

There's still time!

Veterans of Eagle Lake's American Legion Post 108 are still collecting new toys and stuffed animals and dolls in good condition to be given to children in less fortunate families at Christmas time.

The toys will be given away to children, ages infant through nine years, Thursday, Dec. 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Prairie Edge Museum auditorium. Only parents or guardians may apply at the distribution site.

Last year, toys were given to over 250 children and plans are being made to make this year's Christmas a merrier and happier time.

You may leave toys at Struss Auto Supply, Wallis State Bank or the Furniture Shoppe.

If you would rather send money to purchase toys, you may send it to Commander Fred Frnka, 618 Melody (See Toys, Page 8)

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Cerny headed to 'Super Bowl' of Rodeos... National Finals!

Clay Cerny, 1994 Rice High School graduate and 24-year-old son of Bouncie and Robbi Cerny of Elm Grove, has reached the top in the Pro Rodeo World. He will be making his first trip to Las Vegas as one of the top 15 calf ropers in the world.

The interest and desire to become a calf roper started at a very young age for Clay. He started riding a horse with his dad before he could walk, and was riding by himself before he reached

the age of two.

Through his father's ranch operation, he was always exposed to that cowboy lifestyle and continued to improve his horsemanship skills. He picked up a rope and started roping at dummies on the ground before he started school, but he was about seven years old when he really decided to rope off a horse.

From that time on, being one of the top calf ropers in the world was a

dream and a goal that Clay set for himself.

His competitive rodeo career started with a local roping club in Wharton County called the Community Roping Club (CRC). He then joined the Texas Youth Rodeo Association (TYRA) and Youth Rodeo Association (YRA) and began to compete and travel across central and south Texas.

Clay started making a name for himself as a senior roper, winning several youth rodeo titles.

He joined the Texas High School Rodeo Association (THSRA) as a

freshman in high school and, in his senior year, qualified for the National High School Rodeo Finals held in Gillette, Wyoming.

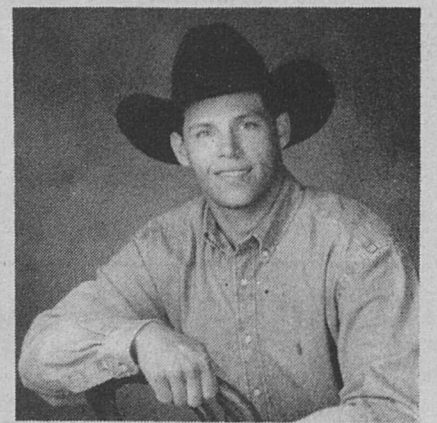
He was drafted by WCJC Rodeo Coach Chris Guay and began his college contention, winning the Southern Region Calf Roping Title in both 1995 and 1997, sending him to compete at the National Collegiate Finals Rodeo held in Bozeman, Montana, and Rapid City, South Dakota.

Clay entered the coveted Smith Brothers Jr. World Championship Calf Roping in 1995 and failed to qualify to compete in round two due to

missing a calf. He was out of contention that year, only to come back in 1996 and win the title, as well as a saddle, buckle, prize money and an aluminum horse trailer full of tack and other prizes.

Growing up, Clay considered the Smith Brothers roping to be elite because it drew the best Jr. Calf Ropers from all over the U.S. (300 contestants or more). To win this event was to achieve another goal and fulfill a dream.

After graduating from WCJC with an Associate Degree, Clay made the decision to go pro and joined the Pro-



fessional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) in 1997. This meant traveling across the U.S. and Canada, competing in as many as 100 rodeos to qualify for the National Finals Rodeo (NFR).

Although Clay suffered a knee injury late in the season, he had already clinched the 1997 Calf Roping Rookie of the Year title and ended up 21st in the world standings, missing the NFR by six places.

His 1998 PRCA season was very limited due to the injury, but by the time the 1999 season began, Clay was ready to give it his best shot.

Overall, Clay competed in 90 PRCA rodeos earning \$64,138 to qualify him in the 12th position for the 1999 NFR.

Although PRCA rodeos kept him on the road and away from home for more than four months, his ability to compete was proven when he won the 1999 Coca Cola Calf Roping Series Title, qualifying for the 1999 Coors Shoot-out Rodeo held in Phoenix, Arizona.

While he did not claim the Coors (See Cerny, Page 8)

NEWSBRIEFS

'Spirit of Christmas' Parade is this Saturday

The holiday day season is just around the corner and the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce invites you to join the 1999 "Spirit of Christmas" Parade Saturday, Dec. 4, at 6:45 p.m. Trophies and rosettes will be awarded. For more information, call the Chamber office at 409-234-2780.

Thrift Shop open Dec. 4 & 11

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open the next two Saturdays, Dec. 4 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for your Christmas shopping convenience. With a great selection of Christmas gifts and toys, you're sure to get that Christmas list taken care of quickly.

You never know what you'll find at the Thrift Shop!

Check out the ICE House

If you're concerned about the well being of our youth, our community, spiritual and moral values, then take a minute out of your busy schedule and visit the ICE House. Come and see the future in progress. If you want to make a difference we ask that you make a pledge of \$10 a month if you can, or ask 10 people to make a pledge. Our goal is to help each man, woman and child to become what God intended when He made them. For more information call 409-234-7990 and ask for Troy.

Defensive driving course set for Dec. 14, 15

A six-hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel in Eagle Lake at Wintermann Library Dec. 14 and 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. To pre-register for the course, call 409-234-5411 or arrive a few minutes early the first evening for registration.

DAR to meet in Columbus Dec. 6

The John Everett Chapter DAR will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church of Columbus. DAR Good Citizens from Columbus, Weimar, Rice, Hallettsville and Sacred Heart High Schools will be honored. Members and their guests are encouraged to attend and show support for these young people.

There will also be a short musical program by Rachel Thomas on her harp and song by Marsha Miller.

Powder Puff game set for Dec. 8

The Project Graduation Powder Puff game will be held Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at Raider Stadium. Make plans to attend and support Rice Project Graduation.

Don't Go Hungry!

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary will be selling hamburgers, chips and drinks at the Lighted Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 4, beginning at 5 p.m. on the square. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Study Club meeting set for Dec. 8

The Eagle Lake Study Club will meet Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. at the Wintermann Library. Christmas music will be presented by Lee Eivoritt. Everyone is asked to bring a guest.

Materials needed for ELPS float

The Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) PTO still needs volunteers and supplies (extension cords, gas generator, hammers, nails and Christmas decorations) to make their Christmas Float for the Christmas Lighted Parade set for Dec. 4. You may contact ELPS for more information at 409-234-3587.

Retired teachers meeting is Dec. 6

Calling all retired school personnel and teachers of Colorado County to meet at Schobels' Restaurant in Columbus at noon Monday, Dec. 6. Bring a contribution for the Bluebonnet Youth Ranch. The Colorado County Retired Teachers Association has given to this special group for many years at Christmas time. Eagle Lake-Garwood are the host towns.

Senior Citizens' Dance is this Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Dec. 3, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Midnight Express. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 234-3745.

ELPS PTO needs volunteers

The Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) PTO is in need of volunteers to work in Santa's Secret Shop through Dec. 3 at the school cafeteria between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call Erika Watson, 234-6547; Cheryl McDonald, 234-3634; or ELPS at 234-3587 to volunteer.

A few seats left for Washington

Washington 2000, the trip sponsored by Ray Sykowski to Washington, D.C. is set to tour our nation's capital on May 31 through June 3, 2000. If a student or parent is interested in the trip, please call 409-234-3447. A very limited number of seats are still available.

Census jobs available

Temporary Census jobs are available in this area. You could earn extra money by working full or part time. Census takers earn \$10.75 and hour and Crew Leaders earn 12.75 an hour and each are paid 31¢ a mile. Apply now by calling 1-888-325-7733 to find out how and where to apply. The Bureau of the Census is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Testing will take place in Eagle Lake at the Community Center on the following Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. Testing in Columbus will take place at the Mansfield Building on the following Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 10 a.m.

RHS presents... 'Faith County'

The Rice High School Drama Club is proud to present its Fall production of "Faith County", a comedy, directed by senior, Chrissy Leopold.

Presented as a dinner theatre, the evening will commence at 6 p.m. with appetizers served by the cast members, the show commencing at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The show revolves around a wedding and is the theme of the entire evening.

The bride, played by Stephanie Sommerlatte, and groom, by Brennan Jobe, have even written their own vows.

Guests will be greeted at the door by the mother of the groom, Tracy Brewer, and the parents of the bride, Hortensia and Pedro Sommerlatte.

An "elegant" buffet (pronounced "buffete" by the "caterer" and resident poet, Faye McFaye, played by Julie Mixon) will be served between

Acts One and Two. Dessert will, of course, be the wedding cake cut after the ceremony by the bride and groom.

Other characters delighting the audience will include Mildred, played by Debbie Leopold, who never shies away from telling everyone exactly what she thinks about everything especially if it is none of her business; Gladys, played by Rebecca Lopez, plays the piano but does so better drunk than sober; Ruth Ann, played by Meiosha Barrow, tries to lift the general tone of the proceedings; Delbert, played by Jeremy Walker, is the play's heartthrob; Violet, played by Corissa Mathis, the most "normal" of all the characters, is both a bridesmaid and nine months pregnant; and Bubba, played by Robby Goode, officiates at the wedding, having received his divinity degree through the magazine "Popular Mechanics"!!

This is a group of characters that

must be seen to be believed.

The crew is a bunch of characters in themselves: Production Managers, Jennifer Biaselli and Cathy Fearing; Understudy, Andrea Contreras; Assistant to Ms. Debra Cummings, Fearing; Lighting Director, Hub Weller; Sound, Goode; Set Design and Construction, Ms. Cummings and her theatre class, Rafael Ruiz, De'Yon Batiste, and Mr. Williams' Ag students and the cast and crew.

Sponsors for the Drama Club and the production are Ms. Cummings and Deborah Reed.

For ticket and further information, call Cummings or Reed at 234-3535 or 234-2601.

Please note: any resemblance to Colorado County or people who live in Eagle Lake, Sheridan, Garwood or Nada, living or dead, is completely—coincidental!!

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Nov. 29.

On Nov. 23, at 9 a.m., a complainant came by the police department to report he had been robbed the night before. As a result of the investigation, Rex Joseph Victoria of Alleyton and Edward Demont Holloway of Eagle Lake were arrested for theft, processed at the police department, then transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 1:50 p.m., Officer Brian Lasley was dispatched to East D Street in reference to a disturbance. After speaking with all parties involved, the situation was resolved at the scene.

While conducting a traffic stop at 5:15 p.m. in the 100 block of W. Post Office St., Officer Lasley arrested Harold James Davis for outstanding DPS warrants and for driving while license suspended. Davis was processed at the police department, then transported to the CDC for confinement.

On Nov. 24, at 1:50 p.m., the police department was advised of a person having been robbed. An officer met with the complainant, who did not want to file charges against the suspect, and no further police action was taken.

Officer Lasley responded to a dispute call on Mills St. at 3:20 p.m. that resulted in a juvenile being issued a warning for criminal trespass.

Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to an unwanted person call on Shirley St. The suspect was contacted and given courtesy transport to another residence. No further action was taken.

At 7:40 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume was advised of a gas drive off at 801 S. McCarty St. The subject was located and advised he would take care of the problem.

An officer was advised of a possible drunk driver entering the city limits from the east. Sgt. Crume located the vehicle and made a traffic stop on E. Main St. The driver, Sterling Bernard Sablatura, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, processed at the police department, then transported to the CDC for confinement.

On Nov. 25, at 8:30 a.m., Officer Lasley was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of B

and 3rd Streets.

Eola McTear, driving a 1979 Ford two-door, was traveling east on B Street when she failed to yield the right of way to Shelia Dawn Kettering, driving a 1985 Ford station wagon. McTear's vehicle struck the right front of Kettering's vehicle, causing minor damage to both.

At 9:37 a.m., Officer Lasley was dispatched to C Street in reference to a burglary of a vehicle and an assault. Information was gathered and a report filed.

Sgt. Crume met with a complainant on North Lake Ave. at 9:40 a.m. in reference to a theft. Information was gathered and a report filed.

At 11:50 a.m., Officer Lasley was dispatched to Shirley St. in reference to a trespasser. Norman Henderson Jr. was later arrested for criminal trespass, processed and transported to the CDC for confinement.

On Nov. 26, at 3:22 a.m., officers were dispatched to a fight on E. State St. As a result of the call, Officer Krenek arrested Manuel Cobia Jr. and Archie Jason Noska for public intoxication. After processing, they were transported to the CDC for confinement.

Officer Stephen Nelson was dispatched to the 100 block of Boothe Drive in reference to a disturbance. Officer Krenek gave a subject courtesy transport to another location. No further was action taken.

At 9:35 a.m., Officer Nelson conducted traffic control in the 800 block of E. Main St.

At 1:50 p.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to a loud music call on Mills St., but was unable to locate any loud music.

On Nov. 27, at 12:45 a.m., Officer LaWanda Alley was flagged down while on patrol in reference to suspicious activity on E. Prairie St.

At 8:40 a.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant on East D Street in reference to a possible assault. Information was gathered and a report filed.

Officer Nelson was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at 10:06 a.m. at the intersection of E. Main St. and FM 3013.

Charles Edward Scott of Altair, driving a 1999 Chevrolet pickup, was traveling south on FM 3013 when he failed to yield right of way to Louis

Frank Pavlicek of Moulton, driving a 1996 Ford two-door and traveling west bound on E. Main St., causing Pavlicek's vehicle to strike Scott's vehicle. Scott was issued a citation for failure to yield right of way.

At 2:44 p.m., Officer Nelson was patrolling S. Austin Road when he located a subject known to him to have outstanding warrants. In an attempt to arrest the subject, the subject ran from Officer Nelson. Later, another warrant was issued for the subject for evading arrest or detention.

Sgt. Bill Lattimore met with a complainant at 5:18 p.m. in reference to criminal mischief to a church on E. State St. Information was gathered and a reported taken.

Sgt. Lattimore and Officer Alley were dispatched to the 600 block of E. Main St. in reference to a fight with possible weapons involved. As a result of the investigation, Richard Lujan was arrested for public intoxication, processed and transported to the CDC for confinement.

On Nov. 28, at 12:42 a.m., Officer Alley was dispatched to S. Austin Rd. in reference to an assault. Information

was gathered, statements taken and a report filed.

At 12:54 a.m., Officer Alley was dispatched to the police department to meet with a complainant where she was advised of an assault which had taken place on Beaks St. Carwanda Hatten Wright was later issued a citation for Class C assault.

Officer Nelson met with a complainant on Fourth St. in reference to a disturbance. Subjects were later located and issued criminal trespass warnings. No other action was taken.

At 6:52 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in reference to criminal mischief on Norris St. A report was filed, but the complainant did not wish to file charges.

On Nov. 29, at 6:37 a.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to E. State St. in reference to a burglary. Information was gathered and a report filed.

Officer Nelson was contacted at the police department at 10 a.m. in reference to forged of checks. A report was filed.

At 1:30 p.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant at the police department (See Police, Page 8)

RHS 'Senior Serve' scheduled for Jan. 29

Rice Project Graduation and the Senior Class of 2000 have made final plans for the Senior Serve Dinner. It will be held Saturday, Jan. 29, 2000 at the Rice High School commons in Altair.

Invitations will be mailed on or about Jan. 6. The event is by invitation only, so be looking for your invitation in the mail after the first of the year.

Parents of seniors will have first option on tables. The tables will be open to the public after Dec. 10, 1999.

There will be a silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. If anyone would like to make a donation to the auction, you may do so by contacting Pat Evans at 234-5571 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Mrs. Evans will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the auction.

Seniors need to return their invitation lists by Dec. 6 and their work lists by Dec. 10. Parents need to ask their senior for this information! A Senior Class meeting was held this past Monday and all pertinent information was given to the students.

The committee is looking forward to another great year for Rice Project Graduation and appreciate all the support given to the youth of our communities.

Please feel free to contact Debbie Shanks, Senior Serve Committee Chair, if you have any questions at 234-3161.