

Juneteenth Plans Underway

The Juneteenth Planning Committee met April 24 in Altair at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church (UMC).

The committee made plans for their Annual Juneteenth Celebration to be held Saturday, June 19.

The parade will begin at the

roadside park in Altair.

All communities are invited (Columbus, Garwood, Vox Populi and Eagle Lake) and other surrounding areas.

The committee's next meeting will be held Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m. at Wesley Chapel UMC at Columbus/Bowie St. in Altair.

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Treatment for this Rare Syndrome

Marfan syndrome (MFS) is an inherited condition characterized by abnormalities of the body's connective tissue. A defect in the gene that allows the body to produce a protein necessary for normal functioning of connective tissue leads to this syndrome. This rare condition occurs in approximately 1 out of 3000 to 5000 people. Persons with a parent affected by the condition are more likely to develop MFS. Abnormalities may develop in the eyes, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, musculoskeletal system, lungs, and skin. Complications of the cardiovascular system, such as aortic aneurysm and malformed heart valves, are the most severe symptoms. Glaucoma and cataracts are complications of the eyes that may occur. The condition may also lead to sleep apnea or emphysema. Those with MFS may have arms, legs, fingers, and toes that are longer than normal.

Although there is currently no treatment available for the actual syndrome and its cause, treatments are aimed at preventing complications. Beta-blockers, such as propranolol (*Inderal*), may be prescribed to slow down the heart rate and therefore prevent complications of the aorta. If glaucoma develops, eye drops, such as latanoprost (*Xalatan*), can be used to decrease intraocular pressure and prevent further damage.

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Obituaries



Aurelia Huizar Leal
Jan. 21, 1907 - April 22, 2010
Aurelia Huizar Leal, 103, passed away April 22 in Columbus.

She was born January 21, 1907 in Pleasanton, Texas the daughter of Bruno and Ester Huizar.

Aurelia was a homemaker and of the Catholic faith.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bruno and Ester Huizar; husband, Jesus Leal, Sr.; son, Jesus Leal, Jr.; six sisters; and three brothers.

Survivors include daughters, Antonia Rivera of San Antonio, Carmel Longoria and Pedro of Eagle Lake, and Maria Perez and Jesus of Bay City; sons, Bruno Leal of Eagle Lake, Raymond Leal of Garwood and Juan Leal of El Campo; sister, Refugia Robles of San Antonio; 27 grandchildren; 80 great-grandchildren; and 16 great-great grandchildren.

Visitation was held Friday April 23 from 1 to 8 p.m. at Eagle Lake Funeral Home.

Rosary was recited on Friday at 7 p.m.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 24 at 10 a.m. from the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church with Father Robert Guerra officiating. Interment followed in Glen Flora Cemetery in Glen Flora.

Eagle Lake Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were John Leal, Jr., Carlos Rivera, Jr., Jesus Leal, Jr., Juan Perez, Raymond Leal, Jr., and Bruno Leal, Jr.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Ernest Mae Seaholm
May 1, 1931 - April 19, 2010

Ernest Mae held a BS Degree from University of Texas and a Master's Degree from University of Colorado.

She taught in Wichita Falls, Alamo Heights in San Antonio and Columbus High School.

Membership list includes: Daughters of the American Revolution — John Everett Chapter, Columbus; Daughters of the Confederacy — Shropshire-Upton Chapter, Columbus; National Society Colonial Dames 17th Century — John Champion Chapter, Houston; Clayton Library Friends, Houston; Eagle Lake Study Club — Eagle Lake; Colorado County Historical Commission; Clear Creek Cemetery Association; and Retired Teachers Association.

As Chairman of the Marker Committee for the Colorado County Historical Commission, Ernest Mae was involved with the research on the Masonic Cemetery, Eagle Lake; Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Frelsburg and various other historical projects in Colorado County.

She spent years researching families buried in the Clear Creek Cemetery in Colorado County. As Historian for Clear Creek Cemetery Association she printed a book "Clear Creek Cemetery" with the history of the area and biographical information on the families buried there.

The Texas Historic Cemetery Plaque was dedicated to her at the dedication at Clear Creek in October 2009.

Ernest Mae participated in the "Live Oaks and Dead Folks" fundraiser for the Nesbitt Memorial Library for several years.

She always assumed the life of one of her favorite Colorado County historical characters who were buried in the Columbus City Cemetery.

She contributed many articles to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Journal, which Bill Stein published for several years.

Many of her papers are found on the Colorado County GenWeb site.

Ernest Mae Seaholm had done much research on her own family. She has many, many files on the Andrews, Payne and Seaholm families (to name only a few). She had been the family genealogist for many years.

However, she was delighted to assist anyone who was interested in tracing their families.

She spent many hours researching information for someone who mentioned to her they were interested in their family history.

Ernest Mae is survived by brother-in-law, Earl Rodgers; nephews, Larry H. Rodgers and wife, Cayenne Ernie Rodgers and wife, Dixie; Don Spalinger and wife, Penny; great and great-great nieces and nephews; numerous cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Susie Seaholm; sisters, Annette Rodgers and Louise Spalinger.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 22, at the Eagle Lake Funeral Home with Rev. Gale Wilson officiating. Vicki Powers, soloist and Sandra Benge, pianist.

Burial was at Masonic Cemetery in Eagle Lake.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to:

Wintermann Library, 101 N. Walnut, Eagle Lake, TX 77434; Nesbitt Memorial Library, 529 Washington, Columbus, TX 78934; or Amazing Grace Hospice, 22447 Bucktrout Ln., Katy, TX 77449.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Farm Bureau Still Wants Domain Reform

"With the primary elections over and a clear picture of who will run for public office in November it is time to lay the groundwork for true eminent domain reform," said Marv Ulbricht, president of the Colorado County Farm Bureau.

"Proposition 11 brought about beneficial change for property owners by limiting eminent domain powers of government to acquire land for non-public use," Marv said.

"The Texas legislature will meet in 2011. We need them to finish the job in protecting the private property rights of all Texas landowners."

Texas has three times the number of privately owned acres of any other state in the nation.

"This is an issue that affects every landowner," Marv said. "Whether you own a ranch or a restaurant, eminent domain reform is something we can all agree on."

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) leaders have worked tirelessly to revamp outdated eminent domain laws.

They were partially successful last November with Proposition 11, a constitutional amendment which, restricts the state government from taking land not intended for public use.

In past legislative sessions, eminent domain reform efforts died due to gubernatorial veto and end-of-session politics.

Despite recent disappointments, Marv is confident of progress.

"Next January, lawmakers must quickly pick up where they left off last session," Marv said.

"In order to prevent the issue from becoming buried, ask your state representative and senator to take a stand on eminent domain and finish what they started."

County Fair Judging Workshop Held

A Multi County Fair Judging Workshop was recently sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Family & Consumer Science agents of Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Washington & Wharton counties.

The workshop was held on Friday, April 16, 2010 at the Colorado County Services Facility in Columbus, Texas.

Forty five creative homemaking judges from these five counties participated in the workshop.

The program began with an overview of the county fair creative homemaking events and basic dos & don'ts of judging.

Judging divisions were also presented in the areas of baked goods, food preservation, handicrafts, and stitcery.

The work of these individuals who serve as judging volunteers for our county fairs and events was recognized by the agents.

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Helping Your Child Deal with a Health Crisis

It's every parent's worst nightmare: learning that a child suffers from a serious ailment.

But for many families, it's not the end but the beginning of a brave, new chapter.

By maintaining a healthy outlook and calmly educating children about their illness, families can come together to help kids deal with and potentially overcome their maladies.

This is especially important when kids need to change their behavior, such as when suffering from diabetes, asthma or cancer — whereby a child may need to eat or play differently from others.

"Once a child understands what they're feeling and experiencing, and begins the process of tests and treatment, they begin to feel a little more at ease and more in control," says Dr. M. Maitland DeLand, an oncologist of 30 years, whose new book, "The Great Katie Kate Tackles Questions About Cancer," is part of a series of children's books that helps kids tackle such issues as cancer, asthma and diabetes.

Educate Each Other
Children have a natural curiosity and require honest discussion to understand important facts.

When it comes to health and illness, there has been a lack of educational information targeting children and speaking in their parlance.

It's here that literature like the

Katie Kate series can be useful.

"There is a clear need for illustrated books to explain to young kids how they can live normal, healthy lives while tackling health issues," says Dr. DeLand, who speaks from experience after her son was diagnosed with diabetes at age four.

"Often, parents don't know how to explain the disease simply or provide explanations that cause a child to worry."

For information about communicating with kids about illness and "The Great Katie Kate" book series, visit delandbooks.com.

Stay Positive

A child's curiosity can be an asset.

Answering questions is important, but doing it with a positive outlook is more important.

Stay strong and you may be surprised how children can handle adversity.

"Children have a natural curiosity and resilience. All they need is encouragement and helpful information," says Dr. DeLand.

"This is why I created a character in my books called the Worry Wombat, who shrinks in size every time a child asks questions and utilizes the power of information to remove fear."

Be Honest

Kids need details explained using words that suit their level. It's important to communicate

information to them that can help with treatment and even demystify their illness, making it less scary.

It's especially important to communicate issues they need to change in daily routines.

Young kids with cancer may need to play at home and not be in crowds when their white blood cell count is low.

Children who are diabetic need to learn what they cannot eat and to monitor blood sugar levels.

Those with asthma need to learn how to play safely, so they don't exacerbate their ailment.

It's not enough for you to communicate with doctors — medical advice needs to be communicated to the child.

Come Together

Harrowing as illness is, it's also an opportunity for a family to unite.

With many studies touting the health benefits of love and nurturing, coming together as a family could prove as important to combating illness as education and treatments.

"Families need to be hopeful, informed and supportive," notes Dr. DeLand.

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GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community; Co. Rd 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.

MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.

LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.

BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.

ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.

CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.

GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guyler, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.

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HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N.

Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Espanol), 10 a.m. (English) 6 p.m. Saturday (English).

Rev. Robert F. Guerra, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.

GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 11 a.m.; Rev. Bill

Mosley, Pastor; 234-3381.

LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.

LISSE UNITED METHODIST: Rev. Janice Kerlee, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.

ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sellar Jr. Lay-Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.

VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor;

234-7543.

CROSSROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach;

979-335-7706.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall

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CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Millam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake

Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.

SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039.

BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo;

Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331, non-denominational.

MT. SINAI EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES: 510 Prairie St., Eagle Lake, Rev. Thomas E.

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Bible Verse of The Week

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
-Acts 10:43

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