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2 - 1980 Malibu Classic 4-Dr. Sedans
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Higher Gas Rate Inevitable

(Continued from page one)

a periodic basis; or do nothing at all. Any of these three alternatives would still put the burden of maintaining the system on the city and would also result in sizeable gas rate increases, according to city officials.

Should the proposal pass, Entex Inc. has offered \$100,000 for the purchase of the system and the council indicated last Tuesday that it would be ready to make the turnover as soon as possible.

Proposed Rate Increases

According to figures presented by Entex to the city, its rates would be slightly higher for residential customers, with a sizeable increase for small commercial users, which will affect many businesses. Under city ownership, they have been charged the residential rate. "Eagle Lake is a unique system," according to Bill Hinds, executive vice-president of Entex. "It is about the only town that charges its small commercial users the same as residential rates. If we purchase the utility, all small commercial customers will be charged a higher rate, as is common practice in most systems throughout the state."

Mayor Struss offered these figures to the council, indicating what a turnover to Entex would mean compared to current rates.

Residential Increases Cited

A residential customer using 5000 cubic feet of gas per month, according to Struss is currently paying \$22.47; under Entex's rates the charge would be \$24.15, about an eight percent increase. If the city were to maintain ownership and replace the system, the mayor estimated that the same customer's bill would be \$28.71, a 28 percent increase.

The minimum figure proposed by Entex would be up 20 percent over the current minimum charge for gas service but it would go up 45 percent if Eagle Lake were to maintain ownership.

Small commercial accounts

Gas Election Saturday

(Continued from page one)

will face a sizeable increase in monthly bills if Entex takes over, says the mayor. A customer using 10,000 cubic feet of gas is currently being charged \$40.90. Figures indicate that with Entex the bill would be \$57.12, an increase of nearly 40 percent. Struss conceded that if the city maintained ownership and continued its present method of billing that the increase would probably be less than Entex's in such cases.

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(Continued from page one)

guest speaker. The chamber is considering the possibility of having some of the Derrick Dolls on hand and a final decision on this matter will be made at the October 20th meeting.

Reports were given on the County Fair activities by Bob McIntire, president, who directed the placing of the chamber's booth at the fair, and from Fair Association president Bill Harrison, Jr.

Harrison expressed appreciation for the assistance of all who helped in making the fair such an outstanding success.

A letter was read from the Pink Ladies expressing appreciation for use of the booth for sale of cookbooks and for other benefit attractions during the fair.

The Chamber took registrations during the fair for two goose hunting the tacks and they were awarded in a drawing Monday to Frank Pidgeon of Eagle Lake and Mrs. David Foster of Columbus.

Attending the meeting were president McIntire, secretary Dorothy Jones, directors Bill Harrison, Jr., Roy D. Van Nort, Dr. Rose Franks, Mrs. Maxine Griffith, Mrs. Sandra Rodgers and Louis Shorlennier; and also Bob Klockman, T. J. Smith and Fred Kline.

The deceased was a devoted mother and a

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Truck Turns Over In Ditch On Beaks Ave.

(Continued from page one)

Eagle Lake police investigated two accidents this week, one of which occurred when a large grocery supply truck turned over on its side in the deep ditch bordering Beaks Avenue.

City Patrolman Linda Travis investigated the accident at 1:05 p.m. Monday. She reported that the Brehman Wholesale Grocery truck, driven by John Neil Rose of Brehman, was eastbound on Beaks and came too close to the shoulder and the trailer slipped off the roadway and the trailer and truck rolled over onto its side in the deep ditch. A wrecker from Brehman came to remove the vehicle from the ditch. The

talented seamstress. She and her husband operated a grocery store for a number of years and she cared for orphaned children, sharing her home and love for the less fortunate.

On January 30, 1912 she and Paul Labay were united in marriage in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Napa.

Survivors include her husband, three daughters, Mrs. Gene (Leona) Burton of El Campo, Mrs. T. A. Lilly of Pritchard of Garwood and Mrs. Anglin Slavik of El Campo; six grandchildren; fourteen great grandchildren; and two great, great grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Labay was a member of St. Philip's Catholic Church, a charter member of the Catholic Daughters of America, a member of the KJZT since 1929 and a member of the AAR Society.

The deceased was a devoted mother and a

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First Occupants Move Into Kevin Apts.

(Continued from page one)

Mrs. Wanda Center, manager of the Kevin Court Apartments at the corner of Austin Road and Hubbard Ferry Road, reports that the first residents moved into the apartments this week. Eight families moved in Monday and more on Tuesday.

Kevin Court Apartments is a development of Eagle Lake Apartment Associates, Ltd. and developed by Friedman and Associates of Houston.

There are fifty one bedroom apartments designed for handicapped and senior citizens with moderate income who are capable of independent living.

Mrs. Center adds that an open house is being planned at the complex around the middle of October. Meanwhile, persons interested in the apartments are invited to contact her at 234-2555.

able at the city offices in the Municipal Building and the Chamber of Commerce office.

Constable J. T. (Jimmy) Frnka Suffers Stroke

(Continued from page one)

J. T. (Jimmy) Frnka, Constable in Eagle Lake J.P. Precinct 8, is in the Methodist Hospital in Houston undergoing tests following two strokes suffered last week. He was taken to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital on Wednesday of last week following a stroke and he suffered another attack on Tuesday. He was transferred to the Methodist Hospital Monday where tests are being made to determine the cause of the illness. At present, he is in Room 597 for those who would like to send a note of cheer.

Everyone joins in wishing him a quick recovery to good health.

County TSTA Fall Banquet At RHS Sept. 29

(Continued from page one)

The Colorado County chapter of the Texas State Teachers Association will have its fall banquet on Monday, Sept. 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rice High School.

Guest speaker for the event will be Kent Caperton, Democratic nominee for the Texas Senate in the Fifth District which includes this area.

The banquet is open to the public. Tickets are \$3.75 and may be purchased from Marie Argo by calling 234-3191; Glenda Eberhart, 234-2506; Bea Scott, 234-2792; or may be purchased at David Wintermann's office in downtown Eagle Lake.

truck was empty and damage to the vehicle was reported light. The driver was not injured.

Eagle Lake Police Department sent a truck to the scene to wash down some fuel which spilled from the truck. Collision On East Main Tues.

Constable Jimmy Smith investigated an accident at the intersection of East Main (Highway 90A) and Lakeside Drive (FM 102) at 1:25 p.m. Tuesday.

Involved were a 1967 pickup truck driven by James R. Adkins and a 1979 Mercury driven by Mrs. Nancy D. Lang.

The officer reported that Mrs. Lang was making a left turn off East Main when her vehicle was hit from the rear by Adkins' pickup truck.

Considerable damage resulted to both vehicles, but there were no injuries, reported the officer.

Brazil nuts grow in clusters of 14 to 28.

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Mayor Supports The Sale Of City's Gas System

(Continued from page one)

TO THE CITIZENS OF EAGLE LAKE:

We have an election on September 20th to decide whether to dispose of the city gas system or not.

If the city keeps it, our gas engineer recommends replacement of the system and increased operation and maintenance activity and expense. This would necessitate a bond approval of over a million dollars. The gas rates the city would have to charge for bond pay-back and increased operation and maintenance would, in my opinion, be entirely too high. Furthermore, increasing state and federal regulations are making the operation by a small city, such as ours, almost impossible.

Entex has indicated a willingness to pay the city one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for the system and take over immediate operation and responsibility to the state for present non-compliance to urgent safety demands.

The city has lost over two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) in attempting to operate the gas system in the last three years. The leaks, along with other violations of operating regulations, have alarmed the Texas Railroad Commission.

The rate promised by Entex to the gas users is closely in line with the other surrounding cities in which they operate. The below figures refer to residential users and are based on the Entex minimum, which would be about 20% more than the rate now being charged. An actual average bill of 5000 cu. ft. would be about 10% more than is now being charged. If we keep the system and make the changes necessary, our minimum would be over 40% more than now being charged, and the 5000 cu. ft. would be at least 55% more than now being charged. Commercial users would have a somewhat larger increase but closely in line with other cities in which Entex operates.

Our financial advisers have estimated that at least seven years and most likely 10 years, this higher charge for city ownership would definitely continue. However, there is the possibility that 10 years—now, if everything went just right, the city ownership might be able to have lower rates than private ownership.

The representative advisory committee appointed to make recommendations as to the gas system was overwhelmingly in favor of disposing of the gas system.

I personally agree with the recommendation of the advisory committee. And I also believe that Entex can give better service than the city could. An additional thought is that the supply of gas will probably be much more stable.

After long study of all of the issues involved, it is my personal opinion that the City of Eagle Lake should immediately dispose of the gas system.

Sincerely,
Elmer Struss, Mayor

1980 COLORADO COUNTY FAIR

Livestock Show Produces Champions

Nat'l Guard Commander Visits Fair

Colorado County Fair was honored last Saturday by the attendance of Major General Harry D. Steel, Jr. of Austin, Commanding General of State and Area Command, Texas National Guard. General Steel arrived by helicopter and viewed all of the Fair activities with high praise for the citizens of the county for such an outstanding event.

It is amazing that the County Fair Association could stage such a great Fair with such a

small staff.

General Steel commented that he was happy to return to this county for a visit since he had resided in the county on the Wintersboro Ranch near Altair some twenty years ago.

The General and Fair officials exchanged caps with insignias of the 38th Armored Guard and the County Fair Association.

General Steel commended the service of the National members, "hometown soldiers" in this area. He expressed pride in the "appreciation people of the county give in recognition of the valuable service of a National Guard member."

County Officials Present

Among those present to greet the General was County Judge Lester J. Cranek who commended citizens of all areas of the county for their work and cooperation in staging such a successful county fair. He noted that the primary purpose of the Fair is to benefit the youth of the county. "Youth who are staying active in affairs such as this, generally stay out of trouble," said the judge.

Other officials on hand for the arrival of General Steel and escorts and accompanying them on a tour of the Fair were: Colorado County Fair Assn. President—Bill Harrison, Jr.; County Fair Co-General Chairman—Tom Northrup; 1979 Fair Co-General Chairman—Joe Hensel; and other Fair officers and committee members; County Commissioners Otto Loessin, Rafael Veselka and Crockett Leyendecker and other county officials; Columbus mayor Richard Hefley; and other National Guard officials and officers.

Junior Mr. and Miss Colorado County Fair competition was held last Saturday morning in the Veterans' Community Center in Columbus. Winners in the competition are shown above, left to right: runner-up to Little Mr., Ryan

Thomas; County Fair Little Mr., Coy Holman; County Fair Little Miss, Misty Cranek; and runner-up to the Little Miss, Brandy Heinsohn. Brandy also received an award for wearing the best handmade western outfit.

County Fair 1980 Junior Mr., Miss

Junior Mr. and Miss Colorado County Fair and runner-up are shown above, left to right: Junior Mr. County Fair Heath Moore;

Junior Miss County Fair, Kimberly Dawn Miller; runner-up Junior Miss, Kimberly Lynn Frey; and runner-up Junior Mr., Jason Michael Hall.

Stallman of Columbus, 4 blue; Marilyn Dannels, 2 blue; 3 red, 1 white; Karen Fox, 1 blue; Alice Oenhaus, 1 blue; 3 red; Mary Helling, 3 blue; 2 red, 2 white.

WESTERN ART Western Art Awards winners in the County Fair last weekend included: Elementary School Camille Hunt of Columbus.

(Continued on page 16)

Appelt, 4 blue, 1 red, 1 white; Christine Bellinger, 1 red; Mrs. C. C. Cole, 1 blue, 1 red, 1 white; Kay Potter, 1 red, 1 white; Helene Radack, 2 red, 1 white; Johanna Potter, 1 blue, 2 red, 1 white; Bonnie

Best of Show to Darrel Appelt of Eagle Lake; Rita Ruffino, 1 blue, 2 red; Nancy Seasholtz, 1 blue, 2 red, 3 white; Margaret Adcock, 2 red, 2 white; Cecelia Kollman, 1 blue, 2 white; Thelma Moore, 1 red, 2 white; Verle Brune, 1 blue, 2 red; Darrel

Colorado County Federal Savings and Loan, with Sandra Dittmar on the float; second, Russell Benick with Robin Meyer on the float; first, County Officials; second, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; third, Bonnie Izlar; Best Decorated Horse, first, Flagbearers (members of the 4-H Horse Club and Glenda Hoegensmeyer); second, Texas Trail Riders;

Best Queen's entry, first, second, Little Mr. and Miss Junior Mr. and Miss entry; third, queen-contestant Pam Cranek's auto;

Best Decorated Auto: first, Weimar Bass Club; second, Linda Hoffman's pet show; third, Columbus Noon Lions;

Best Decorated Bicycle: first, (winner not listed); second, Penny Beard, down;

Best Decorated Dune Buggy: first, Ralph Duncan; second, Columbus Welding; third, James Guttman;

Best Decorated Wagon: first, County Officials; second, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; third, Bonnie Izlar;

Best Educational Float: first, 4-H and Senior Citizens (Boat);

Best Group Unit: first, cheerleaders and mascot;

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