

Brast's creativity delivered in bulk

She pens award-winning poetry. She paints and writes song lyrics. She even plays piano and organ by ear. This artistry is her passion. Working at Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) is her profession, having started in 1992 as switchboard operator and moved to mail clerk in Jan. 1997.

For Monty Mae Brast, the thought of pursuing a more creative career isn't even a consideration. In fact, when invited to attend a recent convention and symposium of the International Society of Poets (ISP), where she was to be honored for her poetic accomplishments, Brast declined.

For much of poetry of simple and humble means, poetry is only written

when something inspires her or when the occasion calls for it. In fact, she admits she might only pen two or three poems a year, then take a two-year hiatus.

One award-winning poem was created at WCJC after observing a child playing on stairs and remembering her own childhood fascination with the towering steps. The poem "just started coming," said Brast. When she returned to her office, she wrote it down, then called her sister. Not only did her sister like it, but she shared how her granddaughter came downstairs with a "bump" on her "rump." Brast quickly incorporated these elements into the poem and later submitted it in a poetry competition.

"Stairs" was a winner and is published in ISP's book entitled "Love and Luminaries."

Another poem, "Gentle Hands," was created for the 90th birthday of Brast's mother. It is published on "Sounds of Poetry," a four-volume compact disk series. Her dachshund, Cinnamon, inspired still another poem, "Sweet Cinnamon Girl." This poem, along with, "Gentle Hands" and "Stairs," is published at poetry.com.

Despite no formal arts education, Brast showed her creativity at a young age. She laughs as she recalls playing hooky from either elementary or junior high school "quite often" to sketch the "draw me" subjects in magazine ads. Years later she would take up oil painting after seeing her cousin's work.

"I figured if she could it, I could do it," said Brast. True to form, this natural born artist mastered painting and now donates many colorful canvases to bazaars at her church, United Pentecostal, in Wharton. She also plays organ there for three services a week, plus revival weekends.

Yes, organ is yet another art Brast magically mastered after her husband, Robert, gave her a piano for her birthday in 1969. She started "picking out tunes" and within 10 years did the same on organ and even accordion. Song writing, which Brast calls "poems you can sing," was a natural outgrowth, especially since the words just come to her during devotionals. Brast hasn't published any of her gospel music, partly because she doesn't know how to write music, but also because she considers it her form of worship and has chosen to only share it with her church.

Brast is a lifelong resident of

Wharton County whose "Lookin' Back" columns appeared in the *Wharton Journal-Spectator* during the 1980s. These columns recounted childhood stories of some of Wharton's elderly residents, thereby making Brast a storehouse of historical information.

Today, Brast and her husband of 35 years share their home with Cinnamon and a mixed dachshund-chihuahua called Sugar. They have two grown sons.



Wharton County Junior College Mail Room Clerk Monty Mae Brast keeps the college's mail moving and spends her spare time writing, painting and playing the organ. Brast recently was honored by the International Society of Poets for the poem "Stairs" which she authored. WCJC Photo

Rice CISD principals report progress, concerns

By Heidi Beasley

Board President Joe Lee Perez called the regular scheduled Board meeting of the Rice CISD to order at 7:35 p.m., Monday, Aug. 12 at the Administration Building in Alair.

Visitors in attendance were Heidi Beasley, Steve Perry and Dr. Lee Myer.

The first item of business was review and approval of previous minutes from the July 15 meeting.

Members then reviewed the Revenue and Expense Report presented by Bill Hefner. They voted to accept the report.

The Board heard reports from the various campus administrators.

Ms. Sue Weller handed out a report to the Board of the activities going on at the Eagle Lake Primary School. She informed the Board that the repairs on her campus were complete, but, she's concerned about enough parking. Thursday, Aug. 15, at 6:30 p.m. ELPS held a "Meet the Teacher" night, where parents and students could meet their new teachers before school started.

Raymond Beall informed the Board they have been busy moving computer labs and getting faculty oriented. He also applied to the Board of the \$21,844 Eagle Lake Middle School received from LCRA to replace the playground equipment.

Eric Grogan told the Board that the building and grounds at the Garwood campus look excellent and they're ready for the first day off school. He thanked office staff and teachers for all their hard work in preparing for the first day. He also reported the air conditioning had been fixed in the

new wing.

Don Wild of the Sheridan School informed the Board he was looking forward to school starting. He thanked his teachers for their excellent commitment to the students. He has hired a part time worker for the office and a history teacher.

Michael Lanier reported the students at Rice High School were beginning to arrive for extra curricular activities. He said Rice High performed well on their test scores last year and he anticipates it will be even better this year. The new WinSchool program allowed them to schedule 85% of the students with no difficulty. He told the Board that the greenhouse was looking good and coming right along.

Dr. Cynthia Saha discussed the number of students at the Colorado County Juvenile Facility. She said they currently have 92 students, 46 in TYC. She also announced the dates her staff will be going through "Handle with Care" and CPR training.

Board members were presented the Academic Report by Dr. Richard Gott. The report goes into detail about the district's TAAS scores and how each campus performed. He also explained how the schools' ratings were determined.

In new business, the Board heard a presentation by Steve Perry, a financial planner with William R. Hough & Co. The proposal was geared toward saving district funds through the selling of bonds. The Board approved a contract allowing the firm to start researching ways to save money.

The Board approved the Localized Policy Manual Update 65; Garwood's Student Handbook was reviewed.

Lanier presented the Board with the District Teacher Appraisal Schedule. It was approved unanimously.

Hefner discussed the new tax rate with the Board. No action was taken. Neither was there any action taken on

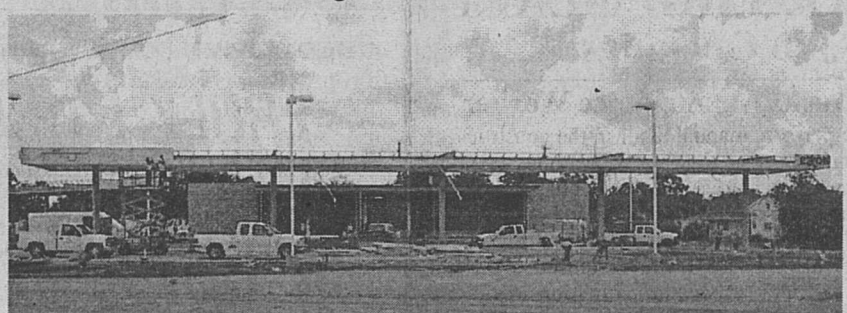
the 2002-03 budget. He informed the Board that a new account needed to be opened for the TRS Active Care Insurance which the Board approved.

Hefner also presented the Interlocal Agreement to the Board. The Salary and Benefits Committee recommendations were approved as presented by the Board.

The Board approved the resignation of Brandon Mathis.

Approved to the substitute teacher list were Sherri Allum, Jennifer Barrow, David Bennett, Rose Marie Chavira, David Fennen, Gloria Foster, Kasandra Gordon, Karen Hargrove, Brandee Krpec, Monica Pagel, Karen Tristan and Monica Gonzales.

The next scheduled board meeting will be Monday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.



New construction moving along
Construction on the new business to be located at the intersection of E. Main and the 90-A Bypass is moving right along despite the occasional rain. According to company officials, Buc-ee's is shooting for an opening sometime next month.

U.S. Flag code change

In Jan., Title 36 of United States Code was amended through House Resolution 71 to designate Sept. 11 as Patriot Day.

The amended area indicates:
(a) Sept. 11 as Patriot Day.
(b) The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation.

(c) All departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. and interested organizations and individuals to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001.

(d) The people of the United States to observe a moment of silence on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks.

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Len Matula, Commander

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Upcoming Raider Action!



Date	Team, Place, Time
Thurs., Aug. 22Raider football vs. Gonzales (scrimmage), Here, 7:30
Thurs.-Sat.,	Lady Raider V at Columbus Tournament
Aug. 22-24Lady Raider F & JV at Calhoun Tournament
Tues., Aug. 27Lady Raiders F, JV, V at Boling/Tidehaven, 4:30
Friday, Aug. 30Lady Raiders F, JV, V at Hallettsville, 4:30
.....Raider football at East Bernard, 7:30

CHAMBER MINUTES

By Chamber Secretary Lana Dulany
The regular business meeting of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce was held Monday, Aug. 19 from Sportsman's Restaurant.

Directors present were President Mary Ann Kaluza, Vice-president Denis Hentzell, Treasurer Denise Janow; Beverly Duddleston, Margie Schuenemann, Candy McCreary and Jane Lu Meldahl. Others present were Pageant Chairperson Kara Supak, Joe Herbert McCreary and Larry Dulany. Missed were Tom Kelley, Gary Tise, Bryan Wiese, Pat Matula and Doreen Dispart.

Kaluza called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes from the July 15, 2002 Chamber Board meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.

The treasurer's report through Aug. 19, 2002 was reviewed and approved.

Kaluza welcomed all present, thanked and congratulated Candy McCreary for a job well done on the 4th of July Celebration.

Supak gave an update to the Board on the Aug. 24 Eagle Lake Pageant. She named and presented photos of the contestants, schedule of pageant events, gave a financial report, status of needed repairs to the Chamber's parade float, and discussed scholarship possibilities.

Kaluza opened discussion of upcoming Chamber fund raisers, that include the Oct. 9 "Chili Cook-off" and Nov. 10th "Salute to Veterans". Much discussion followed.

A planning meeting will be held at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center Thursday, Aug. 22, at 5 p.m. for the Chili Cook-off. Kaluza asked that all directors please attend along with anyone interested in helping with the event.

The Grande Goose Contest was discussed briefly. Kaluza then presented improvement ideas for the "Spirit of Christmas" parade including themes and day long activities.

Kaluza then called for reports from committee members present.

Kaluza reminded everyone the Chamber of Commerce 2003 Annual Banquet will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Community Center.

Discussion followed on Buc-ee's construction and recent cosmetic improvements to some local properties.

The next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held at noon, Monday, Sept. 16, at Sportsman's Restaurant.

With there being no further business, Kaluza adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Free VIN etching held

The Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force, along with the Colorado County Sheriff's Department (CCSD) and Columbus Police Department conducted a free Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching.

The VIN was etched into all the major windows of the vehicle as a deterrent for auto thieves. The result of this should help with lowering insurance rates 5-15%.

The event was an overwhelming success, with 113 vehicles etched in just four hours of operation.

Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied would like to thank Wal-Mart for the use of their parking lot and their kind donation of water for the workers. With the amount of vehicles and the numerous questions of "when will you do this again?", the service will be provided again as soon as possible.

Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T) registration is still available year-round at the CCSD. This enables any law enforcement officer to stop your vehicle and identify all occupants (during high auto theft times) to make sure the person in the vehicle belongs in the vehicle. It can also enable you to have your vehicle stopped along the

Mexico/U.S. border, also for identification of the occupants.

There is no cost for HEAT.

For more information contact Sheriff Wied or Detective Cody Toppel of the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force at 979-732-2388.

Once again, thanks for giving us the chance to help you!

Columbus Livestock Co., Inc.

1064 Reese Lane
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Todd L. Keaton, owner

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Home: 979-865-2584
Mobile: 979-885-8647

We will be on the air at KULM, Columbus, Wednesdays from 6:30 to 6:45 a.m. and Thursdays, live at ring side, from 2:00 to 2:15 p.m.

If we can help you with marketing your livestock, please call Todd Keaton at 979-865-2584. If you need a truck, trailer or men to work cattle, we're as near as the phone. Out of town, call collect; your calls are welcome. Try us on your next shipment. At your service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we appreciate your business.

Columbus Livestock is located at 1064 Reese Lane, Columbus (off I-10 west, Exit 698, right on Reese Lane). Stop in at the "Auction Barn Cafe". Receiving cattle on Wednesday; receiving pens remain the same. Same competitive service... Same unbeatable service... New "state-of-the-art" facilities to serve you, the seller. We appreciate your business!

August 15, 2002 Market Report

Animals on hand: cattle, 2294; three horses. Sellers: 288.

Packer cows: higher dressing utility & cutter cows, 35-40 per lbs.; lower dressing utility & cutter cows, 30-34 per lb.

thin cows, 25-29.

Packer bulls: heavyweight bulls 49-53; utility cutter bulls, 44-48¢. Head tested: 208.

Stocker/Feeder-Calves/Yearlings

Steers #1: 200-300 lbs., \$1.25-1.35; 300-400 lbs., \$1.05-1.15; 400-500 lbs., 90¢-1.03; 500-600 lbs., 80-87¢; 600-700 lbs., 73-78¢; 700-800 lbs., 68-72¢.

Steers #2: 200-300 lbs., \$1.10-1.20; 300-400 lbs., 90-99¢; 400-500 lbs., 80-88¢; 500-600 lbs., 72-79¢; 600-700 lbs., 68-72¢; 700-800 lbs., 60-67¢.

Heifers #1: 200-300 lbs., \$1.10-1.20; 300-400 lbs., 90¢-1.03; 400-500 lbs., 80-89¢; 500-600 lbs., 72-78¢; 600-700 lbs., 68-71¢; 700-800 lbs., 63-68¢.

Heifers #2: 200-300 lbs., 95¢-1.05; 300-400 lbs., 82-89¢; 400-500 lbs., 72-77¢; 500-600 lbs., 68-71¢; 600-700 lbs., 62-67¢; 700-800 lbs., 57-62¢.

Good stocker cow/calf pairs, \$675-775 by the head; medium cow/calf pairs, \$625-670; common cow/calf pairs, \$575-620; good stocker cows & heifers, \$550-650; medium stocker cows & heifers, \$500-545.

Lordy, Lordy
Look Who's 40!
Aug. 22, 2002
From Your Wife & Kids



On June 6, 1994 (the 50th anniversary of D-Day) the Pentagon received a record 1,502,415 phone calls.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Deadline
5 p.m.
Monday

1 LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed bids in duplicate will be received by Colorado County, Texas, for furnishing all plant, labor, material, and equipment, and for performing all work required for construction of:

OFFICE OF RURAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
CONTRACT NO. 721141, PHASE I
WATER WELL, WATER PLANT, AND WATER LINE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
FOR THE COMMUNITY OF ALLEYTON COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS

Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 5, 2002 at the office of County Judge Al Jamison, Colorado County Courthouse, 400 Spring, Columbus, Texas 78934. Bids may be mailed to the office of County Judge Al Jamison, Post Office Box 236, Columbus, Texas 78934. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at Judge Jamison's office at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 5, 2002.

Major items of work include:

- (1) Water Well and Water Plant
 - (2) Water Distribution System - 10" and 6" Water Lines
 - (3) Service Connections
- Bid/Contract Documents, including drawings and technical specifications are on file at the office of the Project Engineer, Kelly R. Kaluza & Associates, Inc., 101 Southwestern Boulevard, Suite No. 202, Sugar Land, Texas 77478.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$50.00 with the Project Engineer, Kelly R. Kaluza & Associates, Inc., for each set of documents obtained. The deposit is non-refundable.

A pre-bid conference for bidders will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 28, 2002, at Judge Jamison's office at the Colorado County Courthouse, 400 Spring, Columbus, Texas 78934. It is recommended that all bidders attend the pre-bid conference; however, attendance is not mandatory.

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid, issued by an acceptable surety, shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to Colorado County

1 LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICES

or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The successful bidder must furnish acceptable Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract price.

Bidder will use lump sum or unit pricing as per specifications. Payment will be made not later than 30 days after application for payment and proper processing by Commissioners' Court.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Office of Rural Community Affairs and contained in the contract documents must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Colorado County reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. The award will be made to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest acceptable bid.

Bids may be held by Colorado County for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders qualifications prior to the contract award.

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS
The City of Eagle Lake will receive bids for 2002 TCDF Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement, TCDF Project No. 722879, OE Job. No. 22-35-SC/SD until 2:00 P.M. on September 17, 2002 at the City of Eagle Lake, P.O. Box 38 (100 E. Main), Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0038. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the same time and location.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

Remove and dispose of existing sanitary sewer and furnish and install 6" ASTM D-3034 SDR 26 PVC gravity sanitary sewer line, 4' diameter concrete manholes, extra depth for manholes, 6" & 8" teins to existing manholes, 6"x4" service wyes, 8"x4" service wyes, remove and dispose of existing service line and furnish and install 4"

(Continued on Page 7)