

Toy distribution is Saturday

Members of the Eagle Lake American Legion Post 108 are gearing up for the last stage of their annual "Toys for Children in Needy Homes" Project.

Toys will be given to children (infants through nine years of age) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon this Saturday, Dec. 23, in the auditorium of the Prairie Edge Museum.

Only parents or guardians will be allowed to register their children. It is not necessary to bring your children when you pick up the toys.

In This Issue...

Area Children's

Letters to Santa

(See Pages 8 through 14)

Dec. 21, 2000

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 97, No. 40
14 Pages Plus 3 Inserts
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
979-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

Closing for Christmas holiday

The following businesses will be closed in observance of Christmas, Monday, Dec. 25. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Monday and Tuesday and also Jan. 1 for New Year's day. The First National Bank and Wallis State Bank will be closed Monday.

Eagle Lake City Hall will be closed Monday, Dec. 25. Collection for the garbage routes will be pushed back one day. Monday's route will be collected Tuesday; Tuesday's will be collected Wednesday. This schedule will apply to both Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Furniture Shoppe will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26.

The Eagle Lake Headlight will be closed Monday. Deadline for the Dec. 28 issue will be Friday, Dec. 22, at 5 p.m. Please get your ads in early!

Mt. Moriah Youth, Family Conference set

Mt. Moriah ministries in Alleyton presents its 4th Annual Youth & Family Conference Dec. 23-28. You are invited to attend this anointed conference. Musical guests will be from all over Texas. Special guest will be Min. James Henderson of Dallas. Come be blessed. For more information on the seminars call 281-342-7557.

WCJC releases registration schedule

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) has posted the following scheduled for the 2001 credit class: Wharton, Monday, Jan. 8, beginning at 8 a.m. (by appointment); Richmond, Tuesday, Jan. 9, beginning at 9 a.m. (by appointment); Sugar Land, Tuesday, Jan. 9, and Wednesday, Jan. 10, beginning at 9 a.m. (by appointment); and Bay City, Thursday, Jan. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information or to set your appointment, call Wharton-Bay City campus at 979-532-6303; Richmond campus, 281-342-1496; or Sugar Land campus, 281-243-8410. Classes begin Jan. 16.

Christmas Eve service in Garwood

The Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church of Garwood extends an invitation to the Garwood-Nada communities to attend the Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome and will receive a blessing from this special service, led by Rev. Paul Lynn, minister at Garwood and Eagle Lake.

La Lehrer Memorial Iglesia Unida Metodista de Garwood extiende una invitación a la comunidad de Garwood-Nada, a un servicio Navideno el 24 de diciembre a las 5:30 p.m. en el santuario. Todos están bienvenidos y recibirán una bendición de este servicio especial, dirigido por el Rev. Paul Lynn, ministro de Garwood y Eagle Lake.

GED classes set

Rice CISD is accepting applications for the spring GED Day Program. Applications will be available at elc.net, 105 N. McCarty beginning Jan. 4, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or younger. Approved participants will start classes Jan. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Methodist Church sets service

A Christmas Eve Service, scheduled at the United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Sunday evening, Dec. 24, is open to the community. The Rev. Paul Lynn and his congregation extend a warm welcome to everyone.

El domingo 24 de diciembre a las 7 de la tarde, La Iglesia Unida Metodista tendrá su servicio Navideno. El servicio será abierto para la comunidad. El Rev. Paul Lynn y la congregación le extiende una invitación a la comunidad.

Full Gospel services set for Dec.

Everyone is welcome to attend Full Gospel church services at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24 and 31, at the Wintermann Library. The speaker, Rev. J.V. Hamman, holds a Bachelor in Ministry. For information, call 979-732-9170. (See Newsbriefs, Page 7)

House fire claims lives of four children

Shortly after 10 p.m. the evening of Thursday, Dec. 14, the Colorado County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) received a 9-1-1 call reporting a house

fire on County Road 271 and Washington Street in Oakland.

The Oakland and Weimar fire departments were dispatched to the

scene and found the home fully engulfed.

They were informed that four children were believed to be trapped inside the burning structure.

The children's mother, Candice Booker, 27, and a son, Tyndell Booker, 11, were able to escape through a window.

After distinguishing the blaze, firefighters recovered the bodies of four children. Killed were Ladserien Sidney, seven years, 11 months old; Jameka Booker, seven years old;

Sheniqua Booker, six years old; and Darius Sidney, five years old.

The two survivors were taken to Colorado-Fayette Medical Center in Weimar for treatment.

The cause of the fire had not been determined at the time of this report.

The State Fire Marshall's Office, Railroad Commission and CCSO are conducting the investigation into the cause of the fire.

Autopsies were ordered by Pct. 2 Justice of the Peace Ed Hanzelka on the victims.



'Deputy Santa' receives bicycles

Columbus Police Chief Robert E. Connor Jr., left, and Colorado County Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied, right, accepted 16 bicycles from volunteers Tom and Kathy Fleming to be delivered to children of needy families as part of Colorado County's Deputy Santa Program. The Flemings traveled to Houston to participate in KIKK's Lisa Dent Bike Drop to get the bicycles for the local program. Fleming serves as an investigator in the Colorado County attorney's office.

Photo Courtesy of The Banner Press Newspaper

State enlists Santa's help in annual campaign

Santa Claus is warning Texas drivers: He's not the only one watching to see if they're good or bad.

All available state troopers will be on the roads during Christmas and New Year's holiday weekends watching for drunk drivers. Police and sheriff's departments throughout Texas also are stepping up DWI enforcement efforts. Penalties for driving while intoxicated can include license suspension, fines and jail time.

State transportation officials are joining forces with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and the food and beverage industry to enlist Santa's help in the Texas Dept. of Transportation's annual statewide campaign reminding Texans not to drink and drive during the holiday season. Last Dec., 83 people were killed and 2,303 injured in alcohol-related accidents in Texas.

"If alcohol is involved in their holiday celebrations, we're reminding people not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking," said Susan

Bryant, traffic safety director for the Texas Department of Transportation. "Safe alternatives are to designate a sober driver before drinking begins, call a taxi or just stay where you are until you can drive home safely."

Texas leads the nation in alcohol related traffic crashes. In 1998, the Texas Dept. of Public Safety reported there were more than 26,000 alcohol-related crashes in Texas, resulting in 1,058 fatalities and 27,058 injuries.

The state's campaign again features the slogan "Santa Is Coming To Town. Please Don't Hit Him. Don't Drink and Drive." Billboards, ads atop gas pumps and TV and radio commercials echo the safe driving message.

Helpers in the campaign include the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Texas Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Texas Package Stores Association, Texas Restaurant Association, Diamond Shamrock and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

confinement.

The Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Dec. 18.

On Dec. 12, at 5:45 p.m., Officer Bryan Lasley conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of Stephens St. As a result of the stop, the driver, Leonard Hemphill was arrested for driving while license suspended. Hemphill was transported to the ELPD for processing and later to the Colorado County Detention Center (CCDC) for

On Dec. 13, at 8:40 a.m., Officer Lasley responded to a theft call in the 100 block of W. Union St. The victim advised that someone stole his Sears, high wheel, weed trimmer. The ELPD has received reports that a subject was trying to sell a lawnmower that same day. According to the victim, the weed trimmer resembles a lawnmower. Please contact the ELPD if you have any information about this case or if individuals are going door to door at-

tempting to sell you property.

At 2:49 p.m., Investigator Randy Schlauch arrested Zachary Daniels at 716 Fairview St. on an outstanding warrant for motion to revoke probation. Daniels was processed at the ELPD then transported to the CCDC for confinement.

At 4:35 p.m., Officer Lasley was dispatched to 902 C Street in reference to a theft. The case is under investigation.

On Dec. 15, at 10 a.m., Chief Keith

Webb was dispatched to the Eagle Lake Supermarket located at 200 S. McCarty in reference to an individual attempting to pass a check that was written on a closed bank account.

Chief Webb met with a young man who identified himself as Douglas Tillman of Eagle Lake and with a female who identified herself as Leanne Tennyson of Columbus.

Tennyson's personal check was being questioned as being "good" after it had been presented to the store by Tillman. The manager of the store, Jensani, stated the store had already taken a check from Tennyson and it had been returned as being on a closed account. That check had been turned over to the county attorney.

Chief Webb is investigating this attempted passing of a bad check.

From 2 to 6 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore and Officer Stephen Nelson arrested Robert Earl Black, Gloria Snively, Christal Smith and Sheila Kettering at several locations in Eagle Lake on outstanding warrants for motion to revoke probation. All four subjects were processed at the ELPD and transported to the CCDC for confinement.

On Dec. 16, at 1:30 p.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to a theft call at 619 Fairview St. The victim stated that someone took an aerobic machine and a laundry shelf from her porch. The items were mail ordered and had been delivered by the Post Office. The suspect(s) apparently stole the items from the porch after they had been delivered.

On Dec. 17, at 3:16 p.m., Officer Nelson was dispatched to a juvenile disturbance at 506 Clay St. He handled the situation at the scene.

At 4:12 p.m., Officer Nelson and Sgt. Lattimore were dispatched to a traffic accident in the 800 block of S. McCarty. Dan Canaris was driving north bound in the 800 block of S. McCarty on his 1984 Honda motorcycle, when Charles Ulrich failed to yield right of way and turned north bound on S. McCarty from Calhoun Road in his 1989 Toyota Camry. Canaris collided with the Toyota and suffered minor injuries.

The ELPD had been requested to investigate this accident due to the Department of Public Safety and county deputies being too busy to do so.

At 9:40 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore and (See Police, Page 7)



*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

