

Eagle Lake Headlight

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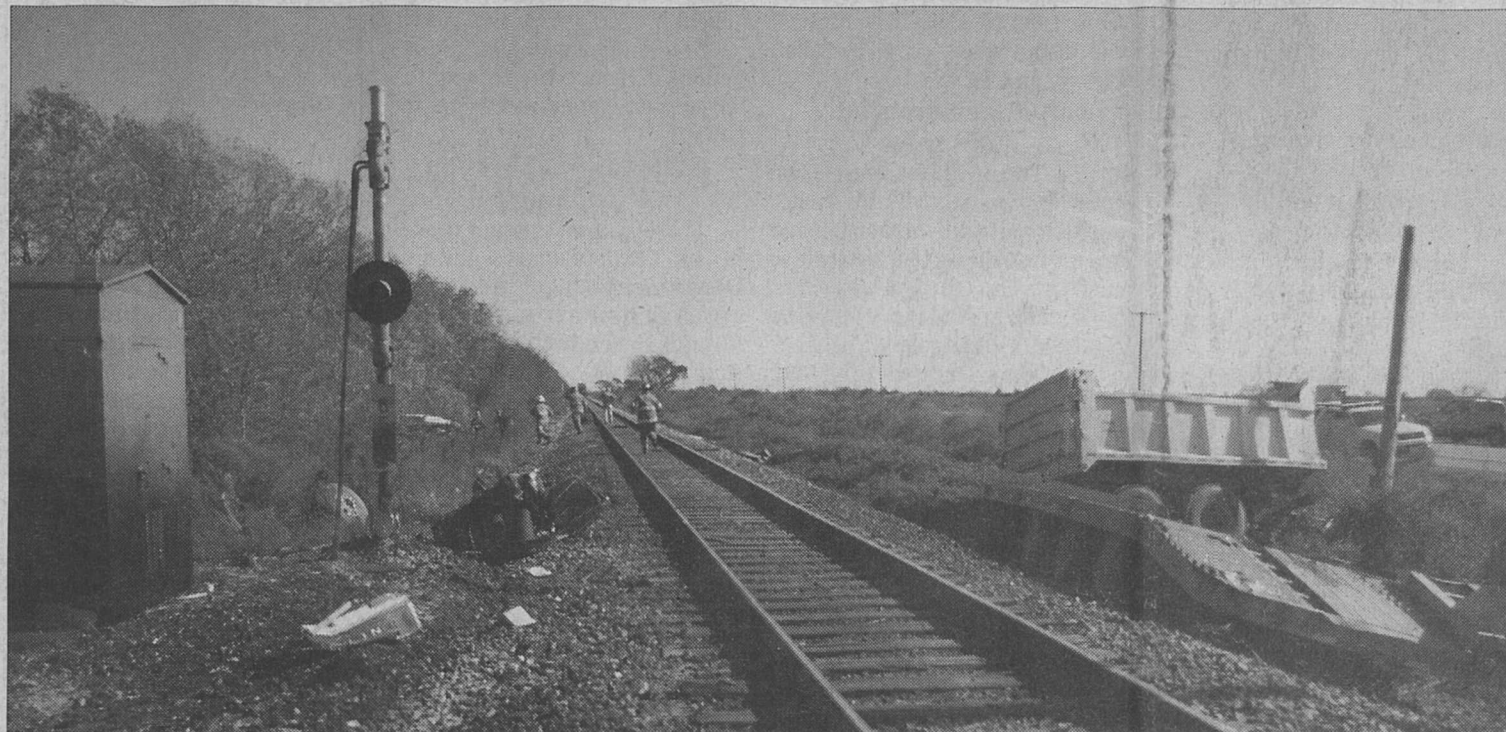
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

DECEMBER 7, 2006



Emergency workers run down the railroad tracks to the wreckage of a dump truck that was struck by a train a couple of miles east of Eagle Lake on Tuesday. The driver of the truck, Malcom Thomas of Eagle Lake, died from injuries sustained in the accident.

Eagle Lake Man Dies In Train Wreck

An Eagle Lake man was killed Tuesday afternoon in an accident with a train about two miles east of Eagle Lake about 1 p.m..

Malcom Thomas, 40, was transported to Rice Medical Center by helicopter, but was pronounced dead after arrival, according to Department of Public Safety reports.

The accident occurred on a private, gravel road off of Hwy. 90A known as Sinclair Crossing.

The road is owned by the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the railroad crossing is marked with lights but has no crossing guards, say reports.

Thomas, an employee of LCRA, was driving northbound in an LCRA dump truck hauling a flatbed trailer when he crossed the tracks in front of an eastbound train. The train struck the driver side of the truck cab and dragged it about 70 to 100 yards down the

track, reports indicate.

The train was a single engine with four rail cars attached and is operated by Union Pacific according to DPS.

DPS reports indicate that Thomas was wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.

The accident was investigated by DPS Trooper Thomas Janak. He was assisted by the Eagle Lake Police Department, Colorado County Sheriff's Department, Colorado County EMS, Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Union Pacific Police.

NEWSBRIEFS

First National Bank to host gift tree

First National Bank of Eagle Lake is hosting a gift tree for Texas Department of Health and Human Services - Children's Protective Services (CPS) for children in the Eagle Lake and surrounding area. The donated gifts will be distributed to children and families who are receiving services through CPS. If you have any questions call Rebecca Cole at 234-6926.

White Cloud fish fry is Friday

White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) will hold a fish fry, Friday, Dec. 8 starting at 11 a.m. at WCBC. Delivery available. Phone in orders by calling 234-3800.

Thrift Shop open Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum will be open Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be your last chance to shop in 2006!!

Sisterhood to meet Saturday

Chapter FB of the P.E.O. Sisterhood will meet on the following dates: Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. in La Grange; Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. in La Grange and Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. in La Grange. For more information, unaffiliated members, please call Helen Craig at 979-234-2807.

Lighted Christmas Parade Saturday

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will once again host the Traditional Christmas Parade of Lights, Saturday, Dec. 9. The public is invited to attend.

Garwood Library coffee is Dec. 12

You are invited to a Christmas Coffee at the Garwood Veterans Memorial Library on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come and bring a friend. Enjoy the fellowship of old friends and meet new ones. See you there!!

Study Club meeting is Dec. 13

The Eagle Lake Study Club will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at Wintermann Library. Theresa Losoya director of My Friends House Daycare will conduct the program, "Different Mexico and Texas Christmas Traditions". The public is welcome to attend.

20th Century to present program

You are invited to a Pre-Christmas program presented by 20th Century Minister's, Deacons and Wives on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. at White Cloud Baptist Church, 1493 Old Altair Road. Rev. O. Rhodes, moderator, Rev. C. Owens, Jr., auxiliary moderator, and Sis. Robbie Rhodes, president.

City's reminder to sewer customers

In order to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year, the City of Eagle Lake will be considering water consumptions of each customer from Dec. 16 through March 15. Customers are encouraged to fix any water leaks as soon as possible in an effort to keep water consumptions at a minimum during this time. Each residential sewer rate is based on the actual water consumed at that particular location. If you have any questions please call City Hall at 234-2640.

New Year's Eve fireworks Dec. 31

Plan now to ring in the New Year at the annual Eagle Lake Fireworks Display Sunday, Dec. 31. The 30-minute show is open to the public and will be presented at the usual location on Calhoun Road beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, stop by the Eagle Lake Post Office or call 979-234-2627.

Go-Texan scholarship apps. available

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will provide a \$12,000, four-year scholarship to an eligible, outstanding student in each of the 60 Area Go-Texan counties in 2007. The scholarship is open to every senior who meets the criteria of citizenship, residence, academic standing, college/university enrollment plans, demonstrated leadership, character and economic need. Scholarship applications are available at the Colorado County Extension Office, 316 Spring St.,

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Two Kringle Cash Winners Named

Two people have won prizes of \$25 gift certificates for the holiday season in the second week of the Headlight's "Kris Kringle Cash Contest."

The lucky winners were Sherry Norton of Lissie and Kelli Nieto of Schulenburg.

Their names were drawn from a number of entries that listed the correct number of Christmas symbols (14) appearing in the

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Columbus Supports Water Dist.

The Columbus City Council, in a special meeting Monday, voted to approve a resolution asking the county to appoint a committee to look at reviving a proposed groundwater conservation district.

The unanimous action, on a 5-0 vote, came after Columbus Mayor Richard Heffley, who said he had opposed two previous attempts to form a groundwater district, told council members he favored the resolution.

Voting for the resolution were

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Murderer Of Toddler Gets 25 Years

A 20-year-old Columbus woman was sentenced to 25 years in prison Tuesday, Dec. 5, after pleading guilty to murder in the death of her 14-month old stepdaughter, who died of a head injury after being thrown to the floor of the family's apartment.

Brittanie N. Kloesel was sentenced by District Judge W.C. (Bud) Kirkendall after a plea agreement between prosecutors and defense attorneys that reduced the charge from capital murder.

She was convicted of causing the death of Emily K. Fitzgerald on Sept. 7.

The child died after being taken to the Columbus Community Hospital.

An autopsy showed the child died of a "blunt force head injury."

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Historic District Meeting Positive

The Texas Historical Commission held a public meeting Thursday, November 30 at 3 p.m. at City Hall for discussion of the nomination of downtown Eagle Lake to the National Register of Historical Places.

About 15 citizens attended the meeting and the atmosphere was a positive one.

Greg Smith of the Texas Historical Commission conducted the meeting.

He gave a brief explanation of the process of being added to the Register of Historic Places and also discussed some of the potential benefits.

He said that the application will be reviewed at a January meeting of the Texas Historical Commission Board and will decide if the application should be sent on to the National Parks Service for consideration.

He said that if the board approves of the application, the National Parks Service would have 45 days to review the application and decide if it should be added to the register.

If the district were approved by the National Parks Service,

property owners would be able to purchase plaques for their buildings. Plaques range in cost from \$75, \$125 and \$150.

He advised that no entity could prevent a landowner from doing anything they wish with their property even if it is on the register.

"Someone could tear down a property if they wanted to," Smith said. "We hope they wouldn't tear one down, but they could," he added.

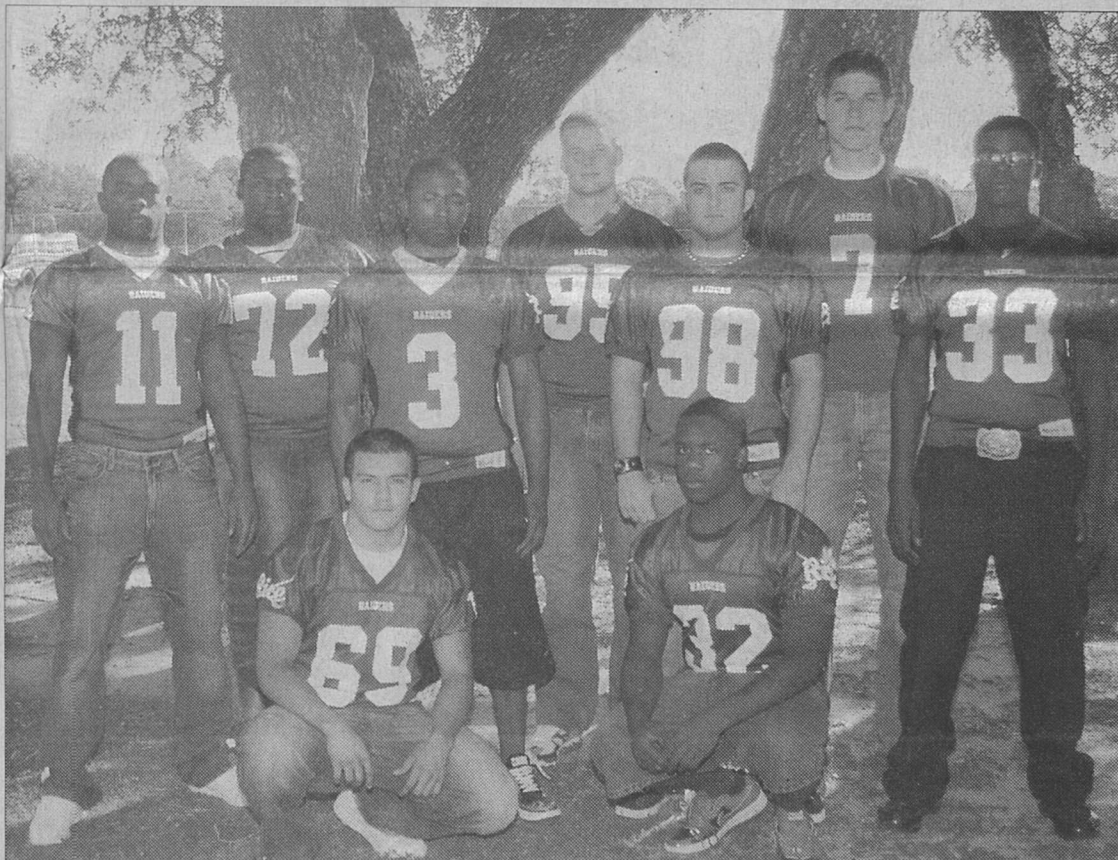
He said that property owners would be eligible for tax credits for historic renovations.

He advised that a contributing property, meaning a historic building in the district, could receive 20% of renovation costs back in the form of a federal tax credit.

If a landowner chooses to apply for the tax credit, then the National Parks Service would have to approve the renovations.

The owner would also not be able to sell the property for five years, or have to repay some of the tax credit.

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Eighteen Raiders Named To All District Teams

Pictured are members of the Raider football team named to All-District. Back row from left to right are Brian Williams, first team defensive back; Nelson Dabney, first team offensive lineman; Darkeith Pratt, first team wide receiver; first team defensive back; Brent Botard, first team defensive lineman; T.J. Danklefs, first team linebacker; Taylor Cook, MVP first team, first team punter; Jasmine Hemphill, first team defensive lineman; front row, Pablo Saurez, MVP first team; Zaccheaus Foster, first team running back. (See page 5 for more)



Duarte Wins Rotary Mower Drawing

The Eagle Lake Rotary Club recently held a drawing for a John Deere Lawn Tractor. Michael Duarte, at right, was the winner. Pictured from left to right are Billy Ferguson, Rotary President, Draper Stephens (Shoppa's Farm Supply); and Michael Duarte. The Eagle Lake Rotary Club wishes to thank everyone who bought a Rotary drawing ticket, which benefits Rice High School Scholarships.