



Have A Happy  
and Safe Holiday  
Weekend!

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## FBI has 800 number for Ramirez tips

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

Last Thursday, the FBI announced a new toll-free telephone number for calls regarding the nation's most wanted fugitive, Rafael Resendez-Ramirez. The number, 1-800-889-8161, is answered 24 hours a day.

"We need to get information that will lead us one step ahead of where

he's going," said Don K. Clark, special agent in charge of the Houston FBI office.

The fugitive's recent trail was from El Paso to Kentucky from June 16 to 18.

On June 10, he was home in Rodeo, Durango Mexico visiting with his common law wife who has lived with

him since 1995, who called him a "model" husband and father.

Julietta Dominguez Reyes, 42, who calls him by his birth name, Angel, is a laboratory technician at the state health department clinic in this remote Mexican town, and has a three month old daughter with the fugitive. Ramirez taught a private school in his hometown.

Texas Ranger Drew Carter, a member of the Houston-based task force, feel it's going to be difficult to determine where he will turn up next because he stays on the move and easily travels the country by rails.

Twenty-four hours a day and

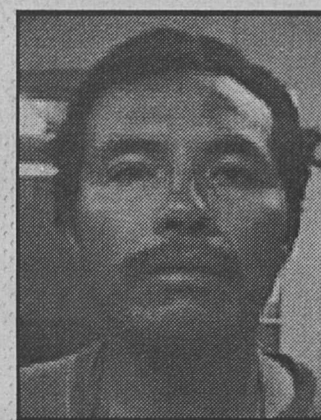
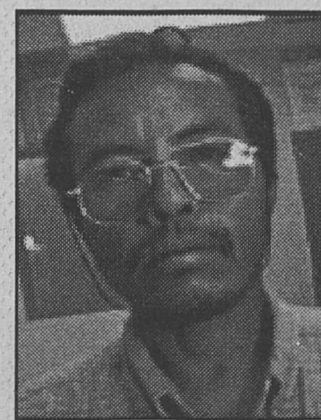
seven days a week, men and women sit in the command center (which was set up in Houston on June 8 by FBI) sifting through leads, tips and information on family members, following up on all tips to see if they have merit.

Resendez-Ramirez is suspected of killing at least eight people since 1997, including five in Texas.

On June 15, Resendez committed first-degree murder in Gorham, Illinois. George Morber, 80, and his daughter, Carolyn Frederick, 51, were found murdered in Morber's home.

Once again, as in the West University, Weimar, Fayette County and

(See Ramirez, Page 8)



Above are two more recent photographs of the fugitive known as Rafael Resendez-Ramirez. Both photos were taken sometime in 1998, giving investigators and the public a better idea of what he looks like at the present time.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Closings for Independence Day

The following businesses will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day, Sunday, July 4: The Colorado County Courthouse, Eula and Wintermann Library, First National Bank. City Hall will also be closed. Monday garbage will be picked up Tuesday and Tuesday garbage will be picked up Wednesday. The Post Office will be closed, but mail will be delivered to boxholders. The Headlight office will also be CLOSED.

### GUBC fundraiser Friday

Greater Union Baptist Church will hold a barbecue plate fundraiser on Friday, July 2 at 309 4th St. at the home of Roger and Deidre Fry. Barbecue chicken, sausage, potato salad, beans, pickles, onions and bread and cake will be served for \$5 each. Delivery arrangements and phone orders may be made by calling 409-234-3462.

### 'Life After Loss' meeting, July 6

The monthly "Life After Loss" support group meeting in Wharton is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1717 Pioneer. The film, "Beyond Death's Door," has been rescheduled for this meeting, to be facilitated by Kathy Jones, LSW. The group is available to anyone who has lost a loved one through death. For information, call Medshares Hospice, 409-543-9487.

### Summer TAAS dates set

The 1999 summer administration of the TAAS test is set for the following dates and times: Tuesday, July 13-writing; Wednesday, July 14-math; and Thursday, July 15-reading.

All parts of the test will be administered at Rice High School (RHS) at 8 a.m. Any student who did not pass any or all sections of the test is encouraged to use this opportunity to pass the test which is mandated for graduation by the State of Texas. Direct questions to RHS at 234-3535.

### ICE House announces new hours

Due to the shortage of volunteers the new hours at the ICE House will be Monday through Friday, 4-9 p.m.; and Saturday, 2-7:30 p.m.

### Senior Citizens' dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, on Friday, July 2, 8-11:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Daniel and The Country Boys. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information call 234-3795.

### Crescent Country Jamboree, July 6

The Crescent Country Jamboree will be held on Tuesday, July 6, at the Wharton County Fair Grounds. The concession special will be a free barbecue plate and trimmings. Serving will be at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person.

### Community Vacation Bible School

Community Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held July 12-16 at the United Methodist Church.

VBS will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and is for children ages four years through completed 5th grade.

All children are welcome to come hear the "Good News at Gospel Rock." You may all the church at 234-3288 for more information.

### Eagle Lake KC dinner, July 11

The Eagle Lake Knight of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a fried chicken dinner Sunday, July 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 710 E. Main. Tickets for the to-go plates are \$5 each and may be purchased from any KC member or in the serving line. The Rice High School Flag Corps will be selling dessert plates.

### Living undistracted conference is July 9-10

One Voice Singles Ministry of Sealy Assembly located at 1140 Meyer Street in Sealy (Hwy. 36) extends an invitation to attend the Living Undistracted Conference on Friday, July 9 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, July 10 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Guest speakers Doug Stringer, Phyllis Marshall and Debra Alderman bring a wide range of ministry gifts that will strengthen your faith and help you to live an undistracted life for the Lord. Praise and worship will be led by The Coat of Many Colors, a diverse group of musicians and singers organized under Doug Stringer's Turning Point Ministries.

Saturday services opens with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Contact the church office at 409-885-3113 for more information.

### Hospice program needs volunteers

Hospice, a program that provides supportive care for persons with a terminal illness and their families, needs volunteers. A training session is being planned for July and Aug. For more information call Margaret at Medshares Hospice at 409-543-9487.

### Donations still welcome

Unit #803 of the Colorado County Emergency Medical Services (Eagle Lake's Ambulance Corps) is still accepting donations to cover the purchase of the memorial placed on the Square this Tuesday, June 22. You may send or deliver your donations to the Tobin Thomas Monument Fund to the First National Bank of Eagle Lake. Or you may give it directly to any member of the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps.

### Senior Friends Couthatta trip, July 13

Senior Friends will be going to Grand Casino Couthatta in Kinder, LA on July 13. The bus will be in the Gulf Coast Medical Center front parking area at 6:30 a.m. and will leave at 7 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Please RSVP by calling Sherri at 40-282-6808 or Carol at 409-282-6090.

## Historical New Bielau Hall destroyed by fire

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

Teen-agers, past and present, trailriders and families in Eagle Lake, Colorado County and surrounding areas remember New Bielau Hall as a building built to provide entertainment for young and old alike.

The hall burned to the ground early

Friday, June 18. New Bielau Hall was one of the oldest dance halls in Texas.

The hall was located on FM 532, about five miles south of Weimar.

According to Oakland Fire Chief Glen Jahn, he was on his way to work at approximately 1:30 a.m. when he saw a glow in the sky in what he

believed to be the New Bielau community.

He stopped at several abandoned homes in an effort to find a phone to call 911 before he reached the home of Doug Pesak whom then made the call reporting a fire.

The Oakland Volunteer Fire De-

partment responded to the engulfed blaze with two units and nine men. The Weimar Volunteer Fire Department provided mutual aide with five units, 23 men, and 20,000 gallons of water.

The firefighters fought the blaze until about 5 a.m. and were called out Friday afternoon to put out some hot spots.

The fire resulted in a total loss of the building, owned by Mark Jahne and currently under a lease/purchase agreement with Robert Layton.

Layton of Sheridan had been in the structure Thursday preparing for a Saturday dance.

Investigators of the State Fire Marshal's office were at the scene Monday and Tuesday conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

The building would have been 83 years old this year.

The dance hall was built in 1916 by members of the New Bielau community as a place for dances and entertainment and was operated by the New Bielau Casino Hall Society. The officials opening was Nov. 28, 1916.

The group operated the hall until 1962.

The group then disbanded and sold the property.

J.F. Beker, along with carpenters Albin Stirl, Fritz Wendt and Rudolph Boer and other helpers, constructed the 50x70 foot hall. It was enlarged several times over the years.

## DPS estimates 31 deaths for July 4th weekend

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has estimated 31 fatalities over the 4th of July weekend.

According to DPS estimates, as many as 31 motorists could die in traffic accidents over the 54-hour July 4th weekend, which runs from 6 p.m. Friday to midnight Sunday.

Last year, 61 people were reported killed in 48 crashes during the holiday. Of these, at least 29 deaths involved alcohol, according to DPS figures. Twenty-three people died on July 4th last year, 14 were alcohol related.

In conjunction with July 4th weekend Operation Motorcade, the DPS

will conduct operation Combined Accident Reduction Effort (C.A.R.E.). Operation C.A.R.E.-4th of July weekend will be in effect beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday July 2 through midnight Sunday, July 4th.

The goals of both Operation Motorcade and C.A.R.E. are to reduce accidents, deaths and injuries. Don't drink and drive, always wear your seatbelt, make sure that all your passengers are secured and obey the speed limit.

Other traffic safety tips include: If you become stranded by the roadside, do not accept a ride from a

stranger. Call, or ask someone to call the DPS stranded motorist line at 1800-525-5555. DPS will send a law enforcement officer to assist you.

•Make sure the driver of the vehicle is well rested. On long trips, drivers should take a break every two hours or every 100 miles.

•Drive with your headlights on during daylight hours so that your vehicle is more visible to other drivers and pedestrians.

•Watch weather conditions all along your intended travel route. Weather, heavy traffic and road construction can affect your travel time, so plan accordingly. The Texas Department of Transportation has a road conditions hotline at 1-800-452-9292.

•Let others know your intended travel plans and notify them if your plans change.

•Make sure your vehicle is road-worthy before starting a trip of any length. Carry extra supplies, including plenty of water, in case you have car problems.

## County Grand Jury returns 35 indictments

The Colorado County Grand Jury returned 35 indictments Thursday, June 24.

Cases were reported by First Assistant County Attorney Joe Fling.

Indicted were:

Jerry Steinecke, endangering a child;

Christopher Ray Lehman, assault; Sixto Mancilla Estrada, aggravated assault;

Anthony Gene Daniels, aggravated assault;

Raymond Deon Hughes, attempted murder;

Dock Earl Bryant Jr., possession of a controlled substance;

Robert Lee Vanhouten Jr., burglary of a building;

Reynaldo Salazar, driving while intoxicated (felony);

John Leonard Staten, possession of a controlled substance;

Terry Benjamin Johnson, possession of a controlled substance; Connie Mearle Schafer, possession (See Grand Jury, Page 8)

## Council hears plans for E.H. Henry property

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

The Eagle Lake City Council heard a 3-Phase Plan for the development of the E.H. Henry Property at its June 22 meeting.

Councilwoman René Cooper-Scott, representing the E.H. Henry Foundation, made the presentation.

Phase I, which is scheduled to be completed shortly after Jan. 1, 2000, will include the conversion of the old primary school gymnasium to a new E.H. Henry multi-purpose facility.

Phase II will be the renovation of

the old classroom section to a business rental complex.

Phase III will be the offering of the large metallic (old Kindergarten) building to the city for the development of the Eagle Lake Police Department.

Cooper-Scott told the Council the Foundation must know the city's desire by July, 1999.

Council members were excited about the 3-Phase Plan and pledged assistance to the Foundation. Eagle Lake Police Chief Kieth Webb was instructed to meet with the group to discuss further plans and gain information on the offer to the city.

Postmaster Robert McClelland was present to request the lease of the Community Center for the purpose of a new Post Office.

McClelland had met with Mayor Michael Cooper and City Manager Ron Holland about the request.

The postal department's Houston office supervisor will come and survey the building to assess its potential

for a post office.

Council will wait for McClelland to get back with it with time frame and facts.

Council also will speak to citizens to get their feel on converting the Community Center into a post office.

These two presentations put the agenda item "re-location of the police department" on hold. There are tentative plans for the police department to move into the present post office building which is being leased from the city. The police department now has two possible choices, the E.H. Henry Property or the old post office.

Council adopted a parking ordinance for Beaks and Seaholm Streets. The ordinance states no parking at anytime on Beak Street or Seaholm Street on the south side from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. seven days a week.

Council directed Holland to prepare an amendment to the HUD Manufactured Home Ordinance which would delete required skirting (See Council, Page 8)

## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending on June 28.

On June 22, at 4:22 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore arrested Shelley Jean Johnson Hill on an outstanding warrant for motion to adjudicate guilt/assault. After processing at the police department, Hill was transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 6:05 p.m., Officer Stephen Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 1100 block of E. Main St. which resulted in the arrest of Angelina Kelly Lopez for driving while intoxicated.

Lopez was transported to the CDC, where she was booked in.

On June 23, at 1:09 a.m., Sgt. Lattimore and Officer Nelson met with subjects on Clay St. about a dispute. The matter was settled at the scene. No police action was required.

Officer Nelson was dispatched to Tate St. in reference to an alarm activated. The alarm was set off by error, and no further action was taken.

At 9:35 p.m., Officer Randy Schlauch was dispatched to Stockbridge St. in reference to a disturbance. One subject was given courtesy transport (See Police, Page 8)



A sign of change

Dorothy Kohleffel, left, inspects the newly-installed sign on the building her Eagle Lake Sewing Center had occupied until recently. The storefront at 222 E. Main now houses B&S Taxidermy, owned by Bobby and Shelly Wied. Up on the awning is Ray Ziehrmer, who helped Wied put up the new sign. Wied was checking out the installation from the left.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing