

NOTICE!!

The Eagle Lake Headlight now has DSL and we have changed our email address to eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net. We will still have our old email, but only for a few days. PLEASE use this email from NOW on.

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Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

Closing for the Christmas holiday

The following businesses will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday: The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Friday Dec. 24. The City of Eagle Lake will close Friday, Dec. 24 for Christmas and Friday, Dec. 31 for New Years Day. There will be no trash collection on the 24th and 31. Trash collection will resume Monday with Mondays route. The First National Bank and Wallis State Bank will close at noon Friday, Dec. 24. The Post Office will be open regular hours on Friday. The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will be closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 24.

E.H. Henry Christmas party is Friday

Come one, come all to the E.H. Henry Christmas Party Friday, Dec. 24 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The party will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight. Prizes will be available. DJ Felicia Scott will provide the music.

Nativity Gala set for Dec. 31

Fourth Annual Nativity Gala for New Year's Eve, December 31, Dider Hall, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. A \$30 ticket will admit someone to all the festivities that will include an open bar, a full banquet meal, music, dancing, a silent auction, and a money raffle. Nativity Gala tickets may be purchased at the Parish Office (545 S. Austin Rd., 979-234-2842), Marcy's Beauty Salon, S. & W. Auto Parts, and Tresses Inc. Hair Salon.

Cuarto Anual Gala Natividad del Año Nuevo, 31 de Diciembre, Salon Dider, 7:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. Un boleto de \$30 por persona ser para todas las festividades que incluyen refrescos en la barra, un banquete, musica, baile, subasta en silencio, y rifa de dinero. Boleto para la celebración pueden ser comprados en la Oficina Parroquial, (545 S. Austin Rd., 979-234-2842), Marcy's Beauty Salon, S & W Auto Parts, y Tresses Inc. Hair Salon.

First Baptist Church cookbooks are in

The First Baptist Church has compiled a cookbook just in time for Christmas!! They are now available for your Christmas presents. You can pick one up at the First Baptist Church office (entrance on Lake Street) or the Wintermann Library. The cost of the cookbook is \$20. Proceeds go into the church organ fund.

Childbirth classes set for Jan. 3

Will your baby arrive between Feb. 15 and April 15, 2005? Come join other moms and coaches for Childbirth Classes at Gulf Coast Medical Center (GCMC) in Wharton! Classes begin Monday, Jan. 3 through Feb. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the GCMC classrooms. Registration fee is \$60. Next class will be March 7 through April 11. Weekend class by appointment. For more information and to register call 979-282-6280.

Mark your calendars!

Eagle Lake Ducks Unlimited will hold its annual banquet Friday, Jan. 14 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Advance tickets may be purchased at TrafCo Industries, Inc., The Furniture Shoppe or Eagle Lake Insurance. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 7 and the live auction begins at 8. Please call John Carey at 979-758-9535 with any questions.

Hospice needs your care

Hospice, a program of supportive care for individuals with a terminal illness and their families needs loving, caring people to volunteer two to four hours a week or month. A 30-hour training program is scheduled to begin Friday Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. and continue in two alternating weekends. There is no charge for the seminar but pre-registration is required. For more information call Margaret Dixon at Hospice Support Care 979-578-0314 or e-mail mdixon@houstonhospice.org.

10 Star all-star basketball camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. For a free, brochure, past participants and camp locations call 704-373-0873 anytime.

MIGRATORY BIRD REPORT

Duck hunting was fair to good over the weekend, but should improve as new birds hit the prairie and marsh ahead of the recent front. Hunters in areas where pintails thrive had no trouble getting their bird this past weekend. Gadwalls, wigeons, shovelers and teal have been most prevalent in hunters' bags. Hunters have been taking half-limits of mallards on Colorado and Wharton County ponds. Water has receded since the last rain which has helped congregating ducks on leveed ponds and rice fields. Mad Island WMA near Bay City saw hunters average over five ducks-per-man, Saturday. Peach Point WMA near Freeport averaged just over two birds-per-man. Hunting suffered in the Trinity Bay marsh as north winds dropped tides and turned marsh ponds to mud flats. Adjacent freshwater marsh ponds benefited from the loss of water and congregated ducks. Port O'Connor hunters have not had mass numbers of redheads, wigeons and pintails. Rockport is fair for redheads and scaup. Freshwater marsh ponds near Rockport have been fair to good for pintails, wigeons, teal and gadwalls. Goose hunters on the rice prairies suffered this past weekend under high skies and light winds. Snow geese are getting tougher to hunt as the season progresses; that, coupled with the fact that there are few juvenile birds in the flock, has made for limited decoying action. Biologists estimate less than five percent of the snow goose population to be gray-feathered, first-year birds. Specklebellies are cooperating and saving many hunts. Best straws have come from rice stubble that has volunteered new growth since the flooding rains in late October and early November. Canada geese are building with each passing front. Prospects are fair to good.

To our readers:

I apologize to all the parents of children and the children who did not have their Santa letter in this years Christmas section. We were unable to type all of the letters this year due to my family's extenuating circumstances.

We haven't had much extra time here at the *Headlight*. Please bear with us during this hard time in our lives. We here at the *Headlight* are all trying our best to get you your *Hometown Newspaper* every week. Thank you for your business and kindness. Please keep us in your prayers.

Thank you for your understanding,
Cathy Fearing

Legion provides coats for needy children



Pictured left to right are Dr. Cynthia Saha, Assistant Principal; Sue Weller, Principal; Gwen Knight, Counselor; Debbie Ugarte, School Nurse; and, Elida Salazar, PEIMS Sect.

Photo courtesy of the Eagle Lake American Legion Post #108

The Eagle Lake American Legion Post #108 has retired its "Toys for needy Children" project at Christmas because it was felt that it was duplicating other worthy programs in the community. The Post is now working through the local schools and ministers to provide clothing and school supplies for needy children. "This will be an ongoing project," emphasized Commander Ken Craig, "not just a Christmas project."

The picture above shows the some of the staff of the Eagle Lake Primary School accepting more than 20 coats for children identified in the Primary and Middle Schools by the school nurse and faculties. The project is funded by donations from persons who would like to support this kind of project. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to The American Legion Post #108, 407 N. Walnut, Eagle Lake, TX 77434.

The flu shots are in!!

(Well, for the kids, that is...)

What are we talking about- flu shots for kids? Flu shots are for old folks, everybody knows that. Well, times they be a changing...

The U.S. Center For Disease Control (CDC) is focusing on vaccinating all children age 6-23 months. There are several reasons for this. One, these children are at risk of having more respiratory complications if they get the flu and two, they provide a "pool" of potential influenza vectors. In other words, when the kids have the flu, everyone is exposed as kids have a tendency to wipe their noses with their hands and cough directly into your face. Or you expose yourself by wiping their noses and, let's face it- they feel bad so you try to make them feel better by spending more time rocking them and kissing on them. Bad Idea when they've got a contagious illness!

Other children that need to get the flu shot are any children over the age of 6 months on chronic aspirin therapy or who have heart or lung problems, including asthma. Children (again, age 6 months and up) who require regular medical checkups for diabetes or any other chronic metabolic problems, kidney disease, blood disorders or are otherwise immunosuppressed should also get vaccinated.

The most common side effects of the vaccine are soreness at the injection site. Some people will develop symptoms within the next day or two that remind them of the flu- mild aches, low-grade fever, "yucky" feeling. These symptoms are not from a flu infection, but are your body's immune system revving up against the dead flu

particles in the vaccine. That's how the shot works- the body "sees" the dead virus particles, knows they are not supposed to be in the body, then "trains" certain cells in the body to recognize these virus particles so that if they ever get into the body again, your system is already primed to essentially "Kick Virus".

There is no shortage of flu shots available for kids. Medicaid pays for the flu vaccine as do other insurance companies. If your child has never received a flu shot before, he/she will actually need to get two shots given one month apart. Children who should not get the flu shot are children who have severe egg allergies or who have had bad reactions to the shot in the past such as swelling up all over, shortness of breath, heart stopping, etc. Remember- any medicine, any time, anywhere can cause a bad reaction. It is very rare, thank goodness, but can occur.

Please help protect your children and your community by participating in flu vaccinations for children. Your local medical providers will be glad to answer any questions and provide this important preventative health service to you. Also of note, there are a limited number of adult flu vaccines now available. So if you are at risk for complications from the flu, contact your health provider immediately. This is the season for sharing, but let's try and share only our Good Will, not our Bad Bugs.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa!! From the staff of the Rice Medical Associates and the Rice Medical Center.

Lady Raiders win back-to-back tournament championships

The Lady Raiders are on a roll! They won first place in the Brookshire Tournament held recently. In the first round they opened with Taylor and won 46-26.

Ka'Shonda Tillman was the lead scorer in that game with 12 points along with Edricka Thomas who had 11 points and four steals.

Next, the Lady Raiders took on the Wharton Tigers. They sept by the Tigers 54-20. Thomas led with 17 points that round. Mallory Dumont hit 10 points and Ashley Parker nine points, seven rebounds.

The Championship game was played against Needville. The Raiders defeated the Bluejays 33-27. Thomas once again led the Raiders with 14 points and also received MVP.

They were scheduled take on Yoakum last Friday with the freshman starting at 4 p.m., JV at 5 and varsity at 6:30.

Order of street construction for the City

With all the talk over what streets will be totally torn up and which will just be repaired here is a list provided to the *Headlight* by the City of Eagle Lake.

Seal Coat (repaired): Fairview Ave., Shirley Ave., Maple Ave., Beaks Ave., Johnson St., Dewey St., A Street, Allen Ave., Ave. C, E Street, Harbert Ave., Gonzales St., Stockbridge St., Church St., Post Office St., Commerce St., Golf Course Drive, Austin Rd., and Cat Springs Rd.

Reclaim (totally torn up): Partridge Lane, Glen Meadows Drive, Glen Brook Drive, Glen Lake Court,

Hanley St., Pendleton St., Tate St., Cat Springs Rd., Warwick Ave., Chapman Ave., Davitt St., Lake Ave., Jones St., Guynn Ave., Westmoreland Ave., Sempres St., Gonzales St., Scott St., Milam St., Dobbins St., Stephens Ave., McCreary Ave., Shirley Ave., Murphy Ave., Guadalupe Ave., Phillips Ave., Donovan St., A Street, B Street, Allen Ave., Sixth St., E Street, Ave. D, Ave. B, and Lake St.

Some of the streets are listed on each list.

If you have any questions about the list feel free to call City Hall at 979-234-2640.

Council gets petition from citizens, appoint Cason as municipal judge

By Carol Cardenas

The Eagle Lake City Council met Tuesday, Dec. 14 for their monthly meeting in council chambers.

Mayor Mike Morales called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rev. Thomas Kuykendall gave the invocation. During public comments, Ron Janow presented the council with a petition signed by area residents.

Rene Cooper Scott soon voiced her opinion on the said petition. She encouraged all of the citizens to get informed and to think long and hard, and not to indulge in hear say, but to search the source.

Eugene Ruiz then read Psalm 2 and stated why he is opposed to SOB's (Sexually Oriented Businesses).

Rudy Torres made comments on street repair. He also stated that the rate on the Community Center should be kept low. At a higher rate he claimed it would be harder to rent for those on a fixed or low-income bracket.

Sidney Struss also spoke on street renovation. He asked about the progress of the project He thought council should prioritize the streets. He stressed that council should make sure funds were available to make sure that all streets get the repairs they need.

Jane Meldahl praised council and the city for all of their cooperation with the 2004 Lighted Christmas Parade.

After public comments a motion was made by Councilman Dave Curry to approve the minutes of the Nov. 23 meeting. Councilman Larry Contreras seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council then considered and acted upon a proposal from Johnson Controls regarding guarantee payments. Ron Holland read a letter addressing the proposal. Councilman

Eric Nethery voted to approve the proposal, which was seconded by Councilman John Young. Motion carried.

Ed Addicks a representative from the airport committee then addressed council on many improvements that are ongoing. The project is now ready for bids, but council chose to table the approval until a workshop could be held. Morales felt that council could not approve the improvements until better educated on them.

Item number nine on the agenda was to consider and act upon an ordinance providing for the appointment of a municipal judge. Council stated that the municipal judge ordinance needed to be updated. Council also commented that they needed to appoint a municipal judge and acting municipal judge in case of an emergency.

Next Council stated that they had a few people interested in the municipal judge job. Those being Dodie Dungen, Cynthia Kubicek and George Cason. After much discussion Morales stated that he didn't speak with Dungen or Kubicek but did know Cason. There was also another citizen from Eagle Lake that Councilman Young mentioned but he wasn't given the nod either.

Council decided to follow suit with what Commissioners Court had done on Monday in Columbus and place Cason as municipal judge.

At this time I will choose to give my opinion: With so many choices why weren't interviews done with all of the aforementioned people. I know a lot of people too, but I wouldn't place them in public office without first looking and speaking with all those who had seemed to be interested in the position.

Now back to what Council did.

(See City Council, Page 2)



Silent Night Holy Night

"When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Matthew 2:10

With joy and love in our hearts, we wish you all the very best gifts of the season.

We appreciate your trust in us and thank you for your kindness and support this past year. We feel blessed to have you as our friends.

Merry Christmas to all!

The Eagle Lake Headlight Staff

Jeannine, Amy & Cathy Fearing, Carol Cardenas, Shirley Luedecke, Katherine Smith, Racheal and Sarah Navarro