

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MARCH 18, 2010



VFW Post 8783 donated to the United Way Fund Drive recently. Pictured left to right are, Len Matula, Commander; Brenda Besch, United Way Fund Chairperson; and Earl Rodgers, Quartermaster.

NEWSBRIEFS

VFW Foundation accepting grant apps

The Texas VFW Foundation is accepting applications for Veteran's Assistance Grants. Information and application forms are available on the Eagle Lake Post 8783 Communication Center page at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwboarddirector/>

Lenten Luncheons underway

The United Methodist Church (UMC) of Eagle Lake will host the 14th Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday, beginning through March 29. The luncheons will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken and net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Pantry. The fifth luncheon on Monday, March 22, will feature the Father Robert Guerra of Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church. 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!

Mop, broom sale is Thursday

The Eagle Lake Lions Club mop and broom sale is Thursday, March 18 on the square in Eagle Lake. Stop by from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lions Club projects include: Rice High School scholarship, little league, fire department, The Lighthouse, Rice Medical Center volunteers, Summer Reading program, Texas Lions Camp, children's eyeglasses, Lighthouse for the Blind, Leader Dog Program and Lions Eye Bank.

Blood drive set for Thursday

Rice Medical Center will hold a blood drive, Thursday, March 18 from 2 to 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment call Mary Saucedo at 979-234-5571, ext. 5211. You can also visit www.giveblood.org and login to digital donor. Enter sponsor code 2135. Walk-ins welcome. Remember for every unit donated, three lives can be saved.

Church fundraiser is Friday

The Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church will hold a fish fry or chicken wing dinner sale on Friday, March 19. The meal includes your choice of fried fish or chicken, potato salad, green beans, bread and dessert. Serving is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The church is located at Columbus and Bowie St. in Altair. Plates are \$8 each. For more information call 234-3264, 234-3164 or 234-2206. They thank you in advance for your support.

Rabies vaccination clinics Friday

The Garwood Lions Club will sponsor a rabies vaccination clinic on Friday, March 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Garwood fire station. Rabies vaccinations will be \$10 per animal. Dogs, as well as cats, may be vaccinated at that time.

RHS Production starts Friday

Rice High School Theatre presents, "Beauty and the Beast", Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20 at 7 p.m. On Sunday, March 21 the show will be at 2 p.m. Admissions is \$5. Children get in free. Purchase tickets at the door or from any cast or crew member.

Banquet ticket deadline is Friday

The Colorado County Soil & Water Conservation District #333 will hold their 61st Annual Awards Banquet - March 26 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Weimar. Tickets are \$12 each. Deadline to purchase tickets is March 19. Call 979-732-9565 for more information.

White Cloud Breakfast set

White Cloud Missionary Baptist Church (WCMB) at 1093 Old Altair Rd. Eagle Lake will hold their 'Brotherhood Prayer Breakfast' Saturday, March 20. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. 'Brotherhood Annual' will be held Sunday March 21 at 3 p.m. Theme: 'I'm A King', Genesis 2:15, Matthew 19:28, Matthew 25:23. Topic(s): 'God's Position for Men in the World', Genesis 2:20a, James 1:8, 22-26, 'God's position for Men in the Home' Ephesians 5:23, I Timothy 3:4-6, 12-13. Check us out at www.facebook.com/whitecloudbaptistchurch.

Mission workshop Saturday

Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries, 510 Prairie St., Eagle Lake will celebrate its 1st Annual Mission Workshop, March 20. Registration is at 9 a.m., workshop begins at 9:30. All churches are invited to take part.

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City Council Discusses Role Of Code Officer

During their regular meeting on March 9, the Eagle Lake City Council had a lengthy discussion on the duties of the new City Electrician/Code Enforcement officer, James Ferreri.

Concerns had been brought to council members by individuals, prompting the discussion.

Most of the concerns brought up by council stemmed from council's thoughts that the new position would be mainly used for enforcement of the city's dilapidated and dangerous building and weedy lot ordinances, as well as for the city's own electrical needs and electrical permit inspections.

Ferreri was under the impression that he was to be the city's building inspector and was in charge of issuing permits and some of the complaints to council stemmed from the permitting process and that Ferreri was asking for unreasonable diagrams and drawings for building projects being considered.

"We did not hire a building inspector, we hired an electrical inspector," said Mayor Mike Morales at one point in the meeting.

"At no time did we ever say we

wanted to hire a building inspector," he added.

Another issue is that, according to Ferreri, the city's required electrical code is outdated and at odds with current state code.

There had been some complaints about moving to new electrical code standards suddenly, when the city has been operating under one set of standards for so long.

"I think we need to head in that direction, but how fast we move is the question," said Morales.

"I don't think we can just go cold turkey, we need a transition period," he added.

"As a contractor, I am not seeing changes like this in Columbus. They are closer to how we have been operating," said Morales.

Ferreri said that he would not do electrical inspections unless they were to current code.

"I could lose my license," he said.

"Part of the inspection process is trying to prevent irresponsible construction which can lead to some of the problems the city has with dilapidated buildings," said Ferreri.

Each council member echoed the thought that the priority of the position should be dilapidated buildings, weedy lots and cleaning up the city, electrical work and electrical permits.

Each council member also expressed the fact that moving to new standards was important, but the most important thing for the city was getting it cleaned-up.

"There has to be some kind of break-in period," said Councilman Michael Cooper.

Cooper gave an analogy of a police officer pulling some one over for speeding, but issuing them a warning.

Cooper suggested a six-month transition period where people are made aware of what is expected of them, then really start enforcing after everyone has time to adjust.

A citizen, Larry Contreras spoke saying one problem is that a lot of people in town don't really know what is expected of them and they need to be educated on the new standards.

He also voiced concern over unreasonable building permit requirements.

"How is an 80-year old lady going to afford getting drawings done for a bathroom remodel or project like that?" Contreras asked.

"We need to have education for each permitting process and what is expected," he said.

Ferreri said that he had not shut down any jobs since he started work.

No action was taken on the matter, as it was on the agenda for discussion only.

Council discussed a demolition project on Clark Street. It was noted that progress had been made, but council wanted to keep an eye on the matter to make sure the job got done. The property in question was on the list for the city to demolish, but the owner asked the city to allow them to take care of it themselves. Council decided to ask the owner to have the project finished by the next council meeting.

Council discussed the condemnation list and how to proceed with getting more properties ready for demolition.

The properties on C Street and Clark Street were the only two that were completely ready to demolish. Ferreri said that there may be a couple of more that can be demolished, if a title search shows the same owners as when the original condemnation was done.

He said that it had been so long since a number of properties had been condemned that some could have changed ownership and if that were the case, the process would have to start over.

He said that other properties are ones the appraisal district is attempting to collect on or sell, and that the city could not really move ahead while they were working on it.

Approved election judges for the May election.

Jean Weise of Revitalize Eagle Lake asked for the city's participation in the Texas Trash Off on April 10. She said last year was a

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Revitalize Eagle Lake Planning Trash Off Event

Revitalize Eagle Lake and the City of Eagle Lake are calling for volunteers to join forces and participate in the Eagle Lake Trash Off on April 10.

This is part of the Don't Mess with Texas cleanup campaign and is the single largest one day cleanup event in the state.

This is the second year for an Eagle Lake Trash Off Day. Last year 42 volunteers helped remove over 3200 lbs. of litter and tires from our main highway.

This year the plan is to cover more area and to clean our neighborhoods of old tires, so we need more volunteers! Business, clubs, individuals and those needing

community service hours are invited to participate.

There are two goals: 1) remove litter and debris from the roadways and 2) remove old tires from city neighborhoods.

Volunteers and city employees will be at the city parking lot behind city hall to take these tires.

The tires must be brought to this location. There will be a small fee depending on the size of the tire.

Eagle Lake is home for all of us. This is the time for everyone in the community to work together to make our city beautiful, so please show up at City Hall at 8 a.m. on April 10 with tennis shoes and gloves and help us achieve this goal!

A few hours of your time can make such a difference!

Grand Jury Returns Murder Indictment Fourteen Total Indictments Given

Fourteen individuals were indicted by the Colorado County Grand Jury on March 11, including a 27-year-old Weimar man charged with murder in the slaying of his uncle.

The murder indictment was returned against Francis Madison Johnson, 27, of Weimar.

He is accused of killing Don Ulbricht, 49, by shooting him on Dec. 30 at a residence at 1123 FM 532 in the New Biellau area.

Deputies responded to a 9-1-1 call about a shooting about 7:20 p.m., Sheriff's Lt. Troy Neisner said.

He said that Ulbricht had been shot in the chest.

A SKS assault rifle was recovered at the scene, Neisner said.

Neisner said that Johnson and his mother, Elizabeth, were living at the residence. She had been at the residence, but had left at the time of the shooting.

Neisner said there had been a quarrel before the shooting over family matters, including an inheritance and care for a family member.

At the time, investigators said, an issue of self defense was raised.

Other indictments returned by the grand jury included:

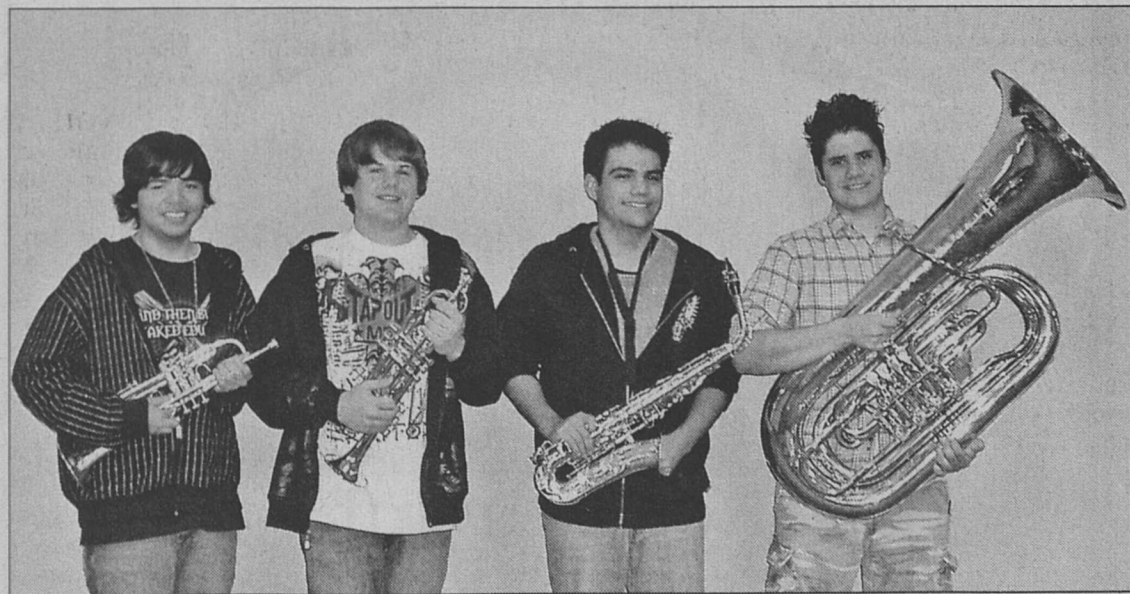
—Jose Antonio Gonzalez Cerna, 51, of Saltillo, Mexico, possession of a controlled substance, one to four grams of cocaine on Jan. 28.

—Glynn A. Cochran, 30, Eagle Lake, assault and assault on a public servant, on Jan. 24.

—Jason E. Cockren, 33, Columbus, DWI on Feb. 9.

—Michael L. Ferrel, 20, Eagle Lake

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Four Rice Students Advance to State Solo Competition

From left: Lucas Losoya, Matthew Trahan, Zachary Yanez, and Jacob Galvan. More on pg. 7.



The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Eagle Lake Nails on Wednesday, March 10. On hand for the event were from left to right, Dan Canaris, Mary Parr, Cindy Dang, Helen Tran, Ann Tran, Nancy Pham, Mary Ann Kaluza and Tim Kelley.