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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MARCH 22, 2007



KCs Donate Eggs For April 7 Hunt

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 recently donated 1,000 plastic eggs to Power Unlimited.

Pictured are Alethea Tolliver Secretary of Power Unlimited and Kurt Sunderman.

Power Unlimited will hold their second annual Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7 at noon at the ballpark on Seaholm Street.

Ages 18 months to 10 years are invited to participate. Prizes will be given to each age group.



Animal Ordinance Workshop On March 22

The Eagle Lake City Council agreed during its regular meeting Tuesday, March 13 to hold a workshop to examine the city's current animal ordinance to see if any adjustments need to be made.

The workshop will be held

Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

At recent meetings council has heard a complaint regarding livestock inside the city limits.

A citizen, Melissa Lipperdt has asked council to consider making

the regulations concerning livestock more stringent in regards to the types of fences that they must be kept in as well as the distance livestock must be from residences.

She said that she felt children living near where livestock are kept could be in danger if they were to crawl through a fence. She also said that insects and odors associated with the animals were a nuisance.

At the most recent meeting, council heard from a citizen on the other side of the issue. Ike and Sonya Clayton said that they feel they have been somewhat harassed by other citizens due their keeping of horses in the city limits. Clayton said that he has been working with the city to get his property under compliance

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Texas Game Warden Killed In Lissie Gunfight

A Texas game warden was shot and killed early Saturday during a shootout at the Lissie Cemetery between law enforcement officers and a man suspected of illegal hunting.

Slain was Justin Hurst of El Campo, who was killed on his 34th birthday.

Wounded in the exchange of gunfire was James Freeman, 26, of East Bernard. He was taken to a hospital in Fort Bend County and was later transferred to the medical unit of the Harris County Jail.

He was being held without bond, charged with capital murder on an arrest warrant issued by Wharton County Peace Justice Cynthia Kubicek.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the request for the warrant, Texas Ranger David Maxwell stated the chase started after Freeman was spotted by another warden during surveillance for illegal hunting.

The Wharton County Sheriff's Office had received complaints of illegal off-road night hunting in the East Bernard area and Hurst and game warden Scott Blackburn were conducting surveillance

According to the affidavit, Blackburn witnessed Freeman's pickup drive up and stop by the side of Wharton County Road 260, northeast of Lissie, and then a gunshot was heard.

At that time Blackburn approached the parked, silver pickup and turned on the headlights of his truck. At that point Freeman started to flee, according to the affidavit.

The warden put on his emergency lights and attempted to pull the pickup over, but it did not stop, Maxwell said.

Responding for backup, Hurst was traveling towards the oncoming chase.

"The defendant side-swiped Hurst's vehicle with his vehicle and continued evading," Maxwell said.

The affidavit states that the pursuit lasted about an hour and

several other law enforcement agencies joined the chase along back roads in the area.

Shortly after midnight near Lissie, officers set up spike strips to deflate Freeman's tires.

According to the report by Maxwell, the truck crossed U.S. 90A onto a small roadway adjacent to the cemetery.

"Once the defendant stopped the silver pickup truck, he immediately exited and began firing a handgun in the direction of the officers," Maxwell said, adding it sounded like 11 shots were fired from the pistol, based on a review of in-car videos from law enforce-

ment units.

"Shortly after firing the handgun, the defendant began firing a rifle in the direction of the officers," the Ranger said.

Hurst was life-flighted to Memorial Hermann Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Maxwell said he was wounded in the left arm and left pelvic area.

The wounds received by Freeman were not reported.

The scene of the shooting was less than two miles from where the initial incident took place.

One officer said that eight

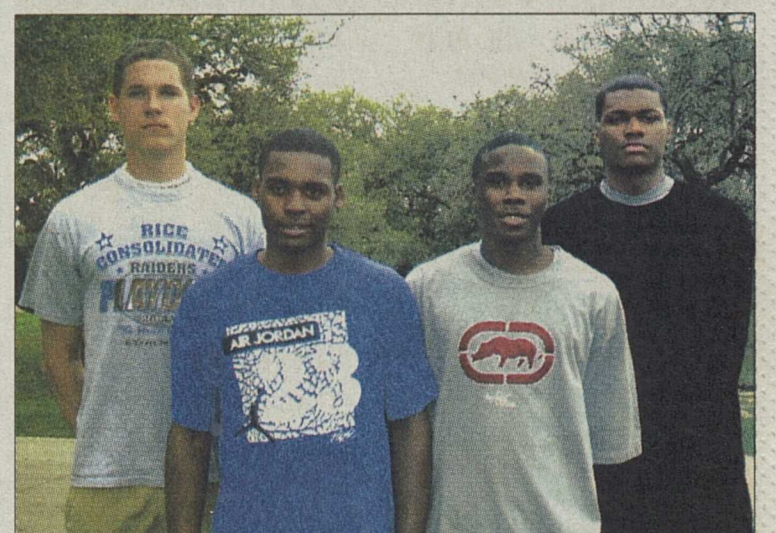
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Pictured from left to right are State Powerlifting qualifiers, Amador Elizondo, Raul Esquivel, Brian Williams. (See page 5 for more)



Pictured above are girls All-District Basketball selections from left to right Morgan Dumont, 2nd team all-district, academic all-district; Desiree Toliver, 1st team all-district; Mallory Dumont, 1st team all-district, academic all-district; Hillary Johnson, 2nd team all-district, academic all-district. Not pictured is Ashley Stovall, honorable mention and academic all-district. Morgan and Mallory Dumont were also named to the All-State Academic team by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.



Pictured from left to right are All-District Basketball honorees Taylor Cook, Duryel Stevenson, Sylvester Middleton, and Marquis Toliver.



Trent Popp blocks the plate to tag a runner out in a recent Raider game.

NEWSBRIEFS

Lions to hold mop-broom sale

Eagle Lake Lion's Club will hold their Annual mop and broom sale Thursday, March 22 starting at 7 a.m. at City Hall on town square.

Class Reunion slated for March 24

The Rice High School Class of 1996 will be having a Class Reunion on Saturday, March 24. The reunion will begin at the El Campo Bowling Center from 12-4 p.m. Families are welcome. The Class Reunion will continue at Muldoon's in El Campo at 8 p.m. Food and beverages will be available to purchase at the Bowling Center and Muldoon's. There will be a cover charge for the band at Muldoon's. Please contact Kristen Stienke at 713-898-0372 or kristenstienke@hotmail.com for any additional information.

Hoff Family Reunion

The Hoff Family Reunion will be held on March 25 at the home of Arthur and Debbie Wammal-1748 Hwy 159 W. Family members will gather for food, fun and fellowship. Round up as members of your family as you can and join us for a great day! For more information, call Beverly Hoff at 979-865-5585.

Relay For Life

Everyone is excited about the upcoming Colorado County Relay For Life 2007 to be held this year at the Weimar Wildcat football stadium/track April 20-21. It is not too late to organize a team to participate in this worthy fundraising event to benefit cancer research. If interested in forming a team, you may contact Valerie Harmon in Weimar at 979-725-8912 or Robin Maertz in Columbus. Team captain meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Columbus on the following dates: March 26, April 2, 9 and 16. See you there!!

Lenten Luncheons in progress

The Eagle Lake United Methodist Church (UMC) will host the 11th Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday through April 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken and net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Pantry. The fifth luncheon on Monday, March 26, will feature Rev. Steve Whitfield, of Eagle Lake Christ Episcopal Church as guest speaker. Eagle Lake Christ Episcopal Church will provide an array of soups and desserts. A sliced meat and cheese tray, crackers, sandwich bread, hot cornbread, iced tea and coffee will be furnished by the UMC. Everyone is cordially invited...bring a friend!

ELJH open house and March 27

Eagle Lake Junior High School will be hosting an Open House and Book Fair and Hamburger Supper sponsored by Parent Advisory

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Rice Board Discusses Athletic Trainer

The Rice School Board discussed the possibility of hiring an athletic trainer for the district at their regular meeting on Monday, March 19.

The matter was tabled at the recommendation of superintendent Michael Lanier.

Lanier said that more information needed to be gathered to answer a few questions before the board moved forward with a decision on the matter.

One of the questions was whether a trainer would occupy a teaching position in addition to their duties as a trainer.

Lanier said that the answer to that question would depend on several things including what positions are available when a trainer is hired, if the board moves forward.

He said that right now, there are no open teaching positions for subjects a trainer might teach. He added that if a teaching position came open in an area that a trainer could teach, then that

would be something to consider.

Another question asked is if a trainer would be qualified to conduct drug testing and Lanier said he would have to try and find out the answer to that.

The issue was brought up due to concerns that the state may mandate a drug testing policy for students in extracurricular activities.

Lanier said that he understood that districts with drug testing policies generally contract with a company to take care of testing, but said he would find out if a trainer would be qualified.

It is expected that the salary for a trainer would be \$38,000 to \$48,000 per year.

Athletic Director Brad Dumont had made the request for a trainer at an earlier board meeting.

He said that a trainer would help out a great deal in keeping track of injuries and making sure athletes were getting proper treatments.

Deadline To Register To Vote Is April 12

The deadline to register to vote in the May 12 election is April 12.

Voter registration cards will be accepted in person until 5 p.m. at the county tax office in Columbus.

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked no later than April 12.

Registration cards may be

obtained through the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us.

Registration cards are available at numerous places including the Wintermann Library, the county courthouse, and driver's license offices.

For more information contact the county tax office at 979-732-2710.



Signs of Spring are everywhere in Eagle Lake.