

Eagle Lake Headlight

50¢

Serving Southern Colorado County
www.eaglelakeheadlight.com

50¢

VOLUME 103 NUMBER 18

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

JULY 20, 2006



Work began recently on Old Altair Road to add sewer and water lines in the New Town area.

New Town Sewer, Water Work Begins

Construction began this week on work designed to expand sewer and water services in the New Town area. Currently, sewer and water coverage extends west along Old

Teen Pleads Guilty To Sexual Assault

An Eagle Lake teenager has pleaded guilty to the sexual assault of an 83-year old Eagle Lake woman.

Curtis O. Frazier, 17, entered his plea of guilty on July 17, to the aggravated sexual assault, which occurred on Jan. 31, 2006.

District Court Judge W.C. Kirkendall accepted his plea and will determine his sentence on Aug. 7.

Frazier, who remains in custody, faces up to fifty years in prison in a plea agreement made at the request of the victim to spare her from having to testify in a trial.

He will have to serve one-half of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

"The Eagle Lake Police Department did a tremendous job in the investigation of this case," said County Attorney Ken Sparks.

Eagle Lake Chief W.E. (Bill) Lattimore called in scent-discriminating bloodhounds, which were able to track the rapist's scent to the Frazier's back door and took aerial photographs.

Lt. Wendy Alley made special arrangements to have the victim examined by a specially trained sexual assault nurse examiner at the Smithville Hospital who gathered evidence resulting in a positive DNA match with Frazier.

"This was a very brutal sexual assault," added Sparks.

"Frazier broke her right arm and struck her several times in the face resulting in the loss of a tooth and a fractured dental plate," he said.

Frazier was on bond for the felony offense of burglary of a building when he committed the sexual assault.

Sparks also praised the quick action by two neighbors of the victim, who noticed something was amiss at the home, interrupted the attack in progress and caused the attacker to flee.

Sparks said a statement by the victim said that the attacker had pinned her down and was attempting to smother her with pillows when the women arrived at the home.

The county attorney said the two neighbors, Eugenia Ruiz, 66,

and Julia Barrios, 75, walked on a daily basis for exercise in the neighborhood and usually stopped to talk to the victim at the end of their walk.

On the day of the attack, they said when they reached the house, they noticed the gate to her yard open and the screen door ajar.

As they began to look closer, he said, they heard the victim screaming inside the house.

They approached a window and one of them banged on it, causing the attacker to flee.

"They literally stopped the crime in progress," Sparks said. "If they hadn't stopped she might well have died."

He said the women then called 9-1-1 and police arrived at the scene.

Sparks said Eagle Lake Police Lt. Wendy Alley noticed the woman had been severely bitten

in the attack.

He said he arranged for her to be examined by a specially trained nurse who took a sample of saliva from the bite.

The prosecutor said that another DNA sample matched that of the defendant.

He said the odds of the match being wrong were one in 7.553 quintillion.

He also said that police obtained scent samples from a sock left at the scene by the attacker and from a sweatshirt and specially trained dogs tracked the scent to the suspect's back door.

"It was the equivalent of a CSI investigation," Sparks said, referring to the popular television show about crime scene investigations.

Lattimore also praised the work of the officers and the coop-

Continued on back page

Busy Week For Emergency Crews



Pictured above are the remains of a pickup driven by Lawrence Voleck of Sealy. The wreck occurred Saturday about 10 a.m. just south of Altair on Highway 71. According to reports Voleck had stopped on the side of the road facing north when he tried to re-enter the roadway and was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer driven by Jesus Perez of Sealy. Voleck was airlifted from the scene by helicopter. The accident was investigated by D.P.S. Trooper Stephen Pierce.

NEWSBRIEFS

E.H. Henry to hold meeting tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni and Ex-students will hold a meeting Thursday, July 20 at 7 p.m. Meeting place will be White Cloud Baptist Church.

CCHC meeting is tonight

The Colorado County Historical Commission will hold a meeting Thursday, July 20 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1700 Milam in Columbus. Pamela Potter will present the program, "History of Colorado County, Past '1909' to Present '2006'. Please bring a covered dish meal.

Youth football league sign-up is Saturday

The Columbus Youth Football League will hold sign up Saturday, July 22 at the Montezuma Baseball Park in Columbus from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration for youth first grade through sixth grade is \$80 per player. A copy of the child's original birth certificate and fees are required at the time of sign-up. For more information call Joel Lopez at 979-732-3892 or Joseph Reyes at 979-733-9913.

Workshop, mission day is July 22-23

Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church will host a MISSION Annual Workshop and Mission DAY. Mission workshop is Saturday, July 22 at 9:30 a.m. Mission Annual Day is Sunday, July 23 at 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

FBC Sheridan to hold VBS July 23-27

The First Baptist in Sheridan will hold vacation bible school July 23-27 from 6 to 8:20 p.m. The theme, "Take the VBS Artic Edge Challenge" will be for children age pre-k through sixth grade.

VBS at Vine of the Lord Church July 24-26

Vine of the Lord Church located at 1300 East State Street invites all children in the area to attend their Vacation Bible School (VBS) Monday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 26 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Lady Raider volleyball camp is July 24-27

Texas Thunder Volleyball is coming to Rice High School to put on a volleyball camp. There will be two sessions. Elementary/Middle School will go from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and varsity and sub-varsity from 2 to 6 p.m. The camp session is \$100 if you are interested please call Coach Blaschke at 234-3535 ext. 1111.

CCA Banquet is Aug. 3

The CCA Live Oak Chapter will hold their banquet Thursday, Aug. 3 at the Columbus KC Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the dinner at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25; at the door \$30; 12 and under, \$10. Door prizes will be given and there will be a live and silent auction. Corporate tables are available for \$400. For more information call Dwight Mazac at 979-732-5786 or 732-5635 or Todd Radke at 732-0486.

Community softball event set

Would you like to sign up to play softball? A community softball event is in the works. Registration is underway through Aug. 3. Beginners and advanced players welcome. For registration information call 281-989-2555. The event will be hosted by Power Unlimited and E.H. Henry Historical Corporation.

Raider workouts begin Aug. 7

The Rice Athletic Department will start its pre-season workouts Aug. 7. Football and volleyball players in grades 9-12 need to check the following schedule for times for bus pickups. Letters were sent

Continued on page 7

Altair Rd. for about a half mile from Austin Rd.

The project aims to extend both water and sewer coverage approximately an additional half mile down Old Altair Rd.

The funding for the expansion comes from a Community Development Grant of \$350,000 issued by the Office of Rural Community Affairs using HUD funds.

Colorado County sponsored the grant.

New customers connected to the system will be disconnected from their current septic and well systems.

Rice Talks November Bond Issue

The Rice Consolidated Board of Trustees reviewed modified plans for renovations and additional construction at Rice High School at their regular meeting Monday night.

Spurred by the failure of the May bond election and the deteriorating condition of the Eagle Lake Junior High, the board considered preliminary alternatives for a November bond election.

The alternative plan presented calls for construction of new band, cafeteria, and auditorium facilities at Rice High School as well as the

Continued on back page

Council Hires Collector

The Eagle Lake City Council voted at their regular meeting Tuesday, July 11 to contract with the law firm of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. for collection of delinquent court fines.

The firm will take over collection efforts on fines owed to the city for delinquent tickets.

The firm will collect a 30 percent fee, paid by the offender, on delinquent fines from September 2003 and newer. In September 2003, the legislature passed a law allowing a collection fee of 30 percent to be added to outstanding fines.

For fines from before that date, the firm will charge a fee of

Continued on page 9



Officers and emergency personnel help on the scene of an accident that occurred Monday about 5 p.m. at the intersection of 90A and Beaks Avenue. According to reports, the pickup, driven by Nora Sifuentes of Eagle Lake, was headed west on Hwy. 90A and struck a BMW, driven by Shaunte Black of Eagle Lake, when Sifuentes attempted to turn left onto Beaks Ave. Sifuentes and a passenger, Apolinar Sifuentes, were taken by ambulance to Rice Medical Center and Black and a passenger, Thella Black, were transported to Rice Medical Center by private vehicle. The accident was investigated by Officer Tomas Gonzales assisted by Sgt. David Wiese and Officer Shady Elsabee.



Pictured above is a truck driven by Laura Rogers of Houston. The wreck occurred about two miles north of Altair on Highway 71. Reports indicate that Rogers was headed south when she attempted to pass a tractor trailer on the right shoulder. The tractor trailer was slowing down to turn right onto a private driveway. Rogers struck the right front quarter of the tractor trailer and rolled several times into the ditch. Rogers refused treatment at the scene. The accident was investigated by D.P.S. Trooper Patrick Mladenka.