

Eagle Lake Headlight

75¢

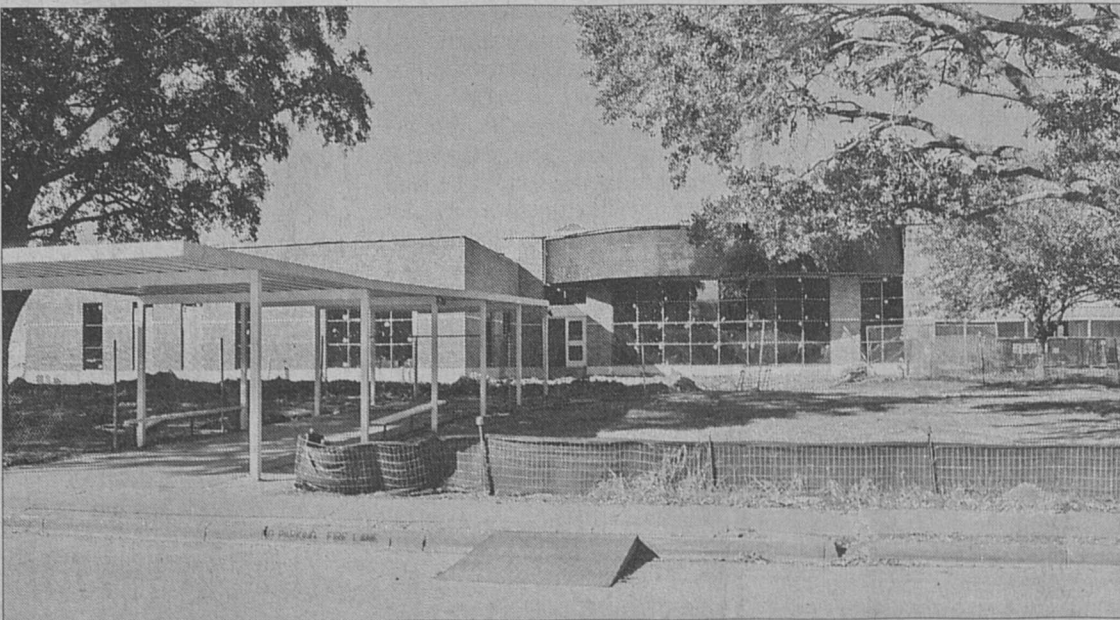
Serving Southern Colorado County
www.eaglelakeheadlight.com

75¢

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 45

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

JANUARY 28, 2010



Work is progressing nicely at the Eagle Lake Intermediate School. The construction and remodeling is due to be complete on April 1.



The unusually warm weather has everyone out getting sun. Rice High School students do dirt work in preparation for a vegetable garden at the Altair Campus. Don't plant those seeds just yet, though, freezing temperatures are on the way, again.

NEWSBRIEFS

Little League registration tonight

Eagle Lake Little League registration will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight, Jan. 28 at City Hall. Fee is \$45 for first child; \$35 for each additional child per family. Try-outs will be held Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Little League field. Additional registration dates are: Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the little league field; and Feb. 11, 6 to 8 p.m. at City Hall.

Mardi Gras Festival this weekend

Join Cozy Lounge at 5556 Hwy. 90-A in Eagle Lake for the first annual "A Taste of New Orleans" Mardi Gras Festival, Jan. 29-31. Masquerade Party, Friday, 5 p.m.-1 a.m.; Lil' Flip in concert 5pm-2am; Sunday, Zydeco Blue Band 12pm and the Southside Playboys and "A Taste of New Orleans" 12p.m-12am. There will also be a cookout. Booths and reserved tables available. Call 832-859-9330 for more information.

Logo contest underway

Help us design a logo for Rice Little League to be used on fan shirts during the season and at All Stars. Submit your logo by Feb. 19. Stop by registration on for more details.

Reminder from City

Residents of Eagle Lake are reminded to bring by some sort of statement if you had broken pipes caused by the freezing temperatures. That way the City can take into consideration the amount of water used as a sewer averaging rate is underway. For more information call the City at 979-234-2640.

Episcopal teaches rules to children

On Sundays from January 10 to March 21 Christ Episcopal Church (CEC), 401 N. Lake at Stockbridge (the pink church), is offering a series on The Ten Commandments for all children ages 7 through 16. Each Sunday during the first half of the 10 a.m. church service the children will learn one of God's commandments through Scripture, interactive play, drama, crafts, and stories. The first Sunday after Easter the children will give a dramatic presentation in church to share what they have learned. You are invited to bring your children each Sunday, so they can learn about God's rules for life. For more information contact Fr. Ralph Morgan at 234-3437.

Letters of Love, Feb. 6

Faith Academy presents "Letters of Love," Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Austin County Expo Center. Admission is \$10, doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner at 5:30; auction at 7 p.m. Music provided by All Around Cowboy Church Band. Childcare for eight and under also provided. Reservations required, call 979-865-1811.

Weimar Trade Days, Feb. 5-7

Weimar Trade Days will be held Feb. 5-7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Booth space rentals available. Covered areas, stalls and open areas. Located on I-10 between Columbus and Schulenburg at Weimar, Legacy Buildings Systems. Call Sharon at 713-542-2528 or 979-263-4305 for more information.

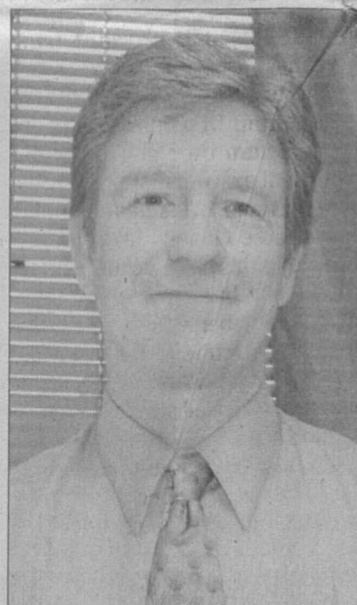
Homerun derby contest is Feb. 6

A homerun derby contest will be held Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10 a. to 2 p.m. Fee - \$5 for 10 cuts. Winners will receive awards on opening day. Age 9 and under will hit on the small field; ages 10 and up on the big field.

Bennett to be in Garwood Feb. 7

The Lehrner Memorial United Methodist Church of Garwood is hosting Nashville recording artist Jerry Bennett during its 9 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Feb. 7. The public is invited to attend this special event and to enjoy the talents of this Christian musician.

Continued on page 10



Shalor B. Townzen

New Columbus Prez. For First National Bank

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake is proud to announce the hiring of Shalor B. Townzen as its Banking Center President for the Columbus location, effective January 18, 2010.

Mr. Townzen brings with him over 20 years of community banking experience, most recently in Childress, Texas. In addition to his extensive commercial and agriculture skills, Shalor has experience as an internal auditor, cashier and controller of banks.

Shalor graduated from Abilene Christian University with a degree in finance. He has his wife of 23 years, Kathleen, have two sons, Grayson 20, and Travis, 19.

First National President/CEO, Sam Kana said, "We looked for the perfect fit for both the Columbus market, and our community bank philosophy, and Shalor Townzen is the man. His community involvement, experience, and rural background ended our search." In addition to being a deacon in the Childress Church of Christ, Shalor was a board member of the Rotary Club, Pregnancy Outreach Center and CASA in Childress.

"Kathleen and I are looking forward to living and working in such a charming and historic community," said Townzen.

County Approves Criminal Justice Community Plan

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, approved a Colorado County Criminal Justice Community Plan for the 2009-2010 that calls for additional effort to combat crime in the county.

County Judge Al Jamison said the plan is a requirement for applying for grants and will be considered when the county works on its budget later in the year.

Work on the plan, which is compiled annually, was done by 29 people, representing law enforcement, social service agencies, churches and schools.

Dan Peevy, executive director of Colorado Youth and Family Services is the plan coordinator.

Five major issues impacting public safety were identified and possible solutions were also listed.

Two juvenile issues were listed, with the greatest need listed as juvenile substance abuse.

As of December, the juvenile probation department reported a caseload of 43 juveniles, with more than half having moderate to severe substance abuse problems.

Currently substance abuse counseling is provided by Colorado County Youth and Family Services on a limited basis with local funds, and the plan identified more funding as a response

to help that situation.

The second juvenile issue identified was need for more after school care programs in the county.

Possible expansion of Boys and Girls Club in Weimar to other areas of the county was mentioned as was possible additional funding for social workers for truancy and drop-out prevention.

Providing shelter and services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault was also identified as an issue. The report stated that 78 new cases were reported in 2009, compared to 67 in 2008.

At the same time, it stated that number of hours of direct care decreased from 1,695 to 428.

That was the result of decreased staff time, caused by a staff reduction due to decreased funding.

Another issue raised was the need for additional school resource officers.

The report stated that there was only one school resource officer. After the report was written the Weimar School District hired a school resource officer.

According to the report, the juvenile probation department was supervising 43 juveniles in the first quarter of 2009, compared to a total of 30 for the entire previ-

ous year.

"The sheriff's department reports that gang and criminal activity is increasing among juveniles," the plan report stated.

Another issue raised in the report was to replace outdated video recording equipment in the Eagle Lake Police Department patrol cars.

Lack of skilled workers in the county was another issue cited.

The report said that according to a report by the Center for Public Policy Priorities, 75 persons dropped out of school in the class of 2007. Multiplied over five years, the report stated there would be 375 young adults without a high school degree, which is needed for college entrance and most trade schools.

The report suggested an adult learning center for the county, possibly located in Columbus that would include literacy and vocational programs.

In other action, commissioners:

-Approved an application by Sundown Energy to put a 2 and 3/8 inch gas line and a 3 and 1/4 water line in the right of way of County Roads 231, 230 and 221.

-Approved payment of annual membership dues of \$1,090 to the Texas Association of Counties.

County Unemployment Rate Dips

December figures show the Colorado County unemployment rate sitting at 6.4 percent with a decrease of .1 percent from November.

There is still an increase of 1.8 percent from December 2008.

In December in Colorado County, there were 11,427 people employed and 729 seeking jobs.

Fayette County unemployment remains at 5.5 percent since October, with an increase of 1.7 from December 2008.

In December for Fayette County there were 12,929 individuals employed and 709 looking for work.

Lavaca County unemployment was 6.3 percent in December with no change since September.

That is a total increase of 2.3 percent from December 2008.

In December in Lavaca County, there were 10,110 people employed and 633 unemployed.

The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.3 percent in December, up from 8.0 percent a month ago, but continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December of 10.0 percent.

Total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 23,900 jobs in December.

Texas has gained nearly 50,000 jobs in the last three months.

"Texas continues to feel the effects of this serious national recession with unemployment in

our state now at 8.3 percent." Said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken.

"Nonetheless, unemployment in Texas remains well below the national level of 10.0 percent."

Education and Health Services employment increased by 4,800 positions in December, representing the addition of 60,400 jobs in the past 12 months.

Mining and Logging employment posted a modest gain of 300 jobs in December.

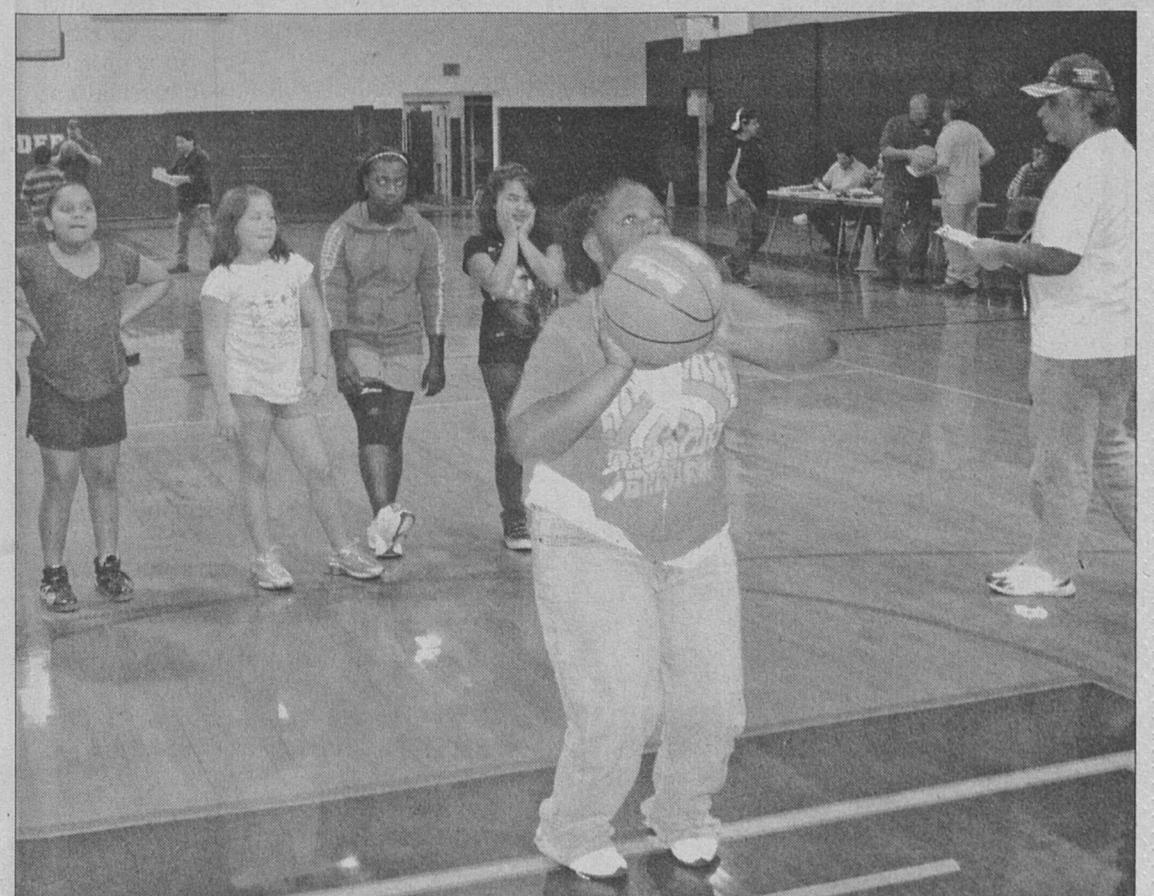
"December job losses offset some of the gains from the last couple of months," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

"TWC and the 28 workforce

Continued on page 10



The Eagle Lake Knight of Columbus held their annual Free Throw Contest on January 26. Pictured are the winners, from left: Zachary Gasca, Jakavius McGrew, Gregory Roy, Joshua Torres, Jasia Cantu, Meakyla Hodges, and Dai'Breun Miller. Not pictured: Bruno Castillo.



Dai'Breun Miller shoots during the KC Free Throw Contest held on Tuesday.