

## Crime Stoppers needs your help

The Colorado County Crime Stoppers is looking for your help in solving the following cases.

Tuesday, July 23, two white males, occupying a light brown, tan or white truck with a metal boom, stole a double-axle 16-foot pipe made flat bed trailer from Trash and Treasures, 1212 Walnut St. in Columbus. The suspect(s) left west bound on Walnut St. and turned southbound onto FM 806.

Also, sometime between the hours of 6 p.m., Nov. 18, and 7 a.m. Nov. 19 (See Crime Stoppers, Page 5)

## Merry Christmas!

See local children's Letters to Santa Pages 7 through 13

# Eagle Lake Headlight

Dec. 19, 2002

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Closings for Christmas, New Year's holiday

The City of Eagle Lake offices will close at noon Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Wednesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas. The City asks everyone on the Tuesday trash route to put their trash out early. They will use two trucks to complete the Tuesday route by noon to allow the crew a half-day off Christmas Eve. Wednesday's and Thursday's routes will be collected Thursday, Dec. 26.

Also closing for the Christmas holiday will be the First National Bank. It will close at noon, Tuesday, Dec. 24, and be closed Dec. 25.

City offices will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's. There will be no trash collection Wednesday. Wednesday's and Thursday's route will be collected Thursday, Jan. 2.

### Reminder to sewer customers

In order to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year, the City of Eagle Lake will be considering water consumptions of each customer from Dec. 16 through March 15. Customers are encouraged to fix any water leaks as soon as possible in an effort to keep consumptions to a minimum during this time. Each residential sewer rate is based on the actual water consumed at that particular location. If you have any questions, please call City Hall, 234-2640.

### Return migrant surveys to ELMS

This is a reminder to parents to return the migrant surveys to Eagle Lake Middle School. They want to ensure students are properly identified and served. Thanks to the parents who have already responded.

### 2nd Annual Nativity Gala is New Year's Eve

The Second Annual Nativity Gala for New Year's Eve will be held Dec. 31, at Didner Hall from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. A \$25 ticket will admit someone to all the festivities that include an open bar, a full banquet meal, music, dancing, a silent auction and a money drawing. Nativity Gala tickets and nativity scene drawing tickets may be purchased at the Parish Office, 545 S. Austin Rd., 979-234-2842; Marcy's Beauty Salon; S&W Parts; and Tresse's Hair Salon.

Segunda Celebración Anual del Nacimiento del Año Nuevo, 31 de Diciembre, 2002, Salon Didner, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Un boleto de \$25 por persona será para todas las festividades que incluyen refrescos en la barra, un banquete, música, baile, subasta en silencio, y rifa de dinero. Boleto para la celebración y para la rifa de un nacimiento, pueden ser comprados en la Oficina Parroquial, (545 S. Austin Rd., 979-234-2842), Marcy's Beauty Salon, S&W Parts y Tresse's Hair Salon.

### Help the library decorate its Christmas tree

The Eula and David Wintermann Library would like to start a new program this holiday season. They would like to ask your help in decorating their Christmas tree in the library. If you would like to come in and make a donation in memory or in honor of someone, an angel will be placed on the tree with their name attached as well as you the donor. Then, following the holiday season when the tree is taken down, you may come in and pick up your angel for your tree next year. The cost for this project to you is any amount you would like to donate but the minimum is \$2.

### Special activities, worship services at FBC

Special activities and worship services scheduled for Eagle Lake's First Baptist Church (FBC) include: Dec. 22: Christmas Candlelight Service, 6 p.m.; and every Sunday, Bible study for all ages (four classes for children, one class for teens, seven classes for adults); 9:45 a.m. and worship at 10:50 a.m. For more information, contact the church office at 234-2571.

### WCJC spring registration schedule

You may now register for Spring 2003 classes by appointment through Jan. 2. Call the Wharton Campus, El Campo, Bay City, 979-532-6303; Fort Bend Technical Center and Richmond Campus, 281-239-1544; Sugar Land Campus, 281-243-8410. Dates by location are: Wharton Campus, Jan. 6; Fort Bend Technical Center at Richmond, Jan. 7-8; Sugar Land Campus, Jan. 7-8; Bay City, Jan. 9; Palacios. Registration will be done by phone and fax. Both Richmond Campus and Fort Bend Technical Center registration will be held at the Fort Bend Technical Center in Richmond. Spring classes begin Jan. 13.

### FPC candlelight service is Dec. 24

The First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Eagle Lake, 106 E. State Street, will hold its Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

### 'Then Came Jesus!' is Dec. 22

Little David Ministries presents... "Then Came Jesus!" Please join them for a live performance of a Christmas play Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Center. Refreshments will be served.

### 20th CDA drama is Dec. 21

The 20th Century District Association (CDA) of Texas Ministers and Deacon Wives invites you to a drama, "The Bride Groom Cometh", to be held at Friendship Baptist Church in Eagle Lake Saturday evening, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Mrs. H.O. Williams, chairperson; Mrs. Robbie Rhodes, president.

### UMC Christmas Eve Service scheduled

The Eagle Lake United Methodist Church (UMC) will hold its Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service "Welcome Home for Christmas" Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at UMC, 200 W. Prairie. The public is invited to attend. (See Newsbriefs, Page 5)

## All-District football, volleyball named

By Nick Sharp  
Raider Review Staff

Each year at the conclusion of the football season, the district coaches get together to make their All-District selections.

The 2002 District Champion Rice Raiders hosted this year's meeting. The Raiders were well represented, garnering both Offensive and Defensive MVPs, as well as numerous other spots.

In all, the Raiders placed five players on the First Team Offense and First Team Defense. They also placed six players on the Second Team Offense and Second Team Defense.

Also, the Raiders had four additional players named to the honorable mention squad. The All-District selections for the 8-4 Raiders are:

**Offensive MVP:** Michael Spears, 5'8", 165 lbs., junior running back.

**First Team Offense**  
**Running Back:** Charles Huffman, 5'8", 175 lbs., sophomore.

**Offensive Line:** Kevin Shimek, 6'0", 295 lbs., junior; Jess Little, 5'11", 210 lbs., junior.

**Receiver:** Michael Cooper, 6'0", 180 lbs., senior.

**Second Team Offense**  
**Quarterback:** Patrick Milentz, 5'11", 170 lbs., senior.

**Running Back:** Jermaine Williams, 5'9", 155 lbs., junior.

**Offensive Line:** Dustin Krenek, 6'1", 240 lbs., junior; Chad Mahalitic, 6'0", 190 lbs., junior.

**Tight End:** Nick Sharp, 6'0", 180

lbs., senior.  
**Receiver:** Steven Moore, 5'9", 150 lbs., junior.

**Honorable Mention Offense**  
**Offensive Line:** James Ochoa, 6'0", 235 lbs., junior.

**Receiver:** Ricky Cunningham, 5'7", 140 lbs., senior.

**Defensive MVP:** Tyreance Dabney, 5'9", 225 lbs., senior, defensive line.

**First Team Defense**  
**Defensive Line:** Robert Shaw, 6'1", 200 lbs., sophomore; James Johnson, 6'0", 175 lbs., junior.

**Inside Linebacker:** Joe Cooper, 5'9", 190 lbs., sophomore.

**Defensive Back:** Jason Godley, 5'11", 180 lbs., senior.

**Second Team Defense**  
**Defensive Line:** Donovan King, 6'0", 200 lbs., sophomore.

**Inside Linebacker:** Zack Kloss, 5'10", 170 lbs., junior.

**Outside Linebacker:** Branden Jenkins, 5'10", 175 lbs., junior; Anthony Palmer, 5'9", 160 lbs., junior;

**Defensive Back:** Derland Sanford, 5'10", 160 lbs., junior.

**Punter:** Patrick Milentz, 5'11", 170 lbs., senior.

**Honorable Mention Defense**  
**Defensive Line:** Jasmine Smith, 5'9", 205 lbs., junior.

**Inside Linebacker:** Rusty Moore, 5'11", 165 lbs., junior.

**District 28-3A Coach of the Year:** Russell Roark.

The District 28-3A volleyball coaches met at the conclusion of their season to select the All-District squad.

The Lady Raiders were well represented on the honor squad.

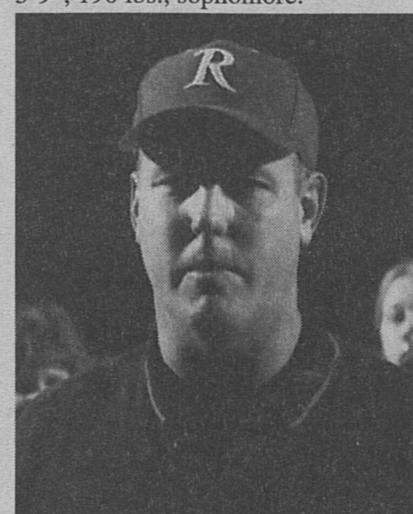
This year's All-District winners were:

**First Team:** Lauren Spanihel.

**Second Team:** Amanda Burrow, Vanessa Villafuerte.

**Honorable Mention:** Danielle Spanihel, Kaylyn Boenisch.

**Academic:** Lauren Spanihel, Amanda Burrow, Vanessa Villafuerte, Danielle Spanihel, Kaylyn Boenisch, Mandy Staff and Heidi Hammermiller.



District 28-3A Coach of the Year  
Russell Roark.

## DPS ready for holidays

The holiday season traditionally is a time of giving, get-togethers with family and friends and for parties. The holidays are also a time of increased travel and alcohol consumption. To combat this dangerous mix, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be patrolling highways, enforcing traffic laws with the aim of reducing the number of fatalities associated with holiday periods.

"An injury of fatality wreck is devastating to a family, especially more so during the Christmas and New Year's holidays," said Trooper Gary Pflughaupt of the DPS. "Our troopers will be out in full force looking for drunk drivers, speeders and seat belt violators."

In order to make the roadways safer, DPS troopers will be conducting **Operation Holiday**.

**Operation Holiday-Christmas** begins 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24, and ends midnight Sunday, Dec. 29.

**Operation Holiday-New Year's** starts 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, and ends midnight the same date.

**Operation Holiday** allows troopers from the license and weight, vehicle inspection, safety education services and the driver license division to assist the Highway Patrol Service with patrolling the highways.

Prior thought and planning can alleviate travel stress and avoid alcohol problems. The DPS offers Texas motorists the following tips:

Drinking and driving don't mix. Never drive after consuming alcohol. Plan for a designated driver or call for a cab.

Slow down. Driving over the speed limit was the cause of 562 traffic deaths in 1999 alone. Inclement weather provides enough of a driving challenge without adding speed to the mix.

Increase your awareness. Driving

on icy or wet roadways requires even greater caution. Navigate bridges and overpasses with care—they're the first areas to freeze when the temperature drops. Most people forget that ice can be difficult to see.

Always wear your seatbelt. Also, ensure everyone in the vehicle is buckled.

Plan your trip carefully, even if it's to go to the store. Be sure to allow enough time to make the trip safely. Be prepared for delays.

## Sommerlatte recognized by ELRC

Lonnie Sommerlatte has been a member of the Eagle Lake Recreation Center (ELRC) Board of Directors for many years and served as president for the past 6 years.

The ELRC Board has been extremely active under his leadership and had many accomplishments of great benefit to the operation and improvement of the Eagle Lake Golf Course.

Sommerlatte not only contributed as president of the board but also donated countless hours to various projects to enhance the golf course and encourage its continued growth.

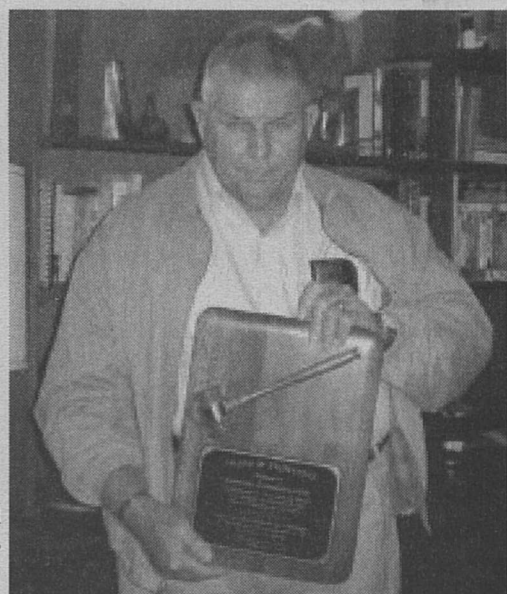
In addition to the plaque, Lonnie received a lifetime ELRC membership, recognizing his service and support.

Russell Spalinger, the current board president said, "I hope the board will continue on the path established by Lonnie. Through his diligent efforts and genuine concern, he is greatly responsible for the successful state the golf course enjoys today. His actions and leadership have helped develop the Eagle Lake Golf Course into one of the nicest and most popular municipal courses in the area."

"The golf course is a wonderful asset to the community and everyone who enjoys it at any level owes a great deal of gratitude to Lonnie. The plaque is a small but meaningful way we can acknowledge his devotion and our appreciation for all that he has done," Spalinger added.

The ELRC handles the maintenance and daily operation of the golf course. It is an amenity which includes a nine-hole golf course, clubhouse, tennis courts, park area and equipment.

Lonnie displays the Award of Excellence plaque he received recently. Photo Courtesy of Barbara Pidgeon



## New lights unveiled

Things are getting brighter down Main Street! Friends of Main Street unveiled the new downtown lights Saturday, Dec. 7, during the parade.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this lighting project possible. Special thanks to Jim and Jean Wiese and Bart Henry.

Thanks also to First National Bank, Wiese Crop Insurance and WINCO for

donating the electricity to light up our City.

Additionally, Friends of Main St. deeply appreciates the donations from Dan Canaris, the Masonic Lodge, Ernie Rodgers, First National Bank, Wallis State Bank and Ray Viktorin.

For more information, please call the Main Street office at 979-234-6933 or e-mail lesliel@flash.net.

## Thomson celebrates 100 years Dec. 15

Mrs. Hazel Parnell Thomson, mother of Sam Thomson of Eagle Lake, celebrated her 100th birthday Dec. 15. She has resided in Eagle Lake since 1987.

She was born in the small north central Texas coal-mining town of Thurber in 1902. Her parents were Arthur and Florence Parnell. The family moved to Fort Worth in 1905 when the coal ran out.

Mrs. Thomson attended school in Fort Worth at St. Ignatius Academy and graduated from Fort Worth Central High School. She completed secretarial

school at National Business College, also in Fort Worth. Her first job was with the *Fort Worth Press* newspaper. Subsequently, she moved to Sweetwater to live with her aunt and, while there, was employed by the Sweetwater Cotton Oil Mill.

She married John T. Thomson in 1928 and moved to a ranch near San Angelo where they lived for several years. The Thomsons had three sons, Carr Benton, Samuel Parnell and Philip DePoyster, all born in San Angelo.

In 1944, the family purchased the Pecan Hollow Ranch on Simms Creek in Lampasas County, which they operated for several years.

Toward the end of her working career, she and Mr. Thomson operated the *Lometa Reporter*, a weekly newspaper. They eventually moved into Lometa and retired. Mr. Thomson died in 1971. Mrs. Thomson lived independently in Lometa until 1987 when she moved to Eagle Lake.

She still lives mostly independently even though she's wheelchair-bound. She has been an inspiration to all who know her for warmth, her ability to find happiness in the "little things" in life, her agile mind and her love for her family and friends. She has 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.



## WEEKLY BIRD REPORT

The following migratory bird hunting report, prepared for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by Bink Grimes, was updated Dec. 18.

**COASTAL PRAIRIES:** Duck hunting continues to be a disappointment on inland rice ponds and leveed roosts.

Hunters have been happy to take half-limits, though most are averaging two birds per man (bpm).

More pintails arrived last week with the front and hunters took advantage

of the one-bird limit.

Goose hunting slowed over the weekend with windless, bluebird skies; however, recent southerly winds helped decoying action.

Snow geese are beginning to break from large concentrations and consume forbs from fallow and freshly plowed fields.

More Canada geese are showing in the dark goose aggregate limit.

Prospects are fair for ducks and fair to good for geese.



As we celebrate this holiday with our families and friends, our hearts are saddened by thoughts of those families who will be spending their Christmas without loved ones who perished during the tragedy of September 11th.

To each of them, and to all of you, we offer our prayers for comfort, understanding and peace among nations during this holy season. Our spirit endures, and theirs will never be forgotten.