

'On ICE'

The recent grant received by the ICE House will offer several positions for tutors and those that participate may receive reimbursement pay.

The ICE House is still in need of volunteers to serve the youths as mentors and tutors. A special orientation workshop will be held at the ICE House March 1 beginning at 2 p.m. to answer questions and familiarize those interested in the tutoring/mentoring program.

Beginning March 1, the ICE House will be open to area youth Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., to accommodate a specialized Extended Learning Program.

Middle school youth will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(See ICE, Page 3)

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Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

Singles dance is Friday

Fort Bend Singles Club will sponsor a public dance on Friday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by the Kountry Play Boys. Admission is \$5 a person. Door prizes will be given. The public is invited.

Scouts to hold bake sale Saturday

Cub Scout Pack 3078 will hold a bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to noon in front of Eagle Lake Supermarket and B&B Foods. Proceeds will help fund awards.

GMOMBC Youth to put on musical

The Greater Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church (GMOMBC) Youth department invites the public to attend a musical Saturday, March 13, at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the church, 709 North Lake Street.

Beauty pageant to be held March 13

A beauty pageant will be held March 13 in Columbus with the winners riding in the Columbus FFA Parade. Call Jana Birmingham at 409-758-3040 for more information and/or to register. No experience is needed... all ages are welcome.

ELMS uniform meeting tonight

The Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) will hold a Uniform Meeting Thursday, Feb. 25, in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

WCYF Jamboree is March 2

The Crescent Country Jamboree, sponsored by the Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF), will host its monthly live country music show on Tuesday, March 2, at the WCYF grounds in the Crescent hall, intersection of FM 960 & FM 961. The concession stand special for this month is a FREE bowl of beef tips and rice! Other concession items include grilled hamburgers, popcorn, various homemade desserts and drinks. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 7:30. Admission fee is \$3 per person. All proceeds benefit the WCYF building fund.

GCMC's St. Patrick's Day celebration set

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day (a little early) on March 10 in Gulf Coast Medical Center's (GCMC's) classrooms. A "green" covered dish, salad luncheon in celebration of St. Patrick's Day will begin at 11:30 a.m. Terry Wicke, GCMC's Dietician will present a quick program on nutrition tips. New Senior Friends orientation will be presented also. RSVP to Sherri at 409-282-6808.

Eagle Lake Lions set mop, broom sale

The Eagle Lake Lions Club will hold their annual mop and broom sale next Thursday, March 4, on the square starting at 8 a.m. They'll be selling mops, brooms, brushes and many other items, all made by the blind. Come by and help the blind help themselves. For more information, call Roy H. Crane at 234-7490.

GMOMBC Association workshop is March 27

Greater Mt. Oliver Missionary Baptist Church (GMOMBC) invites you to attend the 20th Century District Association Workshop Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church located at 709 North Lake Street in Eagle Lake. The theme will be "The Good Shepherd".

Aerobic marathon to benefit ACS

An aerobic marathon hosted by Tracy Kilpatrick of Get Fit Aerobics has been scheduled for Saturday, April 10, in the Columbus High School gym. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society (ACS).

The event is open to participants ages 13 and up. They will be asked to solicit pledges for every 10 minutes of aerobics they complete. Three different exercise routines will run back-to-back throughout the day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kilpatrick will host assemblies at both Columbus and Rice High Schools to outline further details of the event.

For more information about the aerobic marathon and to find out how you can get involved, please call Kilpatrick at 409-732-6316 or 732-1248.

Garwood School Open House is March 2

The Garwood Elementary and Junior High School would like to invite the public to an Open House on March 2. The Garwood Association of Parents will serve a hamburger dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The price of \$3.50 will include a hamburger, drink and chips. Desserts will be sold separately. Principal Bill Hefner will have a short meeting in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m. After the meeting, parents may visit the classrooms until 8 p.m.

Shiner Art, Hobby Show set for Feb. 28

The Shiner Rotary Club Art & Hobby Show, Sunday, Feb. 28, will be held at the Shiner American Legion Hall's indoor facility. Over 50 craft booths will offer for sale hard to find gift items for everyone's taste. The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a chicken BBQ lunch will be served starting at 11 a.m. (pick-up or dine in). For more information, contact Earl Parker at 512-594-4261. Proceeds will be used for scholarships and service projects.

ELMS Open House/Science Fair is March 4

Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) staff and students invite the parents of the community to their Open House and Science Fair scheduled for Thursday March 4, at 7 p.m. at the school campus.

Garwood Lions set mop, broom sale

The Garwood Lions Club will hold their annual mop and broom sale Wednesday, March 3, at the Garwood Lions Hall starting at 8 a.m. They'll be selling mops, brooms, brushes and many other items, all made by the blind. Plan to come by and help the blind help themselves. For more information call Lawrence Stallman at 409-758-3441.

Lenten luncheons continue March 1

The Eagle Lake United Methodist Church will host its Lenten Luncheon Monday, March 1, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be food, special music and a guest speaker. A love offering will be taken with half of the proceeds going to the community food pantry. Rev. Brent Beasley will be the guest speaker.

Teachers rally March 1 in Austin

On March 1, Texas teachers are having a legislative rally in Austin. If you are not being given this day like many schools are, please take a personal day and be in Austin to help your fellow educators make Texas legislators aware of the crisis school children and teachers are facing. Contact your legislators (See Newsbriefs, Page 8)

Citizens gather for Main Street 'town meeting'

By Lynda Appelt
Headlight Staff

Eagle Lake citizens gathered at a town meeting held Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Eagle Lake Middle School cafeteria to learn more about the Texas Main Street Program.

The meeting was sponsored by Revitalize Eagle Lake, Inc. in the hope that enough community interest in the

program would be generated to warrant pursuing the applications process for the year 2000.

Revitalize Eagle Lake board member Lesley Matthews is chairperson of the project.

As Matthews stated to the group, "There's no point in filling out the application if the citizens and business owners of this City don't want it. Let

people know."

Some 50 interested citizens were in attendance to hear Scott Byler, former Main Street manager for La Grange; Betty Schmidt, Chair of the La Grange Main Street Program; Michael Corker, former La Grange Main Street Advisory board member; Debra Tindall, member of the La Grange Main Street board; Tom Traylor, property owner and developer associated with Brenham's Main Street Program; and Evangeline Whorton of Eagle Lake, former committee person on Texas Main Street and Publication Division and 1983 Governor appointee to the Texas Historical Commission, describe the details of the program.

Each told the group that Eagle Lake's historical downtown area is a prime candidate for this unique revitalization program.

Byler explained that no business owner is forced into the program. "The help is there but owners must ask if interested," Byler told the group.

Byler presented a slide presentation on before and after buildings in La Grange and told how the economy had been strengthened.

Texas Main Street will provide architectural services, signage and mer-

chandising advice, even how to display windows, if the application is approved and the business owner requests it.

Byler stated, "It takes community support and organization, but most of all support from your city council, chamber of commerce and county. You can't give up once you start. It's a baby-step by baby-step process. You have to stay focused and keep plowing forward."

Lennie Brown, Colorado County Economic Development Executive Director, told the group that the downtown area reflects a community and how it feels about itself.

"Industries want to see your downtown," Brown stated.

Brown and Whorton both stressed the importance of the employment of a Main Street director if Revitalize decides to make an application and that application is approved.

Whorton spoke of the wonderful place Eagle Lake was when she was growing up and how, during the 80s, it did not catch the signs. "Eagle Lake didn't plan," Whorton stated. "Other cities would die for Eagle Lake's natural resources. Let's capitalize on them and do it together," Whorton added.

Schmidt said, "Your downtown is beautiful. It just needs some hard work. It takes true dedication from a lot of people."

Corker added that vacancies in the downtown business area will be a hurdle that will have to be cleared.

According to Schmidt, the fact that Eagle Lake already has a history of its buildings puts it over the first hurdle in the process.

The group concurred that it is very important that business owners completely understand the program.

Byler told the group, "There are no guarantees. If you want to do it, get behind it, support it, and don't look back."

State Representative Robby Cook was the facilitator for the evening.

Other local officials in attendance were Colorado County Judge Al Jamison, Eagle Lake Mayor Michael Cooper, Councilwoman René Cooper-Scott, Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland and Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce President Sam Thomson.



Bill Harrison Jr., center, First National Bank president and heavily involved in the Cen-Tex Development organization, visits with Lennie Brown, at right, and Scott Byler, left, following last week's town meeting on the Main Street Program.

Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Feb. 22.

On Feb. 16, at 3:30 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of E. Main Street and FM 3013.

James Stewart Hassin, driver of a 1984 Pontiac four-door, was traveling north in the 100 block of FM 3013 south, when he failed to yield right of way to Jorge Lara, driving a 1995 International semi.

There were five occupants in the Hassin vehicle, one of which was transported to Rice Medical Center by EMS Unit 803.

On Feb. 17 at 9:09 a.m., Officer Michael Krenak assisted DPS Troopers with traffic control at an accident on FM 102 at the Lakeside Cemetery.

Officers were dispatched to a fight in progress in the 400 block of Beaks Street at 5:41 p.m.

Gennie Brown was arrested for aggravated assault, processed at the police department and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

On Feb. 18 at 5:31 p.m., Sgt. Crume was dispatched to Seaholm Street in reference to a disturbance. The two suspects were contacted and the problem was resolved without further action.

On Feb. 19 at 9:12 a.m., Officer Stephen Nelson assisted a stranded motorist until the vehicle was towed.

At 3:40 p.m., Officer Nelson met

with a complainant who reported a theft from his residence.

Officer Brian Lasley received a report of loud music at 10:30 p.m. in the 300 block of E. State Street.

On Feb. 20 at 2:38 p.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant on 8th Street in regard to criminal trespass. A citation was issued to the suspect for criminal trespass.

At 6:09 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore met with suspects in reference to a disturbance on Murphy Street.

It was found that no assault had taken place, but one suspect was issued a citation for minor in possession of cigarettes.

Chief Keith Webb arrested Manuel Cruz Samaniego at 6:32 p.m. for driving while license suspended after stopping Samaniego's vehicle for driving with no headlights when required.

Samaniego was later transferred to the CDC for confinement.

At 11:19 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in reference to a disturbance on East B Street. A report was filed.

On Feb. 21 at 1:10 a.m., Officer Lasley met with a complainant in reference to criminal mischief. A report was filed.

Sgt. Lattimore responded to a reported verbal disturbance on E. Main Street at 4:25 p.m. The matter was handled at the scene with no police action necessary.

Officers were dispatched to East B

Street at 5:38 p.m. in reference to a disturbance involving a large number of people. Information was gathered and a report filed. The case is under investigation.

On Feb. 22 at 6:56 a.m., Officer Nelson met with complainants on E. State Street in reference to criminal mischief. A report was filed.

At 7:10 a.m., Officer Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of FM 3013 west which resulted in the driver, Ramiro Rico, being arrested for reckless driving.

The passenger, Jose Navarro Jr., was arrested for public intoxication.

After processing at the police department, both subjects were transported to the CDC for confinement.

Author visiting in area

It's not every day someone from England comes to the little town Eagle Lake on purpose, but William Fiennes of Broughton, England, did just that.

He has been visiting Eagle Lake and the surrounding area for the last several days gathering data for a book he's writing.

While doing research for the book (which includes the migration of snow geese), Fiennes kept seeing references to Eagle Lake, so he decided to come here.

Working through Lana Dulany at the Chamber of Commerce, Fiennes

made arrangements to stay here while "picking the brains" of many in the area for information on the geese.

He has watched in amazement as, in his words, "wave after wave" of geese gathered in the evening to roost at a holding pond, courtesy of Jimmy Thomas and Brian Balas.

"Duck" Fisher and Carl Risk took Fiennes on a goose hunt and Andrew Magninat, owner of Unlimited Animal Artistry, has been his taxidermy contact.

Fiennes enjoys dining at Sports- (See Author, Page 8)

Shanks wins Grand Champion in San Antonio

Rice High School FFA recently participated in the First Commercial Steer Show at the 50th annual San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

In keeping with the long-time tradition of winning this type of competition, Rice FFA came away with top honors as Brandon Shanks won the Grand Champion designation along with a \$6,000 scholarship.

Out of the 15 rankings, Rice captured four spots. In addition to Shanks, Lauren Spanihel placed sixth; Brett Boenisch, ninth; and Chad Mahalic, 15th. All top placings received cash awards.

Jacob Little and Kurt Rodgers also participated.

This intense competition consisted of raising a pen of two steers, maintaining accurate records, reciting a memorized speech and answering verbal questions regarding the project, as well as taking a beef science test.

Joe Mike Spanihel with Caushatta Ranch received recognition and a belt buckle for being the breeder of the (See Champion, Page 3)



Rice FFA members took four of the top 15 spots in the recent San Antonio Livestock Exposition's first Commercial Steer competition. Pictured above are, from left, Al Mahalic, Monte Williams (Rice Ag. teacher and FFA sponsor), Brandon Shanks (Grand Champion), Brett Boenisch, Chad Mahalic, Kurt Rodgers, Jacob Little, Lauren Spanihel, Leroy Stavinoia and Joe Mike Spanihel.

Photo Courtesy of Janet Mahalic