

Rojas, Gonzalez To Wed

Justino and Salustia Rojas of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Roxanna Rojas, to Alfredo Gonzalez, son of Arturo and Francisca Gonzalez of Eagle Lake.

The couple plan to wed Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Eagle Lake Community Center at 4 p.m.

Stafford Opera House Presents 'Art'

"Art", the comedic play by Yasmina Reza that opens at the Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street in Columbus on Saturday May 19, raises the question, "Which is more important to you: your taste in art or your friendships?" Enjoy the festivities of the Texas Live Oak Festival and make this dinner theatre a part of your activities during the weekend.

Serge, Marc and Yvan, three old friends, are thrown into a friendship dilemma when Serge purchases a white-on-white abstract painting for a huge amount of money. Marc hates it and cannot believe that a friend of his could possibly want such a work and Ivan attempts to placate both sides.

Jack Kroll, of Newsweek, says, "It's an actor's dream, a nonstop cross-fire of crackling language, serious issues of life and art expressed in outbursts that sound like Don Rickles with a degree from the Sorbonne..."

Enjoy the evening with family and friends at this opera house dinner theatre. Please note that this show begins at a special time in order to accommodate events on the square during the festival. Social time begins at 5. Dinner will be served at 6 and the curtain opens at 6:45. For tickets or information call 979-732-5135.

Other events of the weekend sponsored by Columbus Historical Presentation Trust are: the presentation of the Magnolia Belles at the Stafford Opera House on Friday, May 18; the presentation of the Belles on the south side of the Courthouse square on Satur-

day, May 19 at 12 noon; and the historical homes tour on Saturday afternoon from 1-4.

At the Belle Presentation on Friday night the Columbus High School Steel Pan Band begins playing at 7, the presentation

begins at 7:30, and afterwards is a reception for the girls and their families. The Belles can also be seen at the historical homes on Saturday afternoon during the homes tour.

The Tate-Sentenberg Bran-

don House, Dilue Rose-Harris House, Alley Log Cabin and Antique Tool Museum and the Santa Claus Museum will be open for the tour. There is a \$3 entrance fee to each home. For more information call 979-732-5135.

Local At Goose Chase Book Signing

When the Colorado County Juvenile Facility closed their doors last April, Brenda Shirley, the administrator, had no idea what she would do with her time.

The last thing on her mind was writing a book. Writing papers in college was the very reason she dropped out of graduate school.

So when she woke up from a dream with a main character and basic story line in her head she was confused on what to do with information.

She told her husband and daughter about the dream one day on a trip to Port Aransas and they encouraged her to begin putting it on paper. Eight months later she had a 200-page novel completed and published.

The story is fiction and is set in rural and small town Texas. Using flashbacks to tell the story, she brings a grandfather and his family closer together while trying to heal after tragedy strikes.

The book is for anyone living or longing to live in a community filled with family, faith, and forgiveness.

Brenda will be at the Wild Goose Chase on May 10 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to sign books and visit with all of

her friends and co-workers from Eagle Lake.

Come by and see why her books are now available in Kentucky, Kansas, Oklahoma, and, of course, Texas.

If you can't make the book signing, her books are available at the Wild Goose Chase in Eagle Lake, Potter's Western Wear in Columbus, or online at www.bdpublishing.net.

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Cattle Marketing Workshop May 22

On Tuesday, May 22, The Texas Cooperative Extension Livestock Committee and the Col-

orado County Farm Bureau will host a program to find out about the USDA Risk Management

Agency approved Gross Margin insurance policy for cattle.

And also have a program in Laws and Regulations for private, commercial, non-commercial applicators.

This program will offer 1 CEU in Laws & Regulations for applicators. The program will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Colorado County Ag Complex and will be held in the Entertainment Pavilion.

Following is more information on the Gross Margin insurance policy for cattle.

In January, USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) approved a Gross Margin insurance policy for cattle. The policy is designed for calves or yearlings going to a feed yard.

Using the futures market, a projected sales price is established for the animal when it comes out of the feedlot.

The original cost of the animal going into the feedlot, as well as the price and amount of corn the animal will consume is also figured.

The two costs are subtracted from the projected sale price to give a Gross Margin.

Many cow/calf producers or stocker operators have never fed cattle in a feed yard, but this policy may give producers a chance to send their calves or stockers to a yard and increase their return.

We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd of May. Please RSVP by May 18, 2007.

USDA Announces \$19.3 Million In Producer Grants

Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program.

Funding in the amount of \$19.3 million is available to develop value-added agriculture business ventures which support President Bush's energy plan to develop alternative sources of renewable energy to support long term solutions to high energy costs in rural Texas.

The Value-Added Producer Grant Program provides competitive grant funds for one of the two following activities: (1) to support the planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product or (2) to acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets.

"The Value-Added Producer Grant program continues to help Texas farmers and agri-related

enterprises reach their business development goals," said Daniel.

Grants are available to independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Eligible applicants applying under the renewable energy category must include biodiesel, ethanol or wind energy production, or the use of biomass to generate energy.

The maximum award for the planning grant is \$100,000 and the maximum award for the working capital grant is \$300,000. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than May 16, 2007.

For more information on the Value-Added Producer Grant Program, please contact Billy Curb, Business and Cooperative Specialist at (254) 742-9775.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents.

Bond Election

Continued from front page

ance to its current status.

If it cannot be restored and those revenues counted upon, then the end result would be a reduction in our current maintenance efforts, a reduction in employee benefits, program cuts or an increase in the tax rate. Most likely it would be a combined reduction in each of the listed areas and a tax increase.

Q: What are the major differences between this bond package and the May 2006 bond election that was narrowly defeated?

The differences are in the grades for proposed consolidation (7th and 8th in 2007 versus 6th, 7th, and 8th in 2006) and proposed construction of a junior high facility in '07 versus proposed construction of a new high school facility in '07. The cost of construction of the May 2006 proposal in today's market would approach \$20 million dollars. Although the proposal in 2006 failed, the facility and educational issues in this district did not go away. Although this proposal is not as encompassing as the 2006 proposal it does address the immediate needs and those that we foresee in the future.

Q: What will happen if the bond election fails?

I will go back to the Board, visit with the communities, redefine the issues and, if the Board approves, bring another proposal

to the voters at the November election. Eventually, dollars from the Fund Balance will be used to purchase portable buildings to house a portion of the Eagle Lake Elementary student body.

Q: Why are there two propositions in the bond election?

Proposition 1 contains classrooms, a library, computer labs, science labs, a bandhall, and gym.

It also addresses the need for a supplemental water well and waste water treatment plant to replace the current system that is often inadequate.

Proposition 2 contains a dining hall for the sole use of the district's 7th and 8th grade students.

The passage of Proposition 1 and the failure of Proposition 2 would mean scheduling the 7th and 8th grades for lunch into the current RHS Commons.

Also included is a 500 seat auditorium that would be available to all secondary students participating in drama, concert band, and for use during programs and public performances.

The RCISD Board of Trustees has adopted a resolution that proclaims the passage of Proposition 2 without the passage of Proposition 1 would result in Proposition 2 being nonbinding to the district.

We would not have the need for a dining hall without classrooms to house the students.

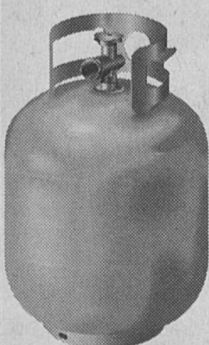


Eagle Lake General Store

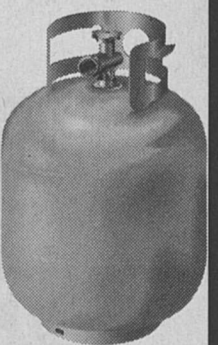
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