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## City Council

(Continued from page 1)

was approved last year. The sale of the city's gas system to Entex accounts for the sizeable cut in the budget. The council also heard a report that plans were progressing for a meeting for Klockman and Eagle Lake Recreation Center representative Lonnie Sommerlatte with an IRS official in Austin on the center's inability to receive a "non-profit organization" status. A meeting in Austin is expected next month.

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## Agricultural Observations

From TEXAS A&M RESEARCH SITE EAGLE LAKE

Date	Air Temp		4-1/2 Inch Soil Temp		Evap (ins)	Rain (ins)
	Max	Min	Max	Min		
Jan 21	53	33	53	42	.082	
22	56	42	53	42	.052	
23	66	34	57	42	.106	
24	72	38	57	43	.134	
25	73	43	59	46	.090	
26	73	47	61	46	.066	
27		55		57		

1/ In cooperation with National Weather Service & Texas Water Development Board  
2/ Sheltered air temperatures

A few light showers were reported Tuesday in the Coastal Plains as a result of a weak cool front moving across the region. Temperatures were on the cool side Tuesday night but plenty of sunshine will bring warmer weather Wednesday and Thursday. A chance of rain is forecast Friday and Saturday for the Coastal Plains. An abundance of soil moisture across many sections has greatly improved winter pastures and small grain growth. Stockmen should note however, that grazing lush winter wheat pastures can use leachy pastures. Older animals and cows about to calve may be most susceptible to this nutritional disorder. Grazing should be

limited to a few hours a day or a feeding of a supplement rich in magnesium is a good preventative practice. A couple of good drying days are in store Wednesday and Thursday so land preparation should be able to make some progress where soils are firm enough to support equipment. Rains this weekend point to the possibility of further field delays, particularly on soils where field work is marginal. Even light rainfall will aggravate wet soil problems. This mild weather favors larger greenbug population so farmers should check pastures to evaluate control measures. Good spraying weather is in store the next couple of days if chemical applications are necessary.

## Prairie Rice Asks Damages For Dumper

Prairie Rice and Prairie Commodities Inc. filed suit in District Court in Columbus against Hunkapiller Engineering Co. of Arkansas seeking damages resulting from the installation of a truck dumper at the Prairie Rice facilities. The plaintiffs allege that in June of 1977 a contract was entered into with the defendant for installation of the dumper and the work was completed in January of 1978. The plaintiffs allege that the dumper did not perform satisfactorily and ask for damages for down time and triple damages for actual damages for the alleged unlawful conduct of the defendant, plus attorney's fees, interest and costs of court.

## County Funds

(Continued from page 1)

issue, Judge Cranek agreed that Precincts 2 and 4 were being hit the hardest by receiving the least funds because of the lower road mileage ratio, but added that the equal division of the first \$200,000 eases the situation to some extent.

Auditor Briscoe pointed out that the commissioners should keep as small fund balances as possible so that the remaining funds to be received could be placed into certificates of deposit bearing interest until needed.

Judge Cranek noted that the court will be opening bids in February for a county depository for the next two years and expressed the hope that the interest offered would be as good or better than the 14.7% interest now being paid by First State Bank of Columbus.

## Brother Of Mrs. Sidney Miller Passes Away

Leo Horton, 56, of Pasadena died suddenly at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 23 of a heart attack. He was a brother of Mrs. Sidney Miller and Mrs. Ruby Hirschback of

## County Fair Assn. To Meet Wed.

The Colorado County Fair Association has changed their meeting date back to Wednesday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the Columbus Elementary School Cafeteria. Items on the agenda will be the reports of the 1981 State Fairs and Exposition Association Meeting, discussion of the Constitution and By-Laws, committee reports, and 1981 Fair update.

All 1980 members are invited and anyone interested in helping with the 1981 Fair are encouraged to attend this meeting.

## Rice FFA Trail Ride Feb. 14 Starts At Vox Populi

The Rice Consolidated High School-Future Farmers of America trail riders will meet at Vox Populi school at 8 a.m. Saturday, February 14 for the ride to Rice High School.

Young ladies wishing to compete in the queen's contest must register at the starting site before the ride begins. Contestants must ride in the trail ride, said Roy Dean Van Nort, the trail boss.

For more information on the trail ride or queen's contest contact FFA advisors Troy Krenek or Ronel Roberts.

## Comm. Sweetheart Banquet At Lissie Feb. 7

A community Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the men of the Lissie United Methodist Church will be held at the Lissie Fellowship Hall Sat., Feb. 7, 1981 at 7:00 p.m.

Sandra Rings, noted Houston ventriloquist, will provide entertainment for the evening.

Tickets for the Banquet are available from any member of the Lissie Church.

The public is cordially invited and children are encouraged to attend the entertainment at 8:00 p.m.

## 4 Suits Seek To Collect Accounts

Four suits were filed in District Court in Columbus last week seeking judgments for alleged past due accounts.

In a suit filed Jan. 22 First State Bank of Weimar filed suit against James Benes and Brenda Benes seeking judgment for a \$5000 promissory note, plus interest, attorney's fees and costs of court.

Eagle Lake Community Hospital filed two suits Jan. 23rd, one seeking judgment for \$2,239.60 from David Smith of Altair; and the other seeking judgment for an account of \$1,697.20 from Carlos Dupont of El Campo. Both suits also ask for attorney's fees, costs of court and interest.

First National Bank of Eagle Lake filed a suit Jan. 26 against A. J. Wagner, Patricia Wagner, individually and doing business as Eagle Lake Diesel Service, seeking a judgment for an alleged past due note for \$14,897.09 plus interest, attorney's fees and costs of court.

Eagle Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harman attended funeral services Monday at the Pasadena Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m. He is also survived by his wife of Pasadena, a daughter of Los Angeles, California and other relatives and friends.

## Rice Growers Hear Of Water Outlook At LICO Meet Tues.

Lakeside Irrigation Co., Inc. of Eagle Lake hosted its annual barbecue luncheon for rice producers in the area at noon Tuesday at which time LICO's president, Dan A. Thornton, discussed availability of water and rising costs of water for irrigating the 1981 rice crop.

Thornton told the producers that costs for farming are rising sharply and should be up over 20% for the next crop. He reported that power costs for the irrigation company should be up 20% over last year's costs and water from the Lower Colorado River Authority will cost 33.3% more. Thus, the company president reported that cost of water for irrigating the first crop of rice in 1981 will be up from \$42.50 per acre to \$62.50 and for irrigating the second crop of rice up from \$12.50 per acre to \$15.00 per acre or a 23% increase.

He told the rice producers that Lakeside Irrigation Co., Inc. is continually working to keep its operating costs as low as possible, but the rising costs cited above, plus inflationary costs in materials and labor and for major repairs to the system, make the increased prices necessary. Thornton told the rice farmers also that 1981 contracts will have a built-in power cost factor and in the event power costs exceed 20% then the cost for water for irrigation will increase correspondingly.

Thornton reported that the company continues to join others in opposing an application by the Middle Colorado River Association to erect a new dam, due to be called the Stacy Dam, near San Angelo. Thornton said that this structure could completely dry up portions of the upper Colorado River. The application for the dam has cleared the Waters Rights Commission and has been opposed in the courts and the first appellate court has ruled in favor of the Middle Colorado River Assn., however further appeals to higher courts are

being made.

Legislation Proposed He also discussed proposed legislation that the Public Utility Commission and the Waters Rights Commission be given authority to set rates for all raw water used in this state, in much the same fashion as for power and other utilities.

Lower Colorado River Authority has hired an engineering firm to make a study of the costs involved in providing water as compared to costs of water for power and flood control, etc.

"The survey reflected that costs of supplying water for irrigation purposes were one-third more than was charged last year, hence, the 33 1/3% increase for water set by LCRA in 1981," said LICO's president.

He also reported on a hearing to be held at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 9th in Austin to set standards for all water running into navigable streams. This he said could seriously affect farmers using wells by requiring that all run-off water be filtered as it leaves the field.

These and other factors are "hastening impending use of meters in the sale of water for agricultural irrigation purposes," concluded the speaker.

He also cautioned farmers using wells to check their pumping systems since the water table has been dropping because of the low rainfall in the area and the level may be down as much as 10 feet in places and could create a serious problem in the event some heavy rain does not come soon.

Those present enjoyed a delicious barbecued beef and sausage luncheon served by Mikeska Catering of Columbus.

County Agent Leroy J. Hajdik closed the meeting by inviting all farmers and others interested to remain for the annual rice production clinic in the Center beginning at 2:30 p.m. Hajdik said that increasing costs of production will be one of the key topics. The agent said that the rice producing area west of Houston has annually reported the highest costs of production anywhere in the rice belt and noted that the clinic will seek to set out areas where some "belt-tightening" might be in order.

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A large crowd was on hand Saturday evening in the Eagle Lake Community Center for the second annual Las Vegas Night and enjoyed a wide assortment of games. Play chips won during the evening were used for the purchase of valuable items in an auction held at 11 p.m.

The KC's also awarded prizes during the event including a giant 8-foot color television set to Raquel Aguirre of Houston; a Sony black and white TV set to Albert Pustejovsky of Eagle Lake; a pair of binoculars to Roland Hemphill of Eagle Lake; and a transistor radio to Lupe Villarreal of Eagle Lake.

Chuck Stephens, Grand Knight of Eagle Lake Council, extended thanks in behalf of the members for the wonderful support of the public and to the merchants and individuals in the community who contributed many of the prizes awarded during the occasion.

A full list of the donors is published in a thank you note on page 8 of this issue.



There are ways you can be sure your money goes where you want it to.

## BUZZIN' ABOUT TOWN

Friends will be glad to learn that Rice High School band director Floyd Spenrath successfully underwent surgery to correct a back problem in the Hermann Hospital in Houston last Thursday. He is in Room 5432 of the Hermann Hospital for those who might wish to drop him a card or letter. All hope for his continued recovery to good health.

Ernest and Virginia Uzzell have completed sale of their home on Melody Lane in the Meadowbrook Addition to T Lang and family and the Langs should be moving into their new home this week.

The Uzzells have moved to Hurst, Texas where he will be near his employment and also the families of their two sons, Billy and Ernie.

Citizens of the community regret to learn of the departure of the Uzzells from this community but wish them well in their new location.

Mr. Uzzell was manager and part-owner for many years of the Altair Dryer; and Mrs. Uzzell owned several businesses in this community. The Uzzell family was active in many community activities and in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Lang is an owner and manager of Eagle Tractor, Inc.

Attend Medical Conference Dr. and Mrs. Ray Thomas returned Sunday evening from a two-week Cardiology Conference given by Hoffman La Roche Laboratories in Ixtapa, Mexico. They reported having an enjoyable and interesting trip.

Recovering Nicely Friends were pleased to hear that Mrs. Emily Terrell is doing nicely following heart surgery last week Wednesday in Houston. A speedy and complete recovery is wished for her.

For those who wish to send a note of cheer or give her a call may do so to Methodist Hospital, Room 747, Fondren Brown Bldg., Houston, Texas 77030. She is allowed to have short visits and phone calls (790-5758) in the afternoons.

Breaks Foot Mrs. Charles (Kate) Spalinger had the misfortune of breaking her foot as she stumbled returning to her store across the street from the bank on Monday, January 12. She has been able to return to her duties at Spalinger Hardware with the aid of a walker. Friends wish her continued improvement.

Missing Some Hogs? Eagle Lake police department reports that two white hogs, one large and one small, have been running loose and rooting around in the area of the Eagle Lake Primary School. If you're missing some hogs, contact the local police.

The Pomo Indians of California made miniature horse-hair baskets—some no bigger than the nail on a man's little finger—to demonstrate their basket making skills.



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## Thomas Blaha Dies Of Choking Accident In Bay City

Thomas Edward Blaha, 42, of Alleyton, owner of Blaha Sandblasting Co., was the victim of a tragic accident in Bay City this week. Blaha reportedly became choked while eating Monday evening and he passed away in a Bay City hospital at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday morning, Jan. 27th.

Mrs. Blaha (Jane) is an anesthetist at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

Mr. Blaha had been working on a sandblasting job in the Bay City area.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. this Thursday, Jan. 29th at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Columbus with the Rev. Arnold Anders officiating. Interment will follow in Plum, Texas. Rosary will be recited at the Henneke Funeral Home in Columbus at 8 p.m. this Wed., Jan. 28th.

Serving as pallbearers will be Ross Minarcik, Russell

Minarcik, Rodney Blaha, Tim Catron, Greg Johnson, Bill Edwards and Gary Oppogard. Mr. Blaha was born June 21, 1938 in Plum, Texas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Blaha. He and Miss Jane Crozier, C.R.N.A., were united in marriage Jan. 28, 1967 in Houston.

Surviving are his wife, Jane; a son, Thomas Michael Blaha; a daughter, Laura Elizabeth Blaha; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Blaha; three brothers, Lawrence, Jim and Dan Blaha; and five sisters, Rose Minarcik, Judy Catron, Helen Blaha, Kate Reaux and Becky Cernock; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by a brother, Lambert Blaha.

He was a veteran and member of the American Legion.

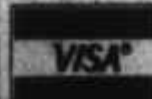
Deepest sympathy is extended to the family in their great loss.

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