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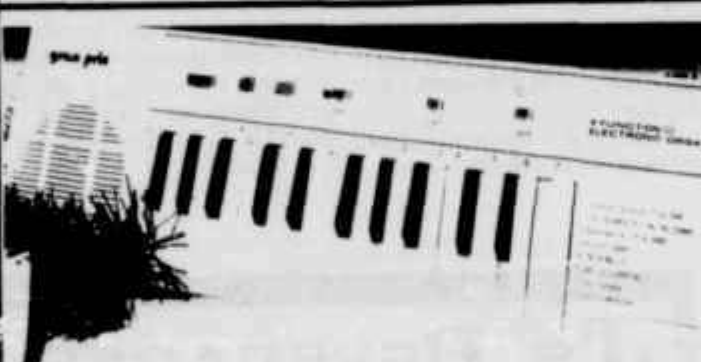
Delicious Holiday Treats for Family & Friends



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Chocolate Covered
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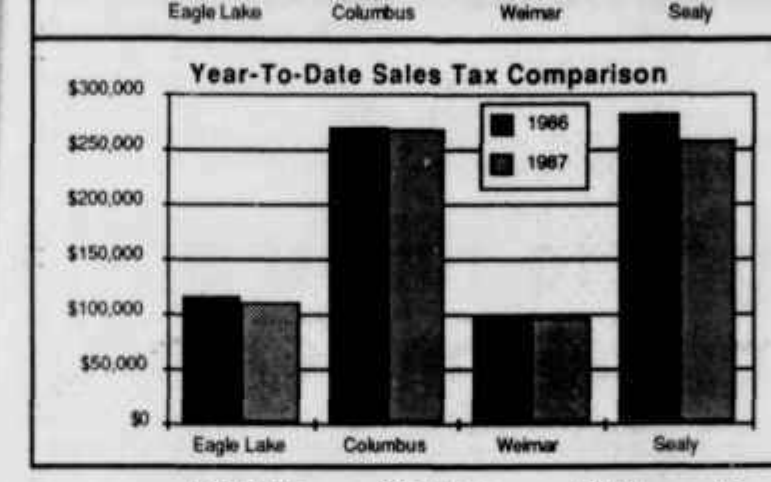
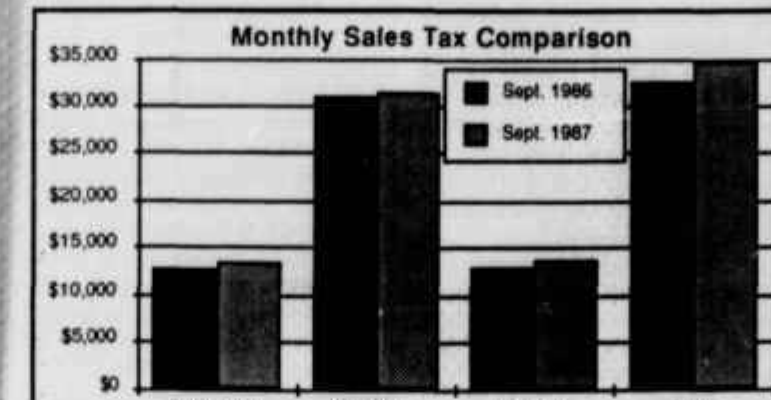
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Flasher Bulbs Included
Set of 30 Lights. Your Choice of All Color Bulbs, or Multi-
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23
Days
Until
Christmas

Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce
**Christmas
Shoppers' Guide**
in this issue

Eagle Lake Headlight

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City	September 1987	September 1986	Actual	% Diff.
Eagle Lake	\$13,386.79	\$12,812.63	\$574.16	4.48
Columbus	\$31,309.40	\$30,853.94	\$455.46	1.48
Weimar	\$13,581.29	\$12,992.68	\$588.61	4.53
Sealy	\$34,546.35	\$32,672.65	\$1,873.70	5.73

City	Year-To-Date 1987	Year-To-Date 1986	Actual	% Diff.
Eagle Lake	\$109,171.54	\$114,364.40	(\$5,192.86)	-4.54
Columbus	\$266,761.17	\$269,047.09	(\$2,285.92)	-0.85
Weimar	\$95,626.68	\$99,404.78	(\$3,778.10)	-3.80
Sealy	\$257,250.56	\$280,442.82	(\$23,192.26)	-8.27

Retail sales up for month, down for year

The retail sales picture brightened here in September, according to November's sales tax report. That report is based on September sales reported to the state by October 20. Comparing September sales this year with September of 1986, it shows shoppers spent 4.48 percent more on taxable goods. However for the eleven months of 1987, overall taxable retail sales are down 4.54 percent.

— a fact that should be no surprise. If sales continue to increase in the last quarter of the year, that would be a pleasant and welcome surprise. Looking at the charts, the three cities of Colorado County each are showing sales increases for the monthly report with each also showing declines for the year. Sealy also shows a monthly increase and a yearly decline.

newsbriefs

White Cloud bake sale Saturday

White Cloud Baptist Church is having a bake sale this Saturday, December 5 in front of Wilcox Minimax. Delicious desserts will be sold beginning at 8 a.m. until all are gone.

'Twinkle II' program this Sunday

The Children's Community Choir will present their Christmas program, "Twinkle II" this Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

Order Christmas fruitcakes now

Your still have time to order your Christmas fruitcakes from the Pilot Club. Eilenberger cakes are moist and rich in flavor and you can enjoy yours throughout the holidays. You may choose from apple for \$10.95, fruit for \$10.75, pecan for \$10.50 or apricot for \$11.75. The last day to order for Christmas delivery is this Friday, December 4. So, please place your order now with any Pilot member or by calling Lucille Perry at 234-2640, Doris Thomas at 234-2619 or Dorothy Kohleffel at 234-2834.

College bound student workshop

Norton Shifflet, Rice High School academic counselor, will present a financial aid workshop on Thursday, December 17 for interested parents of college bound high school seniors. Parents of junior class students also are welcome to attend. This meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Rice High School library.

St. Mary's blood drive Saturday

The Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Catholic Church will be sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive will be set up in St. Mary's Church hall in Nada and anyone wishing to donate may make an appointment by calling Vic Hyeck at 758-3300 or 758-3572 or drop by between the hours mentioned above. Members of the community are invited to participate.

Retired Teachers to meet Monday

The next meeting of Retired Teachers will take place in Weimar on December 7 at the Country Inn. This also will be the Christmas party. Each member will bring a wrapped gift marked boy or girl to give to a needy child. The gifts will be taken to the Children's Protective Service. Also members are asked to write down their volunteer hours served since March 1, 1987 and estimated hours until March 1, 1988. Mrs. Dorothy Fitzgerald will compile total hours to send to the state.

Christmas activities pick up this week

Christmas lighting ceremonies will begin at 5 p.m. this Thursday, December 3 with the Twinkle II cast singing Christmas carols on the square. The Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club have had the Christmas lights strung in the trees surrounding the Municipal Building and the lights will be turned on during the ceremonies Thursday evening.

Santa Claus will make his official visit to Eagle Lake on Saturday, December 12 in conjunction with the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

Mail-Mania Thursday

Mail-Mania will be held at the Community Center from 6-9 p.m. tonight, December 3. Most boxes will be offering door prizes as well as savings on local holiday gifts. The

public is invited and there is no admission fee nor is any purchase required. Merchants participating include: Kevin's Court Apartments, Eagle Trailer Parts, Wilcox Minimax (free ice cream and Cokes), Gifts of Distinction, The Custom Shoppe, creative expressions, The Gold Center, Matters, the Heart, Lake Lumber Co. Inc., Jewelry by Candy, Johnny's Sport Shop, The Farris 1912, Canaris Nursery and Garden Center, Daniels Designs, Anna Lee's Kitchen, Eagle Lake Farm and Home Supply, Harold Raabe Repair Service, S&W Parts Co., Eagle Lake Hair and Fitness Center, Sportsman's Restaurant (fajitas), JoAnn's Dept. Store, Kid's Corner and Grown Ups Too, Duncan and Son, Eagle Lake Sewing Center, Lake Motors Inc., Laker Printing, Struss Auto Supply, Eagle

Lake Drugstore, Dairy Queen (hot dogs and nachos), Design III. Sign up for parade now. The sixth annual Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade will be held in downtown Eagle Lake on Saturday, December 12 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and the official visit from Santa Claus from 2-4 p.m.

3-county undercover operation concludes

Man hangs self in city cell after drug arrest

A three-month, undercover investigation — that involved the cooperation of more than 10 law enforcement agencies — into illegal drug dealing ended early Tuesday morning with nearly 20 arrests.

One of the arrests in Eagle Lake turned into tragedy when city police here found Billy Ray Tillman, 24, dead in his holding cell at the police station. The apparent suicide occurred between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. Tuesday morning, nearly 12 hours after he was arrested on a charge of selling cocaine.

Texas Ranger Ray Nutt, called to investigate the death, said Tillman tore strips of fabric from at least two shirts, and used a thin sock as well as lace from tennis shoes, to make a rope-like string. The rope was an intricate construction that police said must have taken most of the night to create.

Police reports and Ranger Nutt said an Eagle Lake police officer checked on Tillman each hour. Chief Ben Johnson said that when officer Jay Reeves checked on him at 5 a.m., Tillman was talking and did not appear disturbed.

But, when Reeves returned to check on him at 6 a.m., he found Tillman hanging from the bars that make up the front wall of the cell. The other three walls, and the ceiling, are solid plaster.

When Reeves found Tillman, he immediately contacted chief Johnson at home. Nutt said Johnson contacted him at his home in Columbus about 6:10 a.m.

Suicide ruled

The ranger immediately went to the Eagle Lake police department, and was there when justice of the peace Mary Lou Seymanski conducted an inquest and ruled that the death was a suicide. She ordered the body sent to the Harris County Morgue for an autopsy. Dulany Funeral Home was called and transported the body to Houston about 8:30 a.m. During the morning investigation the scene was photographed and then the inquest was delayed for an hour while video tape recording equipment was borrowed from the Brookshire Police Department and brought to the scene to make a complete visual record of the evidence.

One question apparently remains unanswered, officials said. They were not certain where Tillman obtained all of the materials he used to make the rope. A photograph of him taken when he was booked into the cell Monday night shows he was wearing only a colored undershirt. In the cell, another photograph shows him wearing a tunnel-looking shirt. The rope was mostly made of a heavy material shirt that was white or off-white. Although

no one remembers Tillman wearing such a shirt, officers said they do remember he was wearing other clothing tied around his waist when he was arrested. A search of the holding cell also shows that Tillman tore several strips in a woolen blanket on the cell bunk, but did not use them.

Tillman was arrested about 5:45 p.m. Monday by Eagle Lake officer Brad Murray at the corner of Church and Lake streets. Chief Johnson, coordinating undercover drug investigations for the past several months with agencies in the two other counties, had called Tillman Monday afternoon at his job on a ranch west of the railroad wrecking yard on 90-A. Although he was unaware of why police wanted to talk to him, he was walking to the police station from his home to find out. Johnson said the arrest was based on the fact that an undercover officer had purchased 18 of a gram of cocaine from Tillman. Tillman was to have been arraigned Tuesday in Columbus on a burglary indictment handed up recently by a Colorado County grand jury.

Overall investigation. All in all, undercover officers made more than 50 illegal drug purchases in the investigation that began last summer. While the undercover work has been completed, officers said they expect more arrests to be made, based on information gathered. Police spent more than \$12,000 for out-of-pocket expenses — including purchasing cocaine and marijuana. Tillman was the only arrest announced in Eagle Lake.

In Columbus, a man and two women were arrested Monday night, and in Weimar, two men were arrested Sunday.

Arrested in Columbus were Thomas Perkins, 35, of the 900 block of Bonham was arrested for delivery of a controlled substance (sales of cocaine), Sheila Carey in her 30s, was arrested for sales of marijuana and Karen Latham, also in her 30s, was arrested for possession of marijuana. During one of those arrests, police confiscated a large amount of marijuana and some guns.

In Weimar, James Henry and Brian Henry were arrested at their residences for delivery of a controlled substance.

In Austin and Waller Counties, police made more than a dozen arrests, also associated with the undercover operation.

Six being considered for city manager position

The list of applicants for Eagle Lake city manager has been narrowed to six names. After city manager Robert Klockman resigned from office this fall, more than 30 men and women sent their resumes to the city, including an unconfirmed report that three local people applied.

Included in the final list of six candidates is Lucille J. Perry, who is acting city manager and who has served here as city secretary. Her resume did not list her age.

Others who still are being considered are: •Paul Stewart Bounds, of Fort Worth, who has been director of public works for the City of White Settlement since October of 1983. He will be 40 on December 4.

•Harold Wayne Cheek, 34, of Baytown, who has been administrative assistant in the Baytown Public Works Department since January 1984.

•Natalie Flores-Kelly of Shendandoh, Texas. She

has been city manager of the City of Shendandoh since October of 1985 and has held other positions in the City of Dallas. Her age was not listed on her resume.

•Mark H. Neff, 36, of Benbrook, Texas, who has been general manager of a home owners association and country club in Granbury, Texas since February 1986. Prior to that, his resume says that from 1978 to 1984 he was city manager of Fort Stockton.

•Jack Swanson, 39, of El Campo, where he is superintendent of utilities.

The city recently hired Bill Langford as a consultant to review the many applications, check references, and recommend the top five candidates to city Council met Monday night in a workshop session and approved the finalists. A public announcement has not been made as to when the city plans to narrow the list further.

In Columbus, council there is expected to name a new city manager this Thursday night.

Three county chase leads to teen's arrest

More than a half-dozen police agencies in Colorado, Austin and Fayette counties — and a pack of bloodhounds from the Department of Public Safety — were involved Friday night in the chase of a vehicle from Sealy to La Grange and back.

As it turns out, the driver of the vehicle was a 16-year-old juvenile boy from Austin who had stolen a car in Angleton. The chase began after the boy stopped for fuel at a service station along the interstate in Austin County but drove off around 8 p.m. without paying.

Before the dogs tracked him down about midnight in a rice field along Beckendorf Road south of I-10, the boy led police along the highway at speeds of about 90 to 100 miles an hour, avoided three roadblocks, and performed some miraculous driving feats.

Police continued the chase until

the boy was captured, because the persistent evasion led them to believe that perhaps the youth was involved in more than theft of services. "We just didn't know," one officer said Monday.

The juvenile was arrested and charged in Austin County, and was incarcerated in the juvenile holding facility in Fort Bend County.

Continued on Page Twelve