

Legion needs stuffed animals

Legionnaires report the response to their toy drive (toys for children in needy families) has been great!

However, there is a shortage to date of stuffed animals. If you have some "good as new" stuffed animals stuck away in a closet, now that the children and grandchildren have outgrown them, the Legion will put them to good use.

They need the contributions by Saturday, Dec. 19, so preparation of the 250 bags can be completed by the distribution date of Wednesday, Dec. 23, (9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Prairie Edge Museum).

You may leave contributions at Struss Auto Supply or Wallis State Bank; or call 234-2065 and they will be picked up.

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NEWSBRIEFS

City departments closed Christmas, New Year's

All City offices, including garbage collection services, will close at noon Dec. 24 and 31. We are asking that all residents please have their garbage set out early for pickup. Normal route pickup will resume Monday, Dec. 28, and Jan. 4, 1999.

E.H. Henry Christmas Party is Dec. 24

Come join the E.H. Henry Alumni for their annual Christmas Party Thursday, Dec. 24, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Admission is \$5, door prizes will be given.

Closing for Christmas Holiday

The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed for Christmas Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25; and Friday, Jan. 1, for New Year's. The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will be closed Dec. 24 and 25. The Furniture Shoppe will be closed Friday and Saturday, Dec. 25 and 26. The First National Bank of Eagle Lake will close at noon Thursday, Dec. 24, and remain closed all day Friday, Dec. 25.

ICE House needs volunteers

The Ice House has been well received by the youth of our community. A total of 470+ youth have attended to date, an average of 23-24 per day the ICE House has been open. We have signed up over 150 youth as members. With this great number of youth, we are needing additional volunteer help. Those of you wishing to join the volunteer pool, come by the ICE House to fill out a volunteer information sheet. For further information, contact Erik Cameron of the ICE House at 234-7990 or 234-3225.

Singles dance is this Friday

The Fort Bend Singles Club will sponsor a public dance on Friday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by Bobby Jones. Door prizes will be given. Admission is \$5 and the public is welcome.

CCA meeting set for tonight

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA) will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Murphy's General Store in Winchester. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

E.H. Henry Alumni meeting is tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni will hold their regular meeting Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at White Cloud Baptist Church. Please attend.

Gospel Mission to present program

The Eagle Lake Gospel Mission Church will present "The Littlest Angel" Christmas Program, Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The church is located at 510 E. Prairie St. Call Pastor Cameron at 234-3225 for more information.

Pilot Club to hold drawing

The Eagle Lake Pilot Club is holding a Romance Package Drawing. The \$10 tickets give you a chance at two nights at the Hilton on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, champagne on arrival, riverside bedroom, Saturday breakfast, \$50 meal certificate and a \$20 gas certificate. The drawing will be held Saturday, Jan. 30. For more information or tickets, call Dorothy Kohleffel at 234-2834 or Mary Ann Kaluza at 234-2619.

CCCAD may re-appraise your property

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the District's request to the Comptroller of Public Account that will allow the Colorado County Central Appraisal District (CCCAD) to re-appraise the value of flood-damaged properties and lower the taxable values of these properties located in the Rice CISD. The re-appraisal request must be made by the property owner. Pick up re-appraisal request forms at the CCCAD office.

ELPS PTO holding 'Penny Drive'

The Eagle Lake Primary School PTO is holding a "Penny Drive". Containers have been placed in each homeroom by the PTO.

Pennies will be counted at the end of each six weeks. Prizes will be given for the class collecting the most pennies. Pennies will be used to fulfill the teachers' "want list". These lists contain things teachers would like to have to enhance learning in their room, but don't have finances provided to buy the educational supplies. Containers have also been placed in local business establishments. Anyone wishing to have a container, call Mrs. Rhodes at 234-3587.

First National shareholders okay holding company

Shareholders of First National Bank last week overwhelmingly approved creation of a bank holding company, Eagle Lake Bancshares Inc.

According to Bank President Bill Harrison Jr., the new firm will own, through a subsidiary Delaware corporation, 100% of First National. Qualifying shareholders of First National will exchange their bank shares for shares in Eagle Lake Bancshares Inc.

Harrison told shareholders that early this year, the bank's board of directors re-affirmed its position that the bank remain independent and locally-owned. "But we realized that our customers and shareholders might be better served if we took advantage of the re-organizational opportunities now available," said Harrison.

"Most of the community banks in this area have for some time been owned by their own holding companies," said Harrison. "Bank holding company regulations will give us the flexibility to provide new products and services more efficiently. Our board's decision was also influenced by the relatively new option (for banks) of electing to be a Sub Chapter S Corporation for tax purposes. The tax savings to the bank that can be passed along to our shareholders were just too significant to pass up. 'The Bank of Friendly Service' is the same independent community bank as before, and will be better able to respond to our customers' banking needs."

Bank directors Steve Balas, R.L. Cook Jr., Wayne Corman, W.H. Harrison Sr., Harrison Jr., Kenneth Mahalic, John Matthews, Dr. Russell Thomas and Travis Wegenhoft will also serve as directors of the new company, with Harrison Jr. serving as President and Wegenhoft as Vice President.

Commissioners table change for public comments

Colorado County Commissioners Court will reconsider its policy on "public comments" to the Court when the County's two newest-elected members, Herbert "Herbie" Helmscamp from Precinct 2 and Darrell Gertson from Precinct 4, are sworn into office after the first of the year.

That decision was reached after a brief, but thorough, discussion during Monday morning's regular monthly meeting, the first for newly-elected County Judge Al Jamison.

It was Jamison's intent to change the order in which the public makes comments to the Court. The agenda item, "public comments," is listed at the beginning of each Court meeting, but it was Jamison's goal to move it from prior to the meeting to where each individual can speak prior to a specific agenda item.

"That is more domain," said Jamison. "Instead of the public forum, we will be listening to comments at the time of the agenda item."

However, Pct. 3 Commissioner Tommy Hahn expressed his concern

over those individuals who take the time to come to the Court and then are unable to speak.

"What about the person who takes the time to come up here and suddenly finds out they have no opportunity

say what's on their mind? Once we get the program started, it might be okay, but sometimes this is the only time a person has the opportunity to address the Court," said Hahn.

"Something may happen over the weekend and they want to be here on Monday morning to address the Court, but yet they have no opportunity to speak at all."

Hahn's concern was over those individuals who are not listed on the agenda and Jamison did not hesitate in telling Hahn he had made "a very strong point."

It was at that point that Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert said "maybe we should table this item until we get the input of the new Commissioners."

"In my first two years in office, I had so many people tell me they didn't even know I had an office in Frelsburg," said Hahn. "This may be the only time — second and fourth Mondays (of each month) — they know they can find me."

It was Jamison's plan to have individuals sign up on the "public comment" sheet as they are currently doing, but place the appropriate agenda item number by their name.

It was announced that the County would hold its swearing-in ceremony for elected and appointed officials Jan. 4, 1999, at 9 a.m. in the District Courtroom.

In other business, the Court:

- Adopted a resolution of appreciation for former County Judge Vince Slominski, who served the Court from Jan. 1, 1995, through Nov. 30 of this year;

- Awarded bids for culverts, weed and brush control, gravel, and hot and cold mix; and

- Authorized the advertisement for two employees for Precinct 4 and two deputies and a dispatcher for the sheriff's department.

- Awarded fuel bids for the month to Colorado County Oil Co. of Columbia and Thomas Enterprises of Victoria.

- Set the Court's meeting schedule for 1999;

- Authorized the County Judge to negotiate a lease agreement for hangar space at the Robert R. Wells Jr. Airport with a pair of Houston physicians.

Library Lines...

Library offering amnesty

The Eula and David Wintermann Library will have an Amnesty Period from Dec. 14 through Jan. 1.

Please return all overdue books, audio books, videos and magazines during this time. There will be no fines collected for the returned items, but all outstanding fines will still be due.

It's very important that we get all the materials back in order to barcode them for the upcoming automation project.

Sheriff's Department helps in drug bust, makes attempted murder arrest

The joint effort of the Colorado County Sheriff's Department and the 24th and 25th Judicial Narcotics Task Force resulted in the arrest of a woman from Killeen for possession of marijuana Thursday, Dec. 3.

Deputy M.R. Edman initiated the traffic stop on I-10 near Weimar following the receipt of information concerning a possible drug courier traveling I-10 toward Houston.

Rosa G. Deluna, 51, of Killeen was arrested for possession of more than 50 pounds, but less than 2,000 pounds, a second-degree felony.

The estimated street value of the marijuana is \$100,000.

Colorado County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Dodie Dungen set Deluna's bond at \$80,000. She met that bond and was released Dec. 4.

In other news, a Weimar resident, David Charles Langhoff, 37, was arrested and charged with attempted capital murder of a police officer after being stopped Sunday, Dec. 6, at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Deputy Craig Peikert attempted to stop Langhoff for several traffic violations when he allegedly tried to run Deputy Peikert down with his vehicle. Peikert reportedly fired his weapon with one shot striking Langhoff.

Peikert had allegedly clocked a vehicle with radar exceeding 77 miles per hour as well as committing several other traffic violations.

A traffic stop was made and, upon contact with the driver, Peikert observed that the driver was possibly intoxicated.

Peikert obtained the paperwork needed and placed them in his patrol car and was waiting to perform field sobriety tests on the driver when Langhoff got back into his vehicle and fled from the deputy at a high rate of speed.

During the pursuit, the vehicle left the roadway and went into a ditch, nearly wrecking.

Finally, the suspect's vehicle came to a stop at the junction of County Roads 201 and 207.

As Peikert pulled behind the vehicle, the driver put his vehicle in reverse and began backing toward the patrol unit.

Peikert had to back up to avoid being struck by Langhoff's vehicle.

The suspect them backed into the bottom of the ditch. Peikert, thinking the suspect was stuck in the ditch, exited his patrol car.

Suddenly, the driver accelerated his vehicle toward the deputy in an attempt to run him down.

Peikert fired his weapon in self-defense into the oncoming vehicle, stopping it only a few feet from him.

Langhoff was taken to Hermann Hospital in Houston by Critical Air of La Grange with a gunshot wound and was admitted in critical but stable condition.

His wound was serious, but not life threatening.

Langhoff was moved out of the intensive care unit recently and listed in stable condition.

During the pursuit, Langhoff reportedly turned in front of an oncoming vehicle at County Roads 207 and 209. Investigators would like to speak to the person driving that vehicle.

If you were the one, you are urged to call the Sheriff's Office at 409-732-2388.

No photos

Due to the time constraints of the season and lack of manpower, the photos planned for this edition of *The Headlight* were not processed.

We ask for your understanding, especially from the Fire Department and Eagle Lake Dental Clinic, of this problem. Hopefully, the prints will be ready for next week.

On ICE

The Ice House will be open this Saturday, Dec. 19, from 1 to 8 p.m. There will be refreshments, Christmas carols and music and of course lots of fun!

The Ice House is planning another workday for Jan. 30 beginning at 9 a.m. There will be plenty to do, so bring your tools and friends.

With almost a month to clear schedules and make plans to help, we hope that this will allow many to come out and be a part of a great organization. We appreciate all of you who have come to help and interact with the youth!

Special thanks to those individuals, businesses and organizations who have contributed of their time, monies and resources to make the ICE House such a success.

The ICE House is open Monday and Tuesday from 3 to 8 p.m., and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 1 to 8 p.m.

The ICE weight lifting program is near completion. Hopes are to begin the specialized program the first of the year, under the leadership of Troy Thomas. For further information, contact the ICE House 234-7990.

The ICE House has a rigidly enforced ZERO TOLERANCE policy! NO DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO in or on ICE House property. NO LOITERING on the property either.

The ICE House is closed at 8 p.m. and no one is allowed to be on the property after 10 p.m.! NO EXCEPTIONS!!

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Dec. 14.

On Dec. 8, at 8:05 a.m., a complainant came by the police department, and reported two trucks blocking W. Main St. Lt. Clem Johnson arrived and cleared the street of the trucks without incident.

At 5:12 p.m., Officer Michael Krenek was contacted in reference to children running in front of vehicles on State St. The parent of the juveniles was contacted and children were made to go into the back yard to play.

Officer McDougall was dispatched to A. Street at 7:30 p.m. in reference to a missing person. The missing person later returned home.

On Dec. 9, at 10:37 p.m., Officer Stephen Nelson was dispatched to an accident in the parking lot of the 800 block of E. Main. Those involved were given blue forms to send in, due to it being a minor accident.

At 11:51 a.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to a disturbance in the 900 block of E. Main St. Officer Nelson met with the subjects and the problem was resolved at the scene.

Officer Lasley met with a complainant on Maple St. in reference to harassing phone calls, and a report was filed.

On Dec. 10, at 1:30 a.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore spoke with a nurse from the El Campo Hospital in reference to an assault that occurred in the Eagle Lake area. It was determined that the assault occurred in the county and that the county would have jurisdiction over the matter.

At 4:13 p.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to S. Austin Rd. in reference to a theft. After speaking with the

complainant, he decided not to file on the suspects, and no other action was taken.

Officer Lasley met with a subject on Third St. in reference to loud music. The music was turned down.

Sgt. Lattimore was advised of gunshots south of Eagle Lake at 10:57 p.m., but was unable to locate the source of the gunshots.

On Dec. 11, at 12:44 a.m., Sgt. Lattimore received a report of a barking dog. The owner was contacted and asked to try to keep the dog quiet.

Officer Lasley met with complainants at the Basin Detox Center at 2:12 a.m., in regards to a patient not complying with treatment. The matter was handled at the scene.

At 7:13 a.m., Officer Nelson was advised of a possible intoxicated driver heading into Eagle Lake on 90A. Officer Nelson was unable to locate the vehicle.

Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant on E. Post Office St. in reference to reckless damage, and a report was filed.

Sgt. Lattimore responded to a report of loud music at the corner of Seaholm and Beaks St. at 11:02 p.m. The music was turned down and no other action was required.

On Dec. 12, at 6:53 a.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant in the 900 block of E. Main in reference to a burglary. Information was gathered, a report filed, and the case is under investigation.

Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant on Willis St. at 10:05 p.m. in reference to stray dogs killing some goats, and a report was filed.

On Dec. 13, at 1:04 a.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with complainants in

reference to a possible assault in the 600 block of E. Main. Information was gathered, and the case is being investigated.

At 1:08 p.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to North at Stephens Sts. in reference to some bones found in a sleeping bag. Officer Krenek, along with Sgt. Crume, investigated the scene and found the bones to be from a dog.

At 1:20 p.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to 801 S. McCarty in reference to a gas driveoff. Available information was gathered and an attempt to locate the vehicle was unsuccessful.

Officer Krenek was dispatched to Hunters Lane in reference to a disturbance at 2:27 p.m. After meeting with the involved parties, the matter was settled at the scene.

At 10:11 p.m., Officer Nelson responded to a call on Beaks St. of terroristic threat, and a report was filed.

On Dec. 14, at 11:08 a.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to Donovan St. in reference to a cruelty to animals call. The officer did not observe any abused animals.

At 3:20 p.m., Sgt. Crume and Officer Krenek were dispatched to the 700 block of S. McCarty in reference to a verbal dispute. Upon the officers arrival, there were no signs of an assault.

At 8:26 p.m., Sgt. Crume conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Boothe Drive, which resulted in the arrest of William Burton Arrison of Rock Island for driving while intoxicated. After processing at the police department, Arrison was transported to the County Detention Center for confinement.