

LARGE SLICING SIZE

Red Ripe Tomatoes

\$2.19

LBS FOR

FIRST OF THE SEASON

New Crop Asparagus

\$1.00

LB

MINIMAX MEANS MORE...QUALITY

FRESH FIRM Green Cabbage \$5.19 LBS FOR	FRESH TENDER Zucchini Squash \$2.19 LBS FOR	CHILEAN WHITE Seedless Grapes \$1.19 LB
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TASTY TENDER Carrots 1 LB. PKGS. 3/51	LARGE JUICY CALIFORNIA Minneola Tangelos 10 OZ. PKG. .79	YOUR CHOICE, CALIFORNIA RED OR LONG White Potatoes 10 OZ. PKG. .39
FRESH GREEN Cucumbers 3/51	LEAFY Green Spinach 10 OZ. PKG. .79	FRESH COUNTRY Jalapeno Peppers 10 OZ. PKG. \$1.00
Bell Peppers 3/51	SLICING SIZE White Onions LBS 2/51	Beansprouts 10 OZ. PKG. \$1.00

ASSORTED FLAVORS

Refreshing Coca-Cola

\$1.19

2 LITER BOTTLE

REGULAR OR LIGHT

Old Milwaukee Beer

\$3.79

12 PACK 12 OZ. CANS

COUNTRY HEARTH

Butter Top White or Wheat Bread

49¢

24 OZ. LOAF

YOUR CHOICE

Sparkling Gallo Wines

\$3.29

1.5 LITER BOTTLES

SUBSCRIBER NOTE:

Columbus subscribers to The Headlight did not receive their copies of last week's newspaper until after the weekend, at least five days after the papers were mailed about midday last Wednesday. Again we ask your patience. We once again contacted U.S. Postal Service officials at the Houston Sectional Center, and have written the South Texas Manager of the Postal Service asking not for an explanation but for better service.

A month ago we talked with the South Texas manager in person, and asked him to investigate the possibility of overnight mail service to points in Colorado County, not just for the newspaper, but for all businesses in the county. The problem stems from all points north of Interstate 10 and west of Sealy being served through the Austin sectional center, and all points south of the Interstate served through Houston.

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Six arrested in major drug ring here

\$250,000 in bonds set for 10 'grass,' cocaine charges

Police work months to make 'St. Valentine's Day Bust'

A very successful undercover investigation into illegal drug dealings in the City of Eagle Lake resulted last Friday in the arrest of six Eagle Lake men. Police dubbed the operation the 'St. Valentine's Day arrests.'

The joint investigation was directed by Police Chief Ben Johnson of the Eagle Lake Police Department, and Sheriff Jim Broussard of Colorado County, and resulted in ten felony charges being filed against the six. They are:

•Herrell Montgomery Jr., 34, charged with three counts of delivery of marijuana, with a total

bond of \$75,000;
•Kenneth Wayne Coats, 26, charged with two counts of delivery of a controlled substance (cocaine) with a total bond of \$50,000;
•Dexter Black, 28, charged with delivery of marijuana, one count, bond \$25,000;
•Larry Richardson, 19, charged with delivery of marijuana, bond \$25,000;
•Jimmy Hurd, 35, charged with delivery of a controlled substance (cocaine), bond \$25,000, and;
•Ray Charles Coleman, 28, charged with delivery of a controlled substance (cocaine), bond \$25,000.

arrests would be made.

The investigation was approved by Eagle Lake Mayor Elmer Struss and city council, upon recommendation of city manager Robert Klockman, with other resources

from the sheriff's department.

The arrests last Friday afternoon were made by officers of the Eagle Lake Police Department, officers from the Colorado County Sheriff's Department, Texas

Ranger Ray Nutt, and Texas Game Wardens Lt. Sam Center and officer Buddy Mills. Precinct 8 Justice of the Peace Mary Lou Szymanski issued the arrest warrants and set the bonds.

Bond election to be called too

Competition added to mayor race here

There now are two candidates for mayor and three candidates for the two city council seats that will be filled when Eagle Lake voters go to the polls on April 5th.

It appears certain voters also will be asked to decide whether the city should expand the airport runway, and whether streets will be improved, but council has not yet called that election. It is waiting on the proper paper work from bond attorneys. Council has indicated it will give voters two propositions: One will be for \$250,000 for the airport work and the other for \$350,000 for streets and drainage.

Although council will ask for the \$250,000 to purchase land for a longer airport runway, build the approximately 1,500-foot extension, pave the existing runway and other minor improvements, council is hoping as much as half of that amount will come from other sources, saving taxpayers money.

Three-way mayor's race?

Last Wednesday, Larry Powers filed papers at city hall becoming the second candidate for mayor. Long-time councilman Roy D. Van Nort was the first candidate to file.

Actually, the race could be considered a three-way event.

Mayor Elmer Struss has repeatedly said he did not want the job again, and would not campaign for it. But he has said that if he was elected as a write-in candidate, he would accept the job. "I don't believe anyone would turn down a mandate like that," he said Monday afternoon.

Several citizens have urged Struss to file again, and have discussed the idea of advertising for him at a write-in candidate. Struss again said Monday he would not actively seek the position.

Powers is a partner in the Powers family farming operation, and is an Eagle Lake native. He and his wife Claudette have three children.

Hollub files for council

Case Hollub, a vice president at the First National Bank, filed as a council candidate earlier this month. Peggy Byrn and incumbent Vic Corman are the other candidates. The seats to be

filled currently are held by Van Nort and Corman.

Wednesday deadline
The deadline to file as a candidate for council or mayor is 5 p.m. this Wednesday, Feb. 19.

December retail sales here increase 12.7%

Retail sales here in December increased 12.7 percent according to figures released last week by the state office responsible for collecting sales taxes.

The city's share of the tax, \$24,498.40 was nearly \$3,000 more than its share last year. Surprisingly, Columbus retail sale decreased in December, going down a little more than \$1,000 to \$41,365.24. Weinman sale like sales in Eagle Lake also were up. That city received \$19,798.48.

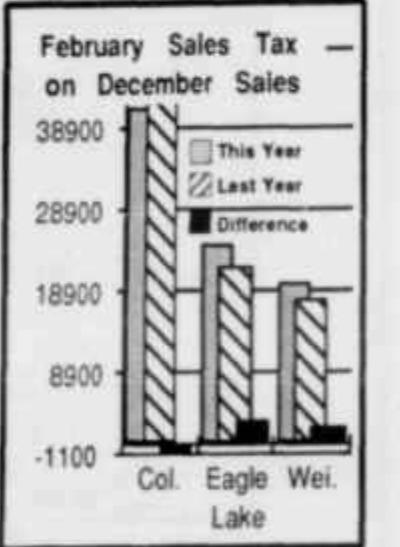
The reason for the Eagle Lake increase, the first in ten months here, can't be pinpointed exactly, but Chamber of Commerce officials are delighted with the positive figure.

The "Shop Eagle Lake First" promotion sponsored by the Chamber last December must have been responsible for at least some of that increase, officials said. "We don't know for a fact that the SELF promotion is totally responsible, but we do know it created a strong awareness of our financial situation in Eagle Lake and a lot of people probably did think more about shopping at home," said Jeff Fraka, the chamber board member who originated the idea.

After the promotion was completed last December officials were hoping the retail sales figures for the community would show improvement, to give them some idea whether the rather expensive promotion had any effect at all. Fraka said "Merchants told us a lot of people did attempt to shop here and they

found out there are a lot more items available here so they didn't have to go to Houston to shop." He said the chamber is looking forward to having this program again next year, and in fact has scheduled a committee meeting next week to begin discussing it. Immediate past president Don Bandy added his comments: "Although it is impossible to state the (sales) increase was totally a result of Operation Self, I believe it was a positive factor in the higher sales figures."

Becky Anderson, current chamber president, agreed, and added that she hoped it shows chamber members, and other businesses, just how successful something can be when the community joins together to help itself.



LCRA board meets Thursday

Rice water rates stay same for '86—if OK'd

Irrigation water rates charged by the Lower Colorado River Authority should be unchanged this year, according to the agenda posted for the LCRA board meeting this Thursday, February 20. The meeting is scheduled in Austin.

The recommendation from LCRA's Steve Bartley, to the Rates and Regulatory Committee, is to leave the rates unchanged from 1985 said the department has reviewed the water division operating results for the test period ended Oct. 31, 1985.

"These results indicate that the water division operated at an overall acceptable level based on both rate of return and cash flow analysis (as shown on a chart in the agenda, reprinted on Page 2 of this issue)."

"As a result of this analysis and conversations with Bill West (water division manager) and David Freeman (new general manager), our recommendation is to continue to charge the water rates approved by the Board in 1985."

The memo to the board went on to say "These rates would be subject to additional study in connection with Mr. Freeman's comprehensive water activities review."

Bruce Hicks, manager of LCRA's Lakeside Water Division, met in Eagle Lake Friday morning to discuss water rates with the local farmer-advisory committee, and said afterward that he expects the rates to follow 1985 price.

Also on the same Thursday LCRA agenda, a contract was proposed to the board concerning an

interim agreement between LCRA and the privately owned Garwood Irrigation Co.

The board will be asked to approve an interim agreement since "the negotiation of a new contract (to supply water to Garwood) has not been completed in time for the 1986 irrigation season."

According to the LCRA statement of operating results for the water division for the year ending October 31, 1985, the Lakeside Water division operated with revenues of \$1,894 million, generating a surplus of \$209,940, while the Gulf Coast Water Division operated on revenues of \$1,92 million, creating a deficit of \$172,364.

There were 23,177 acres watered by the Lakeside division for the first crop in 1985, and 24,275 acres watered in the Gulf Coast division.

Another category on the same sheet, called Other Water, indicated LCRA's water division generated \$1.7 million in revenues. That category created a surplus of \$1.38 million.

Total LCRA water operations had revenues of \$5.5 million and a surplus of \$1.4 million. Complete operating statement on Page 2.

Water rates charged for the first crop in the Lakeside Division last year were \$52.50 an acre, and in the Gulf Coast division the charge was \$44.00 an acre. The second crop watering rate from Lakeside and from Gulf Coast was \$20 an acre. See Page Two for the complete 1985 Rate Schedule, including rates for water to other customers.

Garwood Irrigation Co., LCRA negotiating long-term water pact

"During the past year LCRA and Garwood (Irrigation Company) have been actively pursuing a long term contract to more accurately reflect their respective water rights and over-the-years developed working relationship," according to an inter-office memorandum from W. E. West Jr., LCRA's water division manager, to the LCRA board of directors.

Because negotiations on such a contract are not complete, West is recommending the board approve, at its meeting this Thursday in Austin, an interim agreement that "provides for a temporary arrangement and a commitment to establish the long desired water contract between LCRA and Garwood."

According to the first page of that agreement, Garwood irrigation holds the right to divert and use 168,000 acre-feet per year of Colorado River water for irrigation, with a priority date of Nov. 1, 1900, as reflected in the final determination entered by the Texas Water Commission on July 29, 1985. LCRA hold rights to the Highland Lakes, and other rights to use the waters of the Colorado River and its tributaries downstream of the lakes.

The agreement also said that LCRA, Lakeside Irrigation Co., and Gulf Coast Water Co. entered into an agreement in 1937 regarding their respective water rights. LCRA has since purchased Lakeside and Gulf Coast water companies.

Those agreements basically honored those respective senior water rights created when the companies were formed, and LCRA offered additional sources of water supply from its reservoir storage in the lakes.

West said in his memo to the board that LCRA and Garwood are negotiating to reflect their respective water rights and the working relationships developed over the years. "Due to many external factors associated with water rights

on the Colorado River, the negotiation of a new contract has not been completed in time for the 1986 irrigation season."

There was no indication in the board agenda as to the effect such a contract, or the lack of a permanent one, would have on future water operations in the Garwood rice production areas.

Despite economy, outlook, local rice production may remain unchanged

Despite sour economic predictions, and questions about the future of the federal farm program, farmers in the Eagle Lake area served by the Lakeside Water Division of LCRA will be planting about the same number of acres in 1986 as they planned in 1985.

Friday afternoon, Lakeside division manager Bruce Hicks said they anticipate watering approximately the same number of acres this year, depending on the farm program.

Last year, the division watered 21,177 acres for first crop rice production. Of those, 1,933 acres fall in the "water rights" category. That acreage qualifies for special rights to Colorado River water since they were a part of the system when Lakeside Irrigation Co. was first formed. The remaining 21,244 acres are watered through modern LCRA agreements.

The first crop water charge for the older acreage is \$1 less per acre than for the "newer" 21,244 acres.

Postmaster Robert S. Martin retiring Feb. 28; 50 years in Postal Service

Robert Samuel Martin, postmaster at Eagle Lake, has announced his retirement from the U.S. Postal Service, after nearly 50 years in the post office.

The Eagle Lake native, who celebrates his 71st birthday this Saturday, said Tuesday that after he made up his mind last week to retire, and told his superiors in Houston, he was ready to go home the next day.

Monday, a supervisor from the postal service will be in Eagle Lake to work with Mr. Martin during his last week on active service, then will remain at the post office here as the postmaster in charge, until a permanent postmaster is named. Martin said that sometimes takes three to six months. The new postmaster will be appointed from current postal

service employees. The position no longer is a political appointment.

Postal officials in Houston apparently compared Martin's service with the current sesquicentennial celebration for the state of Texas. The retiring postmaster said that in early November, fifty years ago, he

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Vinnau changes one telephone number

The telephone line that customers of W.A. Vinnau and Sons, Inc., used to call Sealy toll-free has been taken out of service due to increasing cost of that service, according to Henry A. Divin, Eagle Lake manager.

Divin, in a note to customers, said he hopes there is no inconvenience created by that service change and wants customers to understand they can be adequately helped by the Eagle Lake staff. The Sealy office did add another local line there, 885-7373. The Eagle Lake office number, 234-5312, remains unchanged. Also the other Sealy numbers, 885-3549, and the 713-391-3949 (a Houston line), remain unchanged.