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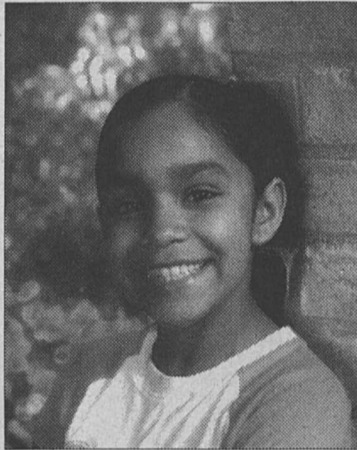
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Happy 13th Birthday!
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Eagle Lake Garden Club

By Patty Holloway

Well here it is the middle of March and it seems as though all of the spring bloomers burst forth in just a day or two and then we jumped into summer.

I'm sure we will have more cool, low humidity days that make springtime gardening so enjoyable but with everything happening so fast we better get busy.

In the February issue of Southern Living there is a very good article about pruning crepe myrtle-correctly-with do's and don'ts. The article also tells you how to restore a butchered plant.

If you don't have that Southern Living the Wintermann Library has it. In that same issue there is also a short article regarding camellias.

It is very important to keep the fallen blooms picked up from beneath the brush otherwise these fallen blooms become food for a fungus called petal blight.

This fungus will spread to flowers that are still on the bush and show up year after year so be sure to keep fallen blooms picked up.

Another problem to watch for

on camellias bushes are aphids. These pests go after new growth. They don't really harm the plant but as they chew the leaves they make the plant unsightly.

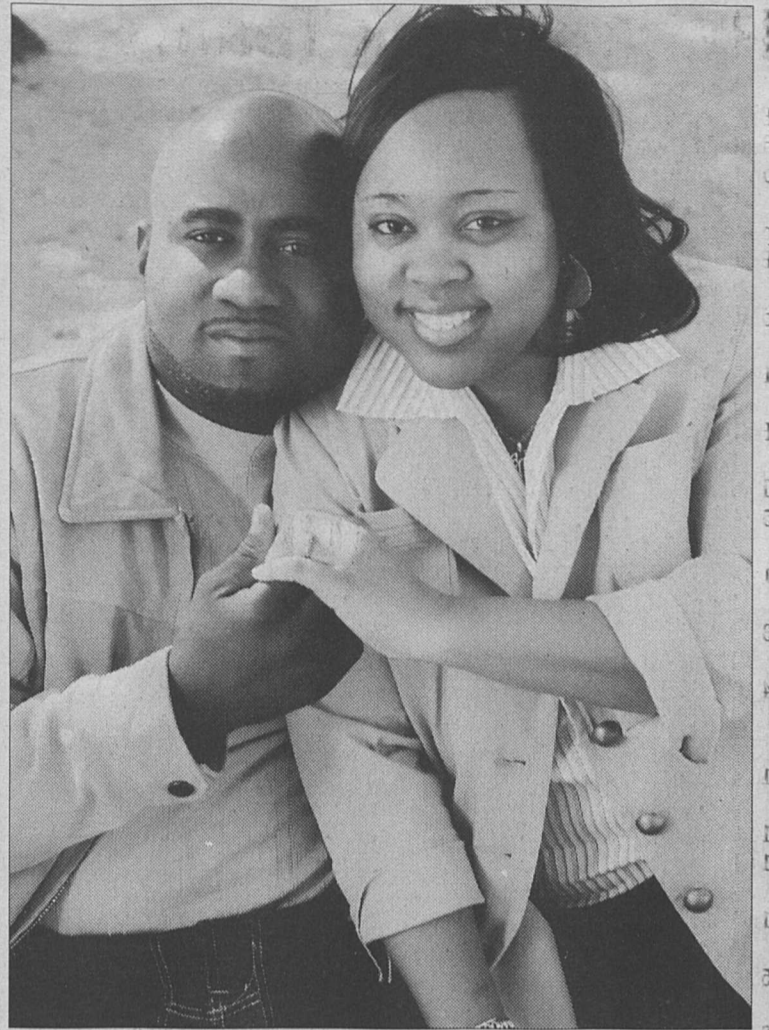
Tea scale is a common problem in our area. The scale is a sucking insect causing the leaves to become yellow and mottled with a cotton like substance on the bottom of the leaves.

You can treat these problems with a combination spray of an insecticide and an oil spray. Don't use an oil spray when temperatures get above 90°.

It is time to finish pruning dormant shrubs and roses. Freeze damaged branches should be trimmed back to green wood. Sometimes you may have to trim all the way back to the roots.

It is also time to fertilize your lawn. Between February 1 and May 30 is the usual time frame for the first spring fertilizing using a 3-1-2 ratio.

The summer feeding should be between June 1 and August 30 using a 4-0-1 ratio. I will be looking for "Yard of the Month" yards in April.



Edwards, Solomon To Wed

Ms. Terria Lynn Edwards and Mr. Andre L. Solomon are pleased to announce their engagement and approaching marriage. The couple will be married on May 19 at Greater Union Baptist Church.

Hanover Hiring 30 Foreign Workers For Night Shift

An official with Hanover Compressor Co. told Colorado County commissioners Monday that the company is hiring 30 foreign workers under a temporary work program for its plant east of Columbus.

The company official, Don Ray, said the workers are from Indonesia and India and would begin work in May.

He said that the company was notifying commissioners to let the community know of the situation before they began seeing the workers and asked questions.

He said they are experienced welders and will work the night shift.

Ray said the company has had a large expansion in work and has been recruiting workers lo-

cally, but has been unable to find enough to fill its needs.

He said that the company is presently working on arrangements to provide housing for the workers in Columbus.

They will be in the country on temporary work visas with a company called RigStaff and are on contract to Hanover. He said most are supporting families overseas and would not be driving.

When County Judge Al Jamison opened the session up for questions from the audience, one individual asked why people couldn't be trained from the local community for the jobs.

Ray said that the company had started a training program for welders that currently had 26 people in it, but that the company

needed more workers. He said 29 people had initially started the training.

The official said the company was investing \$3 million in expansion of the Columbus facility.

One individual said the program offended her and mentioned the fact that money paid to the workers would not stay in the local community.

In answer to a question, a company official said the foreign workers would make "substantially" less than local workers.

Jamison said he was concerned that it appeared some local residents would rather live on welfare than work at jobs such as a Hanover provides.

"It is a travesty that we have

to bring workers in from halfway around the world," he said.

Ray said that the temporary workers will not displace any Hanover employees.

"Hanover will continue recruiting and hiring as many skilled workers as possible," he said.

Ray also said that foreign workers have also been employed in other oilfield service companies.

He said foreign workers may typically work for 11 months, then return to their home country for a month, then come back to work.

The Columbus plant currently employs approximately 200 workers, company officials said.

He said the company was also planning to go to high school job fairs.

Blinn Hosting College Information Days

Blinn College to host informational events in Sealy, Brenham for college-bound students Blinn College will host two free informational events for college bound students.

The first will be on March 21 from 4-8 p.m. on the college's Sealy campus and the second will be on March 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on its Brenham campus.

"Get a HEAD" (higher education awareness day) will be on the Sealy campus at 3701 Outlet Center Dr. and on the Brenham campus in the visitor's center in the Administration Building at Green Street and College Avenue.

The events will have a come-and-go style format for prospective students to receive general information pertaining to financial aid opportunities, advising and testing requirements, and technical and workforce education programs.

Parents of high-school-age

students are also invited to attend.

"These events are designed for anyone planning to attend college -- non-traditional students and high school-age students alike," said Kristi Urban, recruiting coordinator. "We want to equip

them with the information they need to know when they begin the enrollment process."

Application forms for admission and financial aid will be available.

For more information about the events, call 979-830-4152 in Brenham or 979-627-7997 in Sealy.

Wild Goose Chase Hosting Prause, Appelt

The Wild Goose Chase, a bookstore in Eagle Lake, will have live music on Wednesday, March 21 featuring local Columbus artists Russell Prause and Darrell Appelt.

The artists will play during lunch hour from noon to 2 p.m. The owner of the Wild Goose Chase encourages any local artists that would like to play music

or show their art work to come on down to the store at 704 S. McCarty Ave., next to Eagle Lake Drugstore.

The newest artist to show his work at the store is James Thiele, of Eagle Lake, displaying abstract art in natural materials. James makes a total of six artists now showing their artwork at the Wild Goose Chase.

New displays are very welcome.

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National Ag Week

will be observed
March 18-24, 2007

across the Nation
Thursday, March 22,

there will be an
Open House

at the Colorado County Agriculture Building and Colorado County Farm Bureau Conference Room from 9 a.m. to noon.

One of Colorado County's top agriculture commodities is row crop production. Colorado County Row Crop Production for 2006 was:

9,888 acres of corn were planted in Colorado County generating \$2,600,281.

987 acres of soybeans were produced generating \$167,374.

3,513 acres of cotton were produced in Colorado County generating \$2,142,320.

Compliments of Colorado County Row Crop's Committee



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University Systems, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County Commissioners' Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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Medications Prescribed for Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a neurological condition involving the brain. Diagnosis is based on seizures that reoccur. Epilepsy may be triggered by an event, such as an accident or medical trauma, which causes the brain to be deprived of oxygen. Family history plays a large role in the development of this condition. Often there is not an identifiable source of what has caused the onset of epilepsy. A sudden change in the normal functioning of electrical signals in the brain causes a seizure to occur. During a seizure, behavior, sensation, movement and consciousness may be temporarily altered. This condition may occur at any age, however most commonly begins in childhood or after age 65. Fortunately, many children outgrow epilepsy as they get older.

Anti-epileptic medications may help persons affected experience fewer and less intense seizures and sometimes become seizure free. For some, medications may be discontinued after several years without seizures. Phenytoin, carbamazepine, valproic acid, and divalproex may be prescribed to help control seizures. Other anticonvulsants used to treat epilepsy include levetiracetam (Keppra), gabapentin (Neurontin), phenobarbital, and lamotrigine (Lamictal). Always remember to check with your doctor before discontinuing any prescribed seizure treatment.

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