

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

DECEMBER 28, 2006



Garden Club Names Lighting Winners

First place honor went to Houston and Lucinda Cummings whose home is located at 517 E. State Street.



Second place went to Ralph and Connie Gertson. They reside at 755 S. McCarty Ave.

Water District Committee Works On Legislation

A special committee appointed to study the feasibility of reviving a proposal for a groundwater district has tentatively removed some provisions from proposed legislation that had drawn opposition in two previous elections.

Travis Wegenhoft, secretary of the committee, said one provision eliminated would have given the district the power to purchase, sell, transport or distribute water.

Another deleted provision would have given the district the power of eminent domain, the right to condemn land.

The right of district employees to enter private property was modified by the committee requiring the district to provide reasonable notice before entry of private property.

When the committee was authorized by county commissioners on Dec. 11, it was asked to come back with a recommendation to commissioners by Jan. 22.

The committee has held two meetings, an organization meeting on Dec. 14 and a second meeting on Dec. 21 at which it heard a number of comments and produced a draft of possible enabling legislation.

The committee agreed to meet each Thursday until it finishes its work. The next meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Colorado County Services Facility on Radio Lane in Columbus.

Notices of the first two meetings were not sent to newspapers, but Wegenhoft said notices of

some of the future meetings would be given to newspapers.

Wegenhoft said the committee looked at a draft from previous enabling legislation for a water district.

He said working copies of the draft enabling legislation can be obtained by email.

Wegenhoft also said the committee had not decided on a proposed tax rate to finance district operations.

The proposed tax rate for the district in the two elections that failed was a maximum of 5 cents per \$100 valuation.

Wegenhoft said that David Meisell, a representative of the city of Columbus on the committee, was elected to chair the committee.

The committee makeup includes four representatives from each of the four commissioner precincts in the county and one representative from each of the cities.

In addition, Travis Wegenhoft was designated by the county as a non-voting member and facilitator.

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Pictured from left to right are John Young and Sgt. Mark Contreras. They are in the process of getting everything ready for the fireworks display set for Sunday. Contreras is back from Iraq and stationed in Ft. Stewart, Georgia. He will return to Iraq in March of 2007.

NEWSBRIEFS

Closing for the New Year holiday

The First National Bank will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29 in observance of the New Year's. They will also be closed Monday Jan. 1. Wallis State Bank will be open until 6 p.m. Friday, and closed New Year's Day. The Wintermann Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1. The City of Eagle Lake will close Monday, Jan. 1 for the New Year Holiday. There will be no trash collection. The Monday and Tuesday routes will be collected on Tuesday. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Monday, Jan. 1.

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 kristenstienke@hotmail.com. More details to follow at a later date.

Living Hope sets New Year's services

Living Hope Church on the corner of Church and N. McCarty Street will hold New Year's Eve services on Sunday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. through midnight, prayer watch to bring in the new year. For more information call 979-234-5536.

Fireworks display is Sunday

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.

Rice 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

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Headlight Reviews Events Of 2006

January

Six Raider football players were named to the Academic All-State Football Team. They included Michael Morales, Luke Shimek, Curtis Williams, Hunter Smith, Dane Krenek and Robert Salinas.

The county commissioners discussed financial problems in the operation of the Eagle Lake juvenile facility. The facility had a net loss of about \$110,000 for the last four months of 2005. The county had been running the facility since the company operating it terminated their contract for financial reasons. The county opted to shut the facility down in the early part of February and said that they would seek parties interested in leasing the facility.

Rice C.I.S.D. began discussion of construction of a new high school. A committee formed to look into facility needs made the recommendation that the district look at construction of a new high school. Preliminary construction plans were made and the initial cost estimate for a new school on the current site were about \$19 million.

The plan included renovation of the existing high school to be used a junior high for the entire district. Renovations and expansion would also be done at the Eagle Lake Elementary School under the initial plan. The issue would be the main focus of the board for the next several months.

February

Eagle Lake Police helped stop a chase and arrest a suspect in an armed robbery in Sealy. The suspect was followed at a distance from Columbus down 102 by DPS after being spotted exiting I-10. Eagle Lake Police officers were notified and set up a stop.

Once the vehicle got to the edge of town, Sgt. David Weise pulled out in front of the vehicle from a cross street and the trooper pulled closer in behind him. The suspect pulled over at this point and gave up. Officers seized a gun from the suspect, which turned out to be an air pistol

that resembled a semi-automatic handgun.

Crimestoppers offered a reward for information for the assault of an 83-year old Eagle Lake woman. The community was shaken by the attack that occurred on January 31. Neighbors who were walking by noticed something unusual at the woman's house and knocked on the back door. Getting no response they went to the front where they heard a struggle. An assailant fled the home on foot through the back door after the neighbors knocked at the front.

Police have said that they will do a thorough investigation and that they have a person or persons of interest in the assault. It was

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At 11:48 pm, on Saturday, Dec. 23, Sgt. David Weise assisted the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department in the 400 block of Second St. with a mobile home that was on fire. It was determined that the fire started due to faulty electrical wiring.