

Best Wishes at the New Year

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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## Headlight 2009: The Year In Review: Part 1

Following is the Eagle Lake Headlight's Year in Review.

### January

The Victoria Advocate recently released its All-Area Football Team for 2008.

Ziggy Foster was named Offensive Player of the Year for the Advocate reader area.

Damien Stevens was named to the First Team Defense.

Making the Second Team on offense was Marques Toliver. Chris Dorsey was named to the Second Team Defense. Honorable Mention honors went to Mario Hull, Myles Dumont, Trent Popp, Samuel Lugo, Tanner Williams, Francisco Vasquez, Cody Lantelme, and J. J. Reggins.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Kent Tipton has seized more than \$244,000 in cash, believed to be drug money, in two traffic stops inside Colorado County within 10 days.

Chad Sunderman was named 2008 Fireman of the Year. Past Fireman of the Year were: 2007 - Kurt Sunderman, 2006 - Malcom Thomas, 2005 - Malcom Thomas & Tim Jones, 2004 - Darrell Stancik.

Rainfall totals in Eagle Lake for 2008 came in at 19.81 inches. It was the driest year since data has been collected at the David R.



Fires were a common occurrence in 2009 with the drought from 2008 continuing well into the year. Drought conditions have eased slightly in the last month or so of 2009. The Eagle Lake Volunteers fought this fire in February.

Wintermann Rice Research Station - Texas Agrilife Research and Extension Center at Eagle Lake. Data collection began in 1976.

An overnight fire has reduced

a home near Lake Sheridan to rubble. According to a neighbor, Margaret Edge, the residence on Crooked Creek Drive was occupied by Jay and Dawn Blow. They were not home at the time of the fire.

### February

James Brune, Jr., 51 of Columbus, was killed Wednesday, February 4 by an explosion of a tank on which he was welding. The explosion occurred about 11:50 a.m. at C & C Welding at 2628 FM 3013. Brune was rushed by ambulance to Rice Medical Center but died a short time later. Brune was the only individual at the location at the time of the blast, Sheriff's Sergeant Chad Girndt said. Girndt said that Brune was welding on the tank of a tanker truck that is used for carrying salt water. The tanker was empty at the time of the accident.

A \$400,000 grant to help pay for architectural plans for Colorado County courthouse restoration has been approved by the state Historical Commission. A spokesperson for the commission said the grant was approved at the commission's meeting on Jan. 30. The county is required to match 15 percent of the grant amount.

Zaccheaus "Ziggy" Foster and Marques Toliver signed (a two-year scholarship) to play football at Blinn Junior College on Wed. Feb. 4.

After 45 years of service, Reverend Obie Rhodes retired from Rice Consolidated School District. The Reverend Obie Rhodes was born December 28, 1937 in Matthews to Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Willie Rhodes. He was one of three children. He attended E.H. Henry Elementary, Junior High, and High School, graduating in May 1957.

The Rice School Board approved advertising for competitive sealed bids for the construction and renovation project at the district's Tate Street facility in

Eagle Lake during their regular meeting Monday, February 16. The facility, currently Eagle Lake Elementary School, will eventually become Eagle Lake Intermediate School and will house fourth through sixth graders.

Eagle Lake Police Chief W. E. Lattimore recently returned from a two week mission trip to Nigeria. Lattimore traveled with Pastor Jerry Adkins and Elder John McClanahan of Equipppers Outreach Fellowship Church in Weimar.

### March

Road maintenance projects totaling \$2.4 million have been earmarked in Colorado and Fayette counties from part of the new federal economic stimulus law. Included is \$930,000 for resurfacing of U.S. 90A from 2.49 miles west of Texas Highway 71 to a half-mile west of Texas Highway 71.

The 2009 Colorado County Go Texan Bar-B-Que Team brought home three trophies from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest this past weekend at Reliant Center.

Raises for Colorado County employees for next year appeared doubtful after a meeting of county commissioners Monday. Commissioners, acting at the suggestion of County Judge Al Jamison, voted not to appoint a salary committee to review possible pay raises for county employees next year, citing current economic conditions.

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 more money and that council was in agreement that they could not go any higher than the amount offered.

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.

Girls All-District Basketball: Kaydi Gold, honorable mention; Brooke Popp, honorable mention; Annicia Williams, honorable mention; Machelsea Thomas, second team; Dynasty Johnson, honorable mention; Sabrina Spates, first team; Brittnee Stevenson,

honorable mention.

Boys All-District Basketball: JJ Reggins, honorable mention; Cody Lantelme, honorable mention; Dewey Pettus, second team; Mario Hull, first team; Marquis Toliver, first team.

A forfeiture judgment has awarded local law enforcement agencies a large amount of currency and a bus used to transport the money. A petition seeking the forfeiture of \$742,320 and a 1995 MCI passenger bus filed by the Colorado County Attorney's Office was granted following a hearing on March 23. Weimar Police Chief Bill Livingston said he plans to grant some of the money to the Eagle Lake police department, whose drug dog was instrumental in locating the money, but had not decided on an amount. "We

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## Investigation Continues In Local Murder Case

Few new details have emerged in the week following an Eagle Lake man's death after being run over by a vehicle.

The incident left 23-year old Gary McTear, Jr. dead and 22-year old Crystal Smith charged with murder and held on a \$1 million bond at the Colorado County Detention Center.

Eagle Lake Police Chief W. E. Lattimore said he was unable to really provide any additional details, as he is still trying to interview some potential witnesses.

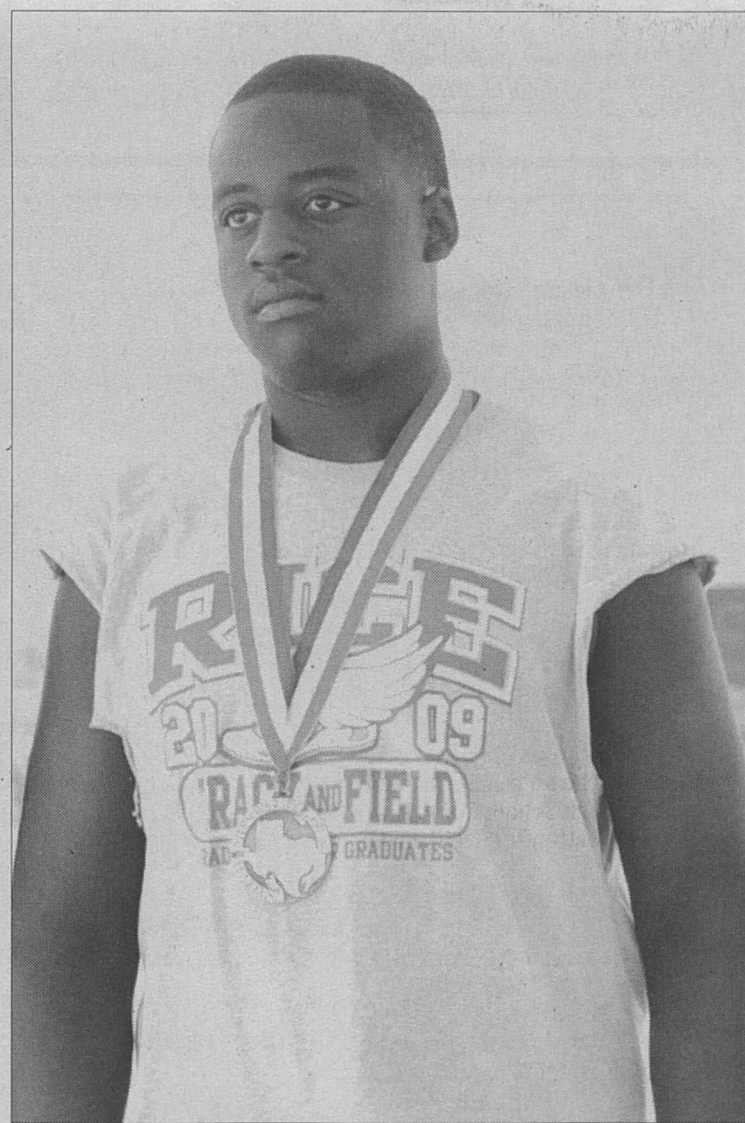
He did say that he has been able to review a 9-1-1 call made

by Smith after the incident. Lattimore said that Smith says she ran over McTear on the recording.

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Crystal Smith



Chris Dorsey brought home a medal from the 2009 State Track Meet in the discus throw.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Fireworks show is Thursday

It's On! Eagle Lake New Year's Eve Fireworks Show. Join the celebration Thursday, Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m. on Calhoun Road. For more information or to donate call 979-232-0233.

### Senior citizen's dance is Friday

A senior citizen's dance will be held Friday, Jan. 1 from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The Fabulous 4 will provide the musical entertainment. For more information call 979-234-2903.

### Closing for New Year holiday

The following will be closed in observance of the New Year's. The First National Bank will close at 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, closed New Year's Day. The City office will be closed Friday. For New Year's Eve pickup (Thursday) you are asked to have your trash out early. The Wintermann Library will close at 2 p.m. New Year's Eve and be closed New Year's Day. Wallis State Bank will close at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and be closed New Year's Day. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed on New Year's Day Jan. 1. The Eagle Lake Headlight will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1.

### Sealy Dance Club

The Sealy Dance Club will host a public dance Saturday January 2 at the American Legion Hall in Sealy. Dance time is 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The Rabbs Creek Band will provide music. This dance will have a Honky Tonk theme. This will be a real party. Every dance is a big party and fun time. Open to the public. Free cake, coffee, sandwiches, chips, dips, and door prizes. Doors open at 6:30pm. For more information call 979-885-3489.

### Project graduation meeting Jan. 4

There will be a Project Graduation meeting on Monday, January 4 at the Rice High School Commons at 6 p.m. Seniors and their parents are invited to attend. This is the last meeting before Senior Serve.

### Little League meeting is Jan. 7

Eagle Lake Little League will hold a meeting Thursday Jan. 7, at 7 at City Hall. Board members, committee persons and volunteers wishing to coach should attend. Parents and community are welcome and encouraged to participate for the benefit of the youth of Eagle Lake.

### Rifle project aims to begin

The Columbus Area 4-H Shooting Sports Club will sponsor a rifle project sign up at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at the Colorado County Fairgrounds H.E. Building. The rifle project will be on the following Sundays: Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31 at the Bailey Range. The rifle project is open to boys and girls, ages 8 - 9 years old, and in the 3rd grade through 18 yrs. old throughout Colorado County. Attendance at the first meeting is mandatory, as this is a sign up meeting. Both the participants and parents should attend. Participants will shoot each week, under the supervision and instruction of certified rifle coaches serving as volunteer 4-H leaders. For more information, contact 979-732-2530, 732-9498 or (979) 733-4374.

### Habitat Orientation is Jan. 9

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity (CCHF) will host an Orientation for Prospective Homeowners on Saturday January 9, at 10 a.m. at the Wintermann Library. Families interested in learning how to become a Habitat homeowner should plan to attend. Call 979-732-5677 to reserve a seat.

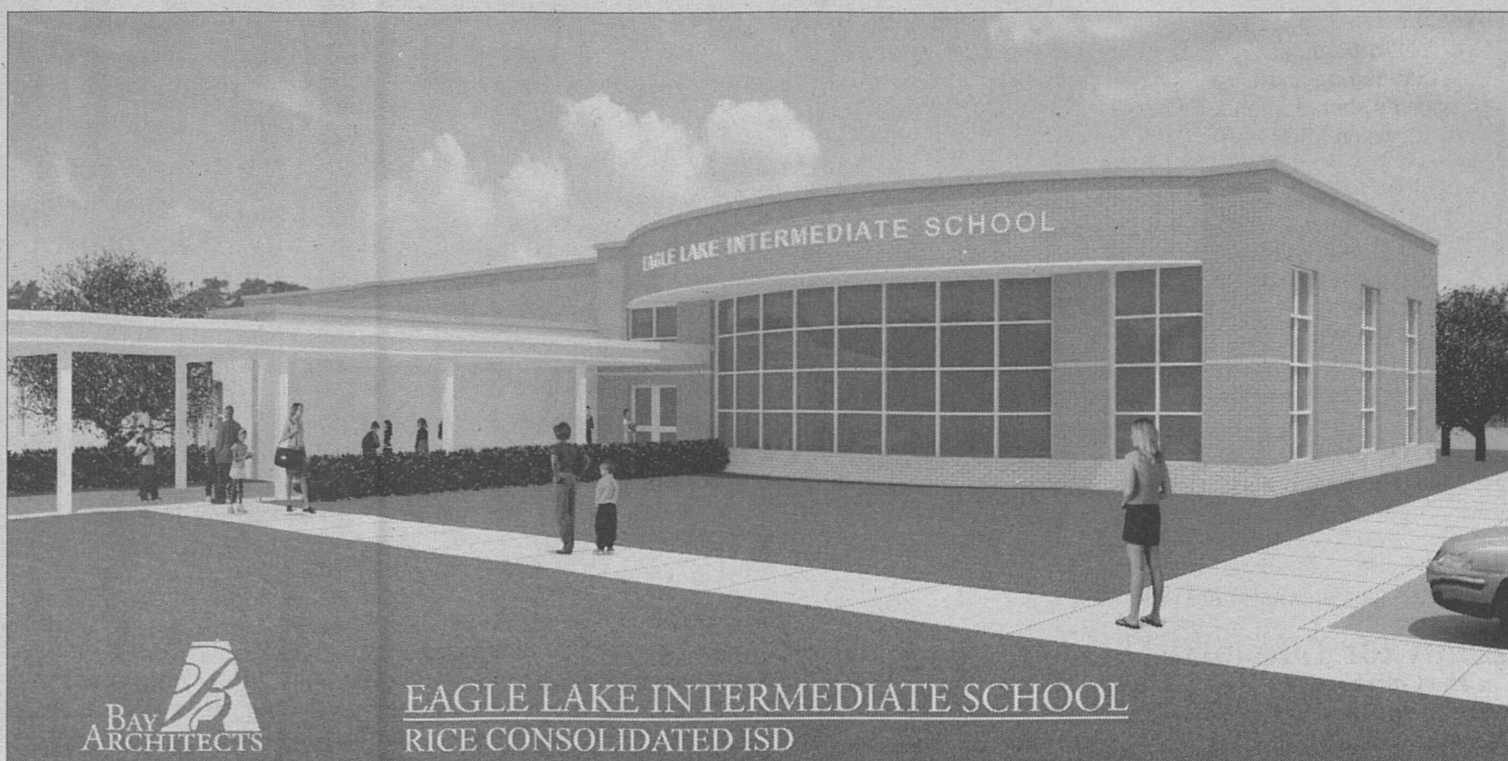
### Family Services Parenting workshop set

Youth and Family Services (Y&FS) will host a six-week Successful Parenting Workshop at Y&FS in Columbus. Classes will meet Monday evenings, Jan. 11 thru March 1 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please call 979-732-8355 by Jan. 11 to register or for more information. The workshop is free. Please note that there will be NO childcare provided.

### Relay for Life kickoff rally

The Colorado County Relay for Life Birthday Party Kickoff Rally will be held Tuesday Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Fellowship Hall. Each birthday brings us closer to a world with more birthdays. Team registration gets underway and exciting news for the upcoming

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BAY ARCHITECTS

EAGLE LAKE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
RICE CONSOLIDATED ISD

In 2009, Rice Consolidated approved construction and remodeling work at the Eagle Lake Intermediate School on Tate Street. Work is currently progressing nicely and the expected completion date is this spring.