



About Town...



Throughout the summer of 2004, Veterinarian Dr. Linda Reznicek traveled from Cat Spring to Illinois to complete a certification program in Animal Chiropractic. She completed her program and was certified in Animal Chiropractic by the IVCA in September. She practices exclusively in Animal Chiropractic and treats both large and small animals in an around the Bellville area. For more information about how Animal Chiropractic benefits animals, see www.DrReznicek.com, www.animalchiropractic.org, or call 979-877-5690.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Registration schedule announced for Blinn College Sealy campus

Blinn College admission and advising staff members will be in Sealy on Dec. 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 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.

4-H to host dinner for seniors Saturday

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 Saturday

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

Teen and princess pageant set for Saturday

The public is invited to the annual Miss Christian Teen and Princess Pageant Saturday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Hill Community Center in Sealy. For more information call 936-825-6354.

ELPA bake sale is Saturday

Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance, Inc. (ELPA) will hold a bake sale Saturday, Dec. 11 during the Christmas parade. Buy the whole cake or just a slice. Stop by 117 E. Main St., (next to Eagle Lake Barber Shop) at the Norris Building and enjoy coffee and cake.

WCBC musical set for Sunday

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.

Talent Extravaganza! Benefits Plaza Theater

The first annual Talent Extravaganza!, co-sponsored by the Community Theater of Wharton, KULP Radio and the InnKeeper, will be held Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. at the InnKeeper on the Square in Wharton. Tickets are \$5. Contestants will vie for trophies, bragging rights and a \$50 first-place prize in each of four age categories. Second and third place winners will carry away plaques, and runners-up will receive ribbons. Directors Amber Barbee and Roshunda Jones are still accepting applications from contestants; contact them at 979-282-9159 or 713-703-0343. Proceeds benefit Raise the Roof Fund to repair damage to the roof of Wharton's Plaza Theater. For tickets, stop by the theatre's box office, 212 N. Richmond Rd. in Wharton, or call 979-282-2970 or click on www.whartonplazatheater.org.

Rice Project Graduation meeting is Dec. 13

Rice Project Graduation will hold a meeting Monday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Those interested in attending should meet in the commons area of the high school.

Christmas Klatch is Dec. 14

The Garwood Veterans Memorial Library is having another Coffee Klatch Tuesday morning, Dec. 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. Come as you are. We are seeing old friends and making new ones. Enjoy coffee, juice, and cookies as you visit. Stay the entire time or part of the time. Check out the new books in the library. Many are on the best seller's list. Look forward to seeing you there!!!

Defensive driving course set for Dec. 14 and 15

A 6-hour defensive driving course has been set by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel, Dec. 14 and 15 at the Ag. Building, 316 Spring St. in Columbus. Class hours are 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. each evening. To pre-register call 979-732-2734 or arrive a few minutes early the first evening.

Pink ladies to hold drawing Dec. 15

The Rice Medical Center Ladies Auxiliary better known as the "Pink Ladies" will hold a drawing for two gift baskets Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Buying a ticket(s) will assure you a chance at winning either of the baskets. For more information call 979-234-5571.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 6)



MIGRATORY BIRD REPORT



Pintails and canvasbacks become legal to harvest Dec. 11; and, prairie ponds and marsh ponds have strong numbers of pintail. Hunters are the prairie are taking half-limits green-winged teal, gadwalls, wigeons and shovelers. Notably, many hunters have said they have seen more green-winged teal on the prairie this year than in the past two years. Ducks are still holding on the grassy shorelines of Trinity Bay. The Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is fair at best. The High Island marsh has been good for half-limits. Mad Island WMA near Bay City and Peach Point WMA near Freeport saw hunters average just over two birds-per-man last weekend. Hunters in Port O'Connor are not seeing large rafts of ducks, yet. Scattered limit hunts have been had on the grassy shorelines of West Matagorda Bay. Rockport is fair for redheads, scaup, buffleheads and gadwalls. Hunters should be able to take their pintail beginning this weekend. Snow goose hunting has been tough. Some outfitters are estimating less than 10 percent of the population to be juvenile birds, according to unofficial spotting surveys. Decoying adult snow geese has been tough. Specklebellies have been the saving grace for most goose hunts. Plenty of light geese to hunt in Wharton, Jackson, Lavaca, Colorado and Austin County. Prospects are fair to good. Posted on the Texas Parks and Wildlife web site weekly. To see updates go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/.

Two killed, two injured in head on collision Sunday

A two-vehicle accident, Sunday, Dec. 5 at 6:10 p.m. claimed the lives to two area residents. The accident took place 3.7 miles south of Columbus on State Hwy. 71.

Involved in the accident was a 2001 Ford pickup driven by Doris Ann Johnson, 54, of Eagle Lake. Her passenger, Gladys (Muesse) Samora, 79, of Eagle Lake was taken to Hermann Hospital in Houston by LifeFlight. Johnson was also airlifted to Hermann. Samora passed away Monday, morning Dec. 6 at 4:20 a.m. Johnson was said to be in critical condition.

It was unknown if Johnson or Samora were wearing seatbelts.

The driver of the other vehicle, a 1996 Pontiac, was Marvin David Garza Sr., 50, of Eagle Lake, who was pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, Dodie Dun-

Garza's passenger, eight-year-old, Payton Garza, was taken to Columbus Community Hospital. As of press time Tuesday, Dec. 7 she was listed in serious condition.

Both the occupants of the Garza vehicle were wearing seatbelts.

The report from the Department of Public Safety Office states that the 2001 Ford pickup driven by Johnson was headed eastbound toward Altair from Columbus. Garza was headed westbound from Altair to Columbus. Johnson was said to have crossed over into the westbound lane causing the head-on collision.

Investigating officer was Trooper II Wayne Henkes. Assisting Henkes were Sr. Cpl. Jeff Pickett, the Colorado County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Volunteer Fire Department and the Columbus EMS.

The case remains under investigation.

Former Justice of the Peace pleads guilty

Larry Dulany, former Colorado County Justice of the Peace and Eagle Lake Municipal Court Judge, entered a plea of guilty to felony theft charges on Friday, December 3, 2004. He will be sentenced on January 25, 2005.

The punishment range is from a minimum of 2 years deferred adjudication to a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Dulany is seeking deferred adjudication.

The prosecution is seeking a prison sentence with restitution of \$86,016.62 as a condition of parole to compensate the victim for the theft loss.

Colorado County District Judge Gus Strauss will determine the sentence after reviewing a pre-sentence investigation report and hearing testimony from witnesses and closing arguments by Dulany's attorney, Rich-

ard Manske, and Colorado County Attorney Ken Sparks.

As part of the plea agreement, Dulany will not be prosecuted for multiple acts of forgery that were committed to conceal the thefts alleged in the indictment. "The maximum sentence on the forgery cases is two years, and the maximum on the theft charge is ten years," said Sparks. "The forgeries were part of the theft scheme and, as part of the agreement, the judge will take them into consideration when he determines an appropriate sentence," he added.

Dulany was indicted by the grand jury on November 15, 2004, suspended from his judicial duties by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct on November 16, 2004, and resigned from both judicial posts on November 18, 2004.

VFW Post #8783 Veterans Day

The Veterans of Foreign Wars #8783 participated in a wreath laying ceremony at Veterans Memorial on the City Square on Veterans Day.



Present for the ceremony were VFW member, Isidoro Ramirez; Officer of the Day, Billy Salazar, Sr. Vice Commander, August Servantes; Commander, Len Matula; Jr. Vice Commander, Ervin Hurd; Quarter Master, Earl Rodgers; Adjutant, Melvin Stancik; Chaplin, Harry Supak; Service Officer, Joe Duncan; and member, Wilfred Wick.



After the ceremony the VFW had their annual raffle.

Pictured above from left to right are during the raffle portion are Len Matula, Isidoro Ramirez, Earl Rodgers, Melvin Stancik and Helen Supak. Photo courtesy of August Servantes



Pictured above are some of those in attendance at the VFW Post 8783 wreath laying and raffle.

City 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 water consumptions at 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 at 234-2640.

New Year's Eve fireworks display set for Dec. 31



fireworks display



Plans are underway for the annual New Year's Eve display in Eagle Lake and this year's event is shaping up to be the biggest show ever.

Scheduled for Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m. on Calhoun Road, the show will feature a dazzling display of colors and explosions, along with the sounds of music during the 30-minute performance.

Workers started preparations for the event last week and urge anyone interested in joining the all-volunteer team to come by the Eagle Lake Post Office and sign-up. Your participation, suggestions and contributions are always welcome.

Mark your calendar now and plan

to kick-off the New Year's Eve celebration with a bang at the annual Eagle Lake Fireworks Display.



Holiday electrical safety tips

To help keep your home and family safe this holiday season, CPL, Reliant Energy offers the following tips for properly preparing and using electrical decorations both inside and outdoors.

Home

Install smoke detectors or, if you already have them, install new batteries and test them.

Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.

Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

Follow the use and care instructions included with your electrical decorations.

Do not climb ladders, work in high places or put up electrical decorations when you are alone - avoid injury by decorating with friends or family.

Christmas Tree

Keep tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources

and make sure it does not block any exits.

Never use candles as tree ornaments, even on artificial trees.

Do not use electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings. This could create an electrical shock.

Use miniature lights, which have cool-burning bulbs.

Lights

Use only UL-listed lights, and no more than three strands linked together.

Examine your old light strings each year, discarding worn ones.

Review the original package for light strings to verify proper wattage and voltage.

Use a power strip to avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords and to protect your decorations from electrical surges.

Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up.

(See Safety Tips, Page 5)