

Eagle Lake Headlight

50¢

Serving Southern Colorado County
www.eaglelakeheadlight.com

50¢

VOLUME 103 NUMBER 39

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

DECEMBER 14, 2006



Best Overall Winner

The Golden Goose entry in the Eagle Lake Christmas Parade last Saturday was not only named best overall, but it also won the most unusual category for its fishing theme. Catfish for Christmas dinner anyone?



Best Walking Entry

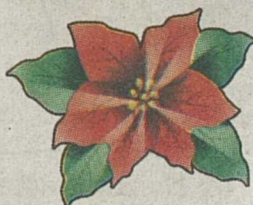
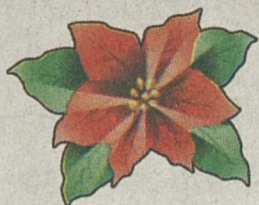
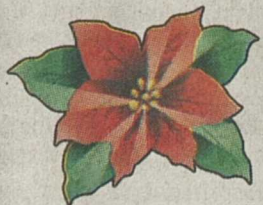
Eagle Lake Headstart won the best walking entry in this year's parade. Thought you can't see most of them, the parents of many of the children walked along with the float.



Best Theme Entry

Rice FFA was named winner in the best theme category of the parade.

More Parade Pictures On Pages 8 and 12



County Approves Forming Water District Committee

Colorado County commissioners on Monday approved naming a special committee to make a recommendation on whether to support creating a groundwater conservation district.

The action came with little discussion after commissioners considered resolutions they had received earlier from the three cities in the county, Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar, all supporting the study action.

They also approved guidelines for the committee that included the recommendation that the committee complete its work and report to the commissioners by Jan. 22.

Commissioners approved the makeup of the committee to include one representative from each of the cities in the county and one representative from each of the four county commissioner precincts.

They also approved the appointment of Travis Wegenhoft to act as a non-voting facilitator for the committee until a chairman is selected.

In addition, commissioners authorized the committee to spend up to \$2,000 for public notices of meetings and other expenses.

The guidelines for the committee include confirming the "advisability of establishing a groundwater conservation district for the county and determine the extent of public support."

"If adequate reason and public support are found, recommend a process or plan, including specific enabling legislation, for creation of a groundwater conservation district for Colorado County," says a draft of a letter, outlining the assignment for the committee.

The guidelines state:

"Citizens should be given opportunities to be heard in multiple locations. Pay particular attention to protection of private property rights and other citizen concerns when developing recommendations."

They also say that if there is adequate reason and public support for a groundwater district, then the committee should propose specific enabling legislation for a district, along with provision for informing the public, timelines for an election and a budget.

A groundwater district was defeated twice previously by voters, with the last election in 2002. The commissioners heard from two residents about the district.

Arthur Mahalite said he hoped that a water district is approved. He said he felt that individuals should be appointed to the groundwater board who did not have a conflict of interest.

Maybelle Barnett said she had concerns about a water district. She mentioned the power to condemn land and said she felt that it would create more bureaucracy.

Action by commissioners comes against a backdrop of several developments with possible impact on groundwater.

Those include a proposed bottled water plant that would pump groundwater and a proposal by the Lower Colorado River Authority for additional irrigation wells to supply water to rice farmers.

In other action, commissioners:

--Heard from Wendell Daniel, with the Sam Houston Resource Conservation Development Area, about a program to improve fire ratings for rural homes.

He said a meeting had been held earlier in the year with local fire departments and that surveys were left with the departments. He said if the surveys were returned it would help in that area.

--Approved a resolution of support for the Columbus Live Oak Festival's application for a "Texas Yes Fund Grant" to reimburse the festival for some expenses of promoting the festival.

--Took no action on enacting a burn ban in the county or to restrict sale of fireworks.

--Appointed Commissioner Doug Wessels, as county judge pro-tem for 2007.

--Approved the name of Thousand Trails Circle for a private road in Precinct 3.

--Awarded bids for herbicides and road materials, based on price availability and location.

Last Kringle Cash This Week

There's just one week left to put some holiday jingle in your jeans with the Headlight's "Kris Kringle Cash" contest.

That's right. You could win a \$25 check or gift certificate to the business of your choice.

The latest winners of the \$25 gift certificates are Antonia Ramirez and Grace Wick, both of Eagle Lake.

Continued on back page

New Year's Firework Show Dec. 31

Plans are underway for the annual New Year's Eve Firework's Display in Eagle Lake and this year's event is shaping up to be another spectacular celebration.

Scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m. on Calhoun Road, the show will last 30 minutes

Continued on page 9

December Tax Payments Up 29 Percent

Sales Tax payments to the City of Eagle Lake in December were \$18,345, an increase of 29 percent from last December, figures from the state comptroller show.

So far this year in Eagle Lake, sales tax payments have totaled \$216,655, a decrease of 3.44 percent from the same period last year.

Continued on page 9

Jobless Rate Four Percent In County

The unemployment rate for Colorado County for October 2006 was 4.0 percent, figures from Texas Workforce Commission show.

For October in Colorado County, 10,009 persons were employed and 420 seeking work.

Continued on page 9



Morgan Dumont shoots for the Lady Raiders during their opening district game Tuesday night. Rice was defeated by Weimar 37-29.

NEWSBRIEFS

Color Sponsored By First National Bank

Rising Star Baptist to sell plates Friday

Greater Rising Star Baptist Church will sell plate lunches, Friday, Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church, 580 Old Altair Road. Plates are \$6 each and will consist of delicious fried chicken, butter potatoes, green beans, dessert, bread and a drink. Delivery available. Call 234-2423 (church) or Sidney at 979-232-0560.

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.

Continued on page 9