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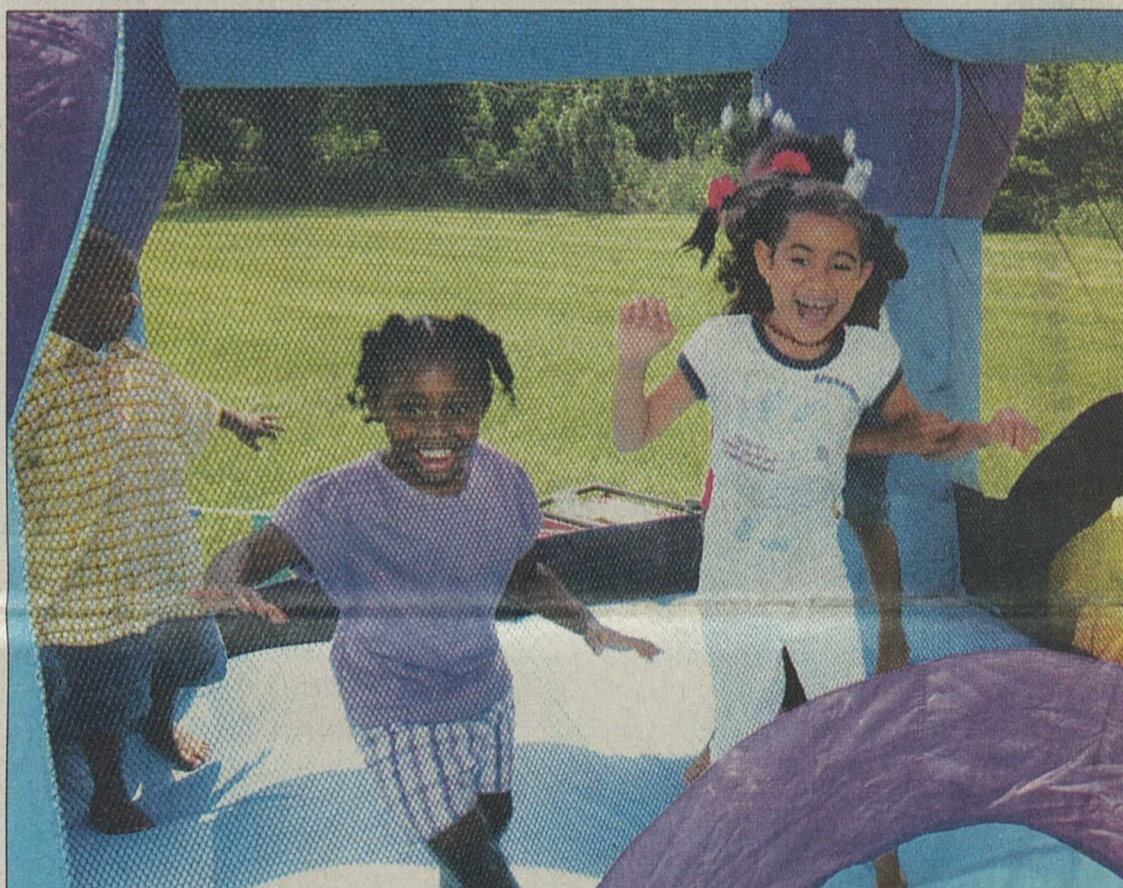
VOLUME 104 NUMBER 14

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

JUNE 21, 2007



Pictured above is the Eagle Lake Fire Department truck rolling through in the Juneteenth Parade in memory of Malcom Thomas on Sunday, June 17 in Altair.



Pictured above are some children playing in a bouncing castle at the Power Unlimited Juneteenth BBQ on Sunday, June 17 at the E.H. Henry grounds.

City Talks About Compensation

The Eagle Lake City Council during their regular meeting June 12, discussed council members and fire fighter's compensation.

Currently, council members receive \$20 per meeting, or \$25 for the most recently elected members, and this payment is tax exempt due to a 1957 agreement to that effect.

City Manager Ron Holland said that he has been advised by IRS and Social Security officials that council members would have to start paying income tax, medicare, and social security like any other city employee.

Council opted to table any action on the item so that they could research the matter further.

Holland said that after all the conversations he had with different people he felt there was almost no possible way to continue paying without the tax, but he

would look into any ideas council might have.

Council also discussed water bills for volunteer firefighters. Currently firefighters receive a credit on their city water bill of around \$50.

Holland advised that this is considered compensation and should also be taxed.

Council again opted to table action so that they could investigate further into the matter.

They said they would like to try and find some way to get around it to continue the benefit for the firefighters.

The other issue is how will they collect the tax, because the firefighters do not receive any kind of actual payment, only the credit on their bill.

In other council action:

-Council approved a measure to go ahead with applications for

grants to put in bathrooms and lights at the E.H. Henry Park. Council was advised that up \$20,000 in matching funds could have to be spent in the worst case scenario, but council is optimistic that many donations of time and materials will help cover a lot of the match requirement for the funding.

-Referred a request to rezone property to the planning and zoning board.

-Council discussed issues with keeping the floor clean at the community center. It was noted that the wood floor has been very troublesome to clean because it does not have a seal that prevents water from soaking in.

The floor cannot be wet mopped as a result and spills are difficult to take care of. Holland

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Hanover Fire Ruled An Accident

A fire that gutted a maintenance shop at Hanover Compression Inc. on June 10 has been ruled accidental.

Columbus Fire Chief Bob Walla said the state fire marshal's office made the ruling after inves-

tigating the cause.

Walla said the investigation determined the fire started from an electrical short in an office area.

The facility is located east of Columbus on FM 949, just off Interstate 10.

Walla said about 50 to 60 men fought the blaze.

Units from Columbus, Bernardo, Eagle Lake and Frelsburg responded to the fire.

The plant employs about 250 people and manufactures equipment for oil field services.



About 12:30 on Saturday the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department was called out to a car fire in the parking lot of Eagle Lake Drugstore. No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

NEWSBRIEFS

Diabetic support group meeting set

Diabetic support group meeting will be held every third Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Methodist Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Prairie Street. ALL diabetics and their friends are welcome. The meeting will be held by and for diabetics as a means of support. The meeting will not offer medical treatment and is not affiliated with the Methodist Church. For more information call 234-2853.

RCISD Summer office hours announced

Rice CISD Administration summer office hours began June 4. Office hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, CLOSED. Administration office vacation will be July 2-6; summer office hours resume Monday, July 9. Regular office hours resume Monday, August 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

E.H. Henry to hold meeting tonight

E.H. Henry and alumni and ex-students will meet at White Cloud Baptist Church on Thursday, June 21 at 6 p.m. We ask all ex-students to attend.

Farmers market open Thursdays

A farmer's market will open Thursdays from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center Pavilion. Vegetables will be sold. If you have fresh vegetables to sell you are welcomed to do so.

ESL Classes to set

Rice CISD will converse ESL classes for identified ESL students who attended the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes this past school year. Parents needing more information concerning dates and registration, please call 979-234-3587.

Rice CISD tendra clases de ESL para estudiantes bilinguales quines asistieron clases de Pre-K o Kindergarten este ano. Las clases empiezan el 5 de Junio, y continuan lunes- Jueves, 28 de Junio, y del 9 de Julio al 19 de Julio, 8:30 -2:00. Si tiene preguntas favor de llamar 979-234-3587.

Benefit for Wiese is Saturday

Xi Pi Psi Sorority and friends have finalized plans for a benefit for Donnie Wiese, to help defray hospital costs. The benefit is planned for June 23, at Didner Hall. Plans include a BBQ, silent auction and drawing starting at 5 that afternoon. The drawing items will be displayed at Baumgart Insurance and may be dropped off with member Mary Ann Kaluza. Anyone wishing to donate a silent auction item may take it to Creative Expressions or call 234-3911. For anyone wishing to make a donation, a fund has been established at Wallis State Bank and the First National Bank. Checks may be made out to the Donnie Wiese Benefit Fund. If anyone has any questions or has something to donate call Ernie Sommerlatte at 234-3452.

Aerobic marathon set for Saturday

The 2nd Annual Christopher Kilpatrick Memorial Scholarship Aerobic Marathon will be held Saturday, June 23 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Center, 1700 Milam St. in Columbus. Enjoy plates to go of shrimp and crawfish etouffee with sides (catered by Schobels' Restaurant). Tickets are \$10 each. Entry forms and tick-

Missouri Man Gets 45 Years

A Missouri man with eight prior felony convictions has been sentenced to 45 years in prison for abducting and robbing a Columbus resident.

Webster Crader, 41, of Sikeston, Mo., pled guilty to the Jan. 12 aggravated robbery of Marvin Carter on May 24 and was sentenced to 45 years in prison on June 14 following a contested sentencing hearing before Colorado County District Court Judge Dwight Peschel.

Indicted as a habitual offender, Crader faced a minimum of 25 years in prison.

"This was a horrible crime," said County Attorney Ken Sparks.

"Crader beat and abducted the victim from his front yard, stole his cell phone and van, and drove the victim to the Austin area before leaving him near the roadside," he added.

Carter was admitted to the hospital as a result of the beating and released two days later.

The Colorado County Sheriff's Office accessed the victim's cell phone account and called the phone numbers dialed after the cell phone had been stolen.

One of the numbers belonged to Crader's brother who identified Crader as the caller.

A warrant was obtained and he was arrested by the San Antonio Police Department.

The Sheriff's Office also received assistance from the Travis County Sheriff's Office and the Bay City Police Department during the course of the investigation.

Crader was in Texas for a one-week visit with his brother in

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Wreck Kills Two On Highway 71 Wed.

By Carol Cardenas

At approximately 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, a two vehicle accident 1.5 miles south of Columbus on Hwy. 71 claimed the lives of two El Campo residents.

Pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 George Cason were Shalonda Monnae Farrow, 21 and her niece, Aaliyah Deshay Farrow, 5, of El Campo.

Injured in the accident was Grant Deshawn Farrow, 18, also of El Campo, and brother of Shalonda. He was the driver of a 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer that collided with a tractor-trailer truck.

He was taken by life flight to Hermann Hospital in Houston and, at the time of this report, was listed in critical condition.

Another passenger in the Trailblazer was taken to Columbus Community Hospital by ambulance with non-incapacitating injuries. He was identified as Ray Lee Holloway, 38 of El Campo.

Not injured in the accident was the driver of the 2007 Volvo truck-tractor, Jerry Lewis Roberts, 54, of Texarkana.

Gary Pflughaupt with the Texas Department of Public Safety reported that the accident took place at 2:04 p.m.

The 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling southbound on Hwy. 71. The tractor-trailer, towing an international box trailer, was traveling northbound on 71.

Farrow passed another vehicle traveling southbound on Texas 71.

The Trailblazer got around the vehicle and into the right lane but lost control and entered the northbound lane.

Farrow's vehicle then hit the left side of the tractor-trailer causing it to spin around ending up underneath the tractor-trailer, according to one report.

Pflughaupt stated that Grant Farrow and Aaliyah Farrow were both wearing seatbelts. However,

Shalonda Farrow was not and was ejected from the vehicle.

Investigating officers at the scene included DPS Trooper Patrick H. Madenka, Sgt. Gary Chandler, Trooper Thomas Janak, Trooper William C. Hartlage and Trooper Stephen Pierce.

Also helping at the scene were the Colorado County Sheriff's Department, Columbus Police Department, Columbus Volunteer Fire Department, Colorado County EMS and the Texas Department of Transportation.



Pictured above is what remains of a vehicle involved in a fatal wreck on Hwy. 71 just south of Columbus. The accident claimed the lives of 21 year old Shalonda Farrow and five year old Aaliyah Farrow both of El Campo.