

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Youngsters enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny at the Easter Egg Hunt held at the park on Saturday.

## Holy Week Activities Slated Here



Dylan Renee Wesselski, grand-niece of Steve and Linda Balas of Eagle Lake, takes time sit and tell the Easter Bunny all her Easter plans.

Numerous church activities are planned here this week in observance of Holy Week and Easter.

Grace Lutheran in Eagle Lake will hold a regular church service at 10 a.m. on Sunday and will offer Holy Communion.

First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake will hold a Good Friday Service at 7 p.m.; and church wide breakfast on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. followed by their Easter Service.

Eagle Lake and Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church will observe Holy Thursday with services in Eagle Lake at 6 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. in Garwood. The sermon will be, "A Towel and a Trial". Holy Communion will be offered.

A Good Friday service will be held in Eagle Lake at noon and at 6 p.m. in Garwood with the Sermon: "A Cross and a Cave". The Easter Sunday sermon will be entitled "Resurrection and Redemption".

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## County Nixes Tax Abatement

Colorado County commissioners turned down a request for a 100 percent tax abatement by a private company that said it had tentative plans to build a water bottling facility in the southeast part of the county.

The abatement request was made by American PureTex Water Co., which had requested a 100 percent abatement from county taxes for 10 years.

County Judge Al Jamison said the county's abatement guidelines allowed an abatement for only five years, starting at 100 percent the first year and declining to 25 percent the fifth year.

There was little discussion about

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## County History Book Approved

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, approved the publication of a book of historical homes.

The commissioners agreed to provide backing of up to \$5,500 of the cost of producing the book.

David Kahlich, chairman of the Historical Commission, said the book would feature 240 homes in the county.

He said the cost of printing 1,000 copies would be \$14,687. He said the commission had about \$10,000 in available funds, but had to pay the full cost within four months of printing.

Kahlich said the books would sell for \$20 each.

He said the commission published a book on the history of the county in 1986 and that it paid for itself.

In other action, commissioners:

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## Former Eagle Lake Residents Die In Austin Car Accident

Two recent Eagle Lake residents and longtime friends, Carrie Semora, 25, and John Cardenas Jr., 28, were killed in a two-vehicle accident Monday night in Austin.

Another occupant of the pickup in which they were riding, Matthew Martinez, 21, of Austin, also died in the accident.

Cardenas is the son of Cherry and John Cardenas Sr., of Eagle Lake.

Semora is the daughter of Bobby Semora of Eagle Lake and Mary Semora of Brookshire.

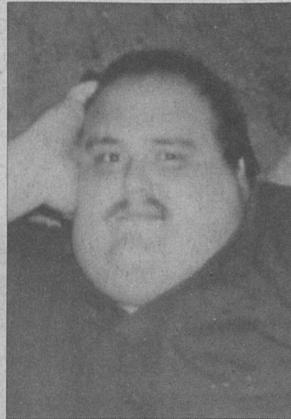
Semora and Cardenas had moved to Austin from Eagle Lake only about two weeks ago, according to Cardenas' mother.

She said that Cardenas and Semora had been close friends for a long time.

Mrs. Cardenas said her son had gotten a new job welding playground equipment, but had not yet started work.

He had previously worked for Stewart and Stevenson in Sealy as a welder.

His mother indicated the three individuals were sharing an apartment and that they were on their way home



John Cardenas, Jr.



Carrie Semora

from shopping and near their apartment when the accident occurred.

According to Austin Police Department reports, the three were in a pickup, driven by Cardenas, when the pickup and a garbage truck collided at the intersection of Decker Lane and Decker Lake Road on the east side of Austin.

All three occupants of the pickup were pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the garbage truck was transported to Brackenridge Hospital in Austin with non-life threatening injuries, according to police reports.

Police reports indicate that the

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## Council Discusses New Town Water

The Eagle Lake City Council discussed taking over the New Town Water System at their regular meeting Tuesday night.

A few representatives from new town were present at the meeting.

Representatives had a question about the \$150 deposit that the city plans to charge if they take over the system.

Also, council advised that the New Town Water System had been levied a \$5,500 fine from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for operating a water system without a properly licensed operator.

The residents said that they had paid a deposit initially when the New Town Water System was created years ago and were wondering why they would be required to pay another deposit.

City Manager Ron Holland advised that the deposit is required in case payments can not be collected on the account and if the account is closed in

good standing, the final month's water bill is taken out of the deposit and the remainder refunded.

He said that because the New Town customers would be new customers to the City of Eagle Lake, the

deposit is required.

Representatives of New Town asked about the possibility of getting a licensed operator and continued

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## City Council Reviews Garbage Collection

The Eagle Lake City Council heard an update on once a week garbage collection at their meeting Tuesday night.

City Manager Ron Holland advised that the new pick-up schedule was working well and that the city had received only a few complaints about the new service.

He said that most of the complaints stemmed from residents accumulating too much garbage or the garbage

starting to smell.

After three months with the new schedule, the city estimates that they will save about \$12,000 per year with once a week pick-up.

The biggest savings come from the reduction of overtime hours. In the three month period from January to March, overtime hours were reduced by 36 from the previous year for the

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## Detention Center Cost County \$380,000

The operation of the county's juvenile detention facility at Eagle Lake from September until it was shut down last month cost the county approximately \$382,000.

That was the figure from County Auditor Raymie Kana, who said there are still a few bills and some income checks due.

She said the facility's income was approximately \$673,000 and expenses were \$1,145,900, for a loss of \$472,000. But she said that was offset by \$90,000 in reserve funds earmarked for the ju-

venile center that the county had when it began day-to-day operations.

The county had taken over operation of the facility after the private company that had been operating it withdrew when the Texas Youth Commission stopped putting juveniles in the facility.

County officials took over the operation in the hope they could break even on costs and keep the facility open.

County Judge Al Jamison said he thinks the building will probably be

closed up indefinitely after the Rice School District finishes using part of the facility for an alternative school at the end of May.

He said county commissioners will have to make that decision.

He said he had discussed briefly the possibility of use of the facility by the Wharton County Junior College, but said he felt they were not interested since there had been no further discussions.

The facility was built in 1997 with a \$2.7 million state grant.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Closing for Good Friday

The following will be closed or observing different office hours in observance of Good Friday: First National Bank, lobby closed at 2 p.m., drive thru will be open until 6 p.m.; Wallis State Bank, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wintermann Library will be closed; Colorado County Courthouse will be closed; and the City of Eagle Lake will also be closed. There will be no trash collection on Friday. Thursdays route and Friday's route will be collected on Thursday.

### Gator Swim team registration underway

Gator Swim team registration will be held at Golden Goose Designs, 217 E. Main from 10 a.m. to noon April 15, and 22. Registration fee is \$35 for each swimmer. Registration includes Gator fee, team t-shirt, CCAA dues, and TMF insurance for the regular season. Team swimsuit fillings will be held at registration. The cost of the team swimsuit varies with the gender/size of the swimmer and the additional gear selected for purchase. Register on these dates to get the group rate on the swimsuit. It will go up after these registration dates.

### District meetings underway

All Rice CISD parents are encouraged to attend a district meeting to discuss their child's required state or local assessment. Meeting will be beneficial in answering questions concerning the type of assessment their child will take, the acceptable accommodations or modifications their child will have, the test schedule for testing and much more. You will have two opportunities to hear information and ask questions. The second meeting will be at Rice High School at 6 p.m. April 18. Rice CISD parents needing more information may call 979-732-6478.

### Bake sale set for Friday

The Relay for Life team "Butterfly Kisses" will hold a bake sale on Friday, April 14 at 8:30 a.m. inside Eagle Lake Drugstore. Stop by and help support their efforts to find a cure for cancer. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

### "Hope Warriors" to hold bake sale

Relay for Life team members of "Hope Warriors" will hold a bake sale Friday, April 14 in front of First National Bank starting at 8 a.m. Get your goodies for the Easter holiday. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Stop by and help the Warriors in their fight to find a cure for cancer.

### Myrtle Cemetery Assoc. meeting is April 18

The Annual Business Meeting of the Myrtle Cemetery Association will be

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The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department recently purchased some new equipment with the help of a \$1,000 donation from the Lions Club. The fire department used the funds to purchase water rescue and spilling equipment. Pictured from left to right, Kurt Sunderman, Captain; Curtis Rose, High Angle Rescue, Rope Rescue Ops., Confined Space Ops., First Assistant Chief; Howard Wilkerson, Chief; Darrell Stancik, 2nd Assistant Chief; Bryan Wiese, Eagle Lake Lions Club President; Tim Jones, Captain, Swift Water 1st Responder-Confined Space ANO; Gary Glaiser, Past Chief; Chad Sunderman, Captain, Swift Water 1st Responder, Confined Space ANO; and Shane Glaiser, Rope Rescue Tech., Confined Space Tech., Swift Water Tech., Structural Collapse and Trench Rescue.