

Apartment Complex Ground Breaking Held Sun.



The formal ground breaking for the Kevin Court Apartments was held last Sunday, March 30th at the Austin Road-Hubbard's Ferry Road location. The 50-unit apartment complex, a project of Friedman and Associates of Houston, is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Turning the first shovels of dirt last Sunday were

(pictured left to right) Robert A. Caplan, director of development for Friedman and Associates; City Manager T. J. Smith; Ron Friedman, president of Friedman and Associates; Luther Johnson, project foreman for Construction Supervisors, Inc.; Mayor Elmer Struss; and Milton Whiting, representing the Farmers Home Administration.

Texas SE Files For Rate Hike

Texas Southeastern Gas Company has filed a request with the Railroad Commission of Texas for an overall rate increase of 4.69 percent.

The company says the increase is needed to recover higher costs, and would affect all of Texas Southeastern's customers. These higher costs have occurred primarily because of a loss of a portion of the company's industrial sales.

The average rural residential customer's monthly bill would increase from \$24.14 to \$25.19, including the cost of purchased gas. A purchased gas cost of \$1.90 per thousand cubic feet has been included in the base rate, and any cost above or below the \$1.90 would be reflected in the purchase gas adjustment (PGA) clause.

In addition, Texas Southeastern proposes an annual cost of service adjustment clause effective June 1, 1981, to reduce the frequency of rate filings. This would result in a cost savings to Texas Southeastern's customers, who must bear the burden of regulatory expenses.

Jack Boggan, Texas Southeastern Vice President, says, "The rate increase is necessary to offset lost revenue from lower industrial sales, and to recover higher business costs brought about by inflation, which affects Texas Southeastern just like any other business."

Police Dept. Busy Burglar Flees Thru Glass Door At Dan's M. Stop

Eagle Lake police chief Lupe Villarreal and Deputy Sheriff Keith Rihs investigated a burglary at Dan's Minute Stop on East Main Street in Eagle Lake during the early morning hours of Friday, Mar. 28th.

Rihs, night patrolman for the sheriff's department, has been assisting in patrolling in the city limits during a shortage of personnel in the local police department. He was called to the Minute Stop at 1 a.m. by Dan Canaris, owner of the business. Canaris told the officer that he came in the front door and went to a back office to do some work when he noted two bags of change on top of a desk and a desk drawer pried open.

He reported that a black male man ran past him toward the front door which was locked but the man knocked out the plate glass in the door and fled from the scene.

Investigation revealed entry was made by forcing open a back door. There was no sign of blood from a possible cut during the quick getaway, noted the officer in his report. An estimated \$500 in change and two "hot checks" were reported taken from a cash register at the front of the store.

Investigation of the entry (Continued on page 14)

Rehabilitation Phase Of Comm. Development Grant Underway

Bids Due Today For Labor, Material On 3 Properties

(By Jeff Frnka)

Work in the Rehabilitation Phase of the \$700,000 Community Block Grant received by the city from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development is underway, Eagle Lake City Manager T. J. Smith reported to the city council on Tuesday night of last week.

The city is receiving sealed bids until 2:00 p.m. today (Thursday) for material and labor for the rehabilitation of three residential properties in the Westmoreland Addition (the "flat"). And this week the city began advertising (see classified section) for bids for work on two more residential properties in that area with the opening of those bids slated for April 17th.

Inspections and surveys continue in that area seeking eligible residents who could receive up to \$7,500 worth of improvements from the \$184,000 allocated for the rehabilitation program. The city expects to advertise again for bids when another five houses have qualified.

Smith indicated that a considerable effort to allow local contractors and suppliers to participate in the project is being made.

The council voted Feb. 26th to hire Bruce Spitzengel, a community planning and development specialist from La Porte to supervise the program which will include rehabilitation of sub-standard housing and removal of some dilapidated buildings in the "flat" area, occupied almost entirely by minority residents. David Baker, an assistant to Spitzengel, is currently handling supervision of the project and can be contacted at the city offices in the Municipal Building for any questions about qualifying for funds or entering a bid for the project.

The council authorized the city manager to spend part of the rehab funds to build a steel fence along the recently completed concrete lined exposed ditch along a portion of 4th Street in that same area. The ditch was the first phase of the HUD Community Block Grant project. HUD officials earlier last week approved the use of money from the rehabilitation funds for the purpose of building the fence, since it would serve in a security capacity and be beneficial to that area.

Other Action

In other action on Tuesday of last week, the council approved a \$1000 payback to developers of the Ridgelea Addition for a recently built home. An agreement with the group provides for the payback whenever a new home goes on the city tax roll. It was the second one in the Ridgelea Addition to qualify during the month of March.

New City Manager?

Mayor Elmer Struss reported to the council that the city is continuing to take applications for a new city manager to replace Smith, who announced a year ago that he would retire in April of 1980.

Smith has agreed to work with the new city manager for one month, upon the hiring by the council, to help acquaint him with local functions and facilities. The city has received a few applications, but the mayor is hoping to obtain several more before narrowing down the list.

Closed Thurs., Fri., Sat.

Jack's Restaurant in Eagle Lake will be closed all day this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 4-6. Owners say the restaurant will reopen at 5:30 a.m. Monday.

Sororities' Lady Of The Year



Beta Sigma Phi sororities in Eagle Lake honored Mrs. Herman (Elizabeth) Boothe, center, as Lady of the Year at a tea on March 29th. She received a Beta Sigma Phi certificate of award and a friendship brooch from the two sorority presidents, Mrs. Jo Ann Mahalic, president of Xi Psi Psi, at left; and Mrs. Gail Guthman, president of Alpha Delta Phi, at right. Sorority Photo. See story on page 15.

Construction Begins On 50-Unit Sr. Citizens Apt. Project

(By Jeff Frnka)

Kevin Court Apartments, a 50-unit senior citizens' apartment complex, held its formal groundbreaking ceremonies Sunday, March 30th, which will initiate construction of the project after almost three years of planning.

Robert A. Caplan, director of development for Friedman and Associates of Houston, developers and builders of the project, served as master of ceremonies during the brief gathering at the construction site at the intersection of Austin Road and Hubbard's Ferry Road, near the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Following the ceremonies a reception was held at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

About 30 people were on hand Sunday afternoon, including city officials, businessmen and community leaders, as well as associates of the development firm.

Caplan told the gathering that it was May of 1977 that the idea for the project originated. He cited former Eagle Lake resident E. A. Krivacka and Heritage House Administrator Lois Mills as two key people in initiating the project idea and thanked both for their cooperation during the planning stage. Caplan also expressed his appreciation to Mayor Elmer Struss and City Manager T. J. Smith for their support.

Milton Whiting, representing Farmers Home Administration, was also instrumental in making the project a reality, according to Caplan. Though plans were lengthy (Continued on last page)



Msgr. Aloysius Leopold

Msgr. Leopold Honored On 50th Anniv.

On Tuesday, March 25 in St. Mary's Church in Nada, Bishop Hugo Gerbermann and some 60 priests joined Msgr. Aloysius A. Leopold, a native priest of Nada, in the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. Relatives, parishioners, friends and hosts of former parishioners were in attendance.

Bishop Gerbermann gave the homily for the occasion and the St. Mary's Choir with Mrs. Joe Popp as director and Mrs. Clarence Martin as organist sang the Mass, the greater part of which was in Latin.

Dinner was served to the clergy, relatives and visitors in the parish hall immediately after the Mass. A reception for Msgr. Leopold was held in the evening from 6:30 to 8:00.

Monsignor Leopold, son of Christian and Mary Leopold, was born in Nada on February 22, 1904. He (Continued on page 15)

Pre-Registration At St. Mary's April 10, 11

Pre-registration for St. Mary's Catholic School of Nada is scheduled Thursday and Friday, April 10th and 11th. All new students may register from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. in the school's library.

St. Mary's will accept applications from children in the surrounding area that would like to attend a private school.

The faculty for the 1981 school year has been elected and will remain the same as for the past year, including the following:

C. J. Hajovsky, principal; Mrs. Barbara Speidel, 7th and 8th grade; Mrs. Beatrice Schoellmann, 5th and 6th grade; Mrs. Bertha Rees, 3rd and 4th grade; and Mrs. Janette Ferguson, 1st and 2nd grade.

Work Planned For 90A Paving E.L. To E.B.

A pre-construction meeting was held Friday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Room of the Eagle Lake Municipal Building in Eagle Lake to discuss construction operations for a project recently awarded to Jones G. Enke, Inc.

The Sealy, Texas firm was low bidder at \$3,398,984.90 for the removal of the existing pavement and the placement of an asphaltic concrete pavement overlay on U.S. 90A. The 15.3 mile project extends from near F.M. 3013 at Eagle Lake in Colorado County to East Bernard in Wharton County and has been allotted 150 working days for completion.

E. A. Riha, resident engineer in charge of construction, said, "The restoration of this portion of U.S. 90A is especially important due to the high number of trucks using this highway. The new surfacing will greatly improve motorist safety while providing a smoother riding roadway. All work will be completed on one side of the highway before work is started on the other lane. Flagmen will be provided for the safe and convenient passage of traffic at all hazardous locations."

Work on this project is expected to begin in early April. (Continued on page 14)

Garwood Water Dist. To Elect 2 Directors Sat.

Colorado County Water Control and Improvement District No. 2 at Garwood will hold an election on Saturday, April 5th for the election of two new directors to the board for 2-year terms.

The terms of William Carpenter and Mitchel Smith will expire on April 5th. Both are seeking re-election and will be the only names listed on the ballot, according to Harry D. Lobriep, the water district manager.

Voting will be done in the water district office with Clara Lobriep presiding judge and Lucille Till Assistant Judge.

Fire Dept. Auxiliary Bake Sale Sat.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Eagle Lake Fire Department will be sponsoring a bake sale this Saturday, April 5th beginning at 10 a.m. in front of the H&R Block Tax Office. The ladies say there will be plenty of home-baked treats for Easter, so come by and visit with them.

Courthouse Closed Friday

The Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus will be closed all day this Friday, April 4th in observance of Good Friday. Offices in the courthouse will reopen at the usual hour on Monday morning.

3 Seek 2 Council Spots, Mayor Unopposed In City Election

Voters in the City of Eagle Lake will go to the polls this Saturday, April 5th to elect a mayor, who is unopposed for re-election, and two councilmen from a slate of three candidates. Fairly heavy voting is expected even though there are no apparent issues at stake.

Mayor Elmer Struss is unopposed for his sixth two-year term as chief executive of the city. Struss operates the A. J. Struss Auto Supply here.

Seeking the two two-year council positions are: incumbent James G. Cash, retired serviceman and employee of W.K.M., who is seeking his second term on the council; Eugene Baker, a former city councilman for nine years, manager of Eagle Lake Rice Dryer; and Roy Dean Van Nort, a city councilman for four years, manager of Gulf

Columbus Man Charged In Wife's Murder

The husband of a woman shot to death in the bedroom at her home in Columbus at around 10:45 a.m. last Wednesday morning, March 26th, is still in the Colorado County Jail under \$500,000 bond on a charge of murder.

Alvin L. Pavlicek, who had been making his home recently in Katy but had lived in Columbus, gave himself up to officers at the County Jail shortly after the shooting with the gun allegedly used in the shooting still in his possession.

The woman killed was Mrs. Rita Pavlicek and she was shot three times in the chest with a 22-caliber pistol and apparently died instantly. Justice of the Peace Richard C. Schmidt of Precinct 1 held an inquest, and later set the bond of \$500,000 on the charge of murder.

Columbus officer James Brooks and County Sheriff's deputies rushed to the scene and conducted an investigation. It was thought that the death might be a suicide at first, since a gun was in the hand of the dead woman. However, the gun which Pavlicek had in his possession when he surrendered at the county jail, apparently was the one used in the shooting and the man apparently had placed the other gun in her hand.

Car Fire Tues. In Altair

Eagle Lake volunteer firemen were called to a car fire in Altair at 5:53 p.m. Tuesday. Heavy damage was reported to the engine and wiring of the vehicle.

TO CLOSE SUNDAY

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith announce that their Eagle Lake Dairy Delite will be closed all day on Easter Sunday, April 6th.

Little Interest Shown In City, School Elections

Coast Oilfield Contracting and a realtor. The other incumbent whose office will be filled Saturday, William L. Farris, did not seek re-election.

Voting in the election will be held in the council room of the Municipal Building with the polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee voting in the election ended Tuesday with only 4 ballots cast.

H. E. Tate will preside as election judge Saturday and Gilbert Duty will be assistant judge. The new city officials will be sworn into office at the council's regular meeting Tuesday, April 8th.

No Contest For 2 Rice CISD Board Positions

Light voting is expected in the Rice Consolidated School District's trustee election to be held this Saturday, April 5th, since no opposition has surfaced to date to the reelection of the two incumbents.

Steve Balas, Eagle Lake rice farmer and pharmacist, is a candidate for re-election to Eagle Lake Position No. 5; and Ted Wiese, rice farmer and rancher of Altair, is asking re-election to Sheridan Position No. 4. Both are seeking their second three-year term on the Rice CISD board. Polls will be open Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with voting in three polling places: in Eagle Lake at the C.P.T. office, Dorothy Jones presiding judge; Garwood at the school building, Mrs. Bruce Fling presiding judge; and at the Sheridan school building, Oma Kincheloe presiding judge. Absentee voting ended Tuesday with only 1 vote cast. The two trustees elected will be officially sworn into office for the new terms Monday night, April 14th.

Diabetes Workshop Begins at Hosp. Apr. 9

Eagle Lake Community Hospital will sponsor a four hour workshop on "Managing Diabetes Properly". This course is offered to diabetics and their family members to help them understand and appreciate the three main principles of treatment of diabetes: diet, insulin, or hypoglycemics and exercises.

The classes will be held in the hospital conference room on April 9, 16, 23 and 30, 1980 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The fee for the course is \$25.00. This is the first of a four week series and other classes will be scheduled at a later date.

For registration and further information contact Marilyn Sparks, R.N., Patient Care Coordinator at Eagle Lake Community Hospital (713) 234-3514 extension 27.

Rec. Center, Library Get Increases In City Budget

Hearing On Record \$1,226,652 City Budget April 22

Eagle Lake city council, in session Tuesday night of last week, tentatively approved increases in the proposed 1980-81 budget for the Eula and David Wintermann Library and the Eagle Lake Recreation Center.

The new budget, under study by the council, increases the allocation to the library from \$3600 in 1979-80 to \$9000; and to the Eagle Lake Recreation Center from \$3400 in 1979-80 to \$6000 in 1980-81.

The council has begun consideration of a record \$1,226,652 budget for the 1980-81 year with anticipated expenditures up over \$50,000 above the budget adopted for 1979-80.

Final adoption of the budget is anticipated follow (Continued on page 14)