

Eagle Lake Police Department Report

The Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) reported the following call and cases for the week ending March 26.

March 20

At 11:14 a.m., Officer John Sebastian was dispatched to the 500 block of Clay St. in regards to a 9-1-1 hang up. All was found to be in order.

At 1:40 p.m., Officer Sebastian provided traffic control for a concrete spill at the intersection of FM 3013 and Hwy 90A.

At 4:50 p.m., Officer Sebastian received a report of a welfare concern at the Sportsman's Motel. All was found to be in order.

At 6:52 p.m., Sgt. S. D. Nelson issued a citation for a violation of the city's weedy lot ordinance. The property in question was found to have high weeds and rubbish on it.

At 10:54 p.m., Officer Wayne Coleman was dispatched to the 100 block of W. Davitt St. in regards to a disturbance. The matter was settled at the scene.

March 21

At 9:15 a.m., Officer Sebastian received a report of a gas drive off in the 500 block of E. Main St.

At 3:30 p.m., Officer Sebastian met with a complainant at the PD in regards to missing property. Information was received.

At 6:54 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the 1000 block of Oak St. in regards to damaged property. The investigation was turned over to the Colorado County Sheriff's Department.

At 9:37 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the 500 block of E. Union St. in regards to an unlawful restraint. Case open for investigation.

At 10:03 p.m., Sgt. Nelson spoke via phone with a caller in regards to

missing property. Information was received.

At 11:15 p.m., Sgt. Nelson was flagged down in regards to a property check. All was found to be in order.

March 22

At 7:57 a.m., Officer Tomas Gonzalez was dispatched to the 300 block of Boothe Drive in regards to a two-vehicle accident. No injuries were reported. Investigation completed. Citation issued.

At 8:15 a.m., Chief W. E. Lattimore spoke via phone with a caller in regards to a welfare concern. Information was received.

At 3:32 p.m., Sgt. David Wiese met with a complainant at the PD in regards to possible phone harassment. Information was received.

At 3:50 p.m., Officer Gonzalez was dispatched to the 1000 block of Campo Rosa St. in regards to a welfare concern. All was found to be in order.

At 10:54 p.m., Officer Shady Elsabee was dispatched to the FM 3013 Place Apartments in regards to a 9-1-1 hang up. All was found to be in order.

March 23

At 12:50 p.m., Officer Gonzalez was dispatched to the 100 block of E. Waverly St. in regards to a welfare concern. All was found to be in order.

At 1:25 p.m., Lt. Wendy Alley along with the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a mobile home on fire in the 300 block of Allen St. The fire was put out. No injuries were reported.

At 2:30 p.m., Officer Gonzalez was dispatched to the 1300 block of Murphy Rd. in regards to damaged property. Information was received.

At 5:10 p.m., Officer Gonzalez spoke via phone with a caller in regards to a civil matter. Information was received.

At 6:52 p.m., Officer Elsabee was dispatched to a loose dog in the 500 block of N. McCarty St. The dog was caught and returned by the owner. Verbal warning issued.

March 24

At 10:10 a.m., Chief Lattimore spoke via phone with a caller in regards to a civil matter. Information was received.

At 11:47 a.m., Officer Sebastian was dispatched to a fire just outside the city limits on Hwy 90A. It was discovered that the fire was a controlled burn.

At 12:10 p.m., Officer Sebastian was dispatched to the area around the elementary school in regards to loud music. The music was not located.

At 5:16 p.m., Officer Sebastian was dispatched to the 600 block of Shirley St. in regards to a loose pit bull dog that was on the porch of the caller's residence. The caller was concerned for his children. The dog was picked up and impounded by animal control.

At 10:52 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to a vehicle in the ditch on Hunter's Lane. The described vehicle was not located.

March 25

At 5:06 a.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to Hunter's Lane in regards to an unwanted person. The person was escorted from the property.

At 10:52 a.m., Officer Sebastian was dispatched to the 500 block of E. Main St. in regards to a motorist assist. Delgado's wrecker service was called to unlock a vehicle.

At 11:40 a.m., Officer Sebastian provided a funeral escort.

At 1:43 p.m., Officer Sebastian assisted the ambulance in the 400 block of Alamo St.

At 2:30 p.m., Officer Sebastian was

dispatched to the 200 block of Golf Course Rd. in regards to a theft. Case open for investigation.

At 5:28 p.m., Sgt. Nelson initiated a traffic stop in the 1000 block of E. Main St. Audie Arthur Williams was arrested for driving while license invalid. Williams was processed at the PD and transported to the Colorado County Detention Center for confinement.

At 6:54 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to a suspicious male on the RR tracks at Harbert and Church Streets. The described male was not located.

At 8:11 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the 1000 block of East "A" St. in regards to a suspicious vehicle. The vehicle was gone when Coleman arrived.

At 10:09 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the Guadalupe Hall in regards to loud music. The music was turned down.

March 26

At 12:50 a.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the 500 block of E. Main St. in regards to an assault. Case open for investigation.

At 1:03 a.m., Sgt. Nelson was dispatched to the Guadalupe Hall in regards to a large fight. Nelson could not find any signs of a fight.

At 4:17 a.m., Officer Coleman spoke via phone with a caller in regards to a close patrol. Information was received.

At 6 a.m., Officer Sebastian was dispatched to a vehicle stuck in the ditch near the Guadalupe Hall. The vehicle was not damaged nor was any other property damaged. The vehicle was later removed.

At 6:03 a.m., Officer Sebastian was dispatched to E. Main St. in regards to a possible intoxicated driver. The described vehicle was not located.

At 6:18 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the 500 block of Norris St. in regards to a theft. Case open for investigation.

At 6:56 p.m., Officer Coleman was dispatched to the 400 block of East "B" St. in regards to a disturbance. The offending party was gone when

Coleman arrived.

At 8:28 p.m., Officer Coleman spoke via phone with a caller in regards to a sex offender. Information was received.

At 10:39 p.m., Officer Coleman checked on a suspicious vehicle on "A" St. All was found to be in order.

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Department Of Housing Gives \$9.9 Million In Aid

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) recently awarded \$9.9 million to 12 counties and two nonprofit housing organizations in East and Southeast Texas to help area residents rebuild or repair homes damaged by Hurricane Rita.

The funds are expected to assist an estimated 266 households living in 13 counties.

"I am pleased we can provide this much-needed assistance so that Texans recovering from Hurricane Rita can rebuild and repair their homes," Governor Rick Perry said. "I am heartened by the steps toward recovery we are making in the region, and I will continue to call upon Washington to provide the hurricane relief

promised to Texans."

The awards were comprised of \$8.6 million in federal HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds and \$1.3 million from the state's Texas Bootstrap Loan Program.

The HOME Program awards will help repair or replace an estimated 206 homes owned and occupied by low income Texans.

Counties receiving an award included Jefferson, Jasper, San Jacinto, Tyler, Polk, Newton, Orange, Hardin, San Augustine, Trinity, Shelby, and Angelina.

HOME Program funds may be used for the rehabilitation of single-family homes, including roof repair or replacement, electrical system repairs, and plumbing repairs.

An individual must own and reside in their home in order to qualify for the program; rental homes are not eligible. In the event a home is beyond reasonable repair, it may be demolished and replaced.

The Governor's Office played an integral role in helping TDHCA obtain necessary waivers to state and federal program rules, allowing the allocation of these funds with a minimum of restrictions, conditions, and delays.

TDHCA awarded \$1.3 million in Texas Bootstrap Loan Program funds to Habitat for Humanity/Texas and the Port Arthur Affordable Housing Corporation. These two organizations will assist 60 very low-income individuals and families living in Jefferson, Polk, and San Jacinto counties

repair or rebuild their homes through "sweat equity."

Participants in the Texas Bootstrap Loan Program must provide at least 60% of the labor necessary to construct or repair the home, and homeowners must work through a state-certified, nonprofit operator of an owner-builder program.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas' lead agency responsible for affordable housing, public and energy assistance programs, and colonia activities.

The Department annually administers funds in excess of \$400 million, the majority of which is derived from mortgage revenue bond financing and refinancing, federal grants, and federal tax credits.

Relay For Life Getting Ready For April 21 Event

There is still time to organize and register a team for the 3rd annual Colorado County American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life, scheduled to begin at six p. m. on Friday, April 21 at the Columbus High School football stadium.

Relay teams should have 10 to 15 members, with one member designated as captain.

Captains and/or other members, as well as those who intend or hope to raise a team, should attend all of the team captain meetings.

They are to be held at five o'clock on each of the first three Tuesdays in April (April 4, April 11, and April 18) at the First Baptist Church in Columbus.

At the meetings, the teams get instructions from the local Relay for Life executive committee regarding the event.

At the meeting on April 4, teams will get to choose their camp site. The

team which has turned in the most money on or before April 4 will get to choose first.

Anyone with specific questions, and anyone interested in being a team captain, a team member, a volunteer, or a sponsor, may call either Dorothy Fitzgerald, at 979 732-2778, Barbara Hartley, at 979 732-2815, or Jean Redus, at 979 732-2439.

In addition, the Colorado County Relay for Life is still selling luminarias.

Luminarias are purchased to honor friends and family members who have survived or been lost to cancer.

You may purchase luminarias through team members, or by picking up a form at a number of local retail outlets. If you cannot find a form, you may call the local luminaria chairman, René Lerma, at 979-733-0873.

Another reason for the Relay for

Life is to honor cancer survivors. At the event, survivors are recognized and encouraged to participate in special activities.

No less important, cancer caregivers are recognized. If you are a cancer survivor who wants to participate in this year's Relay for Life, please call Jo Churchill at 979 732-9596

The Relay for Life program was established by the ACS in the 1980s to afford communities an easy and fun way to raise money to help fight cancer.

Teams meet for the overnight event, where their members walk or run laps around a track, and play games in the infield. Each team keeps at least one member on the track all night long.

The ACS was established in 1913, as the American Society for the Control of Cancer, by a group of physicians and businessmen in New York City.

At the time, cancer was rarely dis-

cussed, and its victims regarded the disease as shameful. Few people knew the symptoms or warning signs. The society was founded to raise public awareness of cancer.

In 1936, the society created the Women's Field Army, which hit the streets in khaki uniforms, raising funds and educating the public.

The highly-visible Women's Field Army elevated the society into the front ranks of American health organizations.

After World War II, the society changed its name to ACS and established its research program. Since then, the society has committed about three billion dollars to cancer research.

Much of what is now known about cancer and how to fight it has been developed by scientists funded by the society.

The ACS has succeeded in its mission to raise awareness of cancer, and has contributed to the development of therapies which have diminished suffering, helped rehabilitation, and reduced the number of cancer deaths. It continues to fund research into finding a cure.

Attwater's Prairie Chicken Fest April 8-9

Personnel at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteers will be conducting special guided tours of the refuge during the twelfth annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival, April 8 and 9.

The celebration was conceived in 1995 through cooperative efforts from the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, Houston Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to enhance the awareness of this imperiled bird.

The entrance to the refuge is on FM 3013, about 6.5 miles northeast of Eagle Lake.

The first tour leaves promptly at 7 a.m. with tours leaving after that time as vans fill up.

Additional guided tours begin at 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. on both Saturday (April 8) and Sunday (April 9). The early morning tours

have a chance of possibly seeing Attwater's prairie chickens on the "booming" grounds, but there is no guarantee.

All tours will take visitors into an area that is normally closed to the public and will touch on such topics as refuge management techniques, prairie chicken recovery efforts, and coastal prairie ecosystem issues.

Tours are expected to last less than 2 hours, and will begin at the refuge Visitor Center.

The refuge is hosting additional events as well. Birdwatchers, whether experienced or beginners, can enjoy a walking tour from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. each day.

Following the walk, hop on a van and tour the refuge's Teal Marsh and Pintail Marsh from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day.

With the current drought situation the water levels are low in the marshes and it is unknown what the

water levels will be at the time of the festival. Experienced birders Doris Laughlin, Jane Meldahl, and Marilyn Crane will lead these guided tours.

For the native plant and wildflower enthusiasts, a special afternoon walking tour from 1- 2:30 p.m. will bring visitors "up close and personal" with many of the native prairie grasses and flowering plants.

The Native Plant Society's Kathy Burris will lead this walk on Saturday and Sunday and give those involved a greater appreciation of the coastal prairie ecosystem.

All the walking and driving events will begin at the refuge Headquarters. Food and drinks will also be available for purchase from the Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club, which is the Refuge's Friends Group.

All events are free of charge. Those interested in learning more about the festival should contact the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge at 979-234-3021, ext. 18.

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