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To The Editor & You

Sheriff's Office says 'thanks'

Just a special thanks to everyone who contributed and/or donated towards the Deputy Santa Program.

The Colorado County Sheriff's

Santa delivered over 100 presents to needy children throughout Colorado County, because of your generosity and gifts.

This program turned out to be a great success, because of you, the citizens of Colorado County.

We hope next year's Deputy Santa Program will turn out to be an even greater success.

An extra thank you to all the volunteers who spent time sorting and wrapping the gifts.

We at the Colorado County Sheriff's Department want to wish all citizens a Happy New Year.

Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied

Thank you! Thank you!

May God Bless you all.

Members of W. Cherry-M.
Perry Post 108, American
Legion, Eagle Lake, Texas

Two hundred and sixty-two children in 94 less fortunate families had a very merry Christmas through this year's American Legion's Annual Toys for Tots distribution on Dec. 23.

This year's recipients exceeded the number who received toys in 1996 by nearly 100!

The Legionnaires extend special thanks to: *The Headlight* for publicity; and to Don and Rose Frnka for use of The Depot.

Thank you to the many individuals and businesses who made cash donations or contributed hundreds and hundreds of toys and other items (such as canned drinks) and bags upon bags of stuffed animals.

Once again the project was a big success (in spite of threatening cold weather) and demonstrated that citizens of Eagle Lake and surrounding communities are truly thoughtful and generous persons.

Joyce M. Stancik has filed for re-election for the office of Colorado County Treasurer.

She has completed all of the continuing education courses required by the county and state. Stancik received her certification as County Treasurer from the V.G. Young Institute on County Government at Texas A&M University.

Stancik was appointed Colorado

County Investment Officer by the Commissioner's Court after completing her investment training as prescribed by law. She was recently recognized as one of 15 CIO's in the state to have maintained her certification as a County Investment Officer since the inception of the program five years ago.

Stancik is married to Melvin J. Stancik. Both are natives of Colorado County and members of the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake.

They have two children; Darlene and husband, Jeff, of Eagle Lake, and Darrell and wife, Christi, and granddaughter, Madisyn, of Richwood.

Joyce is a member of the Guy Smith-James McMillan Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, Monument Hill Chapter of Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Colorado County Historical Commission.

The County Treasurer's Office

Laney thinks Democrats will keep majority

Texas House Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney said last week that despite the shrinking number of Democratic officeholders, the Democratic majority in the House is likely to remain in place.

Laney told the Associated Press he had collected enough pledges from current House members in both parties to remain speaker even if Republicans keep their seats and add eight others for a 76-74 majority.

"They predicted last time it was going to turn, and it didn't, and I don't think anything has changed," Laney told the AP. Laney, D-Hale Center, has served in the House for 24 years,

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

and has been elected speaker three times.

Key Democratic House members who are not seeking re-election include Mark Stiles of Beaumont, chairman of the Calendars Committee; Allen Place of Gatesville, chairman of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; Allen Hightower of Huntsville, chairman of the Corrections Committee; Hugo Berlanga of Corpus Christi, chairman of the Public Health Committee; and Keith Oakley of Terrell, chairman of the Public Safety Committee.

As chairman of the Calendars Committee, Stiles scheduled hearings for legislative bills. He had the power to put bills on the back burner or the fast track.

Susan Weddington, chairwoman of the Republican Party of Texas said Stiles' retirement was a "huge blow to the Democratic establishment of Texas."

Mattox to Announce for AG

Democrat Jim Mattox of Austin said he will file as a candidate for Texas attorney general - seeking to return to the office he held from 1983 to 1991.

Since then, Mattox, 54, has lost in Democratic primaries for two statewide offices. In 1990, Ann Richards beat Mattox in a run off for governor, and in 1994, Dallas businessman Richard Fisher beat him in a runoff for U.S. Senate.

"Both friend and foe alike have agreed that I was a decisive administrator. Everyone always knew where I stood," Mattox told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "Our office issued thousands of legal opinions. Few were challenged and even fewer were overturned. I attracted the highest quality of personnel in the office."

In the 1998 Democratic Primary, Mattox will face Court of Criminal Appeals Justice Morris Overstreet of Amarillo and Gene Kelly, a Universal City lawyer.

Liability Rates Reduced

The state insurance commission last week lowered automobile liability insurance rates for high-risk drivers in the Texas Automobile Insurance Plan.

The association, known as TAIPA, insures drivers who have been turned down for coverage in the standard market.

Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer said the reduction - an average of 3.9% - is similar to that recommended by administrative law judges who heard testimony concerning the rate. TAIPA had requested a 22% increase.

The association assigns drivers to various insurance companies, which can charge rates set by the insurance commissioner.

About three-fourths of the drivers assigned to TAIPA carry only mandatory liability coverage.

The new insurance rates take effect March 1.

More Gun Licensees Charged

Statistics compiled by the Texas Department of Public Safety show that criminal charges filed against Texans with concealed handgun permits rose sharply in 1997.

Last week *The Dallas Morning News* reported felony and misdemeanor cases involving permit holders rose from 431 in 1996 to 666 so far in 1997 - a 54.5% increase.

Despite the statistics, state Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, the chief author of the right-to-carry law, said, "The preponderance of the evidence suggests that a vast majority of permit holders act responsibly."

Patterson pointed out that no Texas permit holder has been convicted of a homicide since the law took effect Jan. 1, 1996.

According to DPS statistics, the number of permit holders increased from 114,500 in 1996 to 161,702 through mid-December, a 41.2% increase.

Fewer than 1% of Texans have concealed handgun permits. So far, the state has revoked 377 permits.

Other Capitol Highlights

"The number of nonfatal work-related injuries and illnesses fell to a historic low for the state in 1996, according to the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission." The agency said the rate fell to 6.3 incidents per 100 full-time workers in 1996, down from a rate of 7.2 per 100 in 1995.

"Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter markets in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled a record 2.94 million head on Dec. 1, up 11% from a year ago, according to a report by the Texas Agriculture Statistics Service.

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continues to be a vital part of county government and will continue to interact with all county officials to better serve the citizens of Colorado County in a professional, productive, progressive way.

Jamison to run for county judge

Al Jamison has announced his candidacy for Colorado County Judge subject to the March 10, 1998, Republican Primary.

A former Houston Oiler football player who now resides in the Frelsburg area, Jamison holds strong convictions and has deep concern about the direction in which our government is taking us. For that reason, he stated, he felt a moral obligation to accept the challenge of seeking the office of County Judge.

Jamison was born, reared and attended public schools in Ohio.

In 1955, he left Ohio to attend College University on an academic scholarship. He graduated in 1959 with a B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts with a minor in geology.

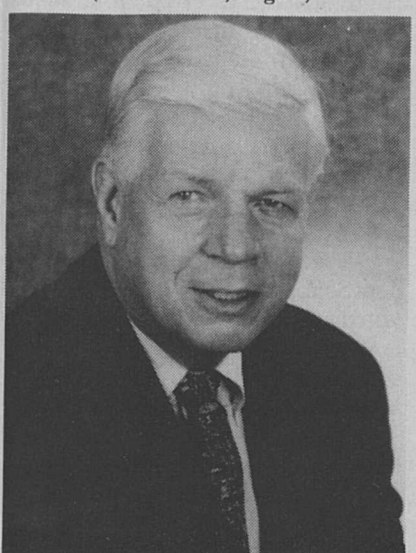
In 1960, Jamison came to Houston to play professional football with the Oilers for three years. During those years the team won two championships. Al was co-captain for two years. After leaving the team in 1962, he did the radio broadcasts for them for the next five years.

When in pro football, Jamison continued his "real" job in the construction equipment business. Since 1983, he has managed his own companies in both crane rental and construction businesses.

Having 37 years of experience in business, Jamison says he will be able to apply this experience and knowledge to the county to cut costs and increase efficiency.

Jamison has been in the Mentor Program for the last two years. This is a support program created to help children who may need just a little more encouragement than they are getting at home.

(See Jamison, Page 3)



Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Feb. 15, 1973

Anthony Mahalite, son of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Mahalite, sold his Grand Champion Calf for the record price of \$2 per pound at the 3rd Annual Rice FFA Show & Sale held last Saturday to the Tom Henderson family of El Campo...

The Heritage House, Eagle Lake's new convalescent and nursing home, accepted its first residents last Saturday, Feb. 10...

Miss Shirley Fajkus, Rice High School sophomore and daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Fajkus of Eagle Lake, received a plaque from the Rice FFA chapter president Timothy Rees after she was named the 1973 Rice FFA Trail Ride Sweetheart at the Rice FFA Show & Sale last Saturday...

Walter Maurice Willis of Eagle Lake has been awarded a \$100 scholarship at Texas A&M for outstanding academic record in accounting. Willis, son of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Willis Sr., is a junior accounting major and has a 3.47 grade point average; 4.0 is a straight A...

Navy Seaman Recruit Lloyd J. Whitfield of Eagle Lake has reported for duty at the Naval Air Station, North Island, in San Diego. A 1972 graduate of Rice High School, he joined the Navy in Oct. 1972...

Eleven students of Marilyn Thomas' Twirling School attended a contest in Brookshire, Saturday, Feb. 10. First place medals were won by Julia Thomas, Judy Ashby, Lisa Mahalite, Becky Gertson, Lisa Mattheski, Penny Szymanski, Patti Matthis, Brenda Argo, Kathleen Hamilton, Sharon Hoffman and Michelle Herman...

Mr. & Mrs. Willie C. Dettling of El Campo announced the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Ann, to Billy Briscoe, son of Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Briscoe of Eagle Lake. The

couple plans a May 27th wedding at 2:30 p.m. at St. Phillips Catholic Church in El Campo.

Nov. 11, 1949

"We are pleased to announce," says M.M. Jones, "that Dick W. Obenhaus is now employed by Jones Motors in the capacity of parts man"...

Another of those unloaded guns went off here last Friday night as Bob Thornton Jr. was cleaning his .22 rifle after the Eagle Lake-Columbus football game. The rest of the Thornton family had gone to bed and Mr. Thornton was in the living room polishing the stock of his rifle, getting ready for a hunting trip Saturday. The safety lock was on and he thought the gun was unloaded. In some way, the safety was knocked off, possibly by the polishing cloth, the gun fired and a bullet went into Mr. Thornton's right foot, breaking two bones...

David Konesheck treated the football boys to a turkey supper at Lions Hall last Friday night following the Columbus game...

A Chapter of the Future Farmers of America was organized by the Wharton County Junior College agriculture students last week H.O. Galloway, instructor reports. Claude Brewer of Eagle Lake was elected president...

John Beseda Jr. attended the Rice-Arkansas football game in Houston Saturday and was accompanied to Eagle Lake for the weekend by Miss Lucille Ewald, Miss Lorraine Piwetz and William Murphy, all of Houston...

Mr. & Mrs. Will Porter of Eagle Lake are the parents of a daughter born in Houston Monday, Nov. 7th...

One of the Halloween mysteries has been cleared up. The Straw Man who was one of the winners in the Hal-

(See 24 & 48, Page 8)

To the 80 million of you who volunteered time and money last year, thanks for all you've given. Imagine what more could do. Call 1-800-55-GIVE 5.



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