



Letters to Santa

From Area Youngsters and
Christmas Greetings
From Area Merchants and Individuals
Pages 9 through 16

Eagle Lake Headlight

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In the spirit of the season...

Pastor's Reflections

By Rev. Clements Richards, Grace Lutheran Church

Christmas is coming. In fact, it has already come, or it might come before December 25. Advent, the four weeks prior to Christmas is the preparation, the waiting, for the coming of the Lord. On the whole, we must admit that we do a lot of preparation, a great deal of waiting—but for what? Are we going to be full of joy on the 26th or will we just sigh a sigh of relief that it's all over?

Our sense of preparation is often the preparation of a real let down. We become so hyper-activated between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with all the shopping, social events, obligations that must be acted upon, the meals that must be planned, the family of in-laws that must be accommodated and a thousand and one other things that might cross our minds. We will probably once again

over-indulge the already over-indulged self and others.

Was it just last year we promised ourselves, next year we will make it more simple, more meaningful?

Have we forgotten the pain, anger and frustration of attempting to buy the love of spouse, children or associates, only to find that it didn't work? Many counselors take Christmas week off to prepare themselves for the task of helping people pick up the pieces of these disappointed emotions in the weeks and months following.

In contrast to our own preparations, that first Christmas came in silence.

God, in his own time, broke into human history in the stillness of the night. His promise, so longed for, came in a disappointing and unacceptable manner. No seeming pomp and circumstance, no great power and might; just an unobtrusive baby in the most simple circumstances.

But what a profound affect this simple beginning has had on the world, both on those who received Him and those who would ignore Him. Nothing has so moved the human race to use its re-creative powers to express the meaning of this event.

All disciplines have felt the influence, but most especially the arts; recall the architecture, the music, the works of art in painting and sculpture.

Yes, God speaks to us where we are in His own time and His own way Patient waiting and preparation is where we experience His Advent. He is coming. "Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in." These are words for us all to ponder in these hectic days.

NEWSBRIEFS

Citizens reminded of A&M donations

Steve Balas, member of the U.T. Ex-Student Association of Colorado County, would like to remind everyone about the account at Columbus State Bank for the "Texas Exes A&M Memorial Fund". You may send contributions to the bank at P.O. Box 249, Columbus, Texas 78934; or drop them off at Eagle Lake Drugstore. This is not limited to Texas Exes, anyone wishing to remember the students who lost their lives in the bonfire collapse are welcome to donate. The funds will be turned over to the Colorado County A&M Exes for a scholarship in memory of those students. If you have any questions, contact Balas in Eagle Lake or Dr. Tom Hancher in Columbus.

Don't forget... toy distribution is today

Toys will be distributed to children in families of need from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Thursday, Dec. 23, in the auditorium of the Prairie Edge Museum on Main St. Please enter through the front door on Main St. and exit by the back door. Only parents or guardians may apply for the bags of toys. The Legion Post has prepared over 250 bags to help make Christmas a lot brighter for children in less fortunate families.

Holiday closings

The City Offices in Eagle Lake will be closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Garbage pickup routes will be as follows: Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Wednesday and Friday's garbage will be picked up Thursday. If you have any questions call City Hall at 234-2640.

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake will close at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Friday, Dec. 24, and Monday, Dec. 27, for Christmas; and Friday, Dec. 31, for New Year's.

E.H. Henry Alumni Christmas party is Dec. 24

The E.H. Henry Alumni will hold their annual Christmas party Friday, Dec. 24, at the Eagle Lake Community Center, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. All are urged to attend.

MMBC conference is Dec. 26-30

You're invited to register now for the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) Family & Youth Conference in Alleyton beginning Sunday, Dec. 26, and continuing through Dec. 30. Featured speakers are Pastors Morris and Sharon Brothers of San Antonio; Ministers Kevin Hines of Houston and James Henderson of Dallas (formerly of God's Property and Kirk Franklin's New Nation). Among many other seminars and workshops, a praise dance workshop will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. and Tuesday. The family conference will close out with a basketball tournament Thursday, Dec. 30, at Rice High School gym. Registration for the workshop is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, 18 and under. The public is invited. For information, call 281-342-7557 or 409-234-7267. (See Newsbriefs, Page 8)



Deputy Santa distributes bicycles

A total of 13 new bicycles were distributed to children of needy families in Colorado County as part of the Deputy Santa Program and the Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar Police Departments' annual toy drives. Tom and Kathy Fleming of the Texas Gulf Coast Crime Prevention Association participated in Radio Station 95.7 Young Country's Bicycle Drop last Friday and brought the bicycles back to be assembled by inmates at the Colorado County Justice Center. On hand for the presentation of the bicycles were, from left, Colorado County Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied, Weimar Police Chief Bill Livingston, County Attorney John Julian Moore, the Flemings and Columbus Police Officer Ralph Herron. Not pictured is Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb.

Photo Courtesy of the Banner Press

EAGLE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending Dec. 20.

On Dec. 14, at 11:06 a.m., Officer Stephen Nelson was dispatched to a disturbance in the 400 block of E. State St. No physical violence had or was likely to occur and no police action was necessary.

At 11:23 a.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to 200 S. McCarty in connection with a shoplifter. Information was gathered and the case is under investigation.

Sgt. Bill Latimore met with a complainant at 5:35 p.m. in reference to criminal mischief to a building. A report was filed.

On Dec. 15, at 7:33 a.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant in reference to phone harassment. Nelson advised the complainant of the steps to take.

Officer Nelson and Sgt. Latimore worked a traffic accident at 4:43 p.m. involving a 1998 Buick driven by Juanita Waligura and a 1998 Chevrolet pickup driven by John Allen,

both of Garwood. Apparently, Waligura pulled out of a parking lot in the 800 block of E. Main St., causing Allen's vehicle to strike her vehicle. Waligura was issued a citation for failure to yield right of way from a private drive. There were no injuries sustained by either party.

On Dec. 16, at 6:25 p.m., Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to W. Prairie St. in reference to a verbal disturbance. The offending subject had left the scene before Krenek arrived.

Officer Krenek and Sgt. Latimore were dispatched to Stephens St. at 10:19 p.m. in reference to a suspicious person. The subject was located and identified with no police action required.

Three cases of burglary at the Cupboard Washateria were solved with the arrest of Patrick O'Neal Spates on two charges of burglary of a building and one charge of burglary of a coin operated machine. After processing, Spates was transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

On Dec. 17, at 11:15 a.m., Officer Brian Lasley responded to a call at 203 Boothe Dr. Information was gathered and statements were taken at the police department.

Royce Ashton was later arrested for burglary of a habitation and kidnapping, processed at the police department and transported to the CDC for confinement.

Officer Lasley met with a complainant in the 1600 block of E. Main St. at 1 p.m. in reference to a forged check. Information was gathered and (See Police, Page 8)

Grand Jury returns 26 indictments

The Colorado County Grand Jury issued the following 26 indictments on Thursday, Dec. 16:

- Reginald Wayne Jones, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Deandre Capri Carter, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Maggie L. Coleman, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Sigsbee Thompson, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - George Hernandez Jr., delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Helen Lopez Gonzalez, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Carolyn Faye Shorter, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Carolyn Faye Shorter, delivery of a controlled substance;
 - Kathy Dawn Lynch, delivery of a controlled substance.
- (See Indictments, Page 8)



With You in Mind
at
Christmastime

Lights are twinkling. Carollers, singing. Trees all aglow. And lots of snow!

Signs of Christmas are everywhere, bringing to mind all the good people we've had the privilege to serve this past year, and so we offer our warm wishes to all the familiar faces who make the holiday season so special for us.

Happy Holidays from all of us.

Eagle Lake Headlight

Jeannine Fearing • Carol Nelson
Shirley Luedecke • Katherine Smith
And Our Families

