

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

Closing for New Year holiday

The following businesses will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day: the Colorado County Courthouse, The First National Bank and Wallis State Bank. Eagle Lake City Hall will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. Collection for the garbage routes will be pushed back one day. Monday's route will be collected Tuesday; Tuesday's will be collected Wednesday.

The Eagle Lake Headlight will also be closed Monday Jan. 1.

Student art work on display Jan. 6

Rice High School will hold an Open House to view Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo art entries from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 6, in the commons area. All schools in the District will have their art on display.

Crescent Country Jamboree is Jan. 2

The Crescent Country Jamboree, sponsored by Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF), will host their monthly live country music show Tuesday, Jan. 2, at the WCYF in the Crescent Hall, intersection of FM 960 & FM 961. The WCYF director's concession stand special for this month is chicken n' dumplings. Other concession items will also be sold. The meal will be ready to serve at 6:30 p.m. with the show kicking off at 7:30. Admission is \$3 per person. All proceeds benefit the WCYF building fund.

Defensive driving course Jan. 10, 11

A six hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel for Jan. 10 and 11, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Agriculture Building, 316 Spring St. in Columbus. To pre-register, call 979-732-2734 or arrive few minutes early the first evening.

WCJC releases registration schedule

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) has posted the following schedule 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.

GED day classes set

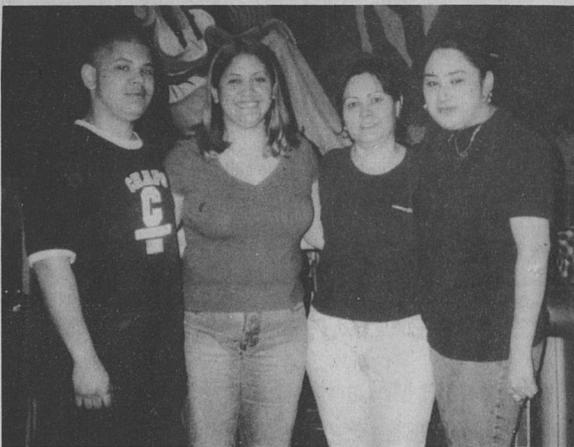
Rice CISD is accepting applications for the spring GED Day Program. Applications will be available at elc.net, 105 N. McCarty beginning Jan. 4, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or younger. Approved participants will start classes Jan. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,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

Full Gospel services set for Sunday

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

Senior Friends set meeting for Jan. 4

Jan. 4, 2001 is the monthly Senior Friends meeting and covered dish luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Gulf Coast Medical Center classrooms. Come see what 2001 has in store for Senior Friends. Call Carol at 979-282-6090 to RSVP.



Relatives of Dora Cardenas, second from left, poses with her new-found relatives, Santiago Cazares, Maria Cardenas and Belinda Cardenas. (See additional photo, Page 3.)

Photo Courtesy of Dora Cardenas

America: The Good Neighbor

From: Colorado County Judge A.G. Jamison

To: All Colorado County newspapers: A friend of mine sent this article. In my opinion, it is both timely and appropriate.

Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator.

dian television commentator.

What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional Record:

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billion of dollars and

forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

"When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

"When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurried

in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

"The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

"I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International lines except for Russia fly American Planes? Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon?

"You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios.

"You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles.

"You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon - not once, but several times - and safely home again.

"You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

"When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

"I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble?

"I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake. Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those.

"Stand proud, America!"

This is one of the best editorials that I have ever read regarding the United States.

It's nice that one man realizes it. I only wish that the rest of the world would realize it. We are always blamed for everything, and never even get a thank you for the things we do.

I would hope that all of you would send this to as many people as you can and emphasize that they should send it to as many of their friends until this letter is sent to every person on the web.

I'm just a single American that has read this.

I SURE HOPE THAT A LOT MORE READ IT SOON.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) reported the following cases and calls for the week ending Dec. 25.

On Dec. 19, at 10:28 p.m., Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to the 800 block of E Street to meet with the complainant regarding suspicious persons who have been on the property in the past. Officer Krenek placed the area on a close patrol.

At 12:05 a.m., Officer Krenek observed an intoxicated subject in the parking lot of the Sportsman's Moul. Through further investigation, Officer Krenek released the intoxicated person to a sober subject in Room #1D. No further action was taken.

At 12:11 a.m., Officer Krenek met with Ismael Martinez in regards to his sister, Rafaela Martinez Samani, p, being missing.

After further investigation, it was discovered that she was missing from Wal-Mart in Columbus. Officer Krenek forwarded the case to the Columbus Police Department.

At 5:20 a.m., Officer Krenek made

a traffic stop in the 700 block of S. McCarty.

After having a driver's license check, it was discovered that James Plunkett had outstanding DPS warrants and a warrant out of Wharton County for theft by check. Plunkett was arrested and transported to the Colorado County Detention Center (CCDC) for confinement.

On Dec. 20, at 4:10 p.m., Officer Bryan Lasley was dispatched to the 500 block of E. Prairie St. regarding an open door. Officer Lasley and Lt. Clem Johnson checked the church and were told that nothing was missing. No further action was necessary.

At 11:32 p.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to 100 E. Main St. to meet with a complainant regarding a stolen car. Officer Krenek took a report and the case is under investigation.

On Dec. 21, at 9:06 p.m., Lt. Johnson on-viewed an accident in the 100 block of Boothe Drive.

Lt. Johnson observed Eric Johnson, driving a white Buick, swerving

in and out of oncoming traffic, causing Harrison Bastiste to lose control of his vehicle and collide with a utility pole. No injuries were reported at the time of the accident.

At 9:44 p.m., Lt. Johnson was dispatched to 510 Westmoreland Ave. in reference to a verbal disturbance. Lt. Johnson handled the situation at the scene without incident.

On Dec. 22, at 2:19 p.m., Officer Stephen Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 600 block of E Street. As a result of the stop, the driver, Julie Sherrill, was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Sherrill was processed at the ELPD and transported to the CCDC for confinement.

On Dec. 23, at 12:16 a.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore was flagged down in the 600 block of E. Main. The subject advised that she was a victim of an assault. A report was taken; the case is under investigation.

At 10:30 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume and Officer Randy Schlauch were working security at a party at the Eagle Lake Community Center when they observed Mauro Blanco inside. Blanco had several outstanding traffic warrants for his arrest.

Sgt. Crume took custody of Blanco until on-duty Sgt. Lattimore could arrive and make the arrest. Blanco was processed at the ELPD and transported to the CCDC for confinement.

On Dec. 25, at 2:07 p.m., Officer Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Frazer St.

As a result of the stop, Roland Hayes Hemphill II was arrested on an outstanding warrant for evading detention and two warrants for evading arrest. Both warrants were issued after Hemphill fled from ELPD officers on two separate occasions.

The driver, Brandon Hemphill, was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance.

Both subjects were processed at the ELPD and transported to the CCDC for confinement.

At 10:17 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore and Officer Wendy Alley were dispatched to a disturbance at the Cadillac Club. The officers arrived and dispersed the crowd without incident.

The search is over

By Dora Cardenas

I grew up with the absence of my biological father, Antonio Magana Cardenas.

He passed away four months after I was born, and I never had the chance to know the man he was or the family he came from.

I didn't find out my biological father was deceased until I was 10 years old.

Since then, I have been determined to find out any information about him or his family.

With the help of my family, I searched for years.

On Oct. 10, 2000, 20 years later, one of my aunts, Maria Cardenas, and her husband, Santiago Cazares, were coming back from Houston on their way home to Hallettsville.

They stopped at the Texaco here in Eagle Lake and asked if anyone knew me.

Someone told her that they knew me, gave her my address, and thanks to them, we had the chance to meet each other.

When they arrived at my home and we looked at each other, it was a beautiful blessing. Right away my heart started to beat rapidly and we hugged and laughed.

My Aunt Maria knew right away I was Antonio's daughter. She said I looked just like him.

From that day forward, I got to meet a few more of my family members.

I'm happy that everyone knows everybody here in Eagle Lake, because if we didn't know each other, I don't think I would have had the chance to meet my family.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my dad, Robert Rodriguez. Thank you for helping my mom, Elizabeth Lira Rodriguez, raise me and for teaching me right from wrong. Also, (thanks) for letting me open our doors to my new family.

I love you, mom and dad.

Happy Holidays!

A look back at 2000... the year in review...

JAN.

Ken Sparks announced his candidacy for the Colorado County Attorney position.

Sheridan Library named Ed Parham "Volunteer of the Year".

Paul and Sharon Marsalia received the "Yard of the Month" from the Eagle Lake Garden Club.

Angela Phillips was named DAR Good Citizen.

Ethel Hope and Frances Hoelscher were recognized for living through three centuries.

Named to the all district football team were Jerry Cleveland, John Rucka, Jacob Little, Jessie Upson, Klay Korenek, Brandon Shanks, Norris Powell, Jason Barrow and Adrian Middleton.

These young ladies were named to the all district volleyball team: Shanna Waligura, Shelley Boenisch, Stacy Schneider and Jacqueline Thomas.

Rice FFA Show 2000 sale topped \$28,000.

Rice Medical Center announced plans for a reception to honor, Dr. R. Russell Thomas Jr.

FEB.

Jan Hargraves announced her association with Thomas Clinic.

Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied kicked off his re-election campaign.

Junior Mounted Posse passed through the City of Eagle Lake.

Eagle Lake area code to change soon.

Neal Morgan, Texas native and author, visited Cup and Chaucer.

Rice twirlers Misty Morales, Amber Mahalic, Lana Engstrom and Brandy Meitzen advanced to state.

A local family, the Joe Flings, announced that they are connected to Lewis and Clark.

Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance was formed.

Construction on the second Colorado County Habitat for Humanity house continued.

Construction began on the new Eagle Lake Municipal Park.

MARCH

Tanya Wiese filed for Rice School Board position.

Klay Korenek and Angela Phillips named Mr. & Mrs. Rice High School.

Brett Boenisch won Junior Grand Champion Steer competition in San Antonio, winning a \$6,000 scholarship and premium money.

These Lady Raider Powerlifters Sarah Gould, Amanda Burrow, Cookie Johnson, Shelley Boenisch and Martha Rodriguez qualified for state.

Gaylynn Thomas of Eagle Lake was published in *Texas Escape*, an online magazine.

Mary Jane Poenitzsch will seek reelection as tax assessor-collector.

Jacob Little brought home grand champion honors from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Gannon home was chosen Yard of the Month.

Voters chose Ken Sparks as the new County Attorney, beating incumbent John Julian Moore.

Owners of 2K's Taqueria, Ron and Denise Janow, held their ribbon cutting.

William Elliott lost his life in a head-on collision. Also involved in the accident was Bennie Glover, a student at Rice High School.

The One Act Play cast and crew of Rice High School won district again.

APRIL

The 2000 Attwater Prairie Chick-Festival was set for April 6-9.

Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance leased the historic Calaboose.

Sarah Gould captured the state 3A title in weight lifting.

Black Dog Accessories "Comics and Collectibles" held its ribbon cutting.

Laura Bush, First Lady of Texas, is to visit Eagle Lake April 11.

Angel Stricklan, a student at Eagle

Lake Middle School, received Honorable Mention on her essay.

All district basketball players at Rice High School included Jason Barrow, Jessie Upson, Marques Johnson, Adrian Middleton, Erica Dunmore, Janna Janish, Cookie Johnson and Crystal Alcalar.

Tanya Wiese replaced Clark Powers on the Rice School Board.

Hank Cranek signed a letter of intent with Wharton County Jr. College.

Antiques @ 312 Main held its ribbon cutting on April 13.

Maria Rico, top fifth grade speller at Eagle Lake Middle School, won a chance to participate in the spelling bee contest in Bellville.

MAY

A.J. and Marlene Williams celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Ted Brunner and Minnie Lee Connor were chosen as Outstanding Older Texans for 2000.

Angela Phillips and Klay Korenek were named top athletes at Rice High School.

"Railcar Killer", Angel Maturino Resendiz, was found guilty by a Harris County jury and sentenced to death.

"Yard of the Month" honors were bestowed upon Len and Pat Matula by the Eagle Lake Garden Club.

JUNE

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake opened a branch in East Bernard. Shane Sooter is the new Youth Minister at First Baptist Church.

Work is underway for the new Ag Complex in Columbus.

The Honorable Judge Mary Lou Szymanski passed away.

A ribbon cutting was held for the new Eagle Lake Municipal Park.

Hank Cranek won the state calf roping championship.

Mark and Sabina Rotter's home was named "Yard of the Month" by the Eagle Lake Garden Club.