

U.S. NO. 1
ALL PURPOSE
Russet Potatoes

5 LB. BAG

39¢

CRISP
Texas Broccoli

LARGE BUNCH

49¢

DELICIOUS
California Avocados

3.99¢

FOR

RIPE
Cherry Tomatoes

59¢

BASKET

LARGE SIZE GREEN
Cucumbers or, Bell Peppers

3.99¢

FOR

MED. **Yellow Onions** 4/.99

FRESH LEAFY **Green Spinach** 10 OZ. PKG. .89

U.S. NO. 1 PREMIUM **Russet Potatoes** 5 LB. BAG 3/.99

REGULAR OR SPICY FRESH **Alfalfa Sprouts** PKG. .69

LARGE CALIFORNIA **Minneola Tangelos** LB. .49

JUICY CALIFORNIA **Tart Lemons** 5/.99

FRESH **KY Beans** LB. .79

CELLO PACK, RED **Radishes** 6 OZ. PKG. 3/.99

ASSORTED MIXTURE **Wild Birdseed** 5 LB. BAG \$1.49

ASSORTED FLAVORS
Refreshing Pepsi Cola

6 PACK 12 OZ. CANS

\$1.49

REGULAR
Premium Schaefer Beer

12 PACK 12 OZ. CANS

\$3.49

WHITE OR WHEAT
Roman Meal Light Bread

16 OZ. LOAF

89¢

SPARKLING
Paul Masson Wines

1.5 LTR. BOTTLE

\$3.29

Eagle Lake Headlight

Thursday, January 23, 1986
USPS 163-760
Vol. 82, No. 42
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434
(409) 234-6521
32 CENTS PER COPY
(30 CENTS PLUS TAX)

FFA sale Saturday with most and best animals to be shown

Saturday is the big day for the annual Rice FFA Show and Sale but in addition to the usual "worries" faced by students and others associated with the chapter, actually, the sale is the culmination of six months of work on the part of the students. During that time chapter members have nurtured their animals through their educational paces, learning first hand what it takes to keep animals healthy and saleable as well as earning a grade for their school records.

This year, as in recent years, the last lesson may be the hardest to swallow, since the ever-punching economy could hold some prices below the profit level. Students hope the care and feeding of the animals ends at sale time with a price high enough to cover costs and perhaps provide a little profit after all that's what the cattle business is supposed to be all about.

No Pass, No Play effect

But since this is the first year students have labored under the new "No pass, No play" rule, they also have to be concerned with

their grade in order to participate in the show. Any student who received a failing grade in any subject during the third six-week period which ended January 16 won't be able to compete in the show portion of the weekend. Under arrangements approved by the RCISD school board last year, animals owned by such students can be sold if the student can make arrangements for someone else to bring it into the sale ring Saturday afternoon.

Grades don't have to be reported until late this week so until that time it won't be known how many students will lose privileges. While the number of ag students with at least one failing grade has declined since the first semester, at the mid-point of the grading period that ended last Friday, 31 of approximately 114 students had a failing grade.

Veteran ag instructor Ronel Roberts, groping for something positive to say about the no pass rule, commented that he at least "hoped students realize what they have to do so more can participate next time."

Most animals

pulling the irons out of the fire to raise even more purchase money. "If it wasn't for (Grahamm and) United Buyers, a lot of kids would be hurting."

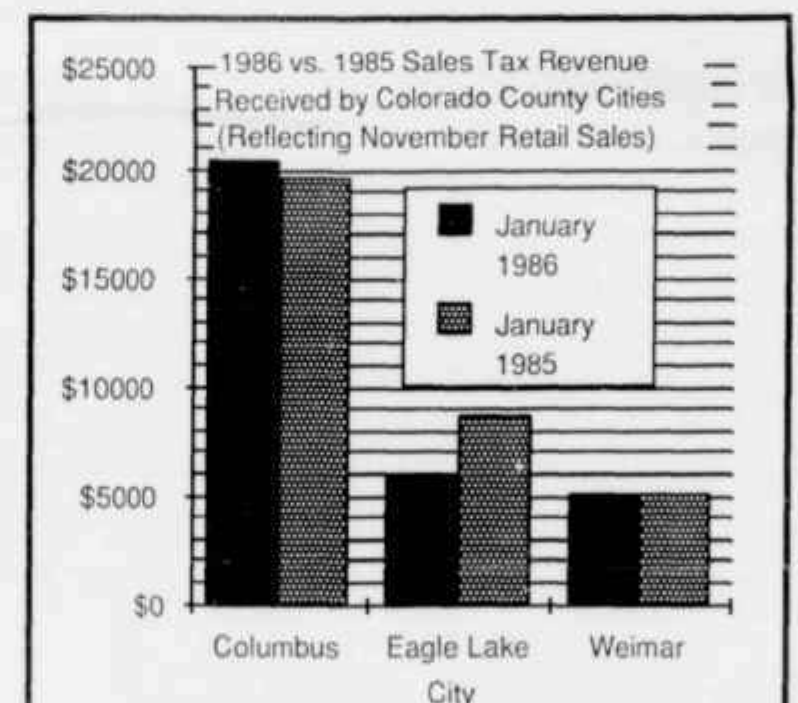
Although United Buyers has been seeking donations for several weeks, it will accept contributions through Friday. Earlier this month Grahamm said he wouldn't turn any money down on Saturday morning either.

The schedule

The weekend will start just after school on Friday afternoon when students check their lambs, swine and rabbits for the weigh-in. About 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning the weigh-in period for steers and heifers will begin.

Judging will begin Saturday morning about 7 a.m. Lambs and rabbits are on the schedule first, followed by swine, heifers and finally steers.

At 8 a.m. Saturday the annual FFA queen trail ride begins at the Sandy Creek Drive In. Leslie Heard is the chapter representative in charge of the trail ride, with the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club the sponsoring organization. Students competing for queen can



City faces plummet of local sales tax revenues

The money that the City of Eagle Lake receives from the state sales tax, which local shoppers pay when they make an in-town purchase, continued its precipitous decline this month, according to figures released last week.

The city receives one cent for every 5-1/8 cents of tax paid. Figures show that sales in November, reported by December 20, with the city's portion reduced in January, has declined 33.2 percent. Last month the decline was about 21 percent.

However, city manager Robert Klockman and city council, when they planned the city's budget for the 12-month operating period that ends March 31, 1986, felt such revenues would decrease about 10 percent. So far, 10 months into that period and including the deep decrease in checks received the past two months, the revenues have averaged a 9 percent decline.

Officially no one speculated about the local decreases outside the fact that the gravel industry and farm pictures are not bright. However, Eagle Tractor, the largest construction equipment dealer in the Southwest before they were forced to sell the franchise, no longer contributes to the sales tax picture. Sales tax is charged on construction equipment but not on agricultural equipment sales.

Local officials are not optimistic that next month's check, reflecting December sales, will be any better. Although the Chamber of Commerce sponsored the "Shop Eagle Lake First" promotion last month in an effort to increase local shopping, there is no clear reading whether that increased local business. One merchant said this was his worst Christmas sales season ever, while another commented positively about it.

In his news release about the statewide tax picture, Texas comptroller Bob Bullock said "Statewide payments (of the city's portion of the tax) are up three percent over last January's checks. However, a short holiday period since Thanksgiving and an early cut off in processing tax returns may account for some cities showing lower payments," Bullock said.

The check the city received last week was for \$5,773 while a year ago the check was for \$8,647. Columbus received a check for \$20,319, a 3.8 percent increase compared to last year's check for \$19,574. Weimar received \$5,012 compared to last year's \$5,159.

In Sealy, their check was for \$20,665, a 4.3 percent increase over last January, and in Wharton County, El Campo's check was for \$42,729, down 2.5 percent and Wharton's check was for \$28,439, down 4.2 percent.

Local riders to join celebration

Would you wear buckskins and mount a horse to ride around Colorado County this weekend to officially kick-off the local portion of the Texas Sesquicentennial birthday celebration?

A good number of Colorado Countyans plan to do just that, and in Eagle Lake, it might be quite a crowd.

Friday and Saturday are the two days picked to start the local celebrations, making the coming weekend a busy one.

Larry Rodgers (not Emie as reported to the Headlight for last week's story), will join up with Ross Oberhaus and Sam Meitner in Columbus at the courthouse on Saturday morning for 11 a.m. ceremonies that will provide a colorful and educational spectacle for the crowd. Each community in the county will be represented by riders, and each community will be given an official state sesquicentennial flag to add to the United States and Texas flags their riders will be carrying. The sesquicentennial flag designates each area as an official sesquicentennial community.

Once all riders are introduced and given their flags, they will parade around the courthouse square one time, then head off to each town.

The Eagle Lake men will ride with the Alleyton representatives to that community for local ceremonies, then, then head off to Eagle Lake. Because such a trip would take about half a day on horseback, the riders will dismount outside of Alleyton and load the horses in a trailer for the trip to Eagle Lake.

When they get to the Harold Thomas farm headquarters near here, expected to be about 2 p.m., they will remount and be joined by any local rider who would like to trail along.

The group is expected about 3 p.m. at the Eagle Lake municipal building for short local ceremonies. Because that is the same day as the annual FFA Show and Sale at Rice High School, local sesquicentennial committee members don't expect a large crowd.

Mayor Elmer Struss has been asked to make a speech, and local scouts have been asked to

participate. The birthday flag will be raised.

Friday night costume ball

Prior to Saturday's ceremonies, an official county sesquicentennial "Historical Costume" ball is scheduled from 8 p.m. to midnight at the KC Hall near Columbus. Costumes are not required, but if participants want to wear them they can depict anything from the past 150 years of statehood and don't have to represent clothing worn 150 years ago.

Tickets are \$5 per person are on sale at the First National Bank, the Garwood Rice office and at Sheridan Lumber.

Van Nort files for mayor; county incumbents have challengers

City, county candidate round-up

Local election activity picked up this week with a candidate for Mayor of Eagle Lake announcing his bid for the position, and it is likely that long-time precinct four commissioner Bill Sales will have competition.

As for the Rice school district, board president Steve Balan said Monday night that he will not run again. John Matthews of Eagle Lake said this week he plans to file for that seat. The only other position on the school board to be voted on this year is held by Natalie Dupré of Sheridan who was elected last year to fill a one year unexpired term. She has not made an announcement on whether she will run again.

In the city, Roy Van Nort, a 10-year veteran as an elected Eagle Lake councilman, filed his papers Monday morning for mayor. He filed shortly after the office opened on the first day of the filing period. By late Tuesday afternoon no other candidates had filed. The seat held by first term councilman Vic Cornum also is up for election, and since Van Nort has announced for mayor, his council seat will be available.

Cornum said he more than likely will run again.

In the county races, Paul Causey of Eagle Lake will become a candidate for the precinct four commissioner's seat held for more than two decades by Stiles. Causey has discussed filing procedures with county Democratic chairman Reggie Briscoe in Sheridan, and plans to file a petition asking his name to be placed on the ballot. That procedure means Causey will not need to pay the \$600 filing fee. "That is neither an unusual or new procedure," Briscoe said. "It is

Aerosol fire extinguisher sales illegal, state says

The fire extinguishers offered for sale here in the last several weeks by a door-to-door traveling salesman are not legal in the state of Texas, according to city manager Robert Klockman and city fire marshal Glen Locklier, who were informed about the sales by the state fire marshal's office.

Several weeks ago a salesman came into the Headlight office demonstrating the product by lighting a small fire and quickly extinguishing it with the spray can. He said it was non-toxic and sprayed it into his face and mouth. Klockman said there is a question about the toxicity of the product. The can, Klockman said, indicates it was analyzed by a laboratory in another state. Klockman said the state fire marshal's office told him the product must be approved by a state-approved laboratory before officials will consider allowing it to be sold in Texas.

The fire marshal's office said the can should be disposed of, but since it is an aerosol, it must not be thrown in the trash picked up by local collection crews. Locklier said the can should be taken to the Eagle Lake fire station for disposition.

Employee of the Year

Lucille Perry Lange was named Tuesday night by the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce as the Employee of the Year. The chamber held its annual banquet at the community center with more than 200 attending. After receiving the award, Mrs. Lange thanked the chamber and a-audience while immediate past-president Don Bandy held the microphone. See story on Page 6.

Continued on Page 8