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1990 Geo Metro Auto, air, FM!	\$6,995
1990 Chevy Corsica LT	\$7,995
1990 Olds Calais SL	\$12,495
1987 Suburban 1/2 Ton Stick Unit!	\$11,595
1986 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham Local Car!	\$7,995
1985 Chevy 1/2-Ton Pickup Clean!	\$5,595
1984 Chevy Silverado 1/2 Ton Pickup Extra Nice!	\$4,995
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One arrested on drug charges

Sunday, Jan. 13, Colorado County Sheriff's Deputy Leonard Peters and Deputy Steve Scott were patrolling Old Altair Road when they observed a vehicle parked at an angle eastbound on the wrong side of the road, blocking the westbound traffic lane in front of the yellow building known as "Dee". A black male subject was standing on the passenger side of the vehicle with

his head in the open front passenger window. The Sheriff's office had received numerous tips that "Dee" was one of the many places where crack cocaine is being sold. The subject seen at this location is a known drug offender having been released on bond less than a month ago for a drug possession charge.

The subject gave the deputies permission to search him and he began emptying the contents of his pockets onto the hood of the vehicle. One of the deputies noticed an object in the subject's coat pocket. The subject stated that it was only his "chap-stick".

(See Drug arrest, Page 11)

Commissioners

Continued from Page 1

\$75,211 and \$81,750 respectively. Morrison was awarded the bid for both trucks with a reservation on the trade-in of Precinct 4's used truck. Commissioner "Sonny" Spaniel asked that he be allowed to contact officials with the City of Eagle Lake to find out if they wanted to purchase it. The only bid submitted for the six different herbicides and surfactants the county uses was from Wilbur-Ellis, Tide Division of Eagle Lake, was accepted by Commissioners.

Another lone bid submitted was for the purchase of the alley located between Highway 90 and Colorado Street (west end of block 27 in Gliden) from Gary Kulhanek in the amount of \$50. Commissioner Otto Loessin said the alley was adjacent to Mr. Kulhanek's land and saw no reason not to accept this bid. He so moved and the court concurred.

Kalina Construction, Inc. of

Schulenburg was awarded the bid for construction of a new county barn for Precinct 2. Their bid of \$26,356 came in \$241,500 lower than Byrd Construction of Grapeland. Other bids were received from Drymalla Construction of Columbus, \$29,977, and A. Grohmann & Sons of Weimar, \$28,400. Chief Appraiser Bill Youens presented a report to the court on tax collections over the past five years. Surprisingly, the overall combined percentage of collection for all taxing entities was 101.84% during the period from 1984 through 1988. The City of Eagle Lake had the lowest combined collection rate of 92.47% with Weimar S.D. having the highest at 97.02%. When delinquent taxes, penalty and interest are added in for this time period, Eagle Lake collected 104.29% of its taxes. The highest percentage was collected by the Garwood Water District with 108.13%.

Youens credited the computer system now in use for the high percentages stating, "If someone owed taxes five years back, under the old hand system they might not get a bill. But, the computer doesn't forget."

In other business, Commissioners: Approved the bonds of newly elected officials and the applications from the county clerk, district clerk, sheriff and tax assessor-collector for appointment of deputies.

Approved the order to fix the number and salaries of office deputies and employees, and expense allowances for the sheriff's office, county agents, state county nurse, the four commissioners, county judge, tax assessor-collector, county clerk, county auditor, justices of the peace, county septic system inspector and constables for mileage while using personal automobiles in county and out of county while performing county duties.

Refuted a collection contract with the Colorado County Central Appraisal District as well as a 12-month lease for that agency.

Appointed County Judge "Butch" Strunk as their representative to the board of directors of the Gulf Coast Economic Development District.

Appointed Lisa Hoffman of Nada, Michael Rucka of Eagle Lake and William Mark Wiest of Garwood to the Grievance Committee with Leah King of Alletton, Charles Axel of Altair and Eugene Thomas of Columbus as alternates.

Approved the transfer of indigent health care to the county treasurer's office effective April 1st. This move was made, according to Strunk, in order to equalize duties with pay received.

Set the pay for grand jurors and petit jurors at \$12 to show and \$20 to serve.

Approved the division of tax money between the precincts using road mileage to establish a formula after each precinct received a \$50,000 base.

Elected Commissioner Otto Loessin as county judge pro-tem.

Authorized the annual budget expenditures to libraries, fire departments, National Guard, Historical Survey Commission, Colorado County Soil and Water Conservation District, senior citizens and Mental Health-Mental Retardation.

Breimon, Escobedo write from Saudi

Mrs. Sanders and her fifth grade class at the Eagle Lake Middle School have been receiving lots of letters from our men in the Middle East. The class had made Christmas cards and wreaths for each man. We try to run as many letters as we can to let you know just how much our letters and caring

words mean to them. SPC Norman Breimon sent a Christmas card and a picture to the ELMS fifth graders. He tells Mrs. Sanders how surprised he was with all the letters he has received since his address appeared in The Headlight. He couldn't express how much it

means to him to know people truly care about all the guys in Saudi. MM3 Arnold Escobedo also wrote a letter and sent a post card of the ship he's on, the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy (CV-67). He sent his many thanks to Mrs. Sanders and her class for their thoughtfulness.



From the Saudi Desert

SPC Norman Breimon sent the class the picture above saying it was "a helicopter landing at a helipad where crewmen come into Squadron Headquarters to speak to the Colonel."

Almost disaster number two for the county

The tornado that hit Columbus Monday was not the only scare Colorado County had to endure. On Friday, Jan. 11, a flash flood warning was in effect for the entire county. The Colorado River was predicted to crest at 35 feet which would have caused flooding for several parts of Colorado County. Residents close to the river took precautions and prepared for the high waters. Fortunately, the river never reached its predicted height. It was measured at only 30.1 feet in Columbus.

Photo by Tonya Castro



Salute to Rice FFA, 1991 Show & Sale

See Pages 6 & 7

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Last week Columbus...

Tornado hits Eagle Lake area Friday

As if it weren't enough to handle with the freezing weather, all the rain causing a threat of flooding and the tornado in Columbus last Monday, Eagle Lake was threatened with a disaster Friday morning less than four days after the devastation in Columbus.

According to law enforcement reports the damage ran from Rock Island to Highway 90-A West through Eagle Lake over to Calhoun Road and the Chesterville area.

A barn in the Rock Island area near the Smith Ranch was damaged. The storm left a portion of the barn roof on County Road 106 north of Rock Island. This debris was cleared by Commissioner Otto Loessin's crew.

As the tornado continued eastward it inflicted minor damage to Rusty Thomas' trailer house and satellite dish on 90-A west of Eagle Lake. Passing through the city it damaged two homes. One on Fairview lost the back section of the roof and another on

(See Tornado, Page 12)



Lost roof

This house in the 600 block of Fairview in Eagle Lake lost the entire back section of roof during Friday's tornado. One piece of that roof can be seen in the tree pictured below.

Juanita Gonzales and her four children were living in the house and have since been moved by the Red Cross to a rent house on Sempres. Their move was handled by Connie Lange and Mary Lou Szymanski and accomplished that same day. Good work ladies!

Eagle Lake Headlight Photos by Linda Waddell

He stole the show

Anyone who has attended a show and sale involving hogs knows there is no way to control them, especially when it comes time for pictures. Lonnie Hutchison's reserve champion hog was the exception Saturday.

After squealing, grunting and being obstinate the entire time bids were being taken, no one even tried to get him to pose for the picture session. As everyone lined up for the photo, ignoring the position of the hog, he nonchalantly walked to the front and stood as still as a statue during three shots. Apparently Lonnie raised a real "ham". (See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos and complete results.)

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

Rice FFA Show, Sale nets \$30,000+

It stopped raining this weekend long enough for the Rice FFA Chapter to hold their annual show and sale in the sunshine even though the wind was still on the chilly side. Sales and donations totalled \$30,454.17 as of press time.

Louis Mahalic's 1220 pound steer was chosen Grand Champion by show judge Kevin Parker of Baytown Stewart Career Center. Reserve Champion went to Clay Cerny's 934 pound steer with Clay also winning the designation of top steer showman. Darian Barrow's 221 pound hog was named Grand Champion hog

while Lonnie Hutchison's 292 pound entry won Reserve Champion. Lonnie was also named top hog showman. Resale buyer for the steers was Eddy Packing Company of Yoakum again this year bidding 80¢ per pound and East Bernard Meat Center bid 50¢ per pound on resale hogs.

After the show which began at 8:30 a.m., a barbecue lunch catered by Staff Catering of El Campo was served. Almost everything was gone before the noon sale start time with one gentleman who was assisting commenting that over 150 plates had been sold.

FFA President Rachel Weishuhn opened the sale shortly after noon with a thank you to everyone who helped with the event and all in attendance. After the invocation auctioneer Glen Beckendorf of Katy relieved any tension in the audience with an anecdote, then began the sale of 40 steers and hogs with help from spotters T.J.

Smith, George Hagan, Lonnie Owers and Melvin Sunderman.

Again this year, Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce donated all trophies, ribbons and banners. Vicki Powers, president, represented the Chamber and presented the awards. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for complete sale results and pictures.

NEWSBRIEFS

Emergency Disaster Fund set up for tornado victims

After last Monday's tornado in Columbus, several families who were left homeless are in urgent need of clothing, food and household goods. Some of the items needed are towels, bedding, pans, dishes, furniture and clothing.

An Emergency Disaster Fund for cash donations has been set up at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake. Drop points for other contributions have been set up in various locations throughout the county. For further information and/or a list of drop points, you may contact the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, 732-5881; McDonald's Restaurant, Columbus office, 732-6213 or Connie Lange, Colorado County American Red Cross Chairman, 234-7302 or 234-3757. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

United Way Board meeting

The United Way of Eagle Lake Board of Directors will hold their first semi-annual meeting for 1991 on Tuesday, January 29, 1991 at 7 p.m. at Sportsman's Restaurant. Directors, please plan to come.

Fort Bend Singles sponsor dance

The Fort Bend Singles will sponsor a dance this Friday, January 25, 8 p.m. at the KC Hall in Needville. Music will be provided by the "Country Cousins". The public is invited and door prizes will be given. For more information, call 232-4782, 232-4454 or 409-793-6176.

Rotary Pancake Supper Feb. 2

Tickets are now on sale for Eagle Lake Rotary Club's annual Pancake Supper to be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 12th at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

The delicious hotcakes, sausage and trimmings will be served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Center or plates will be available to go in a curbside line at the rear of the Center. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotary or at the door on February 12th. Cost of tickets will be \$3.00. Proceeds will go to the club's scholarship fund which annually provides a Rice High School graduate with a two-year scholarship to Wharton County Junior College. Entertainment will be provided by local musicians throughout the evening hour.

Western art projects on display

Rice CISD students have been busy working on art projects for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Exhibition to be judged on the 26th. There will be an open house for the public to view the pictures before they are judged. The times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and again from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 26 in the Rice High School Commons.

Hospital to sponsor Health Fair

The Eagle Lake Community Hospital will sponsor a Health Fair in conjunction with the community blood drive Wednesday, February 6 from 12 noon to 9 p.m. at the City Municipal Building. A complete story will follow in the next edition of The Headlight.

Prairie Edge Museum sponsoring 'Alligator Fund'

The Prairie Edge Museum is beginning a drive to raise money to pay for the taxidermy on the state-record alligator caught in Eagle Lake in September. Owners of the alligator, Jim Wiese, Davis Waddell and D.R. Wintermann have donated the 13 foot, 8 inch 'gator to the museum where it will be on display this spring.

Helen Craig and Vic Scott, Museum trustees are organizing the drive for funds. Through school assemblies and solicitations of local citizens, it is hoped that enough money can be raised to cover the cost of preparing the alligator for showing at the museum. The 'gator is expected to attract additional favorable attention to Eagle Lake during the up-coming Wildflower Festival.

Museum trustee Mary Baker designed and manufactured a decorative badge (pictured below, left) to be distributed to contributors. Anyone not contacted directly is asked to send a donation to the First National Bank of Eagle Lake or to contact Helen Craig or Vic Scott. Make checks payable to "Alligator Fund". Any size donation is welcome and needed. School children are especially encouraged to give through their homeroom teachers.



Eagle Lake Police apprehend homicide suspect

Quick action by Sgt. Earl Jones and Chief Lupe Villarreal resulted in the apprehension of a homicide suspect early Tuesday morning (Jan. 22).

Jones received a phone call from Houston PD advising that they had reason to believe that a suspect had fled Houston and come to Eagle Lake on Monday night. The officers immediately went to the location given

(See Police Report, Page 12)

No more collection service in Eagle Lake for SW Bell

By Jeannine Fearing
Western Auto is no longer contracting with Southwestern Bell to collect telephone bill payments. Audrey Foster, public relations representative for our area, last week informed Acting-City Manager Lucille Perry that Bell does not intend to contract with anyone, therefore, all payments would have to be made by mail.

What Bell would like is for someone in the area with an IBM PC to volunteer to do the work of entering the payments into their program (which they would graciously supply). They do not plan to pay (contract) with anyone to do the work. The company is trying to phase out these

agents (apparently another "cost cutting" move).

Conflicting information was received by Ms. Perry while she was attempting to research the problem. Bell's controller told her Western Auto had been taking in an average of 275 per month and being paid 10¢ per payment collected. Perry said Glen Lockfield had told her he took in 882 payments in December earning \$325.

During her research of Southwestern Bell's franchise agreement with the city (originally written in 1948), Perry found there was no provision in the document. Also, this move to drop the collection point in Eagle Lake

Sales tax revenues continue to climb

"This month's local sales tax rebates are positive proof that our Texas economy is steadily improving," Comptroller John Sharp said recently.

Sharp announced his office sent checks this month totaling \$91 million to cities and counties across Texas which collect local sales taxes. This month's rebates to cities increased 15% over the January 1990 figures.

Eagle Lake's check was in the amount of \$8,981.20 (0.08% higher than the \$8,974.25 received last year at this time). Columbus' rebate totaled \$23,202.83 (a 3.35% increase) while Weimar's collections fell by 14.58% to \$5,063.25.

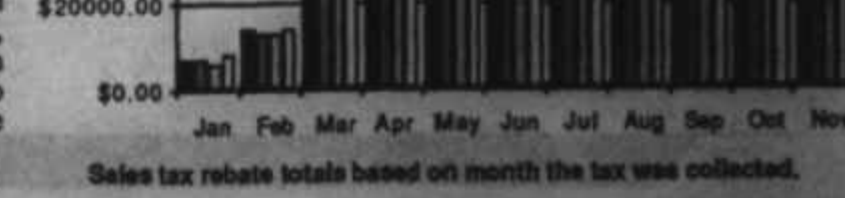
Cities in the surrounding area came in with mixed results. Sealy's check was a whopping 60.05% higher than last year. (This type of increase is usually due to a large sale of some

type.) Wallis showed a marked decrease dropping from \$2,549.80 to \$2,072.15 (down 18.73%).

"A good portion of that increase is due to Texas' stronger economy, but some of the rise is because more cities collect sales tax this year than did last year. A few other cities have also increased their local tax rates which makes for higher rebate checks," Sharp said.

This month's payments to cities totaled \$81 million with Houston receiving \$13 million, the state's largest payment. Dallas received \$8 million to come in second followed by San Antonio with \$4 million and Austin with \$3 million.

The January rebate checks reflect taxes collected on November sales and reported in late December by businesses filing monthly returns.



Sales tax rebate totals based on month the tax was collected.