

Newsbriefs

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at 979-234-5148; Monica Staff, 979-758-3789; or Diane Spanihel at 234-3941. You will be called when your order is ready to be picked up at the Nada Community Center. Strudels are \$15 baked; \$10 unbaked; pies are \$8 unbaked only.

Harvest Ball tickets now on sale

On sale now... tickets for the Rice Medical Center Employee Volunteers' 7th Annual Harvest Ball! This year's Ball will honor Ms. Barbara Pidgeon for her vision, leadership and commitment to the health and well being of our community. The ball will be held Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The \$50 per couple ticket provides a complete evening of entertainment starting with a social hour at 6 p.m., dinner, salute to Ms. Pidgeon, and dancing to follow. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening. For more information or to purchase a ticket, call Bonnie Jones or Vicky Jo Pavlu at 979-234-5571.

RHS Classes to hold combined reunion

The Rice High School (RHS) Classes of 1991, 1992 and 1993 will hold a combined reunion at the Treehouse in Eagle Lake Saturday, Oct. 12, starting at 5 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish and/or snacks. Former members of the RHS classes of 1991-93 who want more information or have suggestions, should call Vicki (Drlik) Nelson at 281-579-7334.

RMC fundraiser is underway

The Rice Medical Center Auxiliary (better known as the Pink Ladies) is selling tickets for a remote control truck. The truck has headlights, coil springs, low and high gears, and oversized tires. Tickets are \$1 each for 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held Monday, Dec. 9, just in time for Christmas. This remote controlled truck is ideal for boys (and girls and big boys also). Tickets are available in the gift shop at the hospital or call Barbara Pidgeon, 234-2897.

Holy Cross Parish Bazaar is Oct. 13

The Holy Cross Parish Bazaar will be held Sunday, Oct. 13, at Riverside Hall in East Bernard. Barbecue beef, chicken and sausage with all the trimmings will be served 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items as well as camel rides and games all afternoon. The Grand Auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by The Bobby Jones Orchestra (12-3 p.m.), Los Rayos de Luna (3:30-5:30) and Dujka Brothers at 5:30. The drawing for 90 prizes starts at 8. Mass will be held at Holy Cross Church at 7, 9 and 11 a.m. The public is invited.

Senior Friends casino trip is Oct. 10-11

Oct. 10-11 Senior Friends will take an overnight trip to Bossier City, Louisiana, to stay at Boomtown Casino (formerly Casino Magic) on the 10th and receive \$10 in coins. The next morning, you'll check out and head to the new Hollywood Casino and get \$5 in coins. Cost is \$88/person double occupancy; \$125/person single. For more information or reservations call 979-282-6808.

Child Care workshop is Oct. 19

Saturday, Oct. 19, a multi-county Child Care workshop will be conducted at the Blinn Student Center, Blinn College in Brenham. The conference is open to all interested child care providers and will offer a total of seven educational hours. Sessions will include information on a father's reading program, nutritional education in the classroom, and children's health and safety issues. Sessions will be conducted by Drs. Stephen Green and Jenna Anding and Jennifer Janssen, M.Ed. An afternoon session, conducted by Kari Surovik, will be on language arts and math and will include "hands-on" activities where participants will complete projects to take home for their classrooms. For registration information, call 979-732-2530.

Parish of Nativity Festival is Oct. 20

The Annual Festival of the Parish of Nativity, Roman Catholic Church of Victoria, will be held Sunday, Oct. 20, at 545 S. Austin Rd. in Eagle Lake (across from Rice Medical Center). A chicken fried steak dinner with all the trimmings will be served 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$6 a plate. Curb service will be available. Also scheduled is a country store, cake walk, ring toss, horseshoe pitching, dunking booth, food booths and much more! The auction will start at 1 p.m. A drawing for a \$1,000 gift certificate will also be held. Music will be provided by the Lazy Farmers, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Los Caprichosos 7-11 p.m.

Ouch! Our water bills are going up...

By Candy McCreary
Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake has been working with Johnson Control for a long time, trying to get new water meters installed. The Council has met with them frequently in the past months to get the best contract they can.

Councilman Eric Nethery praised the representatives from Johnson Control and added they might want to consider permanent resident status, with as much time as they have spent in Eagle Lake lately.

The first proposal didn't satisfy the Council so they went back to the drawing board. The second one still had some flaws, so the drawing board was used again. Finally, a proposal was drawn up that would benefit the City the most.

Now, I think a lot of councils would have just passed the first proposal, but not our new City Council. They are truly interested in what's the best for our city and us.

Johnson Control is going to install new water meters which can be read remotely. They'll just pass by your house and get a reading!

What does that mean for Eagle Lake?

It means no more dog bites for the meter readers for one thing. I know they're happy about that one. It will also free up City workers for other projects since this type of reading won't take near the amount of man-hours.

What does it mean for you? Probably higher water bills. Now, keep reading before you hit the ceiling about your new water bill. The City DID NOT raise the rate on water. In fact, we've been getting a great deal these past years because the old meters didn't charge us for all of our water usage - only like 67%. With the new system in place, we'll be charged full usage.

If you have a leaky faucet or a running toilet, get it fixed! Even a slow drip can increase your water bill significantly each month.

Council approved the sale of surplus equipment.

Council discussed an animal ordinance. They realize stray animals are a problem, but what is the solution? Mayor René Cooper-Scott said she hates to put a limit on the number of animals a person can have as long as the animals are secure, not running loose, or a threat to the neighbors.

City Manager Ron Holland said he has had complaints about the chaining of pit bulls in yards.

Nethery commented that he didn't feel comfortable telling people how many animals they could or couldn't have on their property as long as the animals were confined.

Holland said cat owners would have to be ticketed, as we do not yet have a facility for cats.

Councilman Tim Kelley said the whole discussion was a waste of time if they couldn't limit the number of animals or do anything about it.

City Secretary Sylvia Rucka said people complained when other people walk their dogs, but still let them "do their business" on other people's yard. You can imagine your own reaction if you don't own an animal but still step in "their business" as you're walking through your yard.

To all the people who walk their dogs - get a super dooper pooper-scooper and clean up after your animals as you walk them! YOU ARE MAKING YOUR NEIGHBORS ANGRY!

Discussion was tabled until more information can be obtained. That really means until Council members can

find out more of what you - the citizens - want to do about this problem.

So, instead of complaining, call them up and tell them a solution!

Main Street - to be or not to be for 2003!

The Main Street Program expires in Dec of this year. Can we afford to keep it or can we afford to lose it? This is another big issue facing Council.

People came out in support for the continuation of Main Street. Leslie Carey reminded Council of how many volunteer hours have been given by Main Street supporters. She had signatures of 138 people who wanted to see Main Street continued. She said people must be organized to be effective and that makes it perfect for a paid director who will have the time to organize and plan.

John Gertson spoke in defense of Main Street by citing things Main Street has accomplished including over 2,576 volunteer hours and \$16,000 invested back into the community. He said past and present are easy to see - future is what needs to be planned.

Main Street is asking for approximately \$18,000 to continue for 2003. (See Council, Page 7)

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German

famous as the director of the Dutch colony who bought Manhattan from native Americans in 1626.

The first groups of Germans in America came in search of religious freedom. By the 1800s, they came primarily for economic reasons. As the motivation changed, so did who came and where they came from. The first immigrants were small farmers who came from Southwest Germany. They were followed by craftsmen and cottage industry workers from the west and northwest. Farm hands and day laborers from the northeast made up the final group. Eventually all regions of Germany were represented in the U.S.

By 1800, around 9% of the United States' total population had ties to Germany. Mass immigration started after 1815 and reached a high during the 1880s when more than 1.5 million Germans arrived. The peak year was 1882, when a record 250,600 Germans immigrated. At the turn of the century, German immigration began to slow. Since the 1970s only about 150,000 Germans have come to the U.S. Over the centuries, around 8 million Germans have come to what is now the U.S.

The very first printed copy of the official Declaration of Independence was in German, not English. It ap-

peared in the Philadelphia newspaper *Pennsylvania Staatsbote*.

During the American Revolutionary War, Benjamin Franklin recruited Friedrich Wilhelm Von Steuben, a former Prussian officer, to train American troops. Von Steuben's organization of the Continental Army was critical to its success.

When Patrick Henry with his stirring words: "Give me liberty or give me death!" raised the battle cry, among the most enthusiastic patriots were the Germans. On June 14, 1775, Congress ordered the province of Pennsylvania to furnish six companies of sharpshooters. Instead, Pennsylvania provided nine, four of which were entirely German and were commanded by German officers.

The fact that Washington's body guard was made up exclusively of Germans from Berks and Lancaster Counties, PA, furnishes the best proof of their entire trustworthiness and reliability. One hundred and fifty strong, they were commanded by Major Bartholomaeus Von Heer, a former Prussian officer. Jacob Meythinger served as colonel, and Philipp Struebing and Johann Nuter as lieutenants. The body-guard accompanied Washington throughout all the seven years of the war, guarding him faith-

fully.

A failed German democratic revolution in 1848 forced many well-educated, politically-active Germans to flee to the U.S. This group became very involved in the American anti-slavery movement. It is said that German Americans were instrumental in the election of Abraham Lincoln (who owned and operated a German-language newspaper). Carl Schurz, a leading forty-eighter, was Lincoln's first ambassador to Spain, a brigadier general during the civil war, a senator and finally, the secretary of the interior under President Rutherford B. Hayes.

A German-American political cartoonist, Thomas Nast, created the Uncle Sam, as well as the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. Nast, who came to the U.S. in 1846, is also responsible for the modern version of that beloved, non-partisan figure, Santa Claus.

Prohibition and the anti-alcohol amendments in the U.S. were caused at least in part by Yankee Puritanism's prejudice against the German immigrants' fondness for beer. Particularly scandalous was the German-American habit of using Sunday to socialize in beer gardens (likely a hardworking German American's only day off).

Herbert Hoover, elected in 1928, was the first American president with German ancestry (his family's name was originally Huber). President Eisenhower, another German American could trace his ancestors back to Hans. N.

Some of the cultural icons most closely associated with the U.S. were produced by German Americans. The first pair of blue jeans were made in 1850 by Levi Strauss, who came from Bavaria at the age of 14. The hamburger was introduced in 1904 by German Americans living in St. Louis. And what would a hamburger be without ketchup, the 1892 creation of German American Henry Heinz. To wash it all down, of course, you need a Budweiser beer. Budweiser comes from the largest brewing company in the world. Anheuser-Busch, founded by Adolphus Busch and Eberhard Aheuser.

The first hymnal printed in America was in German. Conrad Beissel produced it in 1739. The first bible printed in America was also in German, made in 1743 by Christopher Saur.

Margrethe Meyer Schurz, wife of forty-eighter, Carl Schurz, established the first successful kindergarten in 1856 in Waertown, Wisconsin.

In 1896, Arthur Simon Ochs, son of German immigrants, became the New York "Times" publisher. To this day, the paper is published by his descendants.

Following the rise of Hitler and the National Socialists in 1933, a new wave of Germans came to the U.S. They included influential architects Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who changed the skylines of Chicago and New York, author Thomas Mann and physicist Albert Einstein.

German American scientists made the walk on the moon possible. Wernher von Braun, who came to the U.S. after World War II, developed the Saturn V rocket that carried Apollo 11 astronauts to their destination.

The following is a partial list of other famous Germans:

Henry Lomb and John Jacob Bausch - Bausch-Lomb Inc., one of the oldest, continuously operating companies- optical; Walter Percy Chrysler-Chrysler Corp.; George Armstrong Custer; John Davison Rockefeller-Stand Oil Trust; Edward Vernon Rickenbacker-WWI Pilot; George Herman "Babe" Ruth-professional baseball player; John Ernest Steinbeck-writer; Henry Engelhard Steinway of Steinway & Sons-First Steinway Grand-presented to White House in 1903-Theodore Roosevelt, 12-10-38, presented Golden Grand to Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Chester W. Nimitz-Fredericksburg, TX-WWI-WWII-Commander and Chief of Pacific Fleet; John Joseph Pershing-American General in Europe WWI; Elvis Presley; Lawrence Welk-born to Germans from Russian immigrants; Lou Gehrig; Clark Gable; Milton Hershey-Hershey Chocolate Co.; and Henry Kissinger.

And the list goes on...

Celebrate

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Scheduled tours of the Sanford Schmid Stage of the TCHCC amphitheater and of the completely restored early Texas Czech farmhouse, the Kalich House, which serves as the TCHCC office, museum, gift center, and library will be scheduled throughout the day.

Proceeds will benefit the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center Inc., a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and cultural organization.

For more information, please contact the TCHCC office toll-free, 1-888-785-4500, or check out their website at www.czechtxas.org.

Join Us in Supporting The Post Oak Groundwater Conservation District For Colorado County

We are your fellow citizens, taxpayers, and property owners; and we honestly believe that forming a groundwater conservation district, under the control of a locally elected board, is the best way to protect and preserve our groundwater for now and for the future.

Franklin Addicks
Rita Addicks
Arthur Anderson
Mark Anderson
Nobel Anderson
Diane Antosh
Eugene J. Antosh
Jesse Armstrong
Herbert Aschenbeck
Lillie Mae Aschenbeck
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Rick Herring
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Dennis Herzik
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Marvin Hrcek
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Bryan Jacobs
Carlenna Jacobs
Al Jamison
Riana Jamison
Jack Johnson
Kervy Kahlden
David Kahlich
Aileen Kasper
Jim Kearney
William Kell
Charles Kinney
Marilyn Kinney
Calvin Klein
Shirley Klein
David Kocian
Kenneth Koehl
Lester Koehn
Beverly Krenek
J. P. Krenek
Laddie L. Krenek
Delbert Kulhanek
Laura Kulhanek
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James Rees
Mike Riha
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Sally Rogers
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