

NOTICE!!

The Eagle Lake Headlight now has DSL and we have changed our email address to eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net. This is our ONLY email address now. PLEASE use this email from NOW on. Or your email will not be received!

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Closing for the New Year holiday

The following businesses will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday: The City of Eagle Lake will close Friday, Dec. 31 for New Years Day. There will be no trash collection on the 31. Trash collection will resume Monday with Mondays route. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed on Friday. The First National Bank will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, while the Wallis State Bank will close at noon. The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will be open Friday, Dec. 31.

Nativity Gala set for Dec. 31

Fourth Annual Nativity Gala for New Year's Eve, December 31, Didner 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 Didner, 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 celebraciUn 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.

GVFD and ambulance needs your help

The Garwood Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) and ambulance needs your help! Starting Tuesday, Jan. 4 there will be an ECA Class from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. in Lehrer's Meeting Room. Everybody interested should come for more information.

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.

Senior Citizen's Dance is Jan. 7

The public is invited to a Senior Citizen's Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Jan. 7 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The Fabulous 4 will provide the music. Admission is \$6 per person. For more information call 979-234-2903.

RHS drama club to present

Godspell

The Rice High School Drama Club will present the Broadway musical, *Godspell* Saturday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 9 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Life after loss support group to meet

Hospice Support Care has scheduled two Life After Loss Support Groups to meet for six weeks, starting Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the First United Methodist Church 1717 Pioneer, Wharton from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and at The First Baptist Church (Parlor), 210 Depot, El Campo from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Trained facilitators experienced in grief work offer a combination of teaching, discussion and learning activities to individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one. The support group is open to anyone interested in learning more about the experience of grief following the death of a loved one. Seminars are free of charge. If you have specific questions feel free to call Hospice Support Care at 979-758-0314.

Water quality program and CEU opportunity

Tuesday, Jan. 11, the Colorado County Extension office will be hosting a 2 hour Water Quality and Drift Minimization Program. This program will also have 2 CEU credits. The program will start at 6 p.m. and be over at approximately 8 p.m. This program will be held at the Colorado County Services Facilities at 305 Radio Lane in Columbus. For more information Contact the Colorado County Extension Office.

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

(See Newsbriefs, Page 8)



A Winter Wonderland

To everyone's amazement on Friday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, the town of Eagle Lake got to experience something most people never imagine. It snowed in South Texas.

Amy Fearing had to go outside just to make sure it was REAL.

Headlight photo by Cathy Fearing

Children

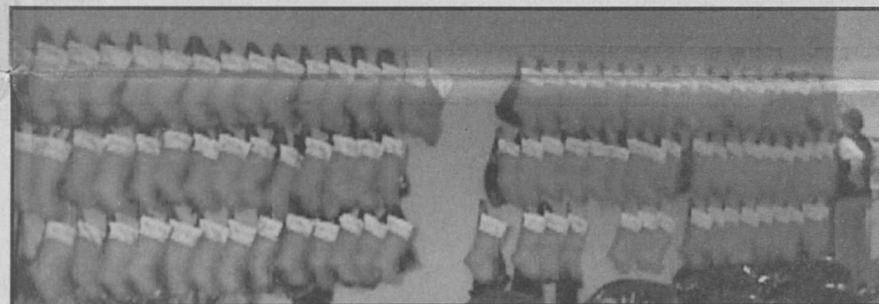
This last July '04 we submitted the results of the small after-school program that had been offered to the children of Eagle Lake during the spring school term. In this letter to the community we offer a brief summary of the recently completed Fall program.

Statistics: The after-school program began on Sept. 5 and ended Dec. 16. Fall Only Attendance: (Total, New, Days Open, Mth Avg.) **September:** 509, 23, 12 Days, 42/day; **Oct:** 618, 18, 12 Days, 51/day; **Nov:** 607, 22, 10 Days, 61/day; **Dec:** 638, 40, 8 Days, 79/day; **Total:** 2372, 103, 42 Days, 56/day. **2004 Results:** Spring Term: 2,300, 175, 62 Days, 37/day; Fall: 2372, 103, 42 Days, 56/day; **Total Served:** 4672, 278 children.

Attendance Comparison: 52% increase of Fall's vs Spring's attendance.

What's Offered: At no cost to the children, 2,372 Meals in the Fall, 2,300 Meals in the Spring, dedicated furnished homework room, computer learning center, rewards for honor roll, rewards for all A's and B's, basic school supplies, cooking classes, art classes, basketball, bas-

By Lyle and Dana Anderson



The Lighthouse was able to hang 115 stockings this year for the many wonderful children they help mentor.

Photo courtesy of Lyle Anderson

ketball, touch football, air hockey, foosball, badminton, volleyball, hand weights, timed sprints, free throw competition, kickball, 2 pool tables, ping pong, board games of Connect four, Chess, Checkers, Scrabble, etc. Tournaments are held in most game areas and challenge ladders developed. More importantly, through all this interaction a lot of love, care and direction is given to the children.

Progress Made:

Capital improvements: 22 computers and monitors received for computer learning center, commercial grade video projector received, kitchen area equipment and renovation in progress, perimeter fencing completed, donations committed for repaving of basketball court, fill dirt for basketball and football areas received, football area filled and leveled for grass, concrete

filler for driveway turnaround, removal of play area concrete obstructions, clearing of property for additional improvements, safety signage donated and placed around property.

Thanksgiving Meal: 64 children were served a wonderful sit down meal for Thanksgiving.

(See Legacy, Page 3)

Number 20 in a series in remembrance of our World War II dead

Remembering Everitt Wright

By Joe C. Fling

The deadliest year of the War so far ended with reports that Everitt Wright had been lost at sea. To put things into perspective, government records show that all of Colorado County lost only 10 men in Korea, Vietnam, and the Two Persian Gulf Wars combined, conflicts that combined for over 15 years of warfare. Southern Colorado County lost nine men in 1944 alone; followed by eight more in 1945.

To those of us born after the war, World War II had been fought on a scale that seems incomprehensible today.

The commitment of the nation and

the sacrifice of life touched every home and heart in our communities.

Everitt Wright was born April 11, 1920 in Eagle Lake, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Wright. Later, his family moved to Brazoria County where he graduated from Angleton High School. Wright entered the Navy in 1939, in Virginia, at the age of 19.

Wright served on the U.S.S. *Monaghan*, a Faragut class destroyer, DD-354. The *Monaghan*, designed to carry a complement of 251 men, was armed with 5" guns and torpedoes. The *Monaghan* was built at the Boston Navy Yard and commissioned in 1935.

If Wright served on the *Monaghan* throughout the war, he was involved in some of the most important fighting in the Pacific War.

Monaghan's battle record included sinking a Japanese midget submarine in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941; serving in screening support for carrier forces at the Battle of Coral Sea and Midway, as well as covering for the invasions of the Aleutians, Tarawa, Eniwetok, Kwajalein, Guam and Luzon. She also participated in the longest sea battle of the war at Komandorki Islands. Her last fight was Leyte Gulf. It was after this battle that disaster struck.

Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet withdrew toward the Marianas to refuel in mid-ocean. On Dec. 18, 1944, at the worst possible time, with ships low on fuel and riding high in the water, a typhoon with 140 mile per hour winds, lashed the fleet. A huge swelling sea and wind that drove the rain on a virtual horizontal pounded the fleet, in-

flicting great damages on escort carriers and other smaller ships. Many planes were wrecked and there was much loss of life. The high seas rolled many of the ships over as much as 70 degrees to starboard and then 70 degrees to port. Yet many such ships survived.

Three destroyers, *Monaghan*, *Hull* and *Spence* capsized and sank, taking with them 790 men. Of 790 men on these three ships, less than 100 survived; including only six men from *Monaghan*.

It was later determined by a court of inquiry that the three destroyers likely went down because their skipper attempted to stay on station within the fleet for too long before trying to make their own way in the storm. Admiral Nimitz would later remark that this was the greatest damage to material and loss of life sustained by the U.S. Navy since Pearl Harbor.

Wright was listed as missing in action for many months, but finally determined to be lost at sea.

He was survived by his father and step-mother, his wife who resided in Houston and four brothers. Two brothers were in the service: Warrant Officer Willie Wright, then in Belgium and Private Henry Wright then in Louisiana. Still at home in Eagle Lake were brothers Robert and Terry, and sisters Lena Mae Landry and Letha Wright.

Wright's name is on the Tablets of the Missing at the American Cemetery in Manila, the Philippines. Many members of Wright's family are buried in Lakeside Cemetery.



MIGRATORY BIRD REPORT



Snow geese are on the Katy, Eagle Lake, Garwood and El Campo prairies in force. The recent cold front pushed new birds to the area. Decoying action has been tough, unless hunters are stationed close to roosts with stiff winds and a low ceiling. Biologists estimate only five percent of the snow goose population to be juvenile birds. Specklebellies are breaking into segregated groups and are becoming decoy-shy wary. Canada geese are building daily. Duck hunting has been good at times and spotty at times. Water levels have fluctuated in tidal marsh ponds in the East Galveston and Trinity Bay areas. Stiff north winds associated with cold fronts along with Solstice tides have pushed water out of the bays and bayous. Pintails, gadwalls, greenwings and shovelers are making up the brunt of the harvest. Hunting around the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge as well as the High Island has been fair. Duck hunting is fair to good in West Matagorda Bay and Espiritu Santo Bay and on freshwater ponds near Bayside and Copano Bay. Stiff north winds have dropped tides, making access to backwater ponds and shorelines tough. Prospects are fair to good.

To get the most recent Migratory Bird report from the Texas Parks and Wildlife, visit their website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.



And the snow keeps falling

Even the a childrens playhouse in the backyard of the Fearing home wasn't safe from the chilly snow of Christmas Eve.

Headlight Photo by Cathy Fearing