

Eagle Lake Headlight

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**Wishing
All A
Happy
New
Year!**

NEWSBRIEFS

Seniors Citizen's dance is Friday

A Senior Citizen's dance will be held Friday, Jan. 2, at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 7:30 to 11 p.m. with music provided by Donnie Wavra. Admission is \$5 per person; door prizes will be given. The public is invited.

KC dinner set for Jan. 11

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a chicken fried steak dinner on Sunday, Jan. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The dinner plates will be served at 710 E. Main for \$5 each, to-go only. Proceeds benefit the charity and scholarship funds. The Rice High School Flag Corps will again be selling desserts at the same location to raise money for Winter Guard competition. Tickets are available from any KC member or may be purchased in the serving line.

Dorcas Class to meet Jan. 12

The Dorcas Sunday School Class will meet Monday, Jan. 12, at 2 p.m. at Ruth Stein's home. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers and decide where the meetings will be held every other month.

Want to go to Washington, D.C.?

Attention students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades from Eagle Lake, Garwood, Sheridan and Nada area schools. The Washington, D.C., trip coordinated by Ray Sykowski is still scheduled for the first week of June 1998. Several seats are still available for the trip. Students and parents of students who have not registered and are still interested, need to call 234-3447 for more details.

Training set for foster, adoptive parents

An orientation and training for anyone interested in fostering and/or adopting abused and neglected children through the Texas Dept. of Protective and Regulatory Services is set for Saturday, Jan. 3, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 515 Meyer (Hwy. 36) in Sealy. Questions regarding licensing requirements, training, etc. will be addressed and training will begin for those interested. Training sessions will continue for the four following Saturdays. For more information and the time, call Children's Protective Services, 713-599-5758.

Offices, businesses closed for New Year's

The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Jan. 1. *The Headlight* office will be closed both Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1 and 2.

The City Offices of the City of Eagle Lake will also close at 12 noon Wednesday, Dec. 31, and be closed all day Thursday, Jan. 1. The garbage route for Thursday will be picked up Friday.

Quilting class scheduled for Jan.

A quilting class featuring methods of machine stitching and quilting and rotary cutting will be offered at the Colorado County Agricultural Building for 4 consecutive Thursdays in Jan. from 7 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29. Due to limited space, the class will be offered to the first 20 persons who register. For more information or to register, call 409-732-2530.

Notice given to sewer customers

In order to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year, the City of Eagle Lake will be considering water consumptions of each customer from approximately Dec. 15 through March 15. Customers are encouraged to fix any water leaks as soon as possible, in an effort to keep water consumptions at a minimum during this time. Each residential sewer rate is based on the actual water consumed at that particular location. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 234-2640.

Museum open every day for visitors

The Prairie Edge Museum is now open for visitors every day, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 5.

SBE seeking high school seniors to compete

San Bernard Electric Cooperative (SBE) is sponsoring a Safety Poster Scholarship Contest. The first place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, second place, \$200 scholarship; and third place, \$100 scholarship. To be eligible, you must be a high school senior for the 1997-98 school year. The deadline for the contest is Jan. 1998. All interested seniors may acquire detailed information and an entry form from your high school counselor or principal or at any SBE office. To acquire by phone, call the Bellville office, 1-800-364-3171 or 409-865-3171.

Would you attend non-denominational services?

Rev. J.V. Hamman B. Min. of Columbus is interested in holding non-denominational Full Gospel Church services in Eagle Lake. But, there has to be enough interest throughout the community for him to hold these services. If you are interested, call him a 409-732-9170.

Looking back at the past...

A review of 1997

JANUARY

•Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services opened its doors at 720 S. McCarty. It is a joint venture between Columbus Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services Inc. and Rice Medical Center.

•Shanna Kay Brunner, daughter of Diane Brunner and William Brunner of Eagle Lake, graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary education.

•Miss Jennifer Lynn Wied of College Station, daughter of Mark and Jane Wied of Garwood, and Mr. David Keith Peacock of Bryan, son of William and Belva Peacock of Bellville, were joined together as man and wife on Saturday, Dec. 21, 1996, at six o'clock in the evening at the Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church in Garwood.

•Jeremy John Smidovec was the first baby born in 1997 at Rice District Community Hospital and the first child of his parents, Audrey and Jerry Smidovec of Garwood.

•Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski swore in the new Colorado County Sheriff, R.H. "Curly" Wied, during ceremonies held Jan. 1 in the District Courtroom.

•Nancy Hernandez graduated from Wharton County Junior College's Vocational Nursing Program.

•Glen Bray, RCP, Director of Respiratory Care at Rice District Community Hospital, was presented with the Department Managers Award at the annual ITA Resources Awards Banquet.

•The Colorado County Economic Development Organization board of directors officially named DeNae Brassard Park as the new Economic Development Coordinator.

•The 1997 Grand Champion steer at the Rice FFA Show and Sale was exhibited by Neil Mahalic. His 1,126 lb. animal was purchased by George Berger of Houston; Columbus State Bank and Dupré Lease Service of Sheridan.

•Chad Fucik raised the Reserve Champion steer in this year's Rice FFA Show and was chosen the top showman of steers. His 1,150 lb. animal was purchased by David Wintermann, Eagle Lake and the First State Bank of Louise.

•The Grand Champion heifer was exhibited by Scott Bittner. His 939 lb. animal was purchased by Farmer's Coop in Garwood and Victoria Bearing.

•Brent Schneider exhibited the Reserve Champion heifer. His 731 lb. animal was purchased by ANF Flying Service, Garwood.

•Bridget Baird's 121 lb. lamb took the top slot and Baird won first place showmanship, during the Rice FFA Show and Sale. The animal was purchased by Lehrer Interests, Garwood.

•Cody Cerny's 229-pound hog took Grand Champion honors at the Rice FFA event and Cody received first place showmanship. The animal was purchased by American Rice Inc., Freeport, at \$5 a pound.

•Cliff Cerny raised the Reserve Champion hog for 1997. The 212 lb. animal was purchased by F&M Sales, Wharton, for \$4.99 a pound.

•Bernardo Vasquez, from Garwood School, and Ben Turner, Rice High School, received gold medal honors during the 1997 Rice CISD Western Art Show.

•Marisela Rodriguez, a student at ELMS; Clayton Bowen, ELPS; and Jennifer Krenk, RHS; were awarded Best of Show in their respective divisions from the 1997 Rice CISD Western Art Show.

•The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to award Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott a three-year contract extension, along with a salary increase.

•Teresa Pittman placed fifth, the highest for a Rice freshman, at Area Band Auditions held for selection of the All-State Band in Corpus Christi.

•Nell Stovall, IGA Foods bakery employee, was awarded first place in Lott Marketing's Merchandising Seminar cake decorating contest in Houston.

•Rivendell, a retreat center and bed and breakfast, officially began business Feb. 9 with an open house.

•Rice CISD Board of Trustees honored the following athletes with engraved plaques for their outstanding achievements: football: Josh Godley, George Weller, Tim Powers, Kendrick Pipkins, Leon Taylor-Davis, Heath Heinhold, Lance Grigar, Warren Scott, Mason Pratt and Pete Rangel; cross country: Pete Rangel; volleyball: Nikki Chamberlain, Rachelle Kallina, Andrea Machac, Christie Crane, Bridget Baird, Adriana Cordova and Valarie Korenek.

•John Canaris was presented a plaque of appreciation commending him for his "years of dedicated time and energy to the service of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce" by President Don Bendy.

•Kenneth B. Quenneville, M.D., joined Rice District Community Hospital and began seeing patients Feb. 3 at the Sealy Clinic.

FEBRUARY

•Terry Anthony Rossignol of Columbus was selected for inclusion in the 1996 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America.

•Stacey Elizabeth Spanihel, daughter of Joe Mike and Diane Spanihel of Eagle Lake, and Dustin Lee Leopold, son of Donald and Suzanne Leopold of Nada, were united in marriage in a double-ring ceremony Nov. 9 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada.

•Colorado County Fair Association presented T.J. Smith a plaque in recognition of his dedication and service to the County Fair.

•A major contributor to the survival of Eagle Lake as a city, David Wintermann, passed away Feb. 4 in a Katy hospital.

•Posha, the 10 year-old long-haired German Shepherd who joined the Eagle Lake Police Department along with Sgt. Jack Knox, died Feb. 10, after a courageous battle with cancer.

•The John Everett Chapter DAR honored Rachelle Kallina of Rice High School; Sarah Wooten, Columbus High School; Michael Antosh, Weimar High School; Gwen Janecsek, Sacred Heart High School; and Laney Dobbs, Hallettsville High School, with the DAR Good Citizen Awards.

•Eagle Lake ex-auxiliary police officer David Fletcher was arrested by the Houston Police Department and charged with "impersonating a police officer".

•Rice High School added a softball program to compliment the other sports.

•Local artist, Melva Hemphill, had her work, "Spats", accepted for the Juried Art Exhibition during Black Creativity 1997. It was exhibited at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

•Eagle Lake Middle School cheerleaders finished in the top three in two different competitions: Dec. 14, third place and Feb. 1, third place.

•B&B Food opened in Eagle Lake with a grand opening ceremony on Feb. 26 at 801 S. McCarty.

•Five members of the Rice girls powerlifting team qualified for the state meet: Lori Grigar, Rebal Canaris, Amy Obenhaus, Rachelle Kallina and Carmen Llorca.

•Josh Godley and Willie Cleveland of Rice High School were named to the first team of the 1996-97 22-3A All-District basketball team. Kenny Pipkins was named to the second team All-District; Pete Rangel received an honorable mention; and Lance Grigar was chosen for the academic All-District.

trict.

•Rebal Canaris, Delana Smith, Lainee Labay and Tim Galvan qualified to participate at the state level during the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in Victoria on Feb. 22. The Mighty Raider Band earned a total of 24 first division medals.

•As of Feb. 24, Eagle Lake had three EMTs with Advanced Life Support (ALT) certification: Joe Lee Perez, Dorothy Flores and Carolyn Baird.

•Rice District Community Hospital gets a new name... it will now be known as Rice Medical Center.

MARCH

•Rachelle Kallina of Rice High School was named to the first team of the 22-3A All-District basketball team; second team All-District was made by Naketra Johnson; honorable mention went to Andrea Machac, Nikki Chamberlain and Amy Obenhaus; and the Academic All-District team included Bridget Baird, Nikki Chamberlain, Adriana Cordova, Rachelle Kallina and Andrea Machac.

•Tiffany Crane passed her State Board Exam for Cosmetology in Austin.

•The Lissie East Bernard 4-H Club made Mrs. Francis Adkins an Honorary Member.

•The Dulany home was extensively damaged by a fire which reportedly started in the laundry area; probably by the clothes dryer.

•Brian Ford placed fourth at the Region 5 Powerlifting Meet on March 8 in Corpus Christi.

•The Eagle Lake Wellness Center, located inside the Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services building, had its grand opening March 20. It opened to the public on Jan. 20 and their first (See Review, Page 8)

COLORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

The Colorado County Sheriff's Office reported the following cases for the past week.

On Monday, Dec. 22, at 8 a.m. Deputy David Furrh responded to a call concerning criminal mischief on FM 102 south of Eagle Lake.

Suspect(s) started a backhoe and used it to destroy a boat on the property.

At 1:40 p.m., Lt. Mike Schleider responded to a call concerning a burglary of a habitation on County Road 207, east of Weimar.

A handgun and a jewelry box containing assorted jewelry was reported taken. There is one suspect in the case.

On Thursday, Dec. 25, at 9 a.m., the Sheriff's Department received a call from a citizen reporting a one-vehicle accident on Interstate 10 at the 703 mile marker.

The caller reported two Hispanic males left the vehicle carrying a shotgun and ran into a wooded area.

After searching for approximately two and a-half hours, the suspects were apprehended about three miles from the accident scene.

Suspects were charged with traffic violations locally and face stolen vehicle and aggravated assault charges in Katy.

Assisting in the search were Colorado and Austin County Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Safety troopers, Texas Parks and Wildlife warden, Weimar Police Department and Precinct 3 Constable.

At 10:33 p.m., Deputy Craig Peikert responded to a call concerning criminal mischief at the Greater Rising Star Church at 580 Old Altair Road in New Town.

The front doors were forced open, the Christmas tree was pushed over and ornaments broken. A bench was also damaged.

On Friday, Dec. 26, at 12:15 p.m., Deputy Gene Rebel responded to a call concerning criminal mischief on

FM 2144 near Oakland.

The complainant's mailbox had been destroyed.

At 11:05 p.m., Deputy Peikert responded to a call concerning terroristic threat on Old Altair Road in New Town. Three juveniles reportedly had threatened another party.

On Saturday, Dec. 27 at 8:38 a.m., Deputy Jason Pavlicek responded to a call concerning a burglary of a motor vehicle on Interstate 10 at the 705 mile marker.

A radio and toys were reported taken.

At 9:23 a.m., Deputy Pavlicek responded to a call concerning a theft at the Columbus Motel on U.S. Hwy. 90, east of Columbus.

The manager reported two bed spreads, two sheets, four pillows and a key were taken.

At 10:10 p.m., Deputy Peikert arrested one suspect for misdemeanor possession of marijuana after the suspect was stopped for speeding.

Texas farmers, ranchers rebound in 1997...

Agriculture poised for more gains

In an end-of-the-year report, State Comptroller John Sharp recently said that 1997 was a turnaround year for agriculture, as Texas farmers and ranchers look forward to another year of solid gains in 1998.

"This year, Texas producers knocked off the dust from the '96 drought," Sharp said. "Most were blessed with much-needed rain and prices began to return to profitable levels."

"For cattle producers, prices are on an upswing and herd sizes are stabilizing," Sharp stated. "Cattlemen can look for continued growth next year thanks to higher prices, lower feed costs and the probable availability of thick forage."

"Overall, 1997 has been good for growers, too," Sharp added. "For example, planted soybean acreage is up 45% over the past two years and harvested cotton acreage has increased by 29%."

Commenting in the latest issue of *Fiscal Notes*, his award-winning monthly publication, Sharp noted that not all crops have rebounded evenly across the state.

"The widespread drought of 1995 and 1996 caused Texas farmers and ranchers to miss out on the high prices offered for many crops last year," Sharp said. "And though the rains were welcome, producers had to contend with more insects, as well as lower market prices that accompanied the higher levels of production."

Sharp added that prices for corn and sorghum are about 40% lower this year than last year. Rice farmers in the coastal area planted fewer acres in 1997 than in any of the five previous years, in part because last spring's rains prevented them from planting much rice in time. The loss of federal income supports also prompted rice farmers to experiment with other crops in hopes of higher profit mar-

gins, according to the Comptroller's analysis.

Sharp said that with rain levels back to normal, many Texas growers are returning to more diversified planting.

The Comptroller's analysis indicates that the coming year is likely to be characterized by the need for Texas agricultural producers to adjust to the federal government's stepping out of the risk management business, a provision included in last year's landmark farm bill.

That legislation called for an end to federal income supports by 2002, with transition payments to be made in the interim.

With the federal government no longer subsidizing crops, Sharp said, Texas farmers and ranchers are free to plant what they choose.

"This new freedom also carries with it new risks," Sharp said. "I encourage farmers to be cautious." (See Agriculture, Page 8)