

CCA offers rental assistance program

Combined Community Action (CCA) Inc. is currently accepting applications for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program. This Self-Sufficiency Program is designed for persons either furthering their education or improving their job skills with the end goal being independence from the Welfare System. Tenant Based Rental Assistance funds are for rental assistance in Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and

Lee Counties. Households must meet income qualifications and be willing to work toward self-sufficiency. If you are ready for independence and meet income guidelines, please contact CCA for an application at: Combined Community Action Inc., Attn: Mary Perry, 400 Gresham, Smithville, Texas 78957; or call 1-800-688-9065 or 1-512-237-4824; Monday through Thursday 8-5 and Friday 8-3.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Supermarket sets ribbon cutting, grand opening

The owners of Eagle Lake Supermarket, located at 200 S. McCarty, have announced their grand opening and a ribbon cutting, in conjunction with the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, for Thursday, Feb. 11. The ribbon cutting will take place at 10 a.m.

During the grand opening celebration, refreshments will be available to the general public. Everyone is urged to stop by, introduce yourself (if you haven't already done so) and take a look at the changes and improvements made to the old Minimax location.

ELMS PTO meeting set for Feb. 9

Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) PTO will hold their Feb. meeting Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the ELMS cafeteria. The program will be a parent forum on standard dress (uniforms) for ELMS students. All interested community members are also invited to attend.

KC Dinner to be held Feb. 14

Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a chicken fried steak dinner Sunday, Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 710 E. Main. Plates are \$5 each, to-go only. Proceeds benefit the charity and scholarship fund. Proceeds from dessert sales will go to Central Gulf MHMR, serving those with mental handicaps in Colorado, Ft. Bend, Matagorda and Wharton Counties.

Thrift Shop is open Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by for those hard to find gift ideas. With Valentine's Day around the corner, you surely need to stop by with your list of loved ones.

City offices closed for President's Day

Offices of the City of Eagle Lake will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, for President's Day. There will be no garbage pickup Monday. Monday's garbage will be picked up Thursday, Feb. 18. All other garbage pickup will remain the same.

Senior Citizens dance is this Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' Dance on Friday, Feb. 5, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by The Country Playboys. Admission is \$5 per person. Door prizes and refreshments will be given. For more information call 409-234-3795.

Town meeting set for Feb. 18

Revitalize Eagle Lake Inc. is interested in applying for the Texas Main Street Program for Eagle Lake. There will be a town meeting Thursday, Feb. 18, in the Eagle Lake Middle School auditorium at 7 p.m. to discuss the application and benefits of the program.

Several representatives from other participating communities, as well as representatives of the Main Street Program, will be present to answer questions. This meeting is open to all interested citizens.

Little League sign-up is Saturday

The Eagle Lake Little League will hold a sign-up day Saturday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Little League field. Children will also have the opportunity to participate in hitting practice.

Study Club meeting to be held Feb. 10

The Eagle Lake Study Club will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Eula and David Wintermann Library. The program, presented by speaker Jack Muggli, will be entitled "Champ Ferguson".

Booster Club meeting is Feb. 8

The Raider Booster Club will hold its meeting on Monday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. in the PAC Center at Rice High School. All members are encouraged to come. Plans to finalize the Power Meet will be discussed.

Defensive driving course set

A defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel Feb. 15 and 16 at the Agricultural Building at 316 Spring St. in Columbus. To pre-register for the class, call 409-732-2734 or arrive a few minutes early the first evening.

ELPS PTO to hold Fundraiser

The Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) PTO will hold a barbecue plate and bake sale fundraiser Sunday, Feb. 7, serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Austin's BBQ. The bake sale will continue until 2 p.m. You may purchase your barbecue tickets for \$5 each from any ELPS student or PTO member. For more information, call Mrs. Rhodes at 234-3587 or Mrs. Watson at 234-2617. Come out and support the ELPS PTO fundraiser.

11th Annual Hoop It Up is Feb. 19-20

The 11th Annual Hoop It Up men's basketball tournament open team bracket plus businesses/club/organizations bracket will be held Feb. 19-20 at the El Campo High School (ECHS) new gym. Deadline to enter is Feb. 12. Sign-up fee is \$150 per team. Contact Ronnie Ormand at 409-543-8030 (home) or 543-6972 (work). The event is sponsored by the ECHS Industrial Technology (IT) Club. All money raised goes to the IT Club for a senior scholarship.

It's baseball registration time!

It's time to register for the 1999 baseball season! The deadline is Saturday, Feb. 13. Tryouts are at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Little League Field for T-Ball, PeeWee, Minor and Majors. Registration forms may be turned in at Johnny's Sport Shop or bring them to tryouts.

Scout Troop needs volunteers

Scout Troop #334 is in need of adult volunteers to help with outings and activities. Also, Troop #334 will pick up your used camping equipment. For information and how you can help, contact Erik Cameron at 234-3225.

13th Annual Polka Fest is Sunday

The 13th Annual El Campo Polka Fest will be held Sunday, Feb. 7, at the El Campo KC Hall on Armory Road. Music from 1 to 8 p.m. will be provided by the Vrazel's Polka Band, Leo Majek Orchestra and the Red Ravens. Refreshments, set-ups and desserts will be available. Hamburgers and chicken noodle soup will be served. Admission is \$6 per person, 12 years and under, \$1. Be a polka lover, be a part of it! For more information, call 409-543-6557.

Triumphs in East Bernard, Feb. 13

The Triumphs, "A Blast From the Past", will be at Riverside Hall in East Bernard Saturday, Feb. 13, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Advance tickets are \$8, at the door, \$10. Six hundred drawing tickets will be sold for 63 prizes, including a grand prize of a \$5,000 gift certificate. The drawing will take place during the dance. For tickets, reservations or further information, call 409-335-6301 or 409-335-4810. KC Council #2500, sponsors, invites the public to this event.

Long time business establishment bids adieu

By Lynda Appelt
Headlight Staff

Liz Waddell, owner of the Gifts of Distinction for 20 years, announced its closing at the end of the business day March 31.

"Much deliberation and thought went into this decision," Waddell stated.

Waddell continued, "I have enjoyed helping the brides of 20 years make their selections and I hope they're still happy with their choices."

"There comes a time in one's life when you have to make a decision due to health, loved ones, age, etc. Things and situations change."

According to Waddell, the bridal registry has remained unchanged, but other things about gift shops have changed. Eagle Lake's changing economy was another factor Waddell considered in her decision.

The original Gifts of Distinction was founded on Prairie Street in a building in Mrs. Fannie Matthews backyard. The year was 1961.

According to Matthews' daughter, Sue Weller, Fannie was just going to cater to antiques and specialty items and be open by appointment only.

This soon evolved into being open all week, including Saturday and Sunday, and a trip to market twice a year.

Mena Kveton and Dortha Kingsley Smith were employees during this time.

The Clifford Wieses then assumed ownership and moved the shop downtown.

Following that ownership, Miss Mena became the owner and operated the business for nine years.

Waddell assumed ownership from Mena and has remained in the gift business for the past 20 years. She contributes her being able to continue in the business to Mary Obenhaus, who has been employed through both Mena's and Waddell's eras, 29 years.

Other memorable employees were Polly Sens, Dorothy Baker and several students. Waddell only employed

students with top academic performance because of her strong feelings about education and belief in rewarding academic endeavors.

Waddell had hopes of someone purchasing her inventory and keeping the gift shop tradition, but to date, that has not transpired.

Gifts of Distinction has served this community with lovely gifts for

Christmas, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and secret sisters for a long time, but the time has come for it to close its doors and bid the community "adieu".

Liz thanks all who shopped with her or just stopped in to say hello.

Many memories and friendships have passed through the doors at 115 N. McCarty Avenue.

Seven local students to compete at HLS

Seven members of the Rice High School (RHS) FFA will be joining other FFA and 4-H members from around Texas for intense show ring competition at the upcoming Houston Livestock Show (HLS), Feb. 19 through March 7, in the Astrodome.

These FFA and 4-H exhibitors showcase their animal projects during

the second week of livestock competition—the junior show.

The first week of the show, professional breeders and ranchers compete for top dollars and global recognition in the livestock industry.

Entries in both the open and junior shows combine with horse show entries to make the Houston Livestock Show the world's largest.

Local entrants, the type and number of animals entered are: Brent Boenisch, Garwood (G), three commercial heifers; Dustin Krennek (G), one market steer; Jacob Little (G), three commercial heifers; Kurt Rodgers, Eagle Lake (EL), three commercial heifers; Heather Shanks (EL), one beef heifer; Brandon Shanks (EL), three commercial heifers, one beef heifer; and, Cody Thompson (G), three commercial heifers.

Best of luck to these students in their competition.

Don't miss 'The Wizard of Oz'!!



Come join the cast and crew for PJs presentation of the "Wizard of Oz!!". Cast members, from left, include Jenna Cook, Lion; Jessica Thomas, Dorothy; Stephanie Sommerlatte, Tinman; Trent Kucherka, Scarecrow; and Christopher Politsch as Toto.

Show dates are Friday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 7, at 3:30 p.m.

Photo Courtesy of Deborah Reed

The Prairie Edge Juniors have had their final rehearsals for their upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz!!".

Dress rehearsal was held on Sunday, Jan. 31 at the Prairie Edge Museum.

The 35 young people, parents and helpers worked solidly from 1 to 5 p.m. putting on the wild and wonderful make-up, costumes and hairdos that will make "Wizard of Oz!!" a treat for the eyes.

The sound and lighting effects were put together and a final technical rehearsal was held Wednesday, Feb. 3 to iron out the rough spots technically and to rehearse the special effects.

The following is the cast of characters: Dorothy: Jessica Thomas; Toto: Christopher Politsch; BOQ: (Mayor of Munchkin Land), Clayton Bowen; LOQ: (munchkin), Lindsey Thomas; TOQ: (munchkin), Katlyn Thomas; WOQ: (munchkin), Shelly Myres; SOQ: (munchkin), Katie Hassin; Coroner: Jayson Batiste; Munchkins: Hillary Aguilar, Cecily Manciaz, Megan Hosman, Melinda Vargas, Garreth Casper, LaJoya Coats, Sametra Fields, Priscilla Lozano, Maria Rico, Samantha Castro, Shaina Bowen, Alyssa Young, Caroline Githero, Blythe Nava, Consuelo Montemayor, Shawn Politsch, Daniel Goodwin, Hunter Myres, Taylor Cook and Noe Diaz; Glinda the Good Witch: (See PJs, Page 4)



Drawing for 'Halo' is Feb. 13

Just in time for Valentine's Day, "Halo", the Angel Beanie Bear, has been donated to Steve and Linda Balas for a drawing at Eagle Lake Drugstore with proceeds going to the Renee Balas Bullard Endowed Pharmacy Scholarship.

Chances for the drawing, scheduled to take place at noon Saturday, Feb. 13, are \$5 each or five for \$20.

Man convicted of assault

By Lynda Appelt, Headlight Staff

Michael Ray Reynolds, a 28-year-old resident of Rock Island, was found guilty of aggravated assault on a public servant following a jury trial which began Jan. 19 and lasted three days.

The jury consisted of 11 men and one woman. Judge Dwight Peschel

presided.

The case arose after Reynolds was involved in an incident Aug. 2, 1998, with Eagle Lake Police Officers Sgt. Bill Latimore and Tim Crume who were off duty at the time. The two responded to a request for back up (See Convicted, Page 8)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Feb. 1.

On Jan. 26, Officer Stephen Nelson met with a complainant in reference to her child being a runaway. A report was filed and referred to juvenile probation.

Officer Lasley met with a complainant at 7:37 p.m. in reference to a welfare concern. He was later advised that the subject had returned home.

On Jan. 27, at 3:42 p.m., Officer Nelson responded to a loose dog call on Church St. He called for a city worker to assist in catching one of the dogs. They were unable to catch the other one.

Officer Lasley met with a complainant at 7:57 p.m. in reference to someone breaking the rear window of his vehicle on Seaholm St. A report was filed.

Sgt. Bill Latimore met with complainants at 8:03 p.m. on W. Main St. in reference to a plate glass window being broken. A report was filed.

On Jan. 28, at 3:34 p.m., Officer Nelson and Sgt. Latimore responded

to a disturbance call on S. Lake Ave. which resulted in the arrest of Daniel Rowden for public intoxication. After processing, Rowden was transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

Sgt. Latimore was dispatched to a disturbance at 600 E. Main, but subjects were gone before he arrived. No police action was taken.

On Jan. 29 at 1:45 p.m., Officer Nelson arrested Tarrena Fields on an outstanding warrant and transported her to the police department for processing. During processing, Fields was found to have marijuana on her person and was charged with possession of marijuana. She was later transported to CDC for confinement.

On Jan. 30 at 4:35 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume was dispatched to a parking lot in the 500 block of E. Main. St. to a two-vehicle accident involving Fernando Vera Sosa, driving a 1983 Ford pickup, and Mary Barnes Simon, driving a 1987 Mercury four-door.

Apparently, Sosa pulled out in the parking lot and hit Simon's car, damaging it. (See Police, Page 8)



Miss Texas-USA visits Tyler Studio

Sculptor and artist Tony Tyler of Eagle Lake recently donated a sculpture called "Embrace III" to Miss Texas-USA, Carissa Blair of Columbus, for a Silent Auction to take place on the Internet during the Miss USA Pageant in Missouri.

Blair said, "I'm looking forward to working with Tony," after the USA Pageant which will be televised Friday, Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. on Channel 11.

Photo Courtesy of Tyler Studio