

NEWSBRIEFS

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Class of '96 to hold reunion

Rice High School Class of 1996 it's time for a class reunion and we need your contact information. Please call or e-mail Kristen Stienke at 713-898-0378 or kirstenstienke@hotmail.com. More details to follow at a later date.

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.

Living Hope Christmas Eve services

Living Hope Church on the corner of Church and N. McCarty Street will hold Christmas Eve services on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m. (worship and teaching. Join them at 6 p.m. for candlelight services and Lord's Supper observance. For more information call 979-234-5536.

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.

Tool drive!!

Do you have some used, but in good working condition tools just sitting around the garage looking for a good home? The Girl Scout troops of Colorado County are holding a Tool Drive on Saturday, January 6 from 1 - 4 PM at the following locations: United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake, Girl Scout House - next to St. John's Episcopal Church in Columbus, and the United Methodist Church of Weimar. Donations are tax-deductible. For pick-up of heavy items, call Lois Quenneville at 979-234-5129.

RCISD to serve as test site

Rice Consolidated Independent School District (RCISD) is pleased to announce that Rice High School (RHS) has been selected to serve as a national test site for American College Testing. The ACT college entrance exam will be administered at RHS on Saturday, February 10, 2007. Parents of juniors or seniors at Rice or surrounding high schools can take advantage of this convenient test site by registering their student by internet at act.org or by contacting your high school counseling office for registration forms. Registration should be completed by Friday, January 5, 2007 to avoid additional charge. Also

contact your high school counselor for information concerning this and other tests required for post-secondary schooling.

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., Columbus or may be downloaded from the HLSR website at www.rodeohouston.com. Completed applications are due in the Colorado County Extension Office on or before January 10, 2007.

Fireworks Slated Dec. 31

Continued from front page

and feature a dazzling display of crackling colors and earsplitting explosions, accompanied by the robust rhythms of mirthful music.

As preparations proceed, the directors and producers of the show urge anyone interested in joining the all-volunteer organization to stop by the Eagle Lake Post Office for more information or call 979-234-2627. Your participation, suggestions and contributions are always welcome.

Jobless Rate

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The figure compares to statewide unemployment in October, 4.6.

For Fayette County, unemployment was 3.3 percent, with 11,633 persons employed and 398 looking for jobs.

For Lavaca County, unemployment was 3.4 percent, with 10,320 persons employed and 362 looking for jobs.

For Wharton County, unemployment was 4.8 percent, with 19,987 persons employed and 1,003 looking for jobs.

Mark your calendar now and plan to ring-in the New Year with a bang at the annual Eagle Lake Firework's Display.

Correction

In last week's edition, the story about the train wreck states that there are lights at the railroad crossing where the accident took place. This should have read that there is only a sign (without lights) that marks the crossing.

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Texas Crop Weather Report

Agricultural Summary

Areas of the Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau, South Central Texas only received traces of rainfall.

The Upper Coast received mostly traces to 0.10 inches of rainfall.

The Coastal Bend was a just a little more fortunate as it received mostly 0.10 to 0.25 inches of rainfall.

The Lower Valley, South Texas, and Eastern Texas received the majority of the rainfall with mostly 0.10 to 1.0 inches.

Isolated showers brought as much as 1.5 inches to areas of South Texas. The remaining areas of the state were mostly dry.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat fields in the High Plains were still in the need of moisture.

Despite cold temperatures limiting the growth, wheat remained in good condition in the Northern Low Plains.

In the Southern Low Plains, the quality of wheat declined due to dry weather and grazing pressure.

Oat condition was mostly fair to very poor while wheat condition was mostly good to fair statewide.

Cotton: Harvest was slowed in the Northern High Plains as producers were not able to get back into fields due to the effects of the previous week's winter storm.

Producers in the Southern High Plains continued the strip-ping of cotton fields.

As weather conditions improved in the Northern Low Plains, harvest resumed midway through the week.

In the Southern Low Plains, yields were poor as failed acres increased.

Peanuts: Harvest was completed in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Spinach and cabbage continued to be harvested in both the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. Carrots also continued to develop in South Texas.

Pecans: Pecans continued to be harvested in the Trans-Pecos area.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Forage availability for livestock was in good condition, but supplemental feeding continued in the Northern Low Plains.

In the Southern Low Plains, rangeland decreased due to the

lack of moisture.

Cold weather increased the need for supplemental feeding of livestock in the Blacklands.

Topsoil moisture remained low for winter pasture growth in South East Texas.

Range and pasture conditions were fair in the Trans-Pecos area, but moisture is still needed to help the progression of winter forage.

The combination of dry and cold weather forced many producers to consider culling and reducing livestock as herds continued to decline in body condition.

In South Texas, range and pasture conditions continued to decline as forage quality suffered from heavy frost and dry soil conditions.

Statewide, range and pasture land was mostly poor to very poor.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

Twelve Sentenced In District Court

Twelve individuals were sentenced in proceedings in Colorado County District Court on Dec. 5 before District Judge W.C. (Bud) Kirkendall.

They included:

—Tobhiyah Fuentes, probation modified to five years for possession of a controlled substance on Dec. 9, 2005. Also, ordered to pay a fine of \$500 and serve 30 days in jail on weekends.

—Ramon O. Zarate, felony DWI on June 9, ordered placed on five years probation, \$1,000 fine, 30 days in jail.

—Adrian C. Garcia, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on June 28, 2006; ordered placed on probation for five years, with deferred adjudication, 400 hours community service and a \$1,000 fine.

—Johnny C. Brewer, possession of a controlled substance on July 9, ordered placed on probation for two years with deferred adjudication, 160 hours community service, \$1,300 fine and nine days in jail on weekends.

—Bobby Daniel Green, felony DWI on Sept. 29; sentenced to three years in prison.

—Jose Dario Galvan, possession of a prohibited substance in a correctional facility on Aug. 12; ordered placed on probation for three years, with deferred adjudication, 240 hours community service, \$1,000 fine and 15 days in jail.

—Roderick Oneal Fitzgerald,

sentenced 15 years in prison on three separate cases possession of a controlled substance, assault on a public servant on Jan. 29 and aggravated assault on March 4. Also sentenced to 10 years in prison on two cases of bail jumping on April 3.

—Brittanie N. Kloesel, murder, on Sept. 7; sentenced to 25 years in prison.

—Tracy O. Conner, burglary of a habitation, on July 3. Sentenced to seven years in prison.

—Christopher A. Stirneman, probation modified for possession of a controlled substance, to three years probation, \$500 fine and 45 days in jail.

—Amanda Nicole Salinas, possession of a controlled substance on May 25, 2004; probation revoked sentenced to 12 months state jail.

—Mike E. Hawthorn, possession of a controlled substance on Aug. 11; sentenced to six months state jail.

Seven Cases In District Court

Seven civil suits were filed in Colorado County District Court within the last two weeks.

On Nov. 28, Resurgents Financial filed suit against Mark D. Griffin in a dispute on payment on an account, with \$16,020 in dispute.

On Nov. 30, Ameriquet Mortgage Co. filed an application for foreclosure against Royce E. Kornonek involved in a dispute over payments of an a \$135,945 loan.

On Dec. 4, Sylvia Cedillo filed

suit against Hazel Smith in a dispute over payment for legal services. The amount in dispute is \$20,384.

On Dec. 5, Rogers S. Hoyt and Tommy Hoyt filed suit against Thomas L. Hargrove, involving a dispute over a contract signed on July 14 to sell 33.7 acres of property in Fort Bend County.

The suit claims that Hargrove failed to close on the sale and the suit seeks damages of \$40,000.

Three suits were filed by prosecutors on Dec. 5, seeking bond forfeitures.

In one case, prosecutors are seeking the forfeiture of a \$10,000 posted by Jorge Tapia, who failed to appear for a court hearing on Oct. 16.

In a second case, prosecutors are seeking forfeiture of a \$20,000 bond posted by Robert L. Bergeron, who failed to appear on Oct. 16.

In the third case, prosecutors are seeking forfeiture of a \$2,500 bond posted by Jamyra Brenee Claude, who failed to appear on Aug. 24.

Marriage Licenses

Timothy Shane Kansteiner and Virginia Ann Tolliver, Dec. 4. John Ross Torres and Jennifer Nicole Stevens, Dec. 4.

Benjamin Earl Wilson Jr. and Hilary Brooke Stavinoha, Dec. 6. Russell Carl Braun and Ashley Lynn Adamcik, Dec. 8.

David Sanchez and Irene Marquez, Dec. 11.

Joseph Lewis Hopson and Janice Michelle Pierce, Dec. 11.

Sales Tax Payments

Continued from front page

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn today said the state collected \$1.73 billion in sales tax in November, up 9.4 percent compared to November 2005. The Comptroller sent local governments \$403.8 million in December sales tax allocations, up 8.4 percent compared to December 2005.

"The final sales tax allocation of 2006 brings total local sales tax revenue for the calendar year to a record \$5.2 billion," Strayhorn said. "This marks the first time local sales tax revenues have reached \$5 billion in a single year."

"In 1999, in my first year as Comptroller, I distributed \$3.5 billion in local sales tax. Compared to that year, annual local sales tax revenue is up 47.8 percent," Strayhorn said.

Strayhorn sent Texas cities December sales tax allocations of \$273.1 million, up 8 percent compared to December 2005. City sales tax allocations during calendar year 2006 totaled \$3.5 billion, up 13.5 percent compared to calendar year 2005.

Counties' December sales tax allocations were \$24.8 million, up 13.9 percent compared to December 2005. Counties received \$312.7 million in sales tax during calendar year 2006, up 16 percent compared to last year.

The half-cent sales tax rebate for Colorado County was up 38.58 percent, with a payment of

\$84,046.

For the year in Colorado County, the payments totaled \$898,169, and increase of 9.53 percent.

In Fayette County, the half-cent sales tax was up 21.63 percent, with a payment of \$95,234.

For the year in Fayette County, the payments totaled \$1,057,778, an increase of 10.01 percent.

Checks sent to area cities for December with changes from last year are as follows:

Columbus - \$79,756, up 13.76 percent, for the year, \$990,650, up 3.15 percent.

Weimar - \$21,891, up 20 percent, for the year, \$278,845, up 8.58 percent.

Schulenburg - \$48,535, up 25.85 percent; for the year, \$542,146, up 14.92 percent.

La Grange - \$109,545, up 15.47 percent; for the year, \$1,281,316, up 10.71 percent.

Flatonia - \$13,094, up 0.71 percent; \$172,532, up 2.61 percent.

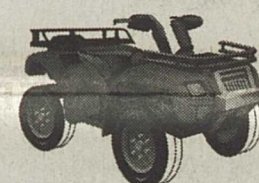
Hallettsville - \$67,225, up 9.04 percent; for the year, \$826,764, up 9.71 percent.

For details of December sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/al-locsum.html.

The next local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, Jan. 12.

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