

Bank drive-thru to close temporarily

Remodeling construction requires that First National Bank's drive-up banking lanes be closed Monday, Aug. 19, through Friday, Aug. 23. Additional tellers will be on duty in the Bank lobby beginning at 8 a.m. daily and 7:30 a.m. Friday. The ATM will continue to be available for customer use.

Bank President Bill Harrison added, "We appreciate everyone's patience during this project and hope to have everything complete by mid-Sept."

Back to School!

See Pages 7-9
For Supply Lists,
Room Assignments

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

Are you registered to vote?

Jim Kearney, Volunteer Deputy Registrar, will be at Didner Hall, 201 Crain Ave., Sunday morning, Aug. 11, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to help all who need to register to vote. The Parish of the Nativity Men's Club Breakfast is this Sunday from 8 to 9 a.m., so you can enjoy great tacos and menudo and support the Men's Club while registering to vote.

Eres registrado a votar?

Jim Kearney, Volunteer Deputy Registrar, estara en Salon Didner, 201 Crain Ave., domingo en la mañana, 11 de Agosto, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., a ayudar todos quien necesitan a registrar a votar. Se habla Español! Este es el Domingo de Almuerzo para el Men's Club de la Parroquia de la Natividad, 8-9 a.m., entonces ven a disfrutar tacos y menudo magnificos y soportar el Men's Club durante su tiempo a registrar a votar.

ELPS PTO selling school supplies, uniforms

The Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) PTO will be selling school supply packets and hold their "uniform re-sale shop" Thursday, Aug. 8, and Friday, Aug. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the ELPS cafeteria. Please come and support ELPS and the PTO!

Special opportunity for ministry at Boot Camp

Workers are needed to help present Life Skills Training developed by Prison Fellowship Ministries founded by Chuck Colson. Christian life skills classes will be presented for both the Boot Camp and TYC facilities. Prison Fellowship Ministries will provide a one-day training. Christians with a desire to serve are encouraged to call Gay Anderson at 234-2376 or Linda Ferguson at 234-3551 for more information.

Volunteer/mentor training sessions scheduled

A training session for people interested in becoming volunteers or mentors at any of the Rice CISD schools will be held Friday, Aug. 9, at 10:30 a.m. in the Garwood School library. A further training session will also be held Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 10:30 a.m. at Sheridan School. Those already volunteering in the schools are welcome to attend as a refresher - new training information will be discussed. All paperwork and refreshments will be provided. To sign up for the training or for further information, please call Mentor and Volunteer Program Coordinator Deborah Reed at 234-2601 or 832-724-3719.

ELPS to host reception

Come welcome Sue Weller to her position as the new principal at Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The community is invited to come and show their support. The reception will be held in the Primary School's library. Refreshments will be served.

Rice Raider season tickets on sale starting Aug. 12

Season tickets for Rice High School (RHS) home football games will go on sale at the school administration office starting Monday, Aug. 12, and continue on sale through Friday, Aug. 23. Beginning Monday, Aug. 26, those who have not held season tickets may purchase them on a "first-come-first-serve" basis. These will be on sale until Friday, Aug. 30. The cost for season tickets for all home games is \$16 per set (we have four home games this year). The cost at the gate will be \$5 per game. **There will be no reserved seats sold for individual games.**

Call Suzanne Sykowski at 234-3531 for more information. Adult pregame general admission tickets will also be sold for \$4 and will be available only at RHS on Thursdays and Fridays until 3 p.m.

Defensive driving course is Aug. 13, 14

A six-hour state approved defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel for Aug. 13 and 14 in Eagle Lake at the Wintermann Library from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. To pre-register for the class, call 979-234-5411 or arrive a few minutes early the first evening for registration.

Booster Club meeting is Monday

The Rice Raider Booster Club will meet Monday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m. at the High School. All parents and fans of Rice Raider and Lady Raider teams are welcome.

FMBC workshop, family & friends scheduled

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC) The Mission Ministry welcomes your fellowship at the Mission Workshop, Saturday, Aug. 17 at 9:30 a.m. The theme, "The Love We Share", will be brought by Sandra Price, Windsor Village UMC. The summary will be given by Rev. Willie "Preacher" Copeland, Salem MBC of Houston. Pastors and their wives will also serve as guest speakers. Come one and all! Also join FMBC for Family & Friends Day, Sunday, Aug. 18 at 3 p.m. The theme, "The Love We Share" will continue with Lenora Lockett of Gethsemane Community Church, Houston, Pastor P.L. Barrow, Mt. Carmel MBC and all of our brothers and sisters. Come share in this great, blessed occasion. For more information call Mary Gordon at 234-6532 or Erma Gordon at 234-3024.

Revival set for Aug. 16-18

Revival services will be held at the Church of God in Columbus, 3231 Columbus Loop, Aug. 16, 17 and 18. Join the congregation of Columbus Church of God as they present Evangelist Donnie Swaggart Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16 and 17, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 18, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call 979-732-3030.

Eagle Lake Pageant extends registration

The Eagle Lake Pageant to be held Aug. 24 has extended its registration through Friday, Aug. 19, at 5:30 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, please call Pageant Director Kara Supak at 979-234-5878.

Want to take sign language classes?

Anyone interested in FREE sign language classes is encouraged to attend on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Colorado County Sp. Ed. Co-op, 818 Wallace St., Columbus. Classes will begin Aug. 12. If interested, call 979-732-6478.

Blood drive scheduled for Aug. 12

There will be a blood drive at Gulf Coast Medical Center classrooms Monday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 979-282-6808 to schedule a time. Walk-ins are welcome.

Stancik reunion is Aug. 18

The 35th Stancik reunion will be held Sunday, Aug. 18, starting at 11 a.m. at St. Roch's Catholic Church Hall in Mentz. There will be a basket lunch at (See Newsbriefs, Page 6)

Main Street bringing Las Vegas to Eagle Lake

There is no need to go to Las Vegas or Louisiana because the casinos are coming to Eagle Lake!

Friends of Main Street is sponsoring the First Annual Eagle Lake Casino Night Saturday, Sept. 28, starting at 7 p.m.

Blackjack, roulette and craps tables will be open for gaming at the Prairie Edge Museum. Everybody has a chance to win great prizes!

Tickets are available from Main Street Board Members, Austin's BBQ, Baumgart Agencies, Sportsman's Restaurant and the Main Street Office. Tickets are being sold for \$25. The ticket price includes snacks and gaming chips. Beer, wine, and addi-

tional gaming chips are extra. Tickets are \$30 at the door.

For more information, please feel free to call Leslie Lerner at 979-234-6933.

2nd annual tire clean up is Sept. 7

Clean out those garages, storage bins, barns and yards because Friends of Main Street is hosting the Second Annual Eagle Lake Tire Clean Up. Tires will be collected Saturday, September 7, on Commerce Street between the First National Bank and City Hall.

All citizens of Eagle Lake are encouraged to participate. Let's take this opportunity to beautify our community and "show off" Eagle Lake for

all of the hunters that will be visiting this season. The beautification of Eagle Lake takes everybody working together. That includes you!

There will be more information on the tire clean up as the time nears. Please feel free to call the Main Street Office at 979-234-6933 at anytime.

How candidates can help keep Texas beautiful

The law on placement of campaign signs

Texans take pride in their beautiful, scenic state. They also like to boast about its nationally renowned

highway system. During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a different flow - the political sign. On private property, they are a thing of beauty. On public lands, they are illegal. Here's the scoop on how to keep Texas beautiful.

Here are some tips on how to keep campaign signs legal:

Do not place campaign signs on or within any public right of way as State law specifically prohibits this. This includes trees, telephone poles, traffic signs and other objects on the right of way. Signs in violation will be removed by TxDOT employees, a county sheriff, or a constable, depending upon the jurisdiction.

If placing a sign inside of incorporation city limits, make sure to check with the city because the signs may be subject to a local ordinance.

Legally, campaign signs can be placed on private property with the owner's permission along all highways in Texas.

Signs must meet some basic criteria. The signs must be made of lightweight material and can be up to 50 square feet in size. Signs may be placed as early as 90 days before an election, but no earlier. Signs must be removed within 10 days after the election.

For more information about the laws and rules where campaign signs can go, visit the TxDOT web site at www.dot.state.tx.us/insdtdot/orchart/lao/leginfo.htm or TxDOT office nearest you.



COLORADO COUNTY FAIR NEWS



Fair Queens, Jr. Queens

Contestants are still being sought for the Colorado County Fair Queen and Junior Queen Contests to be held at the Columbus High School Auditorium Saturday, Sept. 7.

Girls between the ages of 10 and 13 are eligible to enter the Junior Queen Contest and girls from 14 to 21 years of age may enter the Fair Queen Contest.

All contestants must be single and must be residents of the county or attend school within the county.

To qualify for the pageant, contestants for Junior Queen must sell 20 season passes and Fair Queen contestants must sell 50 season passes for the 2002 Fair.

The Fair Queen contestant who sells the largest dollar amount of season passes will be crowned Membership Queen and will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and a life membership in the fair association. The first runner-up in season pass sales will receive a \$750 scholarship and the second runner-up in sales will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Fair Queen and Jr. Fair Queen will be chosen by out-of-county judges. They will be judged on personality, appearance and poise. The contestant chosen Fair Queen will receive the \$1,000 Leslie Schmidt Heard Memorial Scholarship. If the contestant who wins the Membership Queen sales contest is also chosen Fair Queen by the panel of judges, she will receive both awards.

The Fair Queen, Membership Queen and Jr. Fair Queen will participate in activities during the 24th annual Colorado County Fair to be held at the Colorado County Ag Complex on the Hwy. 71 Bypass from Sept. 12-15. They will also represent the Fair Association by riding the official float in area parades during the coming year.

A complete set of rules, entry forms and season passes may be obtained by calling one of the following members of the queens contest

committee: Pamela Potter, at 979-732-2705; Deborah Hayward at 979-725-8603; or Diana Brunner at 979-

234-5671.

The deadline to enter is 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16, no exceptions.

USRPA urges action to resolve anti-dumping case

The U.S. Rice Producers Association staff (USRPA) recently met in Washington, D.C., with officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Foreign Agricultural Service to discuss concerns over the lack of visible progress in resolving the recent anti-dumping judgment from the Mexican government. The final decision, while difficult to understand based on preliminary findings, has raised a number of questions about the motives and methods of the parties involved.

Dwight Roberts, president and CEO, raised the subject with Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and Under-Secretary J.B. Penn. Both officials clearly stated that the USDA is working diligently to resolve the matter with the Mexican government officials. "We are monitoring the situation along with the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and are confident that we will find a solution to the problem as we work with the USRPA," said Penn.

(See Dumping, Page 10)

Purpose of groundwater conservation districts

By Benard Mitchell, Colorado County Extension Agent, Agri/NR

Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) have assigned duties, and they may involve authorized powers necessary to fulfill their duties. A GCD is required to develop and adopt a comprehensive management plan for efficiently using groundwater and preventing its waste.

The plan also must include measures for preventing land subsidence. This plan must be submitted to, and certified by, the Texas Water Development Board and filed with other districts within a common groundwater management area; adopt rules necessary to implement the management plans and/or require permits for drilling, equipping, completing, or sub-

stantially altering the size of water wells.

A GCD may also make and enforce rules necessary to implement the water management plan; make surveys of the groundwater resources; regulate the spacing of wells and/or production of wells and require that unused or abandoned wells be capped or plugged.

The common goal of all GCDs is to conserve groundwater resources through local management in order to ensure adequate water for their districts in the future.

GCDs use a variety of programs and media to inform the public about water issues and to raise public aware-

ness of the need for water conservation. News releases and public service announcements distributed through newspapers, radio stations and television stations offer timely information to large general audiences.

Some districts publish bulletins and fact sheets with in-depth information on a variety of topics. These materials are distributed at local offices and exhibits at area events.

Some districts use internet sites to make information even more widely accessible.

GCDs can and are carrying out a number of successful programs to protect and conserve the state's water supplies.

CCAA holds team roping, dance

July 27, The Colorado County Arena Association (CCAA) held a jackpot team roping followed by a concert and dance featuring Todd Fritsch of Fayette County.

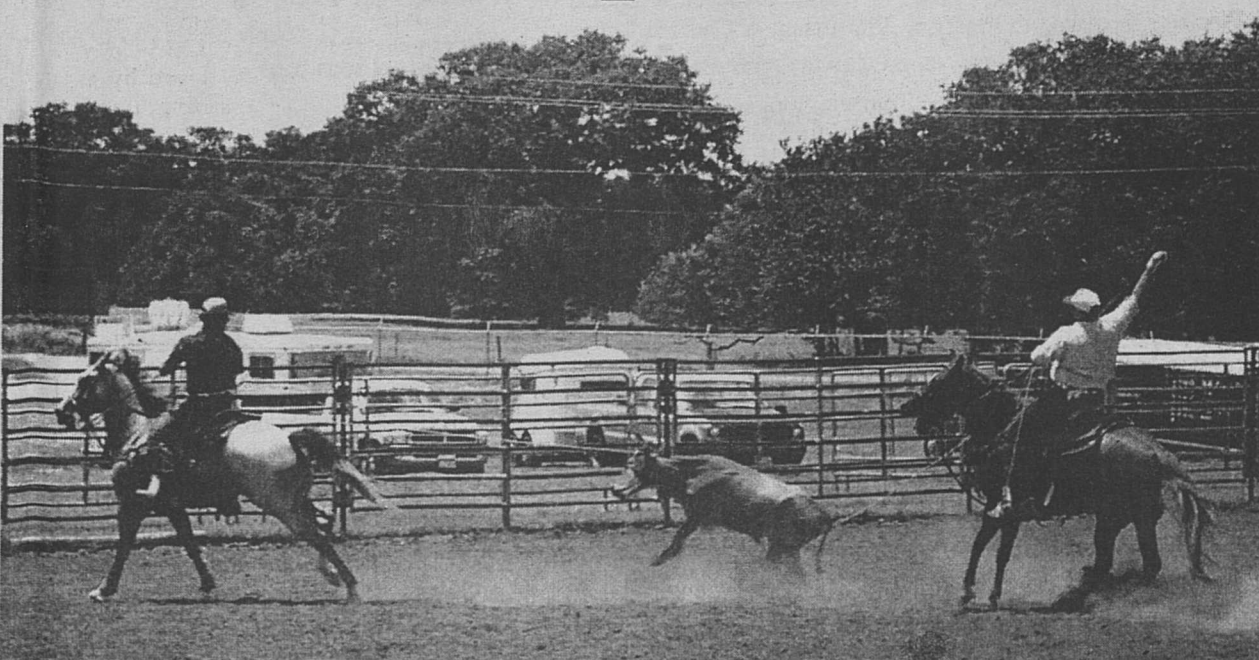
Aug. events will include an Equestrian Play Day for the kids and their parents. There will be Barrel Racing, Straight Barrels, Pole Bending and a Mystery Event. Contact Bunge Halla at 979-758-4996 for time and date.

Sept. brings the Colorado County Fair with exhibits, rodeo, livestock show and FFA auctions, carnival and concerts. Dates for the Fair are Sept. 12-15. Contact Darlene Hayek at 979-732-6860 or 979-263-5386 for commercial exhibit booth information.

In Nov., a "backwards draw," dinner and dance will include drawings held every 15 minutes for prizes valued at a minimum of \$100 with a final drawing grand prize of \$10,000!

All this plus a silent auction, for \$100 a ticket, with only 500 tickets being sold.

There will be reserved tables sold (See CCAA, Page 10)



Team ropers must work together to get it right. Winners of the Jackpot Roping held by the Colorado County Arena Association Saturday, July 27, were, in the 1.5 roping, 1st Cody Milulencek and Tommy Tipton, 2nd Roy Trip and Tommy Tipton, and 3rd Curtis Kendrick and Mikul Klehm. In the 2.5 event, the winners were 1st Carl Kloesel and Chad Kloesel, 2nd Bryon Gross and Tommy Tipton, and 3rd Dusty Kendrick and Tommy Tipton.

CCAA Photo