

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Emergency crews work at the scene of a wreck that occurred on Fm 102 at Strickland Ln. last Wed. at about 11 a.m. The 2007 Ford, driven by Andrea Leal of Wharton, reportedly pulled out in front of and struck a 1994 Dodge pickup driven by Philip Vahalik of Victoria. Leal was transported to Rice Medical Center with non-incapacitating injuries. The accident was investigated by DPS Trooper Clint Tipton.

County Delinquent Fine Collections Hit \$200,000

More than \$200,000 in Colorado County justice of the peace court delinquent fines were collected last year in a program in which the fines are turned over to an outside law firm to collect.

That was the report from Auditor Raymie Kana. She said the county will keep about half of that money or about \$96,000, with fees to state and fees from the law firm amounting to the rest.

She said that figure compares

to \$100,000 collected in the first year of the program in 2005.

Those figures involve participation from three of the four justices of the peace courts.

She said she understood the new Justice of the Peace in Precinct 1, Billy Hefner, is planning to participate in the program this year.

In other action, commissioners:

--Recognized the 60th anniversary of the Shaws Bend Extension

Club. Two current members, Marjorie Brune and Alvina Poenitzsch were charter members.

--Recognized March 4 to 10 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. Commissioner Darrell Gertson said the National Weather Service will hold a severe weather drill on March 7.

--Approved a resolution to participate in a state and federal program to replace a bridge on County Road 208 at Harvey's Creek.

Commissioner Herbie Helms said it may be a year before the project is started. He said the estimate on the replace is \$320,000, with the federal government providing 80 percent of the cost, the state 10 percent and the county 10 percent.

He said the county's match is proposed by replacing a culvert on County Road 273 for \$23,100 and repair of a bridge on County Road 112 over Bucksag Creek for \$9,800.

--Approved a change in the pay for EMS personnel, increasing shift pay for on-call personnel by \$10 a shift to a total of \$50 a shift.

EMS Director Chuck Rogers said he had budgeted money for the pay in his budget when it was approved last year, but did not mention the proposed increase to commissioners through an oversight on his part.

--Adopted a change in the personnel policy providing a zero

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LCRA Announces Water Curtailment For Rice Farming

Citing record-low flows into the region's water supply reservoirs and the first-ever Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) curtailment of water sent to rice farmers, LCRA General Manager Joe Beal warned during a press conference on Friday, Feb. 9 that the two-year drought still gripping Central Texas could trigger stricter conservation measures.

"LCRA is taking the drought conditions very seriously," Beal said.

"We are following our state-approved water management plan to ensure that we can continue to provide water to our customers, we have asked our customers to conserve water, and for the first time ever, we have limited the amount of water we will send downstream for farmers."

A spokesman for LCRA, Robert Cullick said rice farmers were notified of the curtailment in December and it became effective Jan. 1.

He said it will affect this year's crop.

He said about 300 rice farmers with 50,000 acres of receive water from the Colorado River in Colo-

rado, Wharton and Matagorda counties.

Cullick said there are no exact figures on the amount of water that will be curtailed.

He said that the amount will vary, depending on the amount of water available at the time it is needed.

Cullick said his understanding from rice farmers is that the curtailment should have a minimal impact this year and would be more likely to affect the second crop of rice.

Haskell Simon, said he felt in Matagorda county, a rice farmer the impact would probably be minimal because he expected relatively fewer acres to be planted this year because of economic conditions of price compared to production costs.

Meanwhile, at the press conference, Beal stood among representatives from various lake and river interest groups who came from as far up the river basin as Lake Buchanan to as far downstream of Austin as the coastal rice-growing region in Matagorda County.

The representatives briefly

discussed how the drought has affected them and could continue to affect them personally.

Last year was a record low for the amount of water flowing into these lakes - the lowest since 1942 when the two water supply reservoirs, Lakes Buchanan and Travis, began operating in tandem.

So while the Austin area received heavy rain early in 2007, many Central Texans may not realize that the rain did not fall in the areas it was needed to recharge the region's water supply.

Lakes Buchanan and Travis - the only two water supply reservoirs in the Highland Lakes chain - are 54 percent full.

A repeat of last year's weather will drop the lake levels even more, and even if the Central Texas area receives its average amount of rainfall, the lake levels could still be lower by the end of this summer.

"If the drought persists or gets worse, then we will ask our customers to impose water-use restrictions, and we may even

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NEWSBRIEFS

Little League registration scheduled

Eagle Lake Little League has scheduled registration for T-ball through Jr. League. Registration will be held at Eagle Lake Insurance Associates, 101 N. Lake St. on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 979-234-5743. Just a reminder this is the last chance to sign your child up. No tryouts will be held. If you miss Saturday's registration, stop by the office before the season starts from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to sign your child up.

Furniture available at MMBC

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) of Alleyton, has Church furniture available. For more information call 281-342-7557 or 281-935-3573 or 713-303-4371.

Bake Sale is Friday

White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) will hold a bake sale Friday, Feb. 16, 9 a.m. in front of the First National Bank. To place a special order call 979-234-3913 or 979-234-5166. WCBC thanks you in advance for your support.

GRSBC musical set for Friday

You are invited to a musical at Greater Rising Star Baptist Church (GRSBC) on Friday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. Special guests will include Soul Invaders of Industrial, the Mt. Calvary Male Chorus and God's Gospel Children. For information of questions call Sis. A. Lemons at 979-234-71254. Rev. Truman Scott, pastor.

Free throw contest is Saturday

Those who placed in the Knight of Columbus free throw contest in Eagle Lake are reminded that their next competition will be Feb. 17 in East Bernard. Those in the competition are to meet at the "new gym" by the football field. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with the contest starting at 9 a.m.

Welcome to be held Sunday

Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries of Eagle Lake invites you to join them as they welcome New Mt. Sinai Outreach Community Church of Houston on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 3 p.m.

Co-ed softball registration underway

Co-ed softball registration will be held Feb. 18 through March 18. For more information please call 281-989-2555.

Little League meeting is Feb. 19

A Little League coaches, umpires and volunteers meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at Eagle Lake Insurance Associates, 101 N. Lake St., Eagle Lake. For more information call 234-5743.

Closing for President's Day

The following will be closed in observance of President's Day, Monday, Feb. 19: First National Bank of Eagle Lake, Wallis State Bank, Eagle Lake Post Office and the Colorado County Courthouse. The City offices of Eagle Lake will also be closed. There will be no trash collection Monday. Monday's route and Tuesday's route will be collected on Tuesday.

Project graduation meeting set

There will be a Project Graduation meeting Monday, Feb. 19. It will be held at the Rice High School commons at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in Project Graduation is encouraged to attend.

Fried fish meal is Ash Wednesday

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus will hold their annual fried fish meal on Ash Wednesday, February 21. The fried fish meal will be served from the Parish of the Nativity Pavilion on S. Austin Road from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 per plate and can be purchased from any KC member. Proceeds to benefit local scholarships and charities. You may call Kurt Sunderman at 979-234-7175 for tickets or

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Two Australian citizens, Nathan Slawinski, far left, and Lindem Hicks, middle, rolled through Eagle Lake recently on a cross country journey. They came through town looking for propane to fuel their limo. Jimmy Klopsteck is pictured with them. For more check out Cindy Klopsteck's Views Around The Lake on page 4.

Raiders Sign Letters Of Intent



Brian Williams football player for the Rice Raiders has signed to play football for Texas State University in San Marcos. Pictured in the front from left to right are Russell Williams, Brian Williams, Brian, and his grandmother, Lillian Ward; in back are Raider Head Coach Brad Dumont and Prin-



Nelson Dabney football player for the Rice Raiders has signed to play football for Henderson State University (HSU). Pictured in front from left to right are Nelson's uncle, Tim Montgomery, Nelson, and Nelson's mother, Lotrona Coleman; in back are Raider Head Coach Brad Dumont and Principal, Leroy Stavinoha.

Large Ecstasy Seizure Made Near Weimar

A seizure of 160 pounds of the illegal drug "ecstasy" with an estimated value of \$6 million, was made on Saturday, Feb. 10, during a traffic stop east of Weimar by Department of Public Safety Trooper Billy McCloskey.

"This is possibly the largest ecstasy bust in Texas or the nation," DPS Sgt. Gary Chandler said. "I haven't heard of any larger."

A 61-year-old man from Santa Monica, Calif., identified as Charles Creel, was arrested for felony possession of illegal drugs and booked into the Colorado County Jail.

The traffic stop was made about four miles east of Weimar on Interstate 10, when a 2006 Hyundai sedan was stopped for speeding. The car was a rented vehicle.

The narcotic section of DPS was brought in to investigate the source and destination of the drugs, Chandler said.

Ecstasy is an illegal stimulant that also has some hallucinogenic properties.

Chandler said the value of the seizure was estimated based on the fact that the drug often sells for about \$25 a pill. That would put the number of pills seized at about 240,000.