 Acres in secluded area. Home to deer, raccoons and squirrels. Grab your compass and see how much isolation you can buy! \$1,250 - 1,500 per acre.

•FEED THE DEER on your own 40 Acres of wooded land. South of 90A near Sheridan. Priced within reach at \$1800 per acre.

•A PLACE TO HIDE! 147 Acres of woods, stocked ponds, creek, hay meadow AND your own Redman Home + bunkhouse for 6. An ideal place to escape the world! A bargain at \$225,000.

LOTS IN SHERIDAN: Call for details.

We have others... call for land listings and home brochures!

AGENT: Laura Sturm • 885-4299

BROKER: Betty McCullough • 758-3874

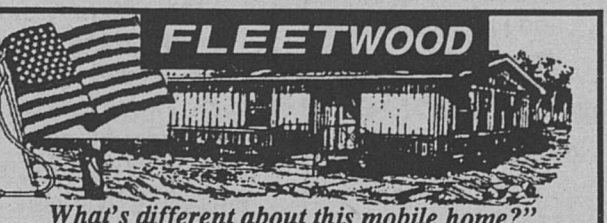
DOROTHY & CROCKETT LEYENDECKER - BROKER-OWNERS

CLASSIFIED ADS

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21 Mobile Homes for Sale

STOP! FEEDING THE RENT MONSTER!!! Low down, low monthly, own your home for less than rent. Ranch Country Homes, 2402 Hwy. 59 West, El Campo; 409-543-6992 or 888-238-6992.



What's different about this mobile home?
Since 1973 - Rosenberg Factory Outlet has been retail sales leader in Colorado County! Save Thousands - Call for details and free color brochures:

1-800-932-6181

ROSENBERG FACTORY OUTLET

24 Acreage for Sale or Rent

1+ ACRE HOMESITES: restricted; water, sewer, electric. Financing available. Toll free: 1-888-801-6262.

28 Cars for Sale

SEIZED CARS from \$175. Porsches, Cadillacs, Chevys, BMW's, Corvettes. Also Jeeps, 4WD's. Your Area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. A-10928 for current listings.

21 Mobile Homes for Sale

30 Repairs & Services

Garrett & Arnold's Mowing Service: mow, trim, edge; reasonable prices. Call 234-7532, leave a message.