

Eagle Lake Headlight

VOLUME 76

P.O. BOX 67

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1979

AG 713 234-2783

NUMBER 4

USED CARS

1977 Olds "98" Regency
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City Budget

(Continued from page 1)

Elmer Struss noted at the discussion last week, that a sizeable increase in the gas rates for patrons in the city can be expected before the 1979-80 fiscal year, which began April 1st, gets very far along.

The 1978-79 budget allocated \$310,000 to the gas department, however the proposed budget for the 1979-80 year anticipates expenditures of \$375,000. The new budget anticipates domestic gas sales for the year to skyrocket to \$396,000 from \$223,000 in the 1978-79 budgeted and commercial sales to be \$184,000, up from \$89,000 last year. Other anticipated revenue amounts to another \$100,000.

Anticipated Receipts
The budget for 1979-80 lists receipts of \$350,000 from the general fund, \$215,000 from the water and sewer operating fund, \$575,000 from the gas fund, \$2,620 from a contingency fund and \$33,000 from revenue sharing, for the \$1,175,620 total.

Under a summary of disbursements, the budget does not allocate a single penny of the tax dollar for bonded indebtedness, although a total of \$54,570 is allocated from revenue in the water and sewer department to retirement of some bonds and for interest; \$2,620 to the contingency fund from a 2% allocation of the tax rate of \$1.50; \$313,000 for general fund operating disbursements; \$102,500 for water and sewer fund disbursements; \$33,000 in transfer to the general fund from the water and sewer fund; \$575,000 for the gas fund; \$37,000 to general fund capital outlay; \$24,900 to water and sewer capital outlay; and \$33,000 to revenue sharing disbursements.

General Fund Allocations
The proposed budget allocates \$350,000 assigned to 11 fund as follows (with 1978-79 allocation in parentheses): Administration and General, \$72,000 (\$58,000); Police Department, \$72,000 (\$66,000); Fire Department, \$14,000 (\$12,000); Garbage Department, \$62,000 (\$52,000); Streets and Drainage, \$85,000 (\$82,000); Airport Department, \$2,400 (\$2,750); Civil Defense, \$300 (\$200); and Parks and Recreation, \$5,000 (\$5,400).

Tax Rate Distribution
The new 1979-80 budget proposes that the \$1.50 per \$100 in valuation tax rate be distributed 2% to the contingency fund and 98% to the general fund. A total tax levy of \$185,182 is anticipated and the budget anticipates that \$131,015 will be collected during the year resulting in \$2,260 going to the contingency fund and \$128,295 to the general fund.

Other anticipated revenue in the general fund includes \$5000 from delinquent taxes, \$1000 from penalty and interest, \$600 from occupation taxes, \$65 from tax certificates, \$18,000 from fines, \$24,000 from gross receipts taxes, \$40 from building permits, \$2000 from parking meter receipts, \$50 from equipment rental, \$2500 from sale of materials, \$6050 from municipal building rentals, \$250 from tag registrations, \$50 for house moving permits, \$27,000 transfer from water and sewer operating, \$6000 from other fund transfers, \$4000 from other revenue and

Top Interest

(Continued from page 1)

rates of interest we may pay for varying maturities. The First National Bank has always paid the maximum permitted for the type of account presented to us.

The city is currently receiving 5 1/2 to 5 3/4%, according to Van Nor's statement, and he had suggested that the city could be getting interest of 9 1/2 to 10%.

"If the city prefers to or by necessity must maintain certificates as they are presently, then it cannot expect higher rates of interest," said Harrison. "However, we (the bank) are ready and willing to help you (the city) consolidate any of these certificates or re-structure maturities to qualify for higher rates."

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
POLICE 234-3727
AMBULANCE SERV. 234-3311
SHERIFF'S DEPT. 732-3388

City Increases Contribution To Library

(Continued from page 1)

The Eagle Lake City Council, in session on Tuesday night, April 25th, approved at the request of Wintermann Library board members an increase in the allocation in the 1979-80 budget to the library from \$2400 to \$3600.

Members of the library's board of directors presented a formal request to the council last week asking for the increase from \$2400 to \$3600 in funding to help maintain and operate the library.

Mrs. John (Nancy) Adkins, chairman of the board for the library, told the council that the additional funds are needed to help offset increased costs. She added that a certain number of books would be allocated to the library from the state library, based on the city's contribution to the library.

Last year the council budgeted \$2400 to the library which accounted for \$1300 worth of books allocated from the state.

Besides funding from the city, the library also received \$1500 from the county and countless hours of time and effort were contributed by the members from the Eagle Lake Study Club which sponsors the library project.

The council unanimously approved the request indicating that the li-

Gusty Winds, Heavy Rains Hit Here Sun.

(Continued from page 1)

The Eagle Lake area got some more violent weather Sunday morning when strong gusty wind caused considerable damage to trees in the city and just over an inch of rain fell during a short period.

The strong winds damaged whole trees or portions of trees at the J. B. Wesson home on State, at the Paul Causey home on Walnut, behind the Farris 1912 on McCarty, beside the Church of Christ on Burns Street and possibly others.

The City of Eagle Lake measured 1.02 inches of rain Sunday, but the lake plant of the Lakeside Irrigation Co. recorded slightly more with 1.48 inches.

The lake plant measured a total of 5.69 inches of rain in April, making the four-month total amount to 16.59 inches, almost half of the normal annual rainfall for this area.

The lake plant recorded 1.42 inches on April 2, 1.17 on the 17th, 1.4 on the 18th, 1.48 on the 19th and 1.48 on the 29th. January's total was 6.19 inches, February 2.89 and March 1.82.

County's Outstanding Older Texans Named

(Continued from page 1)

Outstanding Older Texans for Colorado County were named at the Older Texans Fair held at the St. Mary's Parish Hall in Nada last Thursday. The awards were presented by Mrs. Walter J. (Martha) Henicke of Columbus, chairman of the county's Older Texans committee, after they were announced by Mrs. Donella Pantea, Colorado County Extension Agent, left. The award winners were Mrs. Freida Kubesch of Nada, next to Mrs. Pantea, and Henry A. Ward of Columbus, next to Mrs. Henicke. For more on the Older Texans Fair, see page 9 of this issue.

Heavy Rains Hit Area Thurs. Night

(Continued from page 1)

The Colorado River and other streams in the county reached flood stages last week-end following very heavy rains during Thursday night and early Friday morning, accompanied by violent thunder and lightning and gusty winds.

The Eagle Lake area received around two inches of rain, however, measurements over the four inch mark were reported in the Columbus area and other parts in the northern part of the county.

The Lakeside Irrigation Co.'s lake plant measured 1.92 inches but the river plant recorded 2.3 inches of rain. The City of Eagle Lake rain gauges caught two inches. The Texas A&M Experiment Station west of Eagle Lake measured 2.2 inches before the rain gauges ran over.

The 1.92 inches measured at the lake plant, plus .45 of an inch which fell May 1st, got May off to a wet start.

The rains continue to cause problems to farmers and are hindering the late planting of some rice and the preparation of fields for soybean planting.

Cities To Oppose Gas Rate Hike

(Continued from page 1)

The City of Eagle Lake and other cities supplied with natural gas by the Texas Southeastern Gas Company, in opposing a proposed 12.2% gas rate hike.

Texas Southeastern filed an application with the Texas Railroad Commission to increase rates to all of its customers, the cities and others outside the city area.

Eagle Lake Mayor Elmer Struss and City Councilmen Alvin Kohlfel, Bill Farris, and Ralph Truly attended a meeting of representatives of the eight cities which are supplied with natural gas by Texas Southeastern Gas Co. in Brenham Thursday. All of the cities were represented except Sealy and city officials there had indicated they supported the move to oppose the proposed increase.

During the meeting, it was decided to employ a legal firm which is experienced in such utility rate matters to appeal to the Railroad Commission for a delay in their decision on Texas Southeastern's request until such time as the firm can prepare a defense.

Cost of the legal firm is expected to be pro-rated to the eight participating cities, Eagle Lake, Columbus, Bellville, Brenham, Hempstead, Navasota, Sealy and Waller, on basis of annual gas consumption from Texas Southeastern.

Eagle Lake city council in session Tuesday night officially approved the participation of this city in the proposal to oppose the increase as presented by Texas Southeastern Gas.

EMT Course Begins Here Tonight, Wed.

(Continued from page 1)

The first session of an Emergency Medical Technician's course (EMT) will be held Wednesday, May 9th at the Ambulance Hall in Eagle Lake.

Dr. Raymond Thomas and Dr. Jose Ugarte will teach the course with sessions scheduled on Monday and Wednesday nights beginning at 7:00 p.m. and lasting for 3 to 4 hours each night.

ELMS Band Concert Next Tues., 8 P.M.

(Continued from page 1)

The Eagle Lake Middle School Bands will be performing in concert on Tuesday evening, May 15th at 8 p.m. at the school's gymnasium.

The fifth, sixth, and seventh and eighth grade bands will each perform and band director Calvin Zwernemann invites the public to attend.

Mahalitics Buy Epps' Store; Bank Buys Land and Building

(Continued from page 1)

Gladys Epps Gold announced this week the sale of Epps' Department Store to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mahalitic who will continue to operate all but the men's department—in the present location for the next several months. Tentative plans are underway to consolidate the men's department with other local merchants. The First National Bank has purchased the land and buildings for additional banking facilities and customer parking.

Epps' store started in Eagle Lake in 1941 and has been one of the outstanding department stores of the county. In announcing her retirement from business, Mrs. Gold brings to a close 38 years of pleasant business relationships with the people of this area.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahalitic plan to continue the same high quality lines of merchandise and provide the same good service to the community for many years to come. "The store is a definite asset to the town and we intend to keep it that way," said Mrs. Mahalitic.

As Mrs. Gold prepares to turn the business over to the new owners, she looks back and tells how the store began. See MRS. GOLD, page 16.

New Supt.

(Continued from page 1)

pals to assure them of this philosophy.

Supt.'s Criteria
Primary discussion among the board members in discussing criteria for the hiring of a new superintendent to succeed E. A. Krivacka who resigned earlier this month, effective July 1, 1979, centered on whether or not applications from those now presently employed within the district.

Supt. Krivacka pointed out the possibility of creating a power struggle by considering applicants from within the district as opposed to those from out of the district. He suggested that if applicants be taken from within the district that a decision be made on these before talking applications outside the district.

After some discussion, the board voted unanimously for the sake of establishing harmony in the system, that no applicants be considered from within the Rice District.

The board set July 1st as the deadline for applications for the position; applicants will be screened by August 1st to a maximum of 12 and these will be interviewed before August 20th. After these are screened to two or three, the board plans to visit the schools where these individuals have worked and make a job offer not later than Sept. 15th; and ask acceptance or rejection of the offer by Nov. 15th.

Salary Increased
The board also set personal and education standards for applicants; and voted to offer a salary of \$6000 over Pay grade 15 (Pay grade 15 is mandated by the state legislature). This is \$1000

Bank Deposits Up \$747,374

(Continued from page 1)

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake reported another increase in deposits for the period ending March 31, 1979. A statement of condition for the bank is published elsewhere in this issue and reveals that deposits for that period totalled \$28,413,064, up \$747,374 from a similar period in 1978.

Total assets of the bank have now climbed to \$32,968,145 as compared to \$31,693,178 last year; and loans total \$19,228,528 compared to \$17,897,483 at the end of March in 1978.

The board also voted unanimously to appoint Assistant Supt. Charles W. DeShazo as acting superintendent until such time as a new superintendent is named and that his pay be the same as that now paid Supt. Krivacka during that period. Supt. Krivacka has offered counseling aid after July 1st to assist the district until such time as the new superintendent is elected.

Water Well

(Continued from page 1)

at the end of this summer.

Brenham engineering firm O'Malley and Clay has begun a study for the construction of a ground storage tank to be built on the same site as the well on Davitt Street.

O'Malley and Clay was approved for the project by the city council at its meeting April 10th. The city is hoping to have the specifications for the storage facility available for approval at its next council meeting May 8th so that bids for the project can be sought.

Complaints Board in other action at the

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(Continued from page 1)

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To Head VFW, Auxiliary

(Continued from page 1)

Rice Area Memorial Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary have elected new officers for the 1979-80 year to begin on July 1st. Jack Listowski, at left, will be the new commander of the Post; and Mrs. Ralph (Bobby) Johnson, right, will be the new president of the Auxiliary. For more on the election of officers see page 6.

3 Vehicles Collide Near Altair Sun.

(Continued from page 1)

An accident involving three vehicles occurred around 10 p.m. Sunday night causing heavy damage and some minor injuries.

The accident occurred when a 1974 Ford Torino driven by Antonio Duarte of Eagle Lake slammed into the rear of a 1966 International truck-tractor semi-trailer that was slowing down for the U.S. Highway 90A and 71 intersection in Altair. Both vehicles were heading west on 90A when the collision occurred.

Upon impact the Duarte car stopped in the middle of the highway and the truck driver, by Juan Ramon Rodriguez of Hialeah, Florida, managed to pull off the road.

After the collision, a 1968 Ford Torino, driven by Guzmanvessa Pons of Eagle Lake, slammed into the rear of the Duarte car and ran out of control into the Exxon Station parking lot.

The Eagle Lake unit of the Colorado County Volunteer Ambulance Corps was called to the scene and took the injured to the hospital where they were treated for some facial lacerations and released.

The Eagle Lake fire department was also at the scene, washing fuel and other debris from the highway.

No serious injuries were sustained but extensive damage was done to all three vehicles, according to investigating officer, State Trooper Andy Tarcus.

Rodriguez, driver of the truck, had just driven in from Florida and was destined for the Skull Creek Lodge. He and a friend in another truck had just arrived and had almost reached their destination. They planned to lease their trucks for hauling gravel. Rodriguez's truck, however, sustained considerable damage to the rear axle.

The Duarte car was heavily damaged in both the front and back from the two collisions that it sustained.

FM 950 Traffic Now Using New Road, Bridge at Garwood

(Continued from page 1)

Motorists on Farm to Market Road 950 are now using the short new section of the road and the bridge spanning the Colorado River at Garwood.

Motorists are now using both east and west sections of the newly constructed road leading to the river bridge at Garwood; and also the new concrete bridge spanning the Colorado River.

Approaches to the old bridge have been removed and it is no longer in use and it is anticipated that the narrow steel bridge will be removed in the future.

Ribbon Cutting Fri.
Interested persons are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremonies of the new Garwood bridge this Friday, May 11th, at 11:00 a.m.

Officials from Colorado County, the highway department, and City of Eagle Lake and also representatives of the Garwood and Eagle Lake Lions Clubs will be on hand for the ceremonies.

Rice Honor Graduates Are Active

(Continued from page 1)

Rice High School's graduating class of 1979 has ten honor students, all of whom have been active in school and extracurricular activities.

The 100-member class of 1979 is scheduled to receive diplomas at the Rice High School gymnasium at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25th. Senior awards and scholarships will be presented at the Rice High School gymnasium at 10:30 a.m.

On April 26th the Headlight reported on the activities of the valedictorian of the class, Joyce Marie Korenek, 4.574 grade point average; and salutatorian, Mary Ann Schoellmann, 4.457 average, and following are summaries of the activities of the other eight honor graduates.

Stephen P. Spanibel, 4.368 average, played basketball, was in the Raider Band, National Honor Society and served as National Honor Society president. He plans to attend Texas A&M.

Interested parents and others are invited to attend the event.

Graduation for the Class of 1979 is scheduled at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25th in the Raider gymnasium.

RHS Senior Awards Program At 10:30 A.M. Fri.

(Continued from page 1)

Many Rice High School seniors will receive awards for outstanding scholastic and attendance achievement and scholarships from many clubs and organizations at the annual Senior Awards Program to be held at the Rice High School gymnasium this Friday, May 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Interested parents and others are invited to attend the event.

Graduation for the Class of 1979 is scheduled at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25th in the Raider gymnasium.

Rice High School Honor Graduates



Officer For 30 Years

(Continued from page 1)

Eagle Lake Special Officer William Spencer (Bill) Chevis, left, has been a familiar sight around Eagle Lake for a long time and he was cited for his outstanding service to the citizens of the community at the Employees' Appreciation Dinner held by the City of Eagle Lake last week. Chevis will soon complete thirty years as a law enforcement officer in the city.

With Chevis is long-time

Nada KC's Hold Festival This Sat.

(Continued from page 1)

The Nada Council of the Knights of Columbus invites one and all to the annual Festival which will be held this Saturday, May 12th at the Nada K.J.T. Hall.

There will be entertainment for all ages beginning at 4:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. a barbecued chicken supper will be served for \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children.

Concluding the festival will be a dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. featuring music by Sammy and the Midnighters with admission \$5.00 per couple or \$2.50 for singles.

Immunization Clinic Fri.

(Continued from page 1)

The Free Immunization Clinic sponsored by the Texas Department of Health will be held Friday, May 11th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mission Center at 400 W. Prairie Street in Eagle Lake.