

# Eagle Lake Headlight

VOLUME 72. P. O. BOX 67 EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434 THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1976 AC 713 234-2783 NUMBER 50.

## "Lady of the Year" Award



Mrs. Robert R. Wells, Jr., better known to friends as Fair Wells, center, was named "Lady of the Year" by members of the X1 Pi Psi and Alpha Delta Phi Chapters of Beta Sigma Phi for her service to her fellowman and to her community. Mrs. Wells is a charter member of the Pink Ladies organization; is a past president of the Study Club; and was one of the forerunners in the founding of the new Eagle Lake Library and serves as chairman of the Study Club's Library Committee. Citizens join in extending congratulations to Mrs. Wells. Making the presentation to Mrs. Wells are Mrs. JoAnn Gertson, left, and Mrs. Glenda Blair, right, of the sponsoring chapters. For more information on her honor see page 12.

## City Council Studies Utility Rate Hikes

Eagle Lake City Council, in session Tuesday night of last week, moved toward the possibility of increased utility rates with the appointment of a committee to study the proposal and to report to the council at a meeting in the immediate future.

Mayor Elmer Struss appointed Alvin Kohleffel, chairman, councilmen Bennie Miller and Dick Obenhaus to a committee to assist city manager T. J. Smith in preparing a report on utility rates and to make a recommendation to the city council.

It was noted that the last water rate increase was made by the City of Eagle Lake in September of 1964 and at that time only the minimum gallonage was reduced. The last increase in rates for water usage in the city came about on June 26, 1961. City manager Smith pointed out that costs of pumping water have continued to escalate and the system has reached a point that it can no longer operate profitably with the current rates. Likewise, the costs for garbage service and for sewer service have continued to mount.

In other action the council authorized publication of notice to bidders for the purchase of a new police car for (Continued on last page)

## Burglar at Sandy Creek Nabbed Quickly

A burglar was arrested and charged with the entry of the Sandy Creek Drive-In Grocery on Highway 90A just east of Sheridan less than a half hour after the time of the entry of the store.

Emil Martinez, night patrolman for the county sheriff's office noticed a parked car on 90A near the drive-in grocery at 3:14 a.m. Monday morning. He found no one in the car and a check of the grocery premises found all to be in order. Nevertheless he took the car's license number and a check revealed information that the car was registered to a Jesus Lopez of Yoakum.

At 3:57 a.m., Jimmy Jones, owner of the drive-in grocery, heard the alarm going off at the store which is near his home. Apparently a burglar had peeped off a piece of metal on the outside of the building and punched a hole through paneling and entered the building in an attempt to avoid alarms on the doors and windows. But an alarm system in the building went off and the burglar apparently grabbed whatever he could, most of the items from the toilet-ry section and some cigarettes and food. Jones called the sheriff's office and word was put out by radio to watch for the car in the Yoakum area and at 4:20 a.m. the Yoakum police department stopped the car as it entered the city. On the back seat of the vehicle were items apparently taken from the store.

Sheriff George Doc Mueller and Chief Deputy Jim Broussard went to Yoakum to bring the man, Jesus Lopez, Jr., 39, back to the Colorado County jail for interrogation and he was charged with burglary. Bond was set at \$2500 and he had posted the bond and was out of jail pending action by the next grand jury Tuesday.

Mr. Jones commended the county sheriff's department for its quick work in making the apprehension. He said that the patrol of the county really paid off in this case, and the diligent work of the patrolmen and other officers was a tribute to good law enforcement in this county.

## City, School Elections To Attract Heavy Vote Sat.

### 1000th Blood Pressure Check



R. P. Wilcox was the 1000th person to have his blood pressure checked under the Hypertension Screening Program underway in this community. Testing his pressure last Wednesday morning was Mrs. Johnnie (Alice) Schmidt. The testing program continues with volunteers from the local unit of the Ambulance Corps due to be at the First National Bank from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Monday. All citizens are urged to participate in this life-saving program.

Interest in the Rice Consolidated Independent School District trustee election set for 4:30 Saturday, April 3rd, is centered on a three-way race for Eagle Lake Position No. 1 since there is no opposition for either the Garwood Position No. 2 or Sheridan Position No. 3.

The polls will be open in the Rice CISD trustee election from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. this Saturday in three locations in the district, in Eagle Lake balloting will be done in the office of Central Power and Light Co. and in Garwood and Sheridan at the respective schools.

Arthur Anderson, rice farmer, is seeking his second three-year term on the board of education in Eagle Lake Position 1. He is opposed by Bill Appell, former Rice High School coach and now associated with Anderson Insurance; and by George Bennie Hemphill, construction worker, who resides in the New Town area and has been a candidate for a school office on several previous occasions.

Dale V. Hunt, a long-time member of the Garwood and then the Rice board of education, decided not to seek re-election this year and the only candidate to file and the only one listed on the ballot for Garwood Position No. 2 will be Cecil A. Smith, a rice farmer in the Garwood area. Incumbent Lavo Briscoe will be seeking his second full two-year term on the Rice Board of Education from Sheridan Position No. 3 and he will be unopposed on the ballot.

Terms of board president Anthony Kallina, members Dr. Raymond R. Thomas, Mrs. Jane Clipson, and Jose Garcia carry-over this year.

Because of the interest generating for the Eagle Lake position, balloting is expected to be very heavy.

## \$828,984 HOSPITAL BUDGET OK'D; 2 DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

### Officers, Medical Staff Re-elected

The annual meeting of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital was held Monday night and an operating budget of \$828,984 was adopted for the next fiscal year; and two directors were re-elected and officers and the medical staff were named for the next year.

Administrator Donald Reed reported that during the past eleven months of operation the hospital admitted 1,211 patients and they were in the hospital for 5,958 patient days. Eighty-nine babies were born in the hospital during the past year.

The administrator presented the budget for the 1976-77 year for consideration of the board and anticipated revenue at \$835,400 based on a total of 6,675 patient days during the next twelve month period.

The operating expense for the year includes \$425,316 for salaries, \$56,000 for utilities, \$63,650 for supplies, \$9,600 for telephone, \$15,980 for purchases for maintenance and services, \$16,393 for insurance, \$18,000 for dietary and food supplies, \$13,000 for laundry and linen; \$28,400 for employee benefits and services, \$66,495 for technical services, \$22,000 for drugs, \$1,750 for miscellaneous and \$92,400 for depreciation.

In other action the board approved the re-election of Willard W. Shuart and Eob Ashby to new three year terms on the board from April 1, 1976 through Mar. 31, 1979. Other members whose terms carry over this year are Wm. H. Harrison and Charles D. Stephens through Mar. 31, 1977 and W. N. Lehrer and Jim Clipson through Mar. 31, 1978.

The board held an election of officers and re-elected Jim Clipson as president; W. W. Shuart as vice-president; Bob Ashby, secretary; Charles D. Stephens, treasurer; Wm. H. Harrison, chairman of the executive committee; and W. N. Lehrer, chairman of the Bldg. and Grounds Committee.

The board also approved the appointment of five physicians to the local medical staff including Dr. J. C. Laughlin, Dr. R. R. Thomas, Dr. Curtis Laughlin, Dr. Po Wen Lee and Dr. Harold Griffin; and also approved a consulting staff of five physicians and one honorary member of the medical staff, Dr. J. R. Laughlin.

### Stanley Party Mon.

The School Food Service Association of Rice Consolidated will sponsor a Stanley Party at the Sheridan Community Center on Monday, April 5th at 3:30 p.m.

If you wish to place an order, call 234-3990 Sheridan, 234-3200 Eagle Lake, or 758-3209 Garwood.

## City Refiles For \$97,000 Sewer Extension Grant

The City of Eagle Lake received good news this week from the Department of Housing and Urban Development indicating that the city will be eligible for a Community Development Grant in the amount of \$97,000 to carry out sewer extensions in the western portion of the city, the only area not now serviced by the city's sewer system.

Mayor Elmer Struss said that the grant will be a full participation program by the Community Development program and will not call for matching funds as in some programs offered by HUD.

The city had applied for the grant several times previously but the program had been rejected. Recently the city made another application for funds for the program and a letter was received from Leo Garrett, director of the community planning and development division of HUD this week requesting the city officials to file forms to finalize the grant between May 15th and June 15th.

The program proposed with the funds will include the (Continued on last page)

Boys and girls in the Middle School registered last Saturday, March 27.

eight through twelve.

The matter of the revocation of probation against Robert Olvera was delayed for trial at a later date. He is under a term of two years of probation on a charge of felony theft and he was charged with the theft of the Austin Grocery last week. His two year term of probation was due to expire on Sunday, Mar. 28th of this year.

One of the men due to appear for sentencing last Thursday was Sherrill Lee Noska, charged with shooting at law officers. Noska failed to appear for the sentencing but he later surrendered and he will be sentenced later by Judge Patteson.

William Joseph Tomaska, who pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery of the Seven-Eleven Store in Columbus, was given a term of eight years of probation and was fined \$500.

Other sentences handed down by Judge Patteson were: Dolores Faye Wilks, ten years of probation and fine of \$500 on a charge of carrying a prohibited weapon on licensed premises (Continued on last page)

## New License Tag Must Be On Midnight Thurs.

Colorado County Tax Officer Henry J. Hajovsky reminds that the new registration tag must be on all vehicles requiring a license by midnight this Thurs., April 1st.

In order to accommodate late license tag purchasers, he announces that his office will have special hours this Thursday and will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 7 p.m.

## Little League Registration Sat.

Youth from the Eagle Lake Primary School are reminded to register Saturday, April 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for Little League baseball this summer, said the local president, Draper Stephens.

League officials will be present at the Little League field near the Primary School Saturday to register the interested young people from ages

## 2 Get Pen Terms, 13 On Probation

### Sentencings Held In District Court Last Thursday

District Judge E. W. Patteson held a sentencing and trial of criminal cases in District Court last Thursday and as a result two persons were sentenced to terms in the Dept. of Corrections, and a total of thirteen persons received fines and terms of probation. Most of the defendants had entered pleas of guilty before Judge Patteson in February.

Judge Patteson ordered that an eight year term of probation against Jerry W. Thurek, who was given the term of probation in December in connection with the burglary and burning of the Sandy Creek Drive-In Grocery on Highway 90A in Grovely. Last month he was charged with a burglary in Fort Bend County.

John Nemeth who was given an 8-year term of probation last year for his part in one of the Loessin Implement Co. burglaries in Welmar, was tried before Judge Patteson on a revocation of probation and he will be sentenced on April 8th. He was arrested a month after getting the pro-

## Local Man Charged In Shooting Mon.

An Eagle Lake man is charged with assault to do serious bodily harm and may face further charges as the result of a shooting at 315 West A. Street at 2:40 a.m. Monday, Mar. 29th.

Eagle Lake night patrolmen Steve Skinner and Buford Ashley received a call from the Eagle Lake Community Hospital that a man with a gunshot in the foot had checked in there for treatment.

Investigation by the officers revealed that Richard Davidson had been shot in the foot. He said he had been dropped off at the home of Roscoe Thomas by two friends reportedly to purchase some alcoholic beverages.

The two men circled the block in their car and when they met Davidson he told them he had been shot in the foot.

The officers went to the Thomas home and found a pool of blood on the front porch and a bullet hole in the lower part of the door. They also found two pistols and a half pint of whiskey in a case.

Thomas told the officers that he thought someone was trying to break into the house and he fired a shot into the floor and he said that he did not know that the shot had hit anyone.

The assault charge was filed through Justice of the Peace M. M. Jones' court and Judge Jones set a personal recognition bond on Thomas pending investigation and action by the next term of grand jury.

City police and the Texas Liquor Control Board are looking into the possibility of more charges against Thomas.

## Garwood Meth. Women Country Store, Dinner Sat.

The United Methodist Women of Garwood will have their Annual Country Store and Dinner, Saturday, April 3 in the Garwood Methodist Church Educational Building.

The Country Store will open at 10:30 a.m. where baked items, canned goods, handmade items and pie and coffee will be offered for sale.

The chicken dinners will be served at 11:30 for \$2.25 per plate at the Educational Building or will be prepared to go.

Plan now to join the ladies for pie and coffee at their store at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m.

## Garwood Kindergarten Regis. Apr. 7

Kindergarten registration will be held at the Garwood School Wednesday, April 7th from 9 to 11 a.m. in the school office. Parents who have children that will be five years old on or before September 1, 1976 are asked to please register their children for kindergarten for the 1976-77 school year.

Each child will need his or her birth certificate and health cards at the time of registration, said Principal John Mader.

## Another Tour Of PC Refuge Sat. Morning

The second of two tours planned by the Atwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge to witness the booming courtship of the prairie chicken will be held at 4:45 a.m. this Saturday.

Those who plan to make the tour should meet at the refuge headquarters northeast of Eagle Lake at 4:45 a.m. Saturday. Plan to ride together so that a minimum of vehicles will be required. Field binoculars would be helpful.

Refuge headquarters can be reached by traveling northeast from Eagle Lake on FM 3013 for six miles to the refuge entrance sign. An alternate route may be taken south from Sealy on 36 to FM 3013, then traveling southwest for 10 miles to the refuge entrance sign.

## 3 Seek Two Council Spots Saturday

A three-way race for two positions on the Eagle Lake City Council has generated little interest in the City of Eagle Lake election to be held this Saturday, April 3rd. Voting will be done from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building. H. E. Tate and Edgar Baring will be in charge of the election.

Listed on the ballot for the two two-year terms on the city council are incumbents Gene Baker and Roy Dean Van Nort, and a newcomer to city politics, David W. Ewers, pharmacist at the Eagle Lake Drugs.

Mr. Baker is seeking his fourth two-year term on the city council. He is manager of the Eagle Lake Rice Dryer. Mr. Van Nort is seeking re-election to a second two-year term. He is associated with Gulf Coast Oil-field Contracting, G.C.O.C., Inc.

Mayor Elmer A. Struss is unopposed in his bid for his fourth two-year term in that office.

Terms of aldermen Dick Obenhaus, Bennie Miller and Alvin Kohleffel carry over this year.

## Randy Baish New DPS Patrol Officer Here

Randy Baish, a native of Angleton and a Mar. 5th graduate of the Department of Public Safety Academy, is a

## Pickle Urges Positive Action From Administration On Rice

Tenth District Congressman J. J. "Jake" Pickle has sent a letter to President Ford requesting a meeting regarding the current crisis facing American rice farmers.

"I strongly opposed the Rice Act which the House passed in December, 1975. At that time, I warned that an unregulated system of open production would only add to the already serious surplus situation. Now that the Senate also passed this bill and the President signed it into law, my dire predictions are proving accurate. The small rice farmer has his back to the wall. He is receiving lower prices, when and if, he is able to find a market, complained the veteran Congressman.

A portion of the letter follows: "Mr. President, strong positive action is urgently needed if the American rice farmer is to be rescued from financial disaster and creditability in his government restored. Rice prices are not only low absolutely but low relative to wheat prices,

## Boy Scout Troop Benefit Stew Dinner Sat.

Eagle Lake Boy Scout Troop 334 will sponsor a Stew Dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 3rd (city and school election day) in the Eagle Lake Fire Station.

Citizens of the area are invited to make plans to support the Scouts. Proceeds will be used by the Boy Scouts for a summer trip to Philmont, New Mexico.

Admission to the dinner will be by advance ticket only. Tickets are \$1.50 each and are now on sale with all Boy Scouts in the Troop. No tickets will be available at the door.

"Go to the polls and vote for your favorite candidates and then come eat a delicious stew dinner with us," said Troop 334 leaders and scouts.

If you need tickets, call Mrs. Bennie Moss at 234-2793 and someone will deliver them to you.

## No Contest For County School Board

At the same time and in the same places that the local school district elections are held, balloting also will be held countywide for a county school trustee at large; and in the Welmar precinct No. 2 for a new trustee from that area.

County trustee-at-large Robert E. Wolters of Columbus is not seeking re-election and the only candidate on the ballot for that position will be Marvin Hillmer of Columbus.

Also, Welmar trustee August Beken is not a candidate for re-election and the only candidate on the ballot for that spot will be his daughter, Mrs. Maxine B. Janak. Only voters in the Welmar Commissioners' Precinct No. 2 will vote for that trustee.

## Final Rabies Vaccination Clinic Monday

The final session of the annual pet vaccination program sponsored by the City of Eagle Lake is scheduled next Monday, April 5th from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Police Station and all pet owners are urged to get their dogs and cats vaccinated against the dreaded disease rabies.

Dr. R. H. Potter, D.V.M. was on hand to assist city personnel with the immunization and registration program at the first session Tuesday of this week when only 60 pets were vaccinated.

A fee of \$4.00 will be charged for the immunization and this includes the city license and tag. City ordinances require that all dogs and cats be vaccinated annually against rabies or they are subject to being picked up and placed in the city pound.

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