

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MARCH 19, 2009



Colorado County Judge Al Jamison, center, was elected as chair of the Houston-Galveston Area Council board of directors for 2009-10. Among the other officers elected were Dickinson Councilman Kerry Neves, right, as chair-elect and Montgomery County Commissioner Craig Doyal as vice chair.

County Judge Jamison Elected H-GAC Chair

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is pleased to announce that County Judge Al Jamison of Colorado County has been elected Board Chair for 2009-2010.

He has served as Colorado County's representative on the H-GAC Board of Directors since 2004.

Also elected as 2009-2010 H-GAC officers are City of Dickinson

Councilman Kerry Neves as chair elect and Montgomery County Commissioner Craig Doyal as vice chair.

The 2009-2010 officers were installed at the H-GAC Annual Meeting on Friday, March 6. Ballots were mailed to all members of the H-GAC General Assembly prior to the event.

The ballots were counted and results announced at the meet-

ing. State Senator Joan Huffman, District 17, was the principal speaker at this annual gathering of local elected officials, administrators, civic and service leaders and business and industry representatives.

Huffman was elected in December 2008 to the Senate seat recently vacated by Kyle Janek.

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 5.7 million people.

H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments and helps them analyze trends and conditions affecting the region in order to respond to their needs.

No Contest In City, School Elections

City and school elections had been set for May 9 and there were no contested elections as of March 16 filing deadline for write-in candidates.

Both city and school elections will likely be cancelled.

Acting City Manager Sylvia Rucka said that the election generally costs the city about \$2,000 when all the various expenses are added up.

"It will be nice to save that money," she said.

In the City of Eagle Lake three at-large council positions were up for election.

Those places are currently
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Gas Line Fire North Of Town

The Eagle Lake Fire Department responded to a call about a gas line on fire about a mile off CR 102 on Fussell Road north of Eagle Lake.

The call came in around 8 p.m. on Monday evening.

Eagle Lake sent about 12 men who were on standby at the scene, according to Fire Chief Howard Wilkerson.

Colorado County Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied said that he was at the scene as well.

He indicated that no attempt was made to extinguish the fire and that it eventually went out on its own around 12:30 a.m.

Nothing else caught on fire during the blaze.

Despite efforts starting during the fire, as of Tuesday afternoon no contact had been made with the party responsible for the line, Wied said.

No cause for the fire was immediately determined.

Money Cited As Reason City Council Votes Against City Manager Hiring

The Eagle Lake City Council voted not to hire Sheyi Ipaye as city manager following a closed session discussion on the matter. The action came during council's regular meeting on March 10.

Council had previously voted to offer the job to Ipaye at an annual salary of \$52,000, but Ipaye indicated that he would like more information before accepting the position.

Ipaye was present at the March 10 meeting.

Acting City Manager and City Secretary Sylvia Rucka advised that following the closed session council voted against hiring.

She indicated that Ipaye wanted a more money and that council was in agreement that they could not go any higher than the amount offered.

She also said that council will

move forward with starting the search again by advertising for the position.

This is the second candidate that has been offered the position, but has not ultimately been hired.

In other council action:

-Rhonda Bridges addressed council during public comments

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20 Year Prison Sentence Levied For Cocaine Charges

An Eagle Lake man has received 20 years in prison for possession of a large amount of cocaine with intent to sell it.

Anthony Barrios, 32, pled guilty on Jan. 20 to possession of 13.72 grams of cocaine, evading arrest in a vehicle and possession of marijuana and sought a probated sentence.

Following a contested sentencing hearing on March 16, the court denied the request for probation and sentenced Barrios on the cocaine case, giving him 18 months in state jail for the other two offenses.

Assistant Colorado County Attorney Jay Johannes indicated that Barrios was arrested on July 25, 2008, through the combined efforts of the Colorado County Sheriff's Office and the Eagle Lake Police department.

Barrios ran from Deputy Randy Thumann during a routine traffic stop.

Thumann and Eagle Lake police officer John Williams quickly captured him.

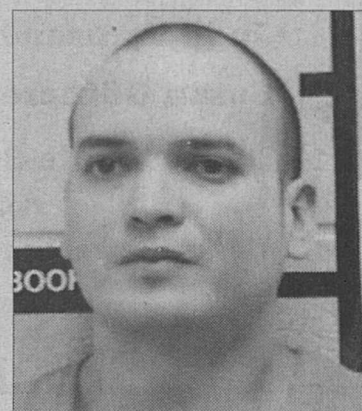
A search uncovered the cocaine, \$4,303 in U.S. currency and a shotgun.

Within hours, Eagle Lake Police Chief Bill Lattimore obtained and executed a search warrant for Barrios' residence.

Eagle Lake officers John Williams and Steve Nelson, Deputy Sheriff Randy Thumann and DPS Trooper Troy Clark found more than three pounds of marijuana, a cache of weapons, a security camera, cutting agents, a scale and numerous other items used in the drug trade.

"It was very clear from this evidence that Barrios was a drug dealer and not a casual drug user," said Johannes.

Johannes credited the willingness of Chief Lattimore to get up out of bed in the middle of the night to obtain the search warrant and the cooperation of the other



Anthony Barrios

county law enforcement agencies as a key to the lengthy sentence.

"I could not be more pleased with the way these two agencies worked together to send a drug dealer to prison," he said.

The money that was seized was forfeited to the State of Texas in an earlier hearing.

Barrios will be eligible for parole in five years.

NEWSBRIEFS

Attention RHS graduating seniors!!

Rice Medical Center (RMC) Employee Volunteers' scholarship application is now available in your counselor's office. RMC is pleased to offer four (4) \$500 scholarships to deserving students planning to enter the health care field. Thanks to all the supporters of our recent hHamburger drive thru dinner, which allowed our organization to raise the scholarship funds. For more information, contact Kurt Sunderman, President of RMC Employee Volunteers at 979-234-5571.

Annual Lenten luncheons underway

The United Methodist Church (UMC) of Eagle Lake is hosting its 13th Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday thru April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken. Net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Pantry. The fourth luncheon Monday, March 23, will feature Rev. Obie Rhodes of White Cloud Baptist Church as guest speaker. Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church members 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 of Eagle Lake. Everyone is cordially invited...bring a friend!

Relay for Life meetings scheduled

The Colorado County Relay for Life will hold team captains meetings starting at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus on March 17, 24, 31 and April 7 and April 14. Relay is set for April 17 at the Columbus High School Football stadium at 6 p.m. This event is open to the public. Please come out and support the Colorado County Relay for Life. Please make plans to attend these meetings to find out more about the relay please contact Robin Maertz at 979-732-1687.

RMC Blood drive is today

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will hold its first quarter of 2009 "Commit for Life" blood drive on Thursday, March 19 at the hospital parking lot from 2 to 7 p.m. Do you know that one unit can save three lives? To make an appointment, call Barbara at 979-234-5571, x 5236. Walk ins are always welcome. RMC carries a full supply of blood on hand for any emergency. Let's have our community really support this drive—for someone that may need blood-That someone could be you one day.

WCMC to be held March 21

Concerned citizens of Colorado County will be having a meeting to plan for the Annual 2009 Juneteenth celebration. All communities, Garwood, Columbus, Eagle Lake and others are invited to attend and help plan for this important event. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, located at 1003 Columbus Street in Altair. Hope to see you there.

Project graduation meeting March 23

A Project Graduation meeting will be held on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rice High School Commons area. All interested parents of graduating seniors are asked to attend.

CSWCD to hold banquet

The Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) will hold their 60th Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, March 27 at Veteran's Memorial Hall in Weimar. Deadline for meal tickets is March 20. Advance tickets are \$12. For more information call 979-732-9565. Entertainment by Prause and O'Mary. A silent auction will also be held.

Prophetic training scheduled

A regional prophetic training will be sponsored by Equippers Outreach Fellowship in Weimar, April 3-4. The purpose of the training is to see a great release and activation of the Spirit of prophecy in the lives of believers. The training will take place at the Weimar Civil Center, 1754 I-10. Registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday. For more information call Equippers Outreach in Weimar at 979-725-8233.

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Girls All-District Basketball

Front row, left to right: Kaydi Gold, honorable mention; Brooke Popp, honorable mention; Annica Williams, honorable mention. Back row, left to right: Machelsea Thomas, second team; Dynasty Johnson, honorable mention; Sabrina Spates, first team; Brittnee Stevenson, honorable mention.



Boys All-District Basketball

From left: JJ Reggins, honorable mention; Cody Lantelme, honorable mention; Dewey Pettus, second team; Mario Hull, first team; Marquis Toliver, first team.