

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## Resendez-Ramirez has long list of encounters with law enforcement

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

America's Most Wanted "Rail" Fugitive, known as Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, has been deported 18 times since Aug. 31, 1976, the date of his first reported attempt to enter the U.S. His first deportation took place at the

port of entry at Brownsville.

Since then, there have been a string of deportations including consecutive days in Jan. 1998, Jan. 5, Del Rio; Jan. 7, Uvalde; and Jan. 8 back in Del Rio.

Then, the same deportation process. April 17, Santa Teresa, New

Mexico; April 21 in Uvalde and April 22 in Del Rio again.

In Nov. 1998, he was deported once again from Santa Teresa just prior to the Dec. 17 murder of Dr. Claudia Benton.

On June 1, he was deported from Santa Teresa, just prior to the murder of Josephine Konvicka and Houston school teacher Noemi Dominguez on June 5.

Resendez-Ramirez continues to slip through a national manhunt involving thousands of federal state and local law enforcement authorities.

How could he have been deported so many times and there not be some type of identification especially fin-

gerprints is a question many are asking.

The fact that he uses so many aliases is being used as a reason he slipped through INS on June 1. Also, the INS process does not include criminal checks.

Meanwhile, 13 pieces of the 100 jewelry items turned over to authorities by Resendez-Ramirez's common law wife, Julieta Dominguez Reyes, have been identified as belonging to murder victim Noemi Dominguez.

The following time line has been furnished by law officials across the country:

1. Aug. 31, 1976: first reported attempt to enter the United States ends with

his arrest by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agent in Brownsville port of entry. Deported.

2. Sept. 11, 1976: arrested by Sterling Heights, Mich. police after being found in a boxcar at an auto plant by Ford Motor Co. guards. Turned over to INS and deported.

3. Oct. 2, 1976: arrested by U.S. Border Patrol agents in McAllen and deported.

4. Sept. 6, 1979: received 20 year federal prison sentence after being convicted in Miami on burglary, auto theft and aggravated assault charges.

5. Sept. 3, 1985: paroled after serving just six years as part of an effort to purge illegal immigrants from the prison system and hold down costs. He is then deported to Mexico.

6. Oct. 10, 1985: arrested by INS agents in El Reno, Okla., for presenting

false documentation. Was convicted of falsely representing himself as a U.S. citizen and sentenced to 18 months.

7. Late 1985, early 1986: an investigator said he was released from prison and deported to Mexico, but neither the date nor his deportation could be confirmed.

8. May 19, 1986: received a \$35 traffic ticket in South Burlington, Vermont. Was ticketed for "permitting an unlicensed person to operate a vehicle" meaning Ramirez, who either owned the car or had a driver's license, was letting someone else drive the car, a detective said. The vehicle had Texas plates. He never paid the ticket.

9. June 1, 1986: apprehended by INS agents in Laredo for illegal re-entry into the United States and claiming to be a U.S. citizen.

10. Sept. 18, 1986: federal judge in Laredo sentenced him to 19 months in prison for falsely representing himself as a U.S. citizen.

11. Aug. 14, 1987: released from prison, turned over to immigration officials and deported to Mexico.

12. Oct. 2, 1987: apprehended by INS agents in Dallas.

13. Oct. 2, 1987: deported to Mexico through Brownsville.

14. Late 1987: stole or bought a voter registration card from David Edward Arnold in a New Orleans homeless shelter.

15. Jan. 19, 1988: arrested in New Orleans on charges of defrauding an innkeeper and possessing a concealed weapon.

16. Feb. 11, 1988: charges are dropped because of a lack of evidence. Released from jail in New Orleans.

17. Nov. 30, 1988: arrested in downtown St. Louis by INS officials. Used the alias "Jose Mengel" had three Social Security cards, a false passport and a key to a Greyhound bus station locker where police found a .380 caliber handgun that had been purchased in a San Antonio pawn shop.

18. June 16, 1989: sentenced by Missouri judge to 30 months in federal prison for illegally re-entering the country and making false statements.

19. May 13, 1991: released to INS custody and deported back to Mexico.

20. March 3, 1992: arrested for a burglary in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The burglary was eerily similar to those he is charged with now. At midnight, he slipped through the sliding door of a home in an affluent neighborhood six blocks from the railroad tracks. He started stacking things to steal by the door. One of the home's owners was up late reading, saw him and screamed. Resendez-Ramirez grabbed an unloaded antique revolver and fled. Police arrested him a few blocks away.

21. April 3, 1992: pleaded guilty in La Cruces, N.M., to the burglary charges.

22. April 30, 1992: sentenced to 18 months in prison at Western New Mexico Corrections Facility in Grants, N.M.

23. April 30, 1992: released to INS and deported back to Mexico.

24. June 9, 1993: arrested for participating in a high-speed chase in a car stolen in Missouri by a Texas state trooper in Carson County.

25. July 1993: sentenced to 29 days in jail in Amarillo for evading arrest. Missouri authorities declined to travel to Texas to charge him, which resulted in the short jail sentence.

26. 1994: his common-law wife, Julieta Dominguez Reyes, says she met and was romanced by Resendez-Ramirez in Rodeo, Mexico's Durango state.

27. Aug. 19, 1995: arrested by Santa Fe Railroad police for trespassing and possessing a firearm in a San Bernardino, Calif., rail yard; was never arraigned.

28. Sept. 5, 1995: released to INS and deported to Mexico.

29. March 1996: FBI officials confirm he lived a Seattle homeless shelter, perhaps for about a month near Okie Place Market. Authorities are not sure why Resendez-Ramirez was in Seattle, although his wife said he sometimes picked asparagus in the Pacific Northwest as a migrant laborer.

30. Summer, 1996: spent the summer working as a migrant laborer on a tobacco farm in Russell County, Kentucky, about 75 miles south-southwest of Lexington.

31. Aug. 6, 1996: arrested for trespassing on a railroad track in Pulaski County, Kentucky, in south-central Kentucky. Charged with criminal trespassing and possession of a forged Social Security card.

32. Aug. 1996: convicted of criminal trespassing and served three days in the Pulaski County Detention Center in Somerset, Kentucky. A grand jury did not return an indictment on the forged-instrument charge, and it was dismissed.

33. Aug. 29, 1997: The first slaying victim linked to him was found in Lexington, Kentucky. Christopher Maier, a University of Kentucky student, was beaten to death along railroad tracks. His girlfriend was sexually assaulted and beaten, but survived.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### RHS Class of 1989 sets reunion

The Rice High School (RHS) Class of 1989 is planning a reunion for this summer. Please contact Jennifer (Matthews) Olson at 2821-403-6290 or jolson@LFPC.com or Steven Meinecke at 234-3104 or SDM929@hotmail.com. We need addresses and phone numbers for 1989 alumni so that we can contact everyone with more information as arrangements are made.

### E.H. Henry Alumni holding reunion

E.H. Henry Alumni are reminded of the 9th annual reunion to be held Saturday, July 17. Sign-in is at 10 a.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. All ex-students and teachers are invited to attend.

### GMBC Homecoming Anniversary is July 11

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church will be in observance of their 113th Homecoming Anniversary on Sunday, July 11, at 3 p.m. All pastors, ministers, churches and friends are invited. Rev. R. Kiser, pastor. The Rev. Clay Spears will be guest speaker.

### WPC annual set for July 25

Williams Paradise Cemetery (WPC) will hold their annual on Sunday, July 25, at Wright Grove Baptist Church at Altair. The public is invited.

### ICE House board meeting is July 18

The ICE House will hold a board meeting on Sunday, July 18, at 3 p.m. at the ICE House. The public is invited to attend.

### Bernardo VFD barbecue set for July 18

The Bernardo Volunteer Fire Department will hold their 34th Annual chicken and sausage barbecue Sunday, July 18, at Mentz Parish Hall.

Serving starts at noon. Plates for adults \$6; and children 12 and under \$3, coffee and tea included. There will be meat to go at the pit and a drive thru line for plates to go. A raffle with lots of prizes will be held as well as an auction at 1 p.m.

Enjoy music by the Alpine America Jason Keepers (outside band), and from 3-7 p.m. dance to the music Family Tradition (donation \$4 per person).

### 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.

### Community Bible School is July 12-16

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 is Sunday

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's 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 on 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 Coushatta trip, July 13

Senior Friends will be going to Grand Casino Coushatta in Kinder, Louisiana, 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 409-282-6808 or Carol at 409-282-6090.

## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending July 5.

On June 29, at 8:40 a.m., Officer Brian Lasley, while on patrol on Gonzales St., observed a subject known to him to have an outstanding warrant. Ramiro Ruvalcaba was arrested, processed at the police department, then transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 10:30 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson met with a complainant at the police department in reference to forgery of checks. The complainant later declined to file charges, case cleared.

Officer Stephen Nelson met with a complainant at 5:54 p.m. in reference to gas drive off at 801 S. McCarty Ave. and filed a report. Later, Nelson was advised that the subject returned and paid for the gas. No other action was taken.

Officer Nelson and Sgt. Bill Lattimore were contacted at 100 Booth Dr. in reference to a snake in the engine of a vehicle. The snake slithered into the wheel well, where it eluded the police, and they were unable to remove it.

On June 30, at 3:41 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant on Stephens St. in reference to the theft of a pistol. The pistol was later found and the case was cleared.

At 4:30 p.m., Lt. Johnson received a report of a theft by check. Information was gathered and a report was filed.

Officer Nelson met with a complainant at the police department at 7 p.m. in reference to a theft. Information was gathered and a report filed.

Loud music on Seaholm St. was reported to Sgt. Lattimore at 8:42 p.m., but Lattimore was unable to locate the vehicle.

On July 1, at 2:53 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume was dispatched to Boothe Dr. in reference to stolen bicycles. A report was filed, after gathering information.

On July 2, at 3:15 a.m., a complainant advised she heard possible gun shots on Campbell Dr. Investigation revealed it was fire works being shot off, outside the city limits.

At 2:37 p.m., Chief Keith Webb

was advised of alleged physical abuse that occurred at the Juvenile Boot Camp. A report was taken and the incident is being investigated.

Officer Randy Schlauch was dispatched to a disturbance on Clay St. at 10:21 p.m. After further investigation, the incident was resolved at the scene, and no police action was necessary.

On July 3, at 7:35 p.m., Officer Schlauch received a report of a stolen bicycle from E Street. Information was gathered and a report filed.

At 8:52 p.m., Officer Schlauch and Sgt. Tim Crume assisted with traffic control at an accident on 102 north until the DPS officer and county deputy arrived, at which time the scene was turned over to them.

Officer Schlauch and Sgt. Crume were dispatched to Beaks St. in reference to an assault. The suspect was later located and issued a citation for assault.

On July 4, at 8:24 a.m., Officer Michael Krenek and EMS were dispatched to South Austin Rd. in regards to an unresponsive person.

At 4:43 p.m., Sgt. Crume was dispatched to Yett St. in reference to a fire. Sgt. Crume noticed a grass fire that had been started by fire works. Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment extinguished the fire.

On July 5, at 12:12 a.m., Sgt. Crume conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of FM 3013. As a result of the stop, Anthony Gene Daniels was arrested on outstanding warrant for assault and motion to revoke probation. Daniels was also arrested for resisting arrest and resisting transport. After processing at the police department, Daniels was transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 8 a.m., Officer Lasley met with a complainant in the 300 block of W. Post Office in reference to criminal mischief. Information was gathered and a report was filed.

Officer Lasley was dispatched to a disturbance on Campbell Road at 11:33 a.m. Statements were taken, information gathered and a report was filed.

At 5:51 p.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant on A Street in reference to a burglary. Complainant did not want to press charges, but wanted the police department to be aware of it.

At 9:06 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore was dispatched to Beaks St. in reference to a disturbance. Sgt. Lattimore arrived and was advised that nothing was going on and no officer was needed.

## COLORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the last two weeks.

Friday, June 18, at 1:58 a.m., Sgt. Pavlicek, Deputies Kellogg and Ashorn responded to a call concerning a fire in New Bielau. Case pending arson investigators investigation.

Saturday, June 19, at 4:54 a.m., Deputy Ashorn observed a suspicious vehicle at Truchard's Travel Stop. After further investigation, Jerry Lee Henneke, 33, of Cat Spring, was arrested on two outstanding warrants out of Wharton County.

At 6:41 a.m., Deputies Rebel and Benavides responded to a call concern-

ing a reckless driver on I-10 west bound. Deputy Rebel observed a vehicle matching the description given.

Deputy Rebel initiated a traffic stop and discovered that both the driver and passenger were intoxicated. Clint W. McGaha, 19, of Houston was arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI) and Juan C. Arismendez, 25, of Houston was arrested for public intoxication.

At 9:53 a.m., Deputy Benavides responded to a call concerning a burglary of a building of a building on Hwy. 71. The complainant reported that approximately \$50 had been stolen. After further investigation, Ervin Ray Kay Jr., 26, of Alleyton was arrested for building of a building.

At 9:15 p.m., Sgt. Edman responded to the Columbus Community Hospital in reference to a dog bite that occurred at a residence on Jerrell Coffee Rd. After further investigation, it was found that the owner had an updated rabies shot record on the dog and advised that he would quarantine the dog for 10 days. Case closed.

Sunday, June 20, at 1:10 a.m., Deputy Ashorn initiated a traffic stop on Hwy. 90 east of Borden. After further investigation, Elsie P. Spratt, 53, of Columbus was arrested for DWI and no driver's license.

At 8:01 p.m., Deputy Ashorn responded to a call concerning a theft in Alleyton. The complainant reported that his 1995 Mary Tech Gambler boat, trailer and Mercury Motor were stolen from his property. Case pending further investigation.

At 9:36 p.m., Deputy Ashorn responded to a call concerning criminal trespass at a residence on County Road 204. The complainant reported that someone had come onto his property without his consent.

(See Sheriff, Page 8)

## July 4th holiday claims 35 lives

The number of deaths estimated by the Department of Public Safety for the July 4th weekend (DPS) was 31. The weekend began at 6 p.m. Friday, July 2, and ended midnight Sunday, July 4.

Thirty-five people have been reported killed in 27 traffic crashes, four more than estimated by the DPS.

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

Last year, 48 traffic crashes resulted in 61 deaths on Texas roadways.

Reports indicate 10 persons died with safety restraints utilized; 11 persons were killed who were not restrained by safety belts; and five people have died where the usage of

safety belts was unknown.

Alcohol has contributed to four fatal crashes, speed was a factor in two other collisions, and fatigue played a role in three fatal wrecks.

In addition, two motorcyclists, two bicyclists and four pedestrians have also been killed. One person was killed in an auto-train collision and one person died as a result of falling off the top of a moving pickup.

The DPS reminds motorists to always drive defensively, wear safety belts, and not to drink and drive.

Operation Motorcade and Combined Accident Reduction Effort (C.A.R.E.) have concluded.

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

(See Ramirez, Page 8)