



Christmas Cats on the Colorado



Come visit the Victorian Cat Parlor! to see Kittens Available for Adoption (and cats too) from the Cat Care Alliance.

Stop and look in the front window of The Bride's House, 1010 Milam St. in Columbus.

Kittens can be held until Christmas.

Come by Friday, Dec. 3 from 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the annual Christmas on the Colorado Celebration.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

WCJC SpeakOut! cancelled

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) has cancelled the event SpeakOut! which was to be held Thursday, Dec. 2 at the Wharton campus.

Registration schedule announced for Blinn College Sealy campus

Blinn College admission and advising staff members will be in Sealy on Dec. 8 and 15 and on Jan. 5 and 12 to assist students in registering for spring 2005 classes at The WorkSource, Suite 140, in the Sealy Outlet Mall from noon to 5 p.m. each day. To register, a first-time student must have a completed application, must have a high school or college transcript and must be advised. Students may also register by Internet through Dec. 5-8, Jan. 2-7, Jan. 9-13 and Jan. 16-20. Registration instructions and a schedule of courses are found at www.blinn.edu <http://www.blinn.edu>. Classes begin on all Blinn campuses on Jan. 18. For more information call 979-627-7997 or e-mail sealy@blinn.edu.

Senior Citizen's Dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizen's Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Dec. 3, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Daniel and the Country Boys will provide the music. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 979-234-3795.

WOW tree drawing to be held Dec. 4

The Wonderland of Wildlife ("WOW") Christmas tree on display at the First National Bank will be drawn for Saturday, Dec. 4. Purchase your chance to win the tree from The Golden Goose, Creative Expressions, First National Bank and Tee-Up Pro Shop. Get your tickets now!

Thrift Shop open Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is your last chance for Christmas decorations that will be marked 1/2 price.

CCRTA to meet Dec. 6

The Colorado County Retired Teachers Association (CCRTA) will meet Monday, Dec. 6 at noon at Schobels' Restaurant in Columbus. Guest speaker will be a representative from the Stillwell Retirement Residence in Waco. All retired school personnel are encouraged to attend.

Grief support group to meet Dec. 7

A grief support group will meet Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the First United Methodist Church, 1717 Pioneer in Wharton from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Pat Matthes, LMSW, Professional Education Liaison will facilitate the program, "Singing to a Heavy Heart?" The support group is open to anyone interested in learning more about the experience of grief and the grief process following the death of a loved one. If you have specific questions feel free to call Hospice Support Care at 979-578-0314.

Study Club Christmas program is Dec. 8

The Eagle Lake Study Club will host their Christmas program Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. at the home of Betty Lewis. The speaker for the program will be Rev. Lee Eivorit of Weimar Methodist Church. This should be a very special program. All are asked to attend and bring a friend.

Tourism development seminar is Dec. 8

The Nature Tourism Development Seminar will be held Wednesday, Dec. 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farris Hotel. Registration is \$45. Call 979-758-4103 to register.

4-H to host dinner for seniors

The Colorado County 4-H Council is inviting senior citizens in Colorado County, age 60 and older, and to whomever transports them to attend a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 11. The dinner will be held at the Colorado County Ag Building with serving to be from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 4-H Council members are asking for monetary donations, food donations and volunteer help. Anyone wishing to donate or help in any way can contact the Colorado County Extension Office at 979-732-2530.

Christmas parade is Dec. 11

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11. If you need information concerning the parade, or concession request form etc. call the Chamber at 979-234-2780.

WCBC musical set for Dec. 12

White Could Baptist Church (WCBC) 1493 Old Altair Road invites the public to come and help them lift up the name of Jesus in a Musical Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. For more information call 234-3800.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 8)



MIGRATORY BIRD REPORT



The following migratory bird hunting report was prepared for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by Bink Grimes. See updates at www.tpwd.state.tx.us

South Zone: The region continues to be the hot spot for duck hunters in Texas. Ducks remain steady on the rice prairies near Altair, Garwood, Eagle Lake, Lissie, Collegeport and Palacios. Most bags are being filled with teal, gadwalls, shovelers and wigeons. The prairie has more than enough water. Wharton County, specifically the town of El Campo, received over 16 inches of rain last weekend which hampered hunting efforts to say the least. Fields along FM 1300 are one solid sheet of water, which has scattered ducks and geese. Lightning over most of the rice prairie this past weekend made geese skittish. Snow goose hunting has been below average across the region. Standing water has made every field a potential roost pond. Goose hunters are hoping the upcoming full moon will bring new geese to the region. Redheads, pintails and wigeons are building on the shoalgrass shoreline of the middle and lower coasts. Good hunts have been posted near Port O'Connor and Rockport. Mad Island WMA near Bay City and Peach Point WMA near Freeport have enjoyed good hunting since the season opened. An influx of green-winged teal this weekend fattened bags. The Guadalupe Delta WMA near Port Lavaca remains closed due to flooding. Prospects are good.

Council accepts letter of resignation from Dulany

By Carol Cardenas

Mayor Michael Morales called the Eagle Lake City Council meeting for Tuesday, Nov. 23 to order at 7 p.m.

Morales led the group present in the pledge of allegiance and Chief W.E. Lattimore gave the invocation.

Mayor Morales then opened the floor for public comment. Jean Wiese president of the advisory board of Main Street Eagle Lake read a letter from the Texas Historical Commission that gave National Recognition of Eagle Lake as a 2005 Main Street City. Eagle Lake performed above average in 10 areas of program criteria. Wiese thanked Morales and City Manager Ron Holland and council for their help.

Eugene Ruiz then asked the council if he could speak for five minutes. He read from the Bible from II Chronicles, stating that there was hope for the City of Eagle Lake through Jesus Christ.

The previous minutes from the Nov. 9 meeting were approved.

The Council moved on to the sixth item on the agenda, which was to consider and act upon the resignation of Municipal Judge Larry Dulany. Mayor Morales read a letter from Dulany stating that he had been honored to serve the City of Eagle Lake. Councilman Dave Curry motioned to accept the letter of resignation; seconded by Councilman Larry Contreras. Associate Judge Dodie Dungen will now oversee the office of municipal judge.

The temporary sign ordinance was again brought before the council. Council decided to table this item until the next meeting.

Item eight on the agenda dealt with the sexually oriented business ordinance. Holland stated that he has done an extensive search, to see what rights the City has. He couldn't find anything to ban them but did find information that would control them. Mayor Morales was for a total ban on these types of businesses. The item however was tabled for further discussion.

Council then considered and acted upon the amendment to the itinerant peddlers ordinance. Council stated that they could set a fee from time to time. Holland asked Council to act upon the amendment. Holland also stated that if the person could not show proof of a tax number for a permit. In his words, "no tax number, no permit." Mayor Morales then asked who should call in if they see someone selling merchandise without a permit. Citizens are asked to do their part in helping to cut down on people coming into the area trying to sell without a permit. Contreras voted on the amendment, which was seconded by Curry.

Item ten on the agenda was to review and discuss the first draft of the Community Center rental agreement, electrical reading and inspection form, security review form and rule. Councilman John Young stated that before

and after a person(s) rent the Community Center a thorough inventory needs to be done. Mayor Morales brought up the deposit again. I didn't know that an ordinance was passed as to no tobacco in the Community Center. Discussion also started in the direction of the capacity that the Community Center could hold. At that point the fire code came into question and would be looked in to. Also a special preference to "good" renters. A look into past renters of the Community Center needs to be done. Curry stated that the agreement should be simple. The need for security in special gatherings was also discussed. Curry stated that he didn't want to see the City brought up on any discrimination charges. Holland stated that the agreement was not ready to be adopted.

Your input is appreciated.

Like I stated earlier this was just the first look at the first draft. By the way discussion was headed, it may take a few more meetings to get all the T's crossed and the I's dotted.

In administrative reports: Rhonda Bridges stated that the Re-Tire A Tire project was not as big of a success as last year, but, they did get rid of a lot of tires.

Holland stated that Humane Officer (Arnold Cardenas) has been having some medical problems and he (Holland) is hoping that someone else will be able to attend classes to get li-

censed. The license is so that the person in charge of putting down animals is able to do so.

The manhole issue was also brought up. A grant is being put together for this to be done. The money from the grant should be here by next year in the fall.

Holland also bought up that Eagle Lake is the only city doing garbage pick-up. In the last council meeting we stated that the Landfill would remain open through 2005. But with Eagle Lake being the only one putting garbage out there Holland questioned if it would be feasible for them to do so. The trash rate that the landfill charges may need to be raised since Eagle Lake is the only one besides Columbus going there. That may cause the City to have to go up on our rate. *All this is still up in the air though; so don't get your shorts in a bunch.* I will get you more information as it is given to me.

Curry asked about street renovations. He was told that it wouldn't start until the curbing on Partridge Lane was finished. Morales asked Holland to check on start and completion times that the street contractors had given them to see if they could push them into getting started.

Council then went into executive session to discuss the evaluation of city manager and his duties.

The next council meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14.



King named MVP Defense...

Raider football well represented on 20-3A All-District

The Rice Raider football team was well represented this year on the 20-3A All District Team. All of these fine young men were very deserving of all awards they received. Some of the Raiders should receive more awards as time goes on.

Following is a list of the 20-3A teams:

First team All-District Offense: Charles Huffman, running back, senior, 5'8", 195 pounds; Curtis Williams, tackle, junior, 6'0", 260 pounds; Aaron Labay, guard, senior, 5'10", 190 pounds; and Coach of the Year, Brad Dumont.

Second team All-District Offense: Jay Thomas, running back, senior, 6'0", 185; Robert Shaw, tight end, senior, 6'3", 215 pounds.

First team All-District Defense: Donovan King, defensive MVP, senior, 6'4", 235 pounds; Robert Shaw, end, senior, 6'3", 215 pounds; Joe Cooper, linebacker, senior, 5'10", 226 pounds; Jay Thomas, linebacker, senior, 6'0", 185; Jeremie Hemphill, secondary, senior, 6'1", 175 pounds.

Second team All-District Defense: Robert Scott, linebacker, senior, 6'0", 200 pounds; and Darkeith Pratt, secondary, sophomore, 5'10", 160 pounds.

Some of the Raiders were also named Honorable Mention All-District 20-3A. On offense, Stuart Ray, quarterback, senior, 5'10", 180 pounds; Emerson Dawson, tackle, senior, 6'3", 220 pounds; and Trent Fields, guard, junior, 6'1", 190 pounds.

On defense, Derrick Frazier, tackle, junior, 5'10", 205 pounds; Deshaun Fuller, secondary, junior, 5'10", 160 pounds; and Robert Salinas, linebacker, junior, 5'10", 180 pounds.

On specialty, Robert Shaw, kicker, senior 6'3", 215 pounds; and Jeremy Hill, punter, junior, 6'1", 185 pounds.

Congratulations to these young men on their accomplishments.



Bill and Helyn Farris chosen as the 2004 Christmas Parade Marshals

William L. "Bill" Farris is a fifth generation Texan born in Walker County in the area settled by his forefathers in the 1830s. Following education in a rural country school, Huntsville High School and Sam Houston State Teachers College (now Sam Houston University) he was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in 1947. His job with the telephone company first brought him to Colorado County in 1949.

Bill was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1950 at the outbreak of the Korean War. He served two years in the 40th Infantry Division Signal Corps in Japan and Korea as a Staff Sergeant and platoon leader.

Helyn Hobbs Farris was born in Kilgore, Texas in the midst of the depression era East Texas oil boom. Following her father's oil-related job, she lived in and around Houston and the upper Texas coastal area throughout her childhood and teen years.

Helyn and Bill were introduced when he came home on a 10-day furlough prior to deployment for the Korean War. The attraction and commitment were immediate - over a thousand love letters crossed the Pacific as they planned a life together. They were married six weeks following his return from the war. It has been a devoted partnership as they recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary Nov. 24th.

A telephone company transfer brought the young couple and their two-year-old daughter to Eagle Lake in 1955. Again, the attraction was immediate. Both Farris began taking part in local civic affairs. Bill was involved in Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Little League (even before he had a son!), United Way, Red Cross, etc. Helyn served on so many decorating committees that she eventually decided to open a florist shop in 1959.

Bill served as president of the above organizations as well as giving a combined 10 years service on the school boards of Eagle Lake ISD and Rice Consolidated ISD. He has always been intensely interested in education and its benefits. As president of the local Rotary Club he proposed the first two-year scholarship to Wharton Junior College given by the club to a deserving student. This effort has now continued for 45 years. In reflection, Bill receives much satisfaction from

the time he gave to help create Rice Consolidated ISD for the students of Southern Colorado County.

Helyn gained recognition of her peers in the floral industry as a designer and commentator. As a creative floral designer she appeared on numerous design panels for industry schools and bridal fashion shows in conjunction with Neiman-Marcus, Sakowitz, etc. throughout the state, nation and internationally. She served on the board of Texas State Florists Association and holds a lifetime membership in TSFA.

Bill took early retirement from the telephone company after 30 years service in 1977. At that time he was central office supervisor for Columbus, Eagle Lake, Sealy, Hempstead, Prairie View and Waller.

Helyn and Bill joined forces in business full time in 1977. At that time they were just completing the three-year project of restoring The Farris 1912 Hotel and opened it as a premier hunting lodge with their related antiques, flowers and food business housed on the same property. Restoration of the Bentley-Farris Guest House and the Boothe Building on Main Street were later projects. The Farris teamed up with Revitalize Eagle Lake in a co-operative effort to buy and demolish the crumbling remains of the former White House

Hotel on Main Street in the early 1990s.

Beginning in 1961, when Bill was president of the chamber, he set his goal for the year to attract attention to the impact goose hunting had on the local economy and to promote it as an industry. Throughout their ownership of the hotel the Farris promoted goose hunting and birding, always stressing Eagle Lake's natural assets as impact attractions.

Helyn has served as a director of Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Foundation, five years on the hospital board and is devoted to the efforts of the Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club to beautify the community by landscaping.

Fully retired from business since 1995, Helyn and Bill have given many hours to garden club beautification projects and continue to give pass-along plants to anyone who will plant them.

The Farris' have three adult children who grew up in Eagle Lake and seven grandchildren. They are Candyce Dixon and husband, Dale of Huntsville; Melody Grigar and husband, Michael of Eagle Lake; and Rich Farris and wife, Carolina of Dallas. Grandchildren are Alyssa, Will and Luke Dixon; Lance Grigar and wife, Carrie; Lori Chapman and husband, Will; and Dylan Farris.