

Community Action gives assistance

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA) has funds available under a Central Power and Light (CP&L) Program to households that are customers of CP&L needing energy related assistance. CCA also has funds available under the Comprehensive Assistance Program (See Assistance, Page 6)

Have A Safe & Happy 4th of July!

Eagle Lake Headlight

July 2, 1998

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 95, No. 15
8 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

County Go Texan competition is Aug. 29, 30

The Colorado County Go Texan committee will host its Hay Hauling, Horseshoe, Washer Pitching and Barbecue competition Aug. 29-30 at Beason's Crossing in Columbus. Winners will represent Colorado County at the 1999 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Go Texan Queen contest will be held Sept. 6 at the Nesbitt Memorial Library. Photography and Quilt competition will be held at the Colorado County Fair Sept. 10-13. Call 234-5347 for Go Texan information.

RHS, Jr. High auxiliaries to hold fundraiser

Rice High School Auxiliary will be holding a car wash Saturday, July 18, at the First National Bank. Rice Jr. High is currently selling barbecue tickets for Sunday, July 19. For further information about these fundraisers, you can call Deborah Haman at Eagle Lake Middle School 234-3501 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. All proceeds will help purchase equipment and offset expenses for camp and uniforms. Thank you for your support in advance.

Legion 108 quarterly meeting set for July 14

W. Cherry-M. Perry Post 108 of the American Legion will hold its quarterly meeting and installation of 1998-99 officers Tuesday, July 14. The ladies night event will be held at Taco Tony's. A social starts at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and a program at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Wren of Wallis, 9th District Legion Commander, will install the officers during the program. Members planning to attend are urged to contact Commander Fred R. Frnka by noon Monday, July 13, at 234-2065.

White Cloud to hold garage sale

White Cloud Baptist Church will hold a garage sale at 510 East C Street in Eagle Lake on Friday, July 3, beginning at 8 a.m. Proceeds will be used for the building fund and upcoming church projects.

Eagle Lake KCs dinner is July 12

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a chicken fried chicken breast dinner, (with sides of potatoes and corn) Sunday, July 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 710 E. Main. Tickets for the to-go only plates are \$5 each and may be purchased from any member or in the serving line. The Rice High School Flag Corps will also be selling desserts to raise funds. Proceeds will benefit the KC's charity and scholarship funds.

Softball tournament set for this weekend

The Andy Rice Softball Tournament will be held July 3-5 in Gonzales on four fields with a men's division, ladies division and co-ed division. For entry information contact Jerry Bonewald at 512-798-5396 or (office) 798-3661 or Terrell Herring at 798-5251.

Native Plant Society to meet July 2

The Native Plant Society of Texas Columbus Chapter will meet Thursday, July 2, at the home of Ann and Jim Lindemann for a pot luck supper and program. The supper starts at 6:30 p.m. sharp.

Ann, past-president of NPSOT, will highlight four early naturalists. Why did these men come to this area and what did they find? Her answers may surprise you! She'll show plants these men found and read descriptions they wrote. Dress cool and don't forget to bring a dish to share.

To reach the Lindemann's home from the four-way stop in Industry, take Hwy. 159 west (toward Fayetteville). Drive 1.9 miles; turn left on Rock House Road. The Lindemann's home is the first house on the left (about 1/2 mile off 159). Call Ann at 409-357-3772 if you get lost.

Community Pool to be closed July 4th

The Community Pool will be closed Saturday, July 4, due to a shortage of life guards. Regular pool hours will resume following the holiday, but the number of swimmers admitted will depend on the number of life guards on duty. The fewer life guards... the fewer swimmers will be allowed in the pool.

Garbage pickup changed for July 4th holiday

The City of Eagle Lake will make a few changes in the garbage pickup for the July 4th Holiday. Thursday's trash will be picked up Wednesday; Friday's trash will be picked up Thursday.

Senior Citizens' dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' dance from 8 to 11:30 p.m., Friday, July 3, at the Eagle Lake Community Center with music provided by Donnie Wavra. Admission is \$5 per person; door prizes will be given.

4th of July ice cream social scheduled

Senior Friends will be celebrating the 4th of July with an ice cream social Thursday, July 2, beginning at 2 p.m. in the classrooms of Gulf Coast Medical Center. A travel program will also be presented by Terry Mansfield of Pioneer Travel. To RSVP for this social, call Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

Antique Show set for July 4, 5

An Independence Day Weekend Antique Show will be held July 4-5 at St. Roch's Churchyard, eight miles east of Columbus, on FM 949, two miles north of I-10 in Mentz, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 per person. For more information, call 409-865-5618.

Prayer warriors wanted!

Prayer warriors are wanted for the "What Would Jesus Do?" non-denominational prayer group. The meetings will be held every Monday morning at 7:15 a.m. For information call 409-234-7372 or 234-3009.

CCHFH meeting set for July 7

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity will hold a meeting Tuesday, July 7, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Stancik Reunion to be held July 12

The 31st Stancik reunion will be held Sunday, July 12, at the St. Roch's Catholic Church Hall in Mentz. The fun starts at 11 a.m. and will include a basket lunch, lots of visiting and maybe even a few surprises. If you need more information, please call Melvin or Joyce Stancik at 409-234-3449. Mark your calendars. We're looking forward to a GREAT day!

RMC volunteer resale extravaganza is Aug. 22

Rice Medical Center Employees Volunteers will hold their First Annual Resale Extravaganza Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. This event will offer a wide variety of arts and crafts booths along with a resale corner of bargains for everyone. Anyone interested in renting booth space for this event or donating items may do so by calling Roxanne Walker or Sharon Sommer at 409-234-5571. A \$25 fee will be collected for the booths which are available on a first come, first serve basis.

City looking into changing area of murders

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake Mayor Michael Cooper told the bereaved family of Betty Lou Holloway that "the City is going to do whatever is legally possible to make the area in which the murders of your sister and daughter, and Officer Tobin Thomas occurred safer."

Melody Morgan, Holloway's sister, addressed Council with both anger

and bereavement at its June 23 meeting.

"Will it take another death before the City takes some action?" Morgan asked. She was referring to the establishment, the Jazz Room, located near where the homicides were reportedly committed.

Cooper informed Morgan that a study has been ordered as to the number of crime incidences which have

occurred at the location, legal representation and legislators are being contacted and legal avenues explored.

"We will find out as much as we can as to what can legally be done," Cooper said. "We can't undo what has been done, but it's time to find out what can be done so an incident like this doesn't happen again. All areas of our City need to be safe for our citizens."

"I just want something done so it won't happen to someone else's child and sister," Morgan said.

Council did retire Badge No. 307, which had been worn by Thomas, with a formal ceremony scheduled for a later meeting.

Dave Curry addressed Council concerning the increasing number of juveniles and people "hanging out" on the City's streets at night. He asked Council to consider the possibility of a program to keep the "kids off the streets, if not this summer, maybe later."

"Kids are just hanging out because they have no place to go," he said.

Council concurred on the need and informed Curry of plans already in place for basketball, soccer and baseball in the municipal park plans.

Agenda items included the discussion of a waiver of some utility fees in certain situations. The waiver provides for waiving garbage and sewer fees when a unit is vacant or the resident is going away for an extended period and the customer wants water for outside use only.

The ordinance will require the customer to file an affidavit stating that the unit is vacant, promising to notify Eagle Lake City Hall immediately upon any changes and provides for a \$500 penalty for violation.

The ordinance proposal was the result of a request by Jerry Fajkus. Action will be on the July 14 agenda of Council.

The need to develop and adopt a mobile home ordinance, to develop and adopt subdivision regulations and to develop and adopt setback requirements for new structures were discussed at length by Council.

Council concurred that no Eagle Lake resident should be subjected to housing facilities and establishments moving into their area that might affect property values.

The possibility of a zoning ordinance for Eagle Lake entered into the discussion. Public hearings will be held before final adoption of any of the ordinances.

The Prison Finance Corporation board of directors received only one proposal for a 1,000-bed, \$34.12 million prison facility. It was from Correctional Services Corp. (CSC), the company which oversees the Colorado County Juvenile Facility in Eagle Lake.

CSC will now produce a feasibility study which will be presented to the Attorney General who will then determine if the need for a prison warrants approval of the sale of bonds to build it.

"We're not putting spades in the ground for awhile. We have a lot of paperwork to go through. We have reason to believe that there is still a need for prisons to house Texas prisoners," said Cooper.

"All indications are that we could be putting prisoners here by early 2000," said City Manager Ron Holland.

Council approved a grant application in the amount of \$154,225 with H-GAC for the construction and equipping of a recycling center.

No matching funds are required. Colorado County Commissioners Court has reserved an acre of land for the center between the Colorado County Juvenile Facility and the site (See Council, Page 8)

ACE's battle with Laidlaw ends

The Alliance for a Clean Environment (ACE) is pleased to announce the Executive Director of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) issued an order dismissing the application of Laidlaw Environmental Services Inc. for expansion of its Altair Landfill facility.

The Order became final June 4, 1998 - the date that any Motions for Reconsideration must have been filed to contest the order dismissing the application.

No Motions for Reconsideration were filed.

This closes a critical struggle by the citizens of this community to keep Laidlaw Environmental Services from its seven year attempt to expand the scope and size of its landfill. In addition, Jan. 26, 1998, Laidlaw received

authorization from the TNRCC for its closure plan of the existing facility. These two actions mean that Laidlaw will shut-down its existing operations and will refrain from opening-up new landfill cells to accept industrial or special wastes. The TNRCC Order dismisses Laidlaw's application "with prejudice," which means that Laidlaw cannot re-file the application or a similar application in the future for the same site.

ACE had spent over \$150,000 over the seven year period to evaluate and oppose Laidlaw's expansion plans. In addition, Mark Rose, General Manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), noted at a recent ACE meeting that LCRA had spent over \$1 million evaluating and

opposing Laidlaw's plans. According to Billy Hefner, President of ACE, LCRA's involvement was crucial for the community to have achieved this recent success. Citing geologic conditions that prevent adequate containment, proximity to the Colorado River and to Rice High School, and high levels of methane gas at the existing site, ACE contends that the original landfill never should have been authorized, and expansion of the landfill would have been disastrous.

Although the citizens of the area can now close this chapter of this struggle, Billy Hefner, President of ACE warns that the community must remain vigilant over solid waste practices to ensure that waste in Colorado County is disposed of properly and in accordance with TNRCC permits.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending June 30, 1998.

On June 23 at 5:51 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to a residence on 7th Street to a disturbance. Sgt. Knox spoke with the complainant and advised him to call if the suspect returned.

At 9:58 p.m., Officer Brian Ochoa made a traffic stop on a male riding a bicycle. Ochoa later arrested Eddie Torres for public intoxication. After processing, Torres was transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

On June 24 at 3:15 a.m., Officer Ochoa conducted a traffic stop which resulted in the arrest of James Lee Black on outstanding district and DPS warrants. After processing, Black was transported to CDC for confinement.

At 11:45 a.m., Steven Grant was arrested on outstanding traffic warrants at the police department, processed and transported to the CDC for confinement.

Sgt. Bill Lattimore received a report of people loitering at the corner of 3rd and C Streets at 10:11 p.m. The subjects were asked to leave the area and they complied without incident.

On June 25, loud music calls in the 1100 block of Seaholm Street were received by Lt. Clem Johnson at 1:15

p.m. and Sgt. Lattimore at 3:02 p.m.

Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant at the police department at 4:55 p.m. in reference to a runaway and filed a report. The family later contacted Sgt. Lattimore and advised the runaway had returned home.

Officers were dispatched to Davitt Street at 10:29 p.m. and contacted the complainant in reference to family violence. Investigation led to the arrest of Timothy Jones for assault family violence. After processing, (See Police, Page 8)

Date for sale of County land changed to July 22

Colorado County Commissioners reset the public auction for the sale of 8.317 acres, termed the "boot camp property" in Eagle Lake, for July 22 at 11:30 a.m. at the Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus during their meeting Monday morning, June 29.

The sale was originally scheduled for July 8, but it was postponed due to a survey problem.

According to Precinct 4 Commissioner Leon "Sonny" Spanihel, who was appointed by the Court to oversee the sale, the County did not have the correct easement for the right of way, which delayed the necessary advertisement for the public auction.

The Court has set a minimum bid price on the property at \$4,000 per acre, or a total cost of \$33,268.

Commissioners placed the property, which is located adjacent to the

Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility, on the market in an effort to allow Correctional Services Corp. (CSC) to make the purchase for a 150-bed girls' juvenile facility.

In other business, the Court:

• Adopted a resolution to support the merging of Riceland Mental Health Authority and Central Gulf State Operated Mental Retardation Center for a six-county area, including Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Waller and Wharton Counties;

• Set July 22 at 10 a.m. for a public hearing on a tax abatement application by Harvey Fishbeck of Fishbeck Texaco; and

• Received notice that Don Easton has obtained his official designated representative commission from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for septic systems.



Simple Simon's cuts anniversary ribbon

To make up for not having a ribbon cutting when the business first opened, Simple Simon's Pizza held a first anniversary ribbon cutting last Thursday, June 25. Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce representatives Don Bendy, Sam Thomson, Mary Ann Kaluza, Susan Wilkerson, Lana Dulany and J.C. Cooper joined Manager Monica Quinney (second from left) and Owner John Bard (fourth from left) for the occasion.

Headlight Photo by Carol Nelson

Don't forget trust funds

This is just a gentle reminder to anyone who would like to contribute.

Even though the "tone" of Eagle Lake seems to have returned to normal, please don't forget the two trust funds set up at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake.

Send your contributions to either or both the Betty Lou Holloway Fund or the Tobin Thomas Trust Fund.

Let's take care of our own.