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Emergency Food Assistance participants need to recertify

All participants who have been receiving USDA Supplemental Food Products under the Emergency Food Assistance Program must be recertified.

To be recertified, participants must complete a new application with current income information, and present personal identification such as a driver's license, Social Security Card, food stamp ID card, etc. Proof of residency must be seen by the eligibility worker, such as a driver's license, utility bill, voter registration, etc.

Person unable to recertify themselves can send an authorized representative. The Authorized Representative will need to bring a note from the individual stating that they give the authorized representative permission to recertify them. The note needs to state monthly income. Along with the note the Authorized Representative should bring the individual's driver's license or Social Security card.

CCA staff will not recertify that individual unless the authorized Representative brings a note. Participants will need to recertify before the day of distribution.

Applications can be made at the local CCA Community Service Center in Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar.

Participants can recertify at the Eagle Lake City Hall, Wednesday, Jan. 23 and Tuesday, the 29th, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; at the Weimar City Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Information on eligibility requirements for the Emergency Food Assistance Program may be obtained from the local Center at 903, Preston, Columbus, Texas, 409-732-6390.

Rules for participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to age, race, marital status, color, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or political belief.

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Tornado

E. Prairie, received minor damage. Continuing out of the city limits the "high winds and heavy rains" caused damage to some structures and blew large limbs off a tree on Calhoun Road according to the Sheriff's Cpl. W.E. "Bill" Lattimore. The limbs, which were obstructing traffic, were quickly cleared away by Commissioner Sonny Spaniel and his crew.

According to local sources there were several barns damaged Friday morning. Cliff Everett, Jr., Larry Rodgers and Vance Duncan all lost barns to the storm. Rodgers lost the

second well house in less than five months. The first one was "taken" by a tornado around Labor Day. He also sustained damage to the roof of his home and had a 20' metal frame door "sucked" off one of his barns and thrown across a field.

In Chesterville the high winds did considerable damage to a barn and downed some power lines. The tornado continued into Austin County doing minor damage to sheds and vehicles around Mink Road. Live electrical lines were downed in San Felipe.

As Lattimore stated, "Miraculously no injuries were reported anywhere in the county or in Eagle Lake." Little could be learned about the status of those injured last Monday in Columbus. It is known that James Colquitt was Lifelighted to Hermann Hospital last Thursday morning. No other information was made available to the press by the Columbus Hospital, but local sources stated "it doesn't look good" for him. Mrs. La Rue Hopper and Eddie Hernandez are both still hospitalized in Columbus as of press time.



Limbs ripped off

This tree on Cliff Everett Jr.'s property on Calhoun Road was apparently the one mentioned in the sheriff's report concerning the tornado and high winds Friday. The limbs, shown lying on either side, appeared to be six to eight inches in diameter.

Eagle Lake Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

Tax exemptions to save taxpayers billions of dollars

State Comptroller John Sharp recently said that in fiscal 1991 state sales and franchise tax exemptions will save taxpayers and cost the state \$12 billion. In a report to the governor and legislature required by state law,

Sharp said that figure, exemptions from sales tax will total \$11.8 billion and franchise tax breaks will reach \$200 million. Sharp's report did not make any recommendations for keeping, eliminating or modifying any exemptions.

The sales tax — at \$7.6 billion in fiscal 1990 — is the largest source of revenue for Texas state government. About 56% of every state tax dollar comes from the sales tax.

Basic necessities, such as groceries, prescription medicines and residential gas and electricity are among those items exempted from the state's 6-1/4% sales tax. Farmers and ranchers receive exemptions for machinery, livestock, feed, seed and other agricultural purchases.

In Texas, sales tax is also not due on most services. These service exclusions will be worth an estimated \$1.7 billion — an amount equal to almost 21% of expected total sales tax collections.

The highest-dollar service exclusions (in millions) are professional services, such as medical, dental and other health care (\$445 million); legal services (\$178.5); accounting and audit services (\$75.4); engineering and architectural services (\$86.5); real estate agencies and brokers (\$74.3); financial securities brokerage (\$46.4); and veterinary services (\$22.7).

Of the \$200 million in franchise tax exemptions in 1991, \$101 million will go to profit-making businesses. The largest exemption for these corporations — \$55.2 million in 1991 — will go to insurance companies that already pay the Texas insurance gross premiums tax. Nonprofit corporations will claim \$98.3 million.

If the Legislature eliminates an exemption, the state would not necessarily collect the same amount listed in the Comptroller's report. Actual revenue would depend on a variety of factors including the timing of any change and taxpayer compliance.

Police Report

Continued from Page 1

of Eagle Stop on January 5, criminal mischief on Maple Street on January 15 and shoplifting from Johnny's Sport Shop on January 19.

Chief Villarreal is asking for the help from our citizens in reporting any incident, however small it may seem, to Crime Stoppers at 234-5555 or to the Police Department at 234-2727.

Your information may be very significant in solving a case. Your call WILL be kept confidential.

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January 31, 1991

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Black History program Feb. 22

The E.H. Henry Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is sponsoring a Black History Program, Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. The program will feature singing, dancing, dramatizations and speaking. The public is invited.

We are asking participants to come out Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. for registration. Youths between the ages of 5 and 25 are welcomed to register. Registration will be held at White Cloud Baptist Church or you may contact Mrs. Gwendolyn Knight, Mrs. Elaine Harrison, Mrs. Vera Lee Fry or Rev. Obie Rhodes.

Sealy teenager dies in fishing accident

Saturday, January 26, law enforcement officials received a call stating a man had down in a tank on the Sunderman property just outside the Eagle Lake city limits. When Sheriff's Deputies Brent Hoskins and Richard Fredericks arrived at the scene, the body could not be found.

The Columbus and Eagle Lake Fire Departments, along with Game Warden David Perry helped locate Merrill Shyne Tillman's body. By the time the dragging procedures began he had been under water approximately 25 minutes. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace Barry White of Columbus at 11:16 a.m.

Tillman was known as "Heavy-T" by his friends at Sealy High School where he wore jersey #78 for the Tigers. His nickname came from his being over six feet tall and weighing between 260-280 pounds.

On the morning of the accident he had been fishing on a paddle boat with two friends. Reports state that he did not know how to swim and no life jackets were on the boat. Because of the amount of weight on the boat, it tipped over causing Tillman to panic and go under. Kenneth Seals tried to help his friend, but the coveralls Seals was wearing became soaked and he barely made it to the shore himself.

(See Page 7 for complete obituary.)

NEWSBRIEFS

Don't forget to give blood

Don't forget the blood drive sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance on Wednesday, February 6 at the Eagle Lake City hall from 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m. Contact David Mann today at 234-2780 for an appointment.

Chamber date meeting changed

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce has changed its meeting to 12:00 noon on Monday, February 11, at The Barn Restaurant.

Prayers offered for our servicemen

Prayers are offered at Christ Episcopal Church for our men and women in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf, by name, each day at Noon, Tuesday through Saturday. All are welcome to join in this offering.

Tickets for Colorado County Night

There will be a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Ticket Trailer on the Eagle Lake Square on Saturday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Then at Potter's Western Store in Columbus from 10:30 to 12:00 noon. (See complete story, page 10.)

CCA Board meeting in La Grange

Combined Community Action, Inc. will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. at 531 E. Colorado in La Grange. The public is invited and urged to attend.

Sheridan PTS parent workshop

The Sheridan P.T.S. will host a parent workshop to be given by Betty Ann Davis on Tuesday, February 5th. The workshop will begin at 6 p.m. in the Sheridan School cafeteria.

Retired Teachers meeting Feb. 4

The Colorado County Association of Retired Teachers will meet at the Nesbitt Library in Columbus at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 4.

Mid-winter camp in Rock Island

The Rock Island Full Gospel Church announces its annual mid-winter camp meeting which will be held from February 4 through February 10. Services are scheduled for 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily. Ministers, singers, and gospel workers from several states are expected to participate in these services.

Meals will be served daily and everyone is invited to come and fellowship with us.

Search for 2nd Infantry personnel

The Second (Indian Head) Division Association is currently conducting a nationwide search for anyone (male or female) who ever served in the Second Infantry Division.

A 70th annual reunion is planned for July 17-20, 1991 in Omaha, Nebraska. For additional information about the reunion and the Association contact the National Secretary, Bill Creech, P.O. Box 460, Buda, Texas 78610.

Holden, Supak 'Employees of the Year'

Paschall named 'Employee of the Decade'

The Eagle Lake-Chamber of Commerce held their annual banquet on Monday, January 21, at the Community Center. Many people turned out to welcome their new President, Vicki Powers and pay tribute to outgoing President, David Mann.

Mark Anderson welcomed everyone to the Banquet and Mann offered a prayer before the evening meal. The delicious dinner catered by Austin's BBQ included barbecued beef and sausage, beans, rice salad, pickles, onions, bread, iced tea and "Denise's Famous Banana Pudding". After all stomachs were filled, Anderson recognized all past Chamber presidents and out of town guests. Shortly after, David Mann presented three awards.

An "Employee of the Year" award was given to both a male and female this year. The female "Employee of the Year" was Laurel Holden of Rice Industries, where she has been employed for 23 years. She is very dedicated and takes care of all the secretarial and bookkeeping work. She indeed has been one of Rice Industries' most valuable assets.

The male "Employee of the Year" award went to Harry Supak, who has served as Director of Public Utilities for the City of Eagle Lake with a total 30 years employment with the city. He is an easy-going man, loved by all who work for him.

This year special recognition went to Gwen Paschall, former secretary for the Chamber. Mann says, "This town wouldn't have grown without her help. Gwen made sure Eagle Lake was noticed by someone other than us".

In a few words to the audience, Gwen thanked everyone for the award and said that making a town successful depends on the togetherness of the citizens; how hard are they willing to work to make the community the best it can be. Enola Gertson will serve as the new secretary for the Chamber and everyone seems anxious to work with her.

President Powers announced the Chamber is taking donations for the purchase of equipment for their new office located in the old Depot building. She said donations should be sent to the Chamber, P.O. Box 216 here.

The door prize winners were picked by Little Mr. and Miss Eagle.



'Employees of the Year'

Laurel Holden and Harry Supak (pictured above) were named "Employees of the Year" at the recent Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Outgoing President David Mann, center, presented the plaques. Honored as "Employee of the Decade", Gwen Paschall is pictured below with 1991-92 President Vicki Powers, left.

Headlight Photos by Tonya Castro

Lake for 1991, Andrew Powers and Andrea Contreras. Joe Lee McCreary and Linda Balas both won one of the beautiful arrangements Sue Canaris made and that served as centerpieces for the tables.

Mrs. Powers presented Mann with a Past President's Plaque for his service in the past year. Upon receipt, Mann stated that it was a "joy to work with a community that cares about their community."

The Chamber has had many successes this past year and has also seen some businesses fail, but that doesn't seem to hinder Powers' optimistic outlook for the future of the Eagle Lake community. "I would like to see an increase in involvement... especially from the minority citizens". She also wants to "set a goal of promoting local businesses".

The speaker for the evening was the comical Mickey Reynolds from Wharton. He was born in a small town in Mississippi called Bugerlin and attended Delta State University. Mr. Reynolds and his wife, Vicki, share (in his words) three children.

Reynolds is president of the Rotary Club, active in the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and is also a member of a group called the Potlick.

This group is made up of Wharton Chamber members who write satirical

(See Chamber, Page 14)

Major expenditures dominate City Council

The majority of the time during their meeting on Jan. 22nd, Eagle Lake City Council discussed major expenditures with City Engineer John Mercer. Their two main topics were the work needed on Johnny Hutchins Drive and refurbishing of the elevated and ground water storage tanks.

Mercer gave Council an estimated cost of \$90-95,000 needed to rework Hutchins Drive complete with curb and gutter. He also reworked the project using open ditches as much as possible and came up with a total expense of approximately \$75,000 (including engineering fees and a buffer for unexpected problems). Mercer projected a 30-45 day construction period.

Councilman Larry Dulany inquired if it would be better to spend the additional \$20,000 now in order to cut down on maintenance costs in the future.

Mayor Roy Van Nort questioned Mercer as to the latest he could give the "go ahead" for these improvements. With all the paper work and such, Mercer said he would have to know by April 1st at the very latest. Van Nort promised a decision at the last February meeting.

Further discussion included the probability of the entire length of the street being no parking for safety sake. Mercer stated there is virtually no shoulder on the section before Partridge Lane, then there are driveways which would end up being blocked. Three driveways and two streets intersect Hutchins leaving no room for parking anyway. Mercer felt the

school would have traffic problems on its property due to the layout and size of the parking lot. Also, he felt, there needed to be another fire hydrant added as well as a fire lane.

The second major expense facing the City in the immediate future is the sand blasting and painting of the elevated and ground storage tanks. Mercer told Council to take action quickly because, "At the moment there are no rules for sand blasting, but they are being written and could be passed as

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