

April Town And Country Homes Tour Slated

The best of Columbus comes together in the month of April spotlighting the opportunity to get out into the lovely spring weather to tour the highways and byways among the bluebonnets, Indian paint brushes, coreopsis, and primroses and to stop along the way and enjoy some of the best artworks by local talented artists

and tour the artful architecture of historical homes in Columbus and country homes in the countryside of Colorado County.

On Saturday, April 28 spend time perusing the artwork at the New Ulm Art Festival and, while in the area, take a tour of the country homes of Becca and James Edmiston and Janie and Bobby

Hammonds along Zimmerscheidt Rd., the home of Penny and Ron Nelson on New Ulm Rd., and the lovely estate of Hugh Toepferwein along I-10.

At the Edmiston home you will find an oasis of pools, fountains and a lake nestled back from the pine tree-lined Zimmerscheidt Road. Red Brangus cattle graze in the luscious green pastures. The Edmiston's beautiful stone home is decorated in middle eastern antiques.

Going from the Edmiston, keep winding down the same road and visit the Longhorn Ranch of Janie & Bobby Hammonds. It's like stepping back a bit in time and seeing a working Texas ranch. As you make your way to the lovely stone ranch house, enjoy the view of longhorns and horses.

The home is beautifully and creatively furnished and the older, more rustic guesthouse will also be on tour.

The home of Penny and Ron Nelson is a lovely farmhouse with

shady porches and interesting landscaping including a working water-pump fountain at the entrance. Home to angora goats, you will be able to view Penny's weaving room. Penny shears the goats, creates the yarn and weaves beautiful shawls on her handloom.

The estate of Hugh Toepferwein sits behind wrought iron gates along I-10 designed primarily to keep in the many species of exotic property. The old southern plantation style house has a beautiful octagonal glass greenhouse in the back where orchids are grown. Enjoy the lovely landscaped grounds that include arbors and sculptures.

The tour will offer an optional hayride to enable visitors to view the wild animals as well as the lovely acreage with ponds and domestic animals.

The country homes may be toured Saturday, April 28, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. There will be a \$3 entrance fee per home.

The historical houses in Columbus that will also be open for touring on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - noon are the Tate-Sentenberg-Brandon House, Dilue Rose-Harris House, the Santa Claus Museum, and the Alley Log Cabin. There will be a \$3 entrance fee per home.

While you are in town you might want to go by Brookshire Bros. on Highway 71 N and check out the Columbus Garden Club annual plant sale on Saturday morning. There is always a large selection of perennials (sometimes called wildflowers) and annuals.

For maps and more information, contact the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust at 979-732-8385 or go to the City of Columbus website at www.columbus-texas.com.

Obituaries

Eugene "Gene" Rucka

Eugene "Gene" Rucka, age 68 of El Campo, passed away at his residence on March 31.

He was born on November 16, 1938 in El Campo to Louis and Annie Roznovsky Rucka. Gene retired from the oil field as a tool pusher following 28 years of service and then worked part time at Shoppa's Farm Supply.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mary Ann Brosman Rucka of El Campo; daughters, Melissa Weinheimer and husband, Steven, of El Campo; son, Craig Rucka and friend, Susan Silverthorne, of Bay City; grandchildren, Ryan and Cara Korenek, Nicholas and Abigail Weinheimer; and sister-in-law, Lorraine Morris, of Point Comfort.

Visitation was held on Monday at 11 a.m.

A rosary was held on Monday at 7 p.m. at Triska Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church with Rev. Gary Janak officiating. Interment followed at Holy Cross Memorial Park under the direction of Triska Funeral Home.

Memorials in memory of Gene Rucka may be made to El Campo Volunteer Fire Department or to Matagorda County 100 Club.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Reverend I.T. Hewitt, Sr.

Reverend I.T. Hewitt, Sr., affectionately known as, "Uncle Buddy" passed away March 23.

He was born to Eddie and Arie McGrew Hewitt on January 25, 1917 in Colorado County.

Reverend Hewitt grew up and attended school in the Garwood Community. He united with the Garwood Church of God at an early age.

He was a WWII Veteran serving in France, Italy.

Later, he united with the Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor B.F. Langham.

On July 5, 1947 Reverend Hewitt attended the Gospel Ministry and was licensed by Reverend B.F. Langham. In 1952, he was ordained as a minister.

Reverend Hewitt attended Conroe Normal Industrial College and received a Bachelor of Theology. He achieved a diploma of graduation from the Voice of Prophecy, and Worldwide Bible Broadcasters in 1964. He also completed two years of business study at Wharton County Junior College, graduating with an Associate Degree in 1990.

Reverend Hewitt pastored for 45 years at the following churches: Ebenezer B.C., West Point, Texas; Concord B.C., Round Top, Texas; St. Paul BC, Wealder, Texas; Mt. Arie BC, Weimar, Texas and there he remained 23 years until pastoral retirement.

He served as moderator of the La Grange Wester Landmark Association, L3rd Vice Moderator of the La Grange District Association, Bible Teacher/Instructor in the B.M.F. State Congress and a teacher of the 20th Century District Association.

Reverend Hewitt united for 50 years in Holy Matrimony on June 20, 1953 to Jewel Gibbs who preceded him in death. To this union six children were born.

Reverend Hewitt was preceded in death by his parents; wife; two brothers, Theodore and Lear Hewitt; three sisters, Alvera Wilson, Alma Slone and Etta Mae Thomas; and one son, James W. Hewitt.

He leaves to cherish: four daughters, Charlene Layton of Houston, Karen Nesbitt (Wilbur) of North Carolina; Estella Hewitt, Arie Frazier (Robert) all of Eagle Lake; three sons, Wayne Hewitt of El Campo, Isaac T. Hewitt, Jr. (Shetia) of Houston, Andrew Hewitt of Eagle Lake; lifelong cousin, M.E. Ole Davis of Eagle Lake; daughter-in-law, Dorothy Hewitt; brother-in-law, Reverend L.E. Gibbs of Houston; Godson, Reverend Obie Rhodes of Eagle Lake; Goddaughter, Olivia Maxie of Eagle Lake; and a host of grands, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A Homegoing Celebration was held Saturday, March 31 at 12 p.m. from Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Pastor Dave Curry, officiating. Interment followed at Community Cemetery North in Eagle Lake. Final arrangements were under the direction of Ben Davis Funeral Home in Columbus.

Pallbearers were Terrance Scarlett, Todd Norris, De'Andre Hewitt, George Pierce, Jac'Quess Henderson, Derrick Frazier and Paul Barrow, Jr.

Honorary pallbearers were Dea. Alex Woolridge, Dea. Robert Frazier, Dea. Tommie Sims, Bro. L. Barrow, Sr., Bro. T. Krushall and Bro. A. Milligan.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



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Prairie Chicken Tours Offered April 14-15

Personnel at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteers will be conducting special guided tours of



Bobby Molano III
Stephanie Navarro and Bobby Molano Jr. are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Bobby Molano III, born March 21 at 11:21 p.m. at Katy Memorial Hospital.

He weighed eight pounds, 12 ounces. Sisters, Kianna and Chelsie Spears and brother, Frank Cobia III, "Tre", welcomed Bobby III home.

Maternal grandparents are Emma Navarro Ogle and the late Mateo Navarro Jr.

Paternal grandparents are Melinda Coronado Hilt and Bobby Molano, Sr.

Maternal great-grandparents are Mateo Navarro, Sr., Effie Navarro, Emma Manciaz and Theodore Manciaz.

Paternal great-grandparents are Raymond and Janie Molano and Julian and the late Annie Coronado.

the refuge during the thirteenth annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival, April 14 and 15.

The celebration was conceived in 1995 through cooperative efforts from the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, Houston Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to enhance the awareness of this imperiled bird.

The entrance to the refuge is on FM 3013, about 6.5 miles northeast of Eagle Lake. The first lek tour leaves promptly at 7 a.m. with tours leaving after that time as vans fill up. Additional guided tours begin at 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. on both Saturday (April 14) and Sunday (April 15).

The early morning tours have a chance of possibly seeing Attwater's prairie chickens on the "booming" grounds, but there is no guarantee.

All tours will take visitors into an area that is normally closed to the public and will touch on such topics as refuge management techniques, prairie chicken recovery efforts, and coastal prairie ecosystem issues.

Tours are expected to last less than two hours, and will begin at the refuge Visitor Center.

The refuge is hosting additional events as well. Birdwatchers, whether experienced or beginners, can enjoy a walking tour from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each day.

Following the walk, hop on a van and tour the refuge's Teal Marsh and Pintail Marsh from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day.

These guided tours will be led by experienced birders Doris Laughlin and Jane Meldahl.

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EQUIPPERS OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL: 200 N. College, Weimar, Texas 78962; 979-725-8233; Pastor Jerry Adkins.
GREATER RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH: 580 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Truman Scott Sr., Pastor; 234-2423 or 758-3745.
GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community; Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.
MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.
LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.
BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.
ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.
CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.
THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.
GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guylar, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.
EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5795.
IGLESIA BAUTISTIA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.
GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Dave Curry; 709 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.
WRIGHT GROVE BAPTIST: Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr.; Altair.
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr.; 234-3735.
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake; 234-3437.
ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.
SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: FM 2437; Rev. Jim Dunn, Pastor; 234-3136.
WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.
CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.
CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.
CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Español), 10 a.m. (English) 6 p.m. Saturday (English), Rev. Robert F. Guerra, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.
GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.
LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.
LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sells Jr. Lay-Pastor.
UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.
VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.
CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.
CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.
THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.
SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039.
ASEMBLEA DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.
BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331 -non-denominational.

Bible Verse of The Week
"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."
-Ecclesiastes 5:2
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