

Live Oak sets antiques appraisal evening

The Live Oak Art Center is having an Antiques Appraisal Evening next Saturday, June 19, from 6 to 9 p.m.

It is time for everyone to search their attics, barns and cupboards for an unknown treasure! Each person may bring two antiques, including antique jewelry, and receive a certificate of value from certified ap-

praiser Suzanne Staley.

Come enjoy a summer salad supper prepared by the Art Center's members. Beverages will be served on the back patio at the restored 1895 Whiskey Warehouse. The Whiskey Warehouse is the oldest existing outbuilding in Colorado County.

(See Appraisal, Page 3)

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Murders linked by fingerprints...

Fayette County murder added to the list of Ramirez's crimes

By Lynda Appelt
Headlight Staff

Fingerprints found inside the home of Josephine Konvicka matched those taken from the home of Rev. "Skip" and Karen Sirnic of Weimar who were found murdered May 2 as well as those from a car stolen from Dr. Claudia Benton of West University Place who was bludgeoned to death in Dec. 1998.

The fingerprints belong to Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, now classified a serial killer who has a 20-year criminal history. He is wanted for questioning in at least five regional slayings and one murder in Kentucky.

Konvicka, 73, was found brutally beaten with wounds to the head in her Fayette County home Friday evening, June 4.

The Konvicka murder took place just three and one-half miles from the Sirnic's Weimar home.

Investigators with the Ft. Bend County Sheriff's Department, assisting in the case, notified Fayette County Sheriff Rick Vandel that fingerprints found in Konvicka's residence belonged to Resendez-Ramirez.

The latest case linked to Resendez-Ramirez is the Thursday or Friday murder of 26-year-old Noemi Domin-

guez in her home in the 6900 block of Van Etten in the southeast section of Houston.

Common threads in the murders are the residences being located next to railroad tracks; the victims were all dealt brutal blows to the head; and the stolen vehicles (except in the Konvicka case).

It is assumed the suspect couldn't find Konvicka's car keys. The inside overhead light had been dismantled during an apparent attempt to start the car.

Benton's Jeep Cherokee was stolen and recovered in San Antonio. The Sirnic's Mazda pickup was also taken and recovered May 28 near the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Law enforcement agencies are looking for a white 1993 Honda Civic bearing license plate number JH57N which belonged to Dominguez.

The girlfriend of Christopher Maier, a 21-year-old University of Kentucky student who was murdered in 1997, is now in protective custody.

Maier was murdered as the couple walked along railroad tracks after a party.

The girl, who was assaulted, but survived, will hopefully be able to identify the suspected killer once he is apprehended.

The Regional Department of Pub-

lic Safety Headquarters in Houston has been designated the FBI Command Center.

According to Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb, an emergency strategy planning session was held at the DPS Headquarters Tuesday, June 8, with between 20 and 30 law enforcement agencies in attendance.

Included in this session were representatives from Fayette and Colorado County Sheriff's Departments and Eagle Lake, Weimar and Columbus Police Departments.

Webb told the Eagle Lake City Council Tuesday night, "This may turn out to be one of the biggest mass murders ever. DNA from all over is being studied."

According to Webb, some of the DNA being tested is from cases going back as far as 13 years.

Many of the unique details about the murder scenes are being withheld in order to prevent "copy cat" murders. "This (copy cat murders) could really damage and hurt the effort to catch the suspect," Webb stated.

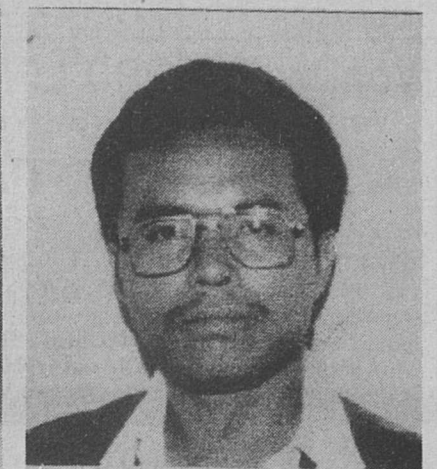
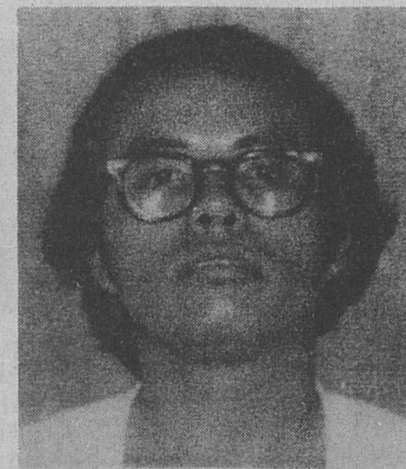
Webb described the suspect as a laborer fluent in both English and Spanish, very articulate and intelligent, who has worked as a salesman. He has been arrested many times and deported four times.

Power and sexual gratification are believed to be the driving forces behind the violent nature of the suspect.

There is a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the 5'6", 150 pound Hispanic male suspect with many aliases. He has a faded tattoo of a snake on his left forearm and scars on his forehead and the first pad of his right ring finger.

As Webb stated, "Citizens do have something to worry about."

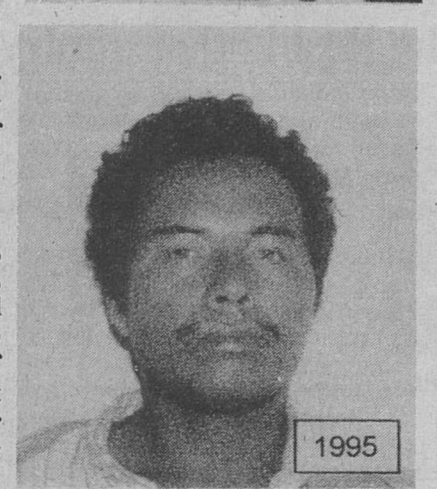
Note: Josephine Konvicka's daughter and son-in-law, Doris and Darius Brisco, live in Eagle Lake.



The many faces of a murderer

If you have seen this man, contact the FBI at 713-479-6325 or 713-693-5000; Weimar Police Department, 409-725-8060; or the Colorado County Sheriff, 409-732-2388. He is wanted in Harris County under the name of Jose Angel Reyes for burglary as well as questioning in an aggravated homicide and is a suspect in at least five murders.

The suspect is also known as Jose Reyes-Resendez, Jose Angel Reyes Resendez, Jose Angel Resendez Reyes, Jose R. Angel, Jose Konig Mangele, Antonio Martinez, Antonio E. Martinez, Carlos Rodriguez (Texas arrest, 1993) and Pedro Jaramillo (Calif. arrest, 1995). Locally, he has been called Rafael Resendez-Ramirez. He is described as 5'6" tall, 150 pounds, 39 to 40 years of age with brown eyes and black hair. He has a faded tattoo of a snake on his left forearm and a scar on his forehead and the bottom first pad of his right ring finger. He may be wearing glasses. He is wanted for five murders in this area. He is also a suspect in the murder of a University of Kentucky student in 1997.



Rice Package Store robbery solved

By Lynda Appelt
Headlight Staff

The gunpoint robbery of the Rice Package Store at approximately 11:50 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, has been solved with information provided the Eagle Lake Police Department by an alert Eagle Lake citizen.

As a result of the quick action by that citizen in furnishing law officers with the license plate number of a vehicle containing four suspicious persons who had been loitering behind Royal Cleaners, the Package Store robbery was solved within two days.

Four Wharton County residents, approximately 19 to 20 years of age, were arrested.

According to Eagle Lake Police

Chief Keith Webb, as of Tuesday, June 8, confessions had been obtained from three of the suspects. The fourth questioning interview is forthcoming.

The suspicious foursome were seen in several places around Eagle Lake. Two of the four, dressed in black and wearing masks, actually entered Rice Package Store.

It is also believed the group intended to rob Royal Cleaners, but were thwarted by observant citizens, both inside and outside the cleaners, who immediately labeled them as "suspicious" and took precautionary measures.

Writer's Note: Chief Webb has emphasized so many times to Eagle

Lake citizens that the community policing philosophy involves "citizens getting involved".

No tip or lead is too frivolous to be checked out.

Webb urges citizens to call when suspicious persons or activities are observed.

What you consider insignificant or frivolous may put a stop to a person engaging in criminal activity in our town.

Thanks to the aforementioned alert citizen who had no qualms about reporting what he believed to be suspicious, there are four less criminals in our area at this time.

NEWSBRIEFS

Parish of the Nativity June Festival is Sunday

The Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake, invites the public to the annual June Festival Sunday, June 13, at Andrew Hall and grounds located on the corner of Guadalupe and Murphy Streets. Barbecue chicken and sausage will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. for \$5 per plate. Curb service is available for \$5.50 a plate. Come and enjoy the amusements, games and kiddie rides. Enter the volleyball and horseshoe tournaments. The auction starts at 1 p.m. with a raffle drawing at 8 p.m. Stay for and evening of music and dancing. For more information call 409-234-2842.

Memorial fund drive underway

The Eagle Lake Ambulance Corp is sponsoring a fund drive to purchase a monument to be placed at City Hall in Honor and Memory of Officer Tobin Thomas. Dedication will be held June 22, 1999.

Donations will be accepted at First National Bank under the Tobin Thomas Monument Fund.

Juneteenth celebration scheduled

A Juneteenth Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 19. Parade line up will be at 11 a.m. at the old Primary School with the parade starting at noon. For booth entries and/or parade entry information please call Bee at 234-3724 or Rita, 234-7948 or Dee or Dave, 234-2467.

Prayer Breakfast is this Saturday

The public is invited to a Prayer Breakfast Saturday, June 12, at 8:45 a.m. at the new home of Rev. K. Wicks, pastor, in Garwood.

The breakfast is sponsored by Sis. Maggie Henderson, president of the 20th Century District Bible Band. Donation is \$5.

Mt. Moriah Gospel Fest set for Saturday

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) will have its Third Annual Outdoor Gospel Festival Saturday, June 12, starting at 8 a.m. with a rummage sale. There will be food booths, auctions, live gospel music and much more.

Special guests will be The Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir of Houston, and The Men of Steel from San Antonio.

This event will be held on the grounds of the church in Alleyton and admission is free. The public is invited.

Just a reminder that MMBC will hold one service at 9 a.m. each second, third and fourth Sunday from June thru Sept. Everyone is invited.

FBC Appreciation Service is June 12, 13

Friendship Baptist Church (FBC) invites everyone to their pre-anniversary musical Saturday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, June 13, FBC will celebrate the 8th Anniversary Service for Rev. and Mrs. Earl Shorter Jr. At 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Rev. Paul Barrow and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church will be the guests. Guests at 3 p.m. on Sunday will be Rev. O. Rhodes and White Cloud Baptist Church. All area churches are invited.

Rotary Club rummage sale set for Saturday

The Eagle Lake Rotary Club will hold a rummage sale on Saturday, June 12, at 414 W. Main Street (Trafco). Doors open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. All sales will be final; no returns or refunds. First come, first served. Proceeds go to the Rotary scholarship fund.

Kolache Klobase Festival is June 12

The 9th Annual Kolache Klobase Festival will be held on Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Riverside Hall in East Bernard. Admission is \$6 per person (covers parking and all events); children 12 and under are free.

Entertainment includes music by Syl Krenek Orchestra, East Bernard Czech Singers, Leo Majek Orchestra, Sound Connection and Central Texas Sounds, Krenek's & The Texas Sounds and the City Polka Boys.

Sausage, barbecue chicken and all the trimmings will be served starting at 11 a.m. Don't forget about the kolache contest. For more information on the contest call 409-335-4258 or 335-7578. There will be arts and crafts booths. For booth information, call 409-335-4827. The grand march starts at 3 p.m. Enter (See Newsbriefs, Page 8)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending June 7.

On June 1, at 6:01 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume met with subjects in reference to phone harassment, and the matter was settled at the scene.

At 9:21 p.m., Sgt. Crume was dispatched to N. Lake Ave. in reference to a juvenile disturbance. Subjects were contacted and the problem was resolved on the scene.

Sgt. Crume was dispatched to E. State St. at 11:26 p.m. in reference to loud music. The music was turned down.

On June 2, at 2:36 a.m., Larry Morgan was arrested for public intoxication in the 1300 block of E. State St., processed at the police department, and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

Officer Randy Schlauch was advised of a disturbance in the 600 block of E. Main St. at 10:38 p.m., but upon arrival, no one knew anything about a disturbance.

At 11:35 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore

was advised of a theft of six horns from a train engine near S. Austin Rd. The case was turned over to county deputies and the railroad police.

On June 3 at 1:36 a.m., Officer Schlauch observed an open door at a business in the 800 block of E. Main. The interior was checked and the key holder secured the door.

At 4:29 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with two subjects in reference to a disturbance. Neither party was interested in pressing charges on the other, so the subjects were advised to stay away from each other.

Officer Stephen Nelson and Sgt. Crume observed a subject known to have an outstanding warrant at 6:25 p.m. at 1601 E. Main St. Ramona Garay was arrested on the warrant, processed and transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 10:52 p.m., Officer Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Lakeside Dr. which resulted in the arrest of Jeff C. Davis for driving while license suspended. Davis was processed and transported to the

CDC for confinement.

On June 4 at 4 a.m., Officer Nelson observed a pay phone damaged in the 500 block of E. Main St. and a report was filed.

At 9:22 p.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to the 500 block of C Street in reference to a man on the ground. The subject was located and an ambulance called to transport him to Rice Medical Center. The case is under investigation as to a possible assault.

Officer Nelson and Sgt. Crume were dispatched to a business alarm on Shirley St. The building was checked and found secure.

On June 5 at 4:10 p.m., Officer Brian Lasley was dispatched to C Street in reference to a runaway. A report was filed. Officers were later advised the juvenile had returned home.

Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in the 100 block of State St. in reference to a lost or stolen article. A report was filed.

On June 6 at 2:36 a.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to the 400 block of First St. in reference to a fight in progress. Upon arrival, there was no fight. The subjects had left the scene.

At 5:18 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore arrested Frederick Wilks for criminal trespassing on E. State St. Wilks was processed and transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 6:08 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore and Officer Nelson and Lasley were dispatched to a disturbance at a bar on Beaks St. As a result, Emily Shropshire was arrested for public intoxication, processed at the police department and transported to the CDC for confinement.

On June 7 at 6:10 a.m., Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to the 1600 block of E. Main St. in reference to a gas drive off. Information was gathered and a report filed.

At 3:16 p.m., Officer Krenek, Sgt. Crume and Chief Keith Webb responded to a report of two suspicious (See Police, Page 8)

Prairie Chicken Festival plans meeting

The committee for Eagle Lake's Prairie Chicken Festival (PCF) will hold a meeting at the Prairie Edge Museum Thursday, June 17, at 7 p.m. The next Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, 2000.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this important meeting. Discussion will include all the events that are contemplated for the next Festival with special attention to those areas where help is most needed.

The PCF Committee is looking for some new faces and fresh ideas. It needs more people to assist with specific components of the Festival. Your attendance at future meetings may not be necessary as many of the activities can be done on your own time and at your own pace.

If you care about this project and its impact on the Eagle Lake community, get involved by attending this meeting. If you would like to help but can't attend this meeting, call Susan Wilkerson at 409-541-4629.

Memorial Day holiday weekend claims 37 lives

Thirty-seven people died in traffic crashes in Texas during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, 10 more than estimated by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

This is a preliminary total. The number may rise if late reports are received or if other victims succumb to injuries sustained over the weekend.

The DPS had estimated as many as 27 traffic deaths might occur during the 78-hour holiday period, 6 p.m. Friday, May 28, through midnight Monday, May 31.

Last year, 24 persons died as a result of automobile traffic crashes during the Memorial Day holiday period.

This year's reports indicate alcohol use contributed to at least six of the wrecks and excessive speed contributed to at least six more collisions.

Reports show 12 persons died utilizing safety restraints, 15 persons were killed who were not restrained by safety belts and three people were killed where the usage of safety belts is unknown.

Fatigue was a factor in two deaths. In addition, one motorcyclist and two pedestrians were killed.

The DPS encourages drivers to always drive defensively, wear safety belts, utilize child restraint systems and not to drink and drive.

Operations Motorcade and Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE), Buckle Up America Week and Memorial Day Weekend have concluded.

Motorists who find themselves stranded or disabled on a Texas highway can call the DPS at 1-800-525-5555 for assistance from a trooper or other law enforcement officer.