

Weimar residence raided by County

Late Friday night and early Saturday morning, under the direction of Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied, Colorado County Sheriff's Department conducted a drug raid at the Rowland residence south of Weimar on County Road 230.

The operation stemmed from information Deputy Basco had received which indicated an adult was

routinely providing a 14-year-old male with marijuana and had marijuana in the residence.

A search warrant was issued by Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 Edward Hanzelka. Chief Deputy Schleider, Sgt. Pavlicek and Deputies Basco and Toppel took part in the operation, seizing a small amount of marijuana and

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Beware... bees attack locals

Monday, July 31, at 12:42 p.m., Eagle Lake Police Officer Wendy Alley responded to an emergency call just outside the city in the New Town community where she found 68-year-old Franklin Pettus of 314 Beard Street being attacked by viscous honeybees.

Chief Keith Webb stated that he believed the bees were very possibly kin to the Africanized "killer" bees, which have been reported on so prevalently in the local news.

Jim Hamilton, an exterminator in Eagle Lake, told Chief Webb that he has been receiving numerous calls in

reference to such angry bees, but the ones in this case were the most aggressive he has yet to encounter.

Hamilton stated that he and his employee would volunteer their professional services in dealing with the pests later, after the bees returned to their nest at night and have calmed. They will submit samples of the bees to a lab which will examine and identify them.

During the attack, Pettus had sought temporary shelter underneath a U.S. Postal truck which had been parked along Old Altair Road by U.S. Postal Employee John Young.

Young was also being attacked by the bees.

As Officer Alley was attempting to get Pettus out from under the truck and away from the scene, she too was attacked. Alley attempted to use her vehicle's fire extinguisher to protect herself and Pettus but without any success.

Pettus attempted to flee with Officer Alley but was too weak to stand. It was later learned that Pettus had

(See Attack, Page 10)

Accidental shooting victim is now in stable condition

Last Tuesday, July 25, at 9:08 p.m., a 13-year-old Eagle Lake resident was accidentally shot in the upper left chest by his 11-year-old brother with a 12 gauge shotgun.

The juvenile victim was transported to the Rice Medical Center and Lifeflighted to Hermann Hospital where he underwent surgery. He is now in the pediatric intensive care unit in stable condition, according to the Eagle Lake Police Department. Doctors were able to take him off the respirator Tuesday, Aug. 1.

At the time of the shooting, the injured 13-year-old was being taken care of by his 14-year-old sister, who was also watching two other brothers, ages 11 and eight. They were at the one-room residence of the sister's 18-year-old boyfriend, Christopher "Chris" Sosa, on Norris St.

Sosa's 11-month-old son was also present in the residence during the incident.

Reportedly, Sosa had just left the residence to go to the store when the 11-year-old picked up the loaded 12 gauge shotgun. It accidentally discharged, striking his brother. The projectile passed completely through the victim and exited the back of the house into the yard.

Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb stated that Ms. Pat Flores, an off-duty paramedic who lives next door to the Sosa residence, heard the gunshot, ran next door to the scene and immediately began giving life-saving medical attention to the injured youth.

According to Chief Webb, the hospital staff praised Ms. Flores' quick action and skills which, in all likelihood, saved the life of the injured juvenile.

Chief Webb, along with Sgt. Bill Latimore and Officer Stephen Nelson, investigated the scene. Sheriff's Deputies Sgt. S. Edman and R. Basco assisted at the Rice Medical Center. Eagle Lake Medic Unit #3, manned by Paramedics Joe Lee Perez, Jonna Bowen and Carolyn Baird, transported the injured to the hospital.

Chief Webb said that in view of the fact that the loaded 12 gauge shotgun was not safely secured at the residence, a second loaded shotgun was located unsecured in the house and the child had suffered extremely serious injuries, the case will be presented to the county attorney's office for review.

It is possible the misdemeanor charge of "making a firearm accessible to a child" will be filed against Sosa.

NEWSBRIEFS

Salvation Army truck to be in Eagle Lake Aug. 12

According to Robert Griffith, local representative of the Salvation Army, a collection truck will be available Saturday, Aug. 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Square in Eagle Lake. Anyone wishing to donate good, usable items should make plans to transport them to the Square next Saturday. If you have any questions, call Griffith at 234-2058.

Season football tickets on sale

Season tickets for Rice High School home football games will be on sale at the Rice CISD business office Monday, Aug. 7, through Friday, Aug. 18. Beginning Monday, Aug. 21, those who have not held season tickets may purchase them on a "first-come, first-serve" basis through Friday, Sept. 1. The cost for season tickets for all home games is \$24 per set. (We have six home games this year). Cost at the gate will be \$5 per game. There will be no reserved seats sold for individual games. Call Jennifer Korenek at 234-3531 for additional information. Adult pre-game general admission tickets will also be sold for \$4 and available only at the high school on Thursday and Friday until 3 p.m.

Senior Citizens' Dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Aug. 4, starting at 8 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by The Bohemian Cowboys. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 234-3795.

Community Buyers fundraiser is Sunday

The Garwood-Nada Community Buyers will hold a chicken fried steak dinner fundraiser Sunday, Aug. 6, at the Garwood Fire Department from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For tickets, go by Farmers Coop, call Lisa Krenek at 758-3733 or ask any Fair participant. Net proceeds will go toward purchasing animals from area youth at the 2000 Colorado County Fair.

Rice Project Graduation meeting set for Aug. 21

The Rice Project Graduation Board of Directors will become an elective board effective the 2000-2001 school year. We will be accepting nominations for directors between now and our first meeting set for Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Rice High School commons area. Contact Pat Evans at 234-5571, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with your nominations. Thanks in advance for giving this your immediate attention.

Retirement Appreciation Banquet is Aug. 12

Please join us in honoring Christina Castle Moody with love and best wishes at a Retirement Appreciation Banquet in her honor Saturday, Aug. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center, 100 N. Walnut Ave. Steering committee members are Claudine Shorter, Ada Tillman, Veronica Curry, Rene Cooper-Scott, Robbie Rhodes, Gwendolyn Knight and Patricia Connor-Evans. Monetary donations will be accepted at The First National Bank, 100 Commerce, Eagle Lake. Please make donations payable to the Christina Moody Retirement Banquet Fund. Check or money order only by mail. Checks or cash personally.

RHS Class of '85 reunion is Saturday

The 15-year class reunion of Rice High School Class of 1985 is Saturday, Aug. 5. There has been a change: Entertainment will now take place at the new Park area by the swimming pool. Family time will still be provided for the kids. Family time is from 3 to 5 p.m., adult time is at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Community Center. Please continue to RSVP, "We need to Know" \$10 per person; \$20 per couple. Send money in or pay at the door. Contact Michael A. Mota at 281-239-2844 or e-mail rhs85@ev1.net.

Main Street organizational meeting scheduled

The Eagle Lake Main Street program will hold an organizational meeting for building and business owners at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, in the Eagle Lake City Council Chambers. A slide presentation and a question and answer period will be held. The agenda for the meeting is posted at the Main Street Office.

2nd Annual Musicians' Appreciation Day is Aug. 6

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church of Alleyton presents the Second Annual Musicians' Appreciation Day, Sunday, Aug. 6, at 5 p.m. honoring Sis. Paula Richardson and Bro. Jason Barrow. Special guest will be Pastor Perry Riley and the Friendship Baptist Church of Eagle Lake. Everyone is invited to come and share.

Defensive driving course set for Aug. 8-9

A six hour defensive driving course has been set by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel at the Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake Aug. 8-9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. each evening. To pre-register, call 979-234-5411 or arrive the first evening a few minutes early to register.

Senior Friends casino trip is Aug. 8

Senior Friends will be going to Grand Casino Coshatta on Aug. 8. Cost is \$10 per person. Make your reservation soon by calling Sherri at 979-282-6808.

Senior Friends luncheon set for Aug. 9

Wednesday, Aug. 9, Senior Friends of Gulf Coast Medical Center will have a covered dish luncheon, meeting and program at 11:30 a.m. in the classrooms. Program: Medicare Changes-How Do They Effect Me? Patient registration, billing, reading of explanation of benefits and more. Call Sherri at 979-282-6808 to let her know you'll be there!

School supplies... school supplies...

Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) P.T.O. will be selling supplies for the coming 2000-2001 school year. All children, pre-k through third grade, will be supplied at the lowest possible prices. Supplies will be sold at the ELPS cafeteria Aug. 7 through 11 from 8 to 10 a.m. and during the first week of school (Aug. 14-18) from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Lists and prices will be published around the first week of Aug.

For more information, call Ms. Rhodes at 234-3587 or Mrs. Reed, 234-2601.

Labor Day salute planned at Hutchins' gravesite

By Mike Guarino, League City

A special ceremony will be held this Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, at the gravesite of Eagle Lake Medal of Honor recipient Johnnie David Hutchins. Hutchins is buried in the family plot at Lakeside Cemetery.

The ceremony will commence at 1:30 p.m., exactly 57 years to the day and hour that LST 473, along with five other LSTs and four destroyers, were attacked off of Lae, New Guinea, by 18 or more Japanese torpedo planes and dive bombers.

On Sept. 4, 1943, LST 473 and the other ships were preparing to land an Australian assault force at Lae when they came under attack.

Two Japanese bombs hit the 473 near the pilot house. Six aerial torpedoes were also launched and were bearing down on the ship.

Twenty-one-year-old Seaman First Class Johnnie David Hutchins was mortally wounded by the bombs but with his last ounce of strength grabbed the helm and turned his ship out of the path of the torpedoes. He died clutching the helm.

For his bravery above and beyond the call of duty, Hutchins was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Navy awarded only 57 Medals of Honor in World War II.

In 1944, a destroyer escort was named in honor of Hutchins.

LST 473 survived the attack and was towed along with LST 471 (also damaged in the attack) to Australia for repairs. It took one year to repair the 473. She then returned to the Pacific war and fought in five other campaigns.

Hutchins and seven other crew members killed in the attack were buried on New Guinea. After the war Hutchins' remains were returned to the United States.

Surviving crew members have always wanted to lay a wreath at his gravesite as a tribute to Hutchins and the other men killed in action that day. Kenneth Knight of Phoenix, Ariz., Don Lanes of Grand Forks, N.D., and Sylvester Modglin of St. Louis, Mo., have made a great effort to locate fellow crew members to participate in this event.

The town of Eagle Lake, Johnnie Hutchins' relatives, local veteran groups and civic organizations are turning the ceremony into a tribute to



Seaman First Class
Johnnie David Hutchins

surviving crew members as well.

An honor guard from the Naval Reserve Center in Houston will be present at the ceremony. Some members of the Rice High School band, representatives of the Texas LST Association and a host of other dignitaries are also expected for the event. A Medal of Honor recipient from the Houston area has also been asked to attend.

Following the ceremony, there will be a reception at the Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake. All former LST sailors, veterans and interested citizens are invited to attend the ceremony and reception. Children are welcome.

Any questions about the event

may be directed to Mike Guarino, 2017 Pebble Beach, League City, Tx. 77573, 282-334-6060, e-mail: hunter mjg@aol.com; or Kenneth Knight, 4234 N 18th Place, Phoenix, Ariz. 85016, call 602-266-1666.

In addition to Hutchins, the following men gave their life in the service of their country aboard USS LST 473 on Sept. 4, 1943: Lt. (jg) W.M. Bonaparte of Berkeley, Ca.; QM2/c Charles L. Booth, Chinouatangu, Va.; PM2/c J.M. Carini, New Orleans, La.; SF2/c James M. Doder, Brockton, Ma.; SK2/c George E. Eklund, Burien, Wa.; EM2/c Mark A. Hovenkamp, Fort Worth, Tx.; and MoMM2/c Howard Stark, Portland, Or.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

In addition to the bee attack and accidental shooting, the Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Aug. 1.

On July 25, at 7:55 a.m., Officer Wendy Alley served Jimmy Bluntson Jr. with an outstanding warrant and took payment on that warrant for a possession of drug paraphernalia case.

At 8:30 a.m., Officer Alley served an outstanding warrant on Ralph Roy Herrera and took payment for the warrant for permitting an unlicensed minor to drive.

At 9:30 a.m., Kristy Lynn notified the Eagle Lake Police of a CDL license found at Eagle Lake Concrete on Hwy. 90A. The Colorado Sheriff's office was notified since the license was found out of the city limits. Officer Alley assisted in the incident.

At 3:30 p.m., Officer Alley, Sgt. Bill Latimore and Investigator Randy Schlauch investigated a traffic accident at 500 E. Main at Boothe Drive. A red Honda two-door being driven by Christopher Ehler of Houston and a tractor-trailer rig being driven by Freddie Douglas were involved in the accident. There were no injuries.

At 5:50 p.m., Sgt. Latimore arrested Keith Ishee on an outstanding Texas Attorney General's warrant for non-payment of child support.

On July 26 at 5:50 a.m., Officer Stephen Nelson met with a subject at

390 S. Austin Road in regards to a prowler. The officer checked the area, but was unable to locate any suspicious activity.

At 1:50 p.m., Officer Alley took a payment on an outstanding warrant from Dorothy Thomas for a public intoxication case.

At 9:45 p.m., Officer Nelson and Sgt. Latimore assisted Medic Unit #3 at 405 Stevenson St. with a patient who was transported to the Rice Medical Center.

On July 27, at 3:08 a.m., Officer Nelson was called to 814 East E Street in regards to a residential alarm. The officer checked the area but was unable to locate any suspicious activity.

At 11:50 a.m., Officer Michael Krenek investigated a minor accident at the intersection of Boothe and E. Main involving Wilbert Mikulinka, driving an Oldsmobile, and David Delgado Jr., driving a Kenworth tractor trailer. There were no injuries.

At 3:50 p.m., while on patrol, Officer Brian Lasley saw an open door on the supply room of the Eagle Lake Middle School. Officer Lasley made contact with Gene Glover, the principal of the school. Everything was all right and the door was re-secured.

On July 28, at 9:19 a.m., Officer Krenek met Becky Melendez at 814 East E Street in regards to her son's bike being stolen. Information was taken and the case is under investigation.

At 11:15 a.m., Chief Webb, Officer Krenek and Investigator Schlauch were called to 712 McCreary Ave. in regards to a burglary of a residence occurring on Fairview. The stolen property was recovered. One male juvenile suspect was detained at the boot camp.

At 11:25 a.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to 601 E. Main St. in regards to a gas drive-off. Information was taken.

On July 29, at 11:10 p.m., Chief Webb and Investigator Schlauch arrested Alfredo Ramirez Salas of Eagle Lake at the Eagle Lake Community Center after a short struggle in which patrons at the party gave assistance in handcuffing Salas who appeared to be intoxicated.

It was reported to Chief Webb that Salas had gone into the ladies' restroom and was trying to fight with a female. Salas was located in the men's room and advised that he must leave the Community Center. A friend stated that he would drive him home. Once outside the restroom, Salas refused to leave and began to resist the officers as they attempted to escort him outside.

Salas struggled with the officers for several minutes until three other men stepped in to assist. A call for assistance was made and Sgt. Latimore and Officer Lasley responded. Sgt. Latimore transported Salas to the Colorado County Detention Center (CCDC) where he was booked.

On July 30, at 5 a.m., Officer Lasley met with a complainant at 604 East B Street in regards to someone burglarizing and attempting to steal his vehicle. Information was taken and the case is under investigation.

At 11 a.m., Officer Krenek met with a complainant at 604 East B Street in regards to a vehicle being burglarized. Information was taken and the case is under investigation.

At 5:02 p.m., while on patrol, Sgt. Tim Crume was flagged down on S. (See Police, Page 10)

COLORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Friday, July 14, at 2:53 a.m., Deputy Ashorn initiated a traffic stop in Garwood. After further investigation, Rodney Allen Warshack, 27, of Columbus, was arrested for driving while intoxicated with an open container.

Saturday, July 15, at 6:16 a.m., Deputies Ashorn and Argo responded to call concerning a reckless driver. The vehicle was located and stopped. After further investigation, Juan

Layba Rebolledo, 21, of Houston, was arrested for no driver's license.

Monday, July 17, at 6 a.m., Deputy Lacourse responded to a call concerning a possible intoxicated subject walking in the roadway on I-10. After further investigation, Douglas Kent Nuss, 42, of Houston, was arrested for public intoxication, possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance.

At 11 a.m., Sgt. Neisner met with

a complainant in reference to harassment at the Braden Trailer Park. After further investigation, Shaunna Dee Lawhon, 22 of Giddings, was arrested for harassment.

Wednesday, July 19, at 3:46 a.m., Deputy Zermeno initiated a traffic stop on I-10. Upon approach, the vehicle sped away and a pursuit followed. The vehicle finally stopped. Daniel Martinez, 20, of San Antonio (See Sheriff, Page 6)