



### Catholic Life Insurance Awards Scholarships

The Catholic Life Insurance Nada Branch #15 recently awarded four \$250 college scholarships to local members. Winners were Katie Hoffman and Luke Shimek of Nada, Audrey Drlik of Garwood and Cassidy Popp of El Campo. Pictured from left to right are Catholic Life President, Michael Belz of San Antonio, newly elected District Director Lawrence Shimek, scholarship winners, Hoffman, Drlik, Shimek, Secretary Betty Leopold and Branch President and Agent, Chris Merta.



Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary 14 of Nada has chosen St. Mary's Church for a \$100 donation to their library. Pictured is Suzy Popp-CCD Director, Father Joe Vrana, Pastor, Ernestine Schneider, president; Cathy Leopold, secretary; Betty Leopold, treasurer; Virginia Balusek, vice president; and St. Mary's CCD kindergarten class Carter Cook, Marshall Krpec, Colby Wigginton, Macee Krpec and Bethani Gold.

### St. Mary's Church Library Receives Donation

The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas-KJZT, adopted a state-wide fraternal project, recognizing each of the seventy-five 2005 Diamond Status Societies. Each Society will receive a \$100 to be donated to a Catholic School library for purchasing books or to a parish religious education program for purchasing needed materials. The purpose

behind the Fraternal Project is to promote the reading program in Catholic Schools or to promote Catholic Religious education of children in a parish. Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary 14 of Nada has chosen St. Mary's Church for their donation. Each year Societies of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas-KJZT

focus on participating in work projects, parish projects, and community projects throughout the state. During 2005 fraternal members donated 283,190 volunteer hours and participated in 14,583 events assisting others, working to make parishes and communities stronger and more viable.

### Elementary School Receives Donation

The Gulf Coast Medical Foundation (GCMF) awarded \$15,000 in funding for the Afterschool Programs in Eagle Lake Primary School and Sheridan Elementary School.

The Afterschool Program is administered by Youth & Family Services in collaboration with Rice CISD.

Rice CISD is providing transportation, snacks and classroom space. Youth & Family Services will provide Drug & Alcohol Prevention Education classes throughout the program.

The Afterschool Program is starting its sixth year providing afterschool programs in the area. The program this year is for fourth and fifth grade students on the Eagle Lake and Sheridan Elementary campuses.

The program is offered two days a week on each campus for 1-1/2 hours each day. The goal of the Afterschool Program is to offer youth a safe environment between the hours of 3:30 and 5 p.m. when most parents are at work.

The other benefits of the Afterschool Program are tutoring, homework completion, fun recreational activities, Drug & Alcohol Prevention Education, development of good social skills and positive interactions with teachers.

### Local Students Inducted Into Phi Theta Kappa

Two students from Colorado County are among the fall semester initiates into the Beta Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Blinn College.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international academic honor society for two-year colleges.

For students to be invited to join the chapter they must have completed at least 12 hours and have a minimum 3.45 grade point average.

The local students inducted were: Kelly Konesheck of Eagle Lake and Gloria Townsend of Weimar.

Blinn's Beta Alpha Chapter has distinguished itself through the years and is the only chapter in the world to have an international award, the Beta Alpha Award for Continued Excellence, named after it.

### WCJC To Hold Meals On Wheels Fundraiser

The Wharton County Junior (WJC) Colorado County Senior Citizen Program will hold a BBQ Fundraiser on October 6, 2006 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fundraiser proceeds will help provide meals and services to seniors. Pre-sale tickets are required and are \$6.50 each. BBQ plates are served "to go" only and include 1/2 BBQ Chicken and Trimmings. Plates may be picked up at the drive-through lines at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hwy. 90 W. in Columbus. Call 979.732.5606 to order tickets. Tickets are also available at the WCJC Colorado Senior Citizen Program Office at

316 Spring Street in Columbus. For more information call 979-732-5606.

**school lunch menu**

**Rice Schools 10/9-13**

**Breakfast**

**Mon.**-Breakfast pocket or cereal, juice milk.

**Tue.**-Blueberry muffins, or cereal, juice, milk.

**Wed.**-combo bar graham crackers or cereal, juice, milk.

**Thur.**-cinnamon toast, sausage patty or cereal, juice, milk.

**Fri.**-Cereal, yogurt, juice, milk.

**Lunch**

**Mon.**-Chicken nuggets, rice pilaf, mustard greens, carrots, fruit, milk. HS alt. hot dog.

**Tue.**-Pep. pizza, veggie w/ ranch dip, confetti salad, fruit, milk. HS Alt.-bean burrito.

**Wed.**-Chili dog, fries, pickle spear, fruit, milk HS Alt.-frito pie.

**Thu.**-Steak fingers, pasta salad, squash, applesauce milk HS Alt.-corn dog.

**Fri.**-Sausage roll, scalloped pot., baked beans, fruit, milk HS-Alt.-fish sticks.

## School Days

**Rice School Calendar 10/9-14**

**Mon.**- 4:30 p.m. JH V-ball vs. Schulenburg

**Tue.**- 5:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. Ganado, 9th, JV, V  
6:30 PTS meeting

**Wed.**-

**Thu.**- 5:00 p.m. JV Football vs. Tidehaven  
JH Football vs. Tidehaven

**Fri.**- 4:30 VB vs. Tidehaven 9th, JV, V  
7:30 V Football vs. Tidehaven (Home coming) Pep rally in gym.

**Sat.**- Band Marching Contest @ Pearland  
Cross Country meet @ Roundtop

In response to public concerns about a proposed interbasin water conservation and supply project, the LCRA Board of Directors has passed a resolution that recognizes the project's benefits and directs staff on key issues such as groundwater and land acquisition. The resolution is being published here to inform the public of the Board's action.

## LCRA Board Resolution: LCRA-SAWS Water Project

Whereas, the Region K water planning group has identified future water shortages for agriculture and rural communities in the lower Colorado River basin, and the Region L water planning group has identified water shortages for the San Antonio area; and

Whereas, the planning groups for both regions and the Texas Water Development Board have included in their long-term water plans a proposal for the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to address future water shortages in both regions; and

Whereas, the project would provide the very significant funding needed to meet future water shortages in the lower Colorado River basin and would also help the San Antonio area meet some of its future water needs; and

Whereas, the proposed project would benefit the lower Colorado River basin by:

- Producing more reliable water supplies to support the lower basin's agricultural industry and related jobs, income and tax revenues; and
- Conserving significant amounts of agricultural water; and
- Providing financial resources to develop groundwater in the lower basin to supplement river water for agriculture, if surface water becomes less available for agriculture in the future due to the growth of cities in the basin; and
- Providing water for rural communities that face future water shortages; and
- Benefiting lakes Buchanan and Travis; and
- Protecting the natural resources of the Colorado River and Matagorda Bay; and
- Further enhancing the basin's long-term water supplies when the contract between LCRA and SAWS ends and water being sold to SAWS reverts to the basin; and

Whereas, the sale of groundwater to municipalities outside LCRA's service area, including San Antonio, as a result of this project is not authorized by the legislation governing the project; and

Whereas, a six-year, in-depth study period with broad public involvement and independent scientific review is under way to determine the proposed project's technical, environmental and financial feasibility and potential long-term effects; and

Whereas, the proposed project will not be implemented until the six-year study period is completed; necessary local, state and federal permits have been approved; and the study results and the project's potential long-term effects are better understood; and

Whereas, until the study period is completed the LCRA Board cannot determine if the proposed project will meet legal requirements set by the Texas Legislature to protect and benefit the basin's interests, maintain the ecological health and productivity of Matagorda Bay, provide water to protect instream flows in the lower Colorado River, require San Antonio to have water conservation measures in place, and raise the average levels of lakes Buchanan and Travis above what they would be in the future without the project;

Therefore be it resolved that the LCRA Board of Directors recognizes and appreciates the public's interest in the proposed project and commends the lower basin's citizens for their active involvement in the process, advisory group members for their time and effort to study the project, and elected officials for vigorously representing their constituencies and voicing their concerns on how best to meet the basin's future water shortages; and

The Board further resolves that LCRA will continue to work with the public to plan for the long-term water needs of cities, industries, agriculture, recreation and natural resources in the basin, and especially in the Region K portions of Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda counties where future surface water shortages are most likely to occur; and

The Board further resolves to reinforce LCRA's strong commitment to continue promoting water conservation throughout the Colorado River basin; and

The Board further resolves to direct LCRA staff to:

- Continue to work closely with the basin's elected officials, stakeholders and residents to regularly inform them of the project's status and the study's findings; and
- Carry out the Board's policy to protect the property rights of private landowners when negotiating the acquisition of land, offer fair compensation for private property that will be needed if the project proceeds, strive to find willing sellers, and use eminent domain to acquire property only when necessary as a last resort; and
- Work with SAWS staff to develop recommendations to mitigate lost property tax revenues resulting from this project and avoid passing those costs on to LCRA, its customers or the basin's residents; and
- Continue to abide by the rules of local groundwater districts, limit the amount of groundwater that may be used for the project, lease existing wells instead of owning or drilling wells when feasible, and use groundwater developed for the project only when needed to meet water supply needs of customers served by LCRA's irrigation districts.

Approved this 20th day of September, 2006.

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