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Eagle Lake's down slightly... Sales tax rebates running 10% ahead of last year statewide

The state's moderate but stable economic growth is one good reason there is more than a 10% increase in sales tax rebates for Texas cities and counties this year in 1991, when compared with the first five months of last year. State Comptroller John Sharp said last week. Sharp made the comment as he sent over 1,000 Texas cities, counties, city transit and hospital districts checks totaling \$147.1 million sales tax rebates.

Through the first five months of 1991, the state has rebated a total of \$740.9 million, a 10.6% increase over the same period last year. "Texas is still growing at a faster clip than the nation as a whole, but there's no doubt that it is feeling the negative side effects of the national recession. It's as if the nation had the flu and Texas is feeling the body aches," Sharp said.

This month's checks include taxes collected on March sales and reported in April by businesses filing monthly returns, and also includes taxes reported by those filing quarterly returns for sales made in January, February and March.

Eagle Lake received a check for \$12,032.00 which was \$223.44 or 1.82% below last year's March collections. Year to date collections are down 2.41% (\$1247.60 less).

The city of Houston received \$21.6 million, the largest payment in the state, with Dallas second at \$12.9 million and San Antonio third with \$7.3 million. Austin followed in fourth with \$5.7 million.

Rebates for cities in our area were Columbus, \$36,407.05, up 7.10%; Weimar, \$13,811.85, up 7.12%; Seely, \$38,426.13, up 5.02%; Ellis, \$43,921.49, down 21.02%; and El Campo, \$86,645.33, down 1.81%.



'Welcome Home' party

Wednesday, May 8, Jose M. Ugarte, M.D. was honored with a "Welcome Home" party in the dining room of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Dr. Ugarte, left, presented Helyn Farris, Board of Trustees president, and Jim Buckner, Administrator, with plaques for their outstanding performance, support and devotion to the Medical Corps of Desert Storm.

Large number turn out to hear Thomas at Study Club 'President's Luncheon'

A large crowd filled the Eagle Lake Community Center on Friday, May 10th for the annual Study Club President's Luncheon. Mrs. Mary Lou Anderson welcomed members and guests to the luncheon and Elizabeth Boothe gave the invocation before the delicious meal was served.

The luncheon committee did an outstanding job in meal planning, serving and in decorating. The tables were decorated with wildflowers and beautiful hats worn in past years by women in Eagle Lake. The stage was decorated with a handsome screen in the background, a ladies' dressing table and bench in the foreground and beautiful dresses from long ago hung on the screen. Old family pictures also decorated the dressing table.

After the meal, Mrs. Anderson announced the 1991-92 officers for the Eagle Lake Study Club as: President, Mrs. Lonnie Sommerlatte; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Bill Harrison Sr.; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Allen Dale Cassidy; Secretary, Mrs. Robert Wilcox; Treasurer, Mrs. Betty Wegenhoft and Reporter, Mrs. Charles Miller. Mrs. Dan Gertson was then given the honor of introducing the guest speaker, Dr. Sandra C. Thomas.

Two not listed on ELMS track team

In the 7th grade track team picture published in last week's issue, two girls' names were not given to us as not being pictured. They are Jessica Amos and Robin Donner.

School Board

When we get them together at an earlier age. A lot of standing around will be eliminated by having four or five coaches working with the athletes instead of two.

Junior high football athletes will play on A and B team schedule with the A team playing the district schedule and the B team playing the present Garwood-Sheridan schedule.

First and third string players will comprise the C team, and fourth string players will play on the B team.

Practices will be held at the high school one hour and 30 minutes which will put athletes at home by approximately 5:45 p.m., according to Johnson.

In volleyball, the 40 most talented will be selected after drills and practices have been conducted for eight practices and films of the girls' performances have been evaluated.

There will be four teams with 10 players each. The first six ranked players and players ranked 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th will play on the A team; the seventh through 12th and 15th through 18th ranked players will be on the B team; the 21st through 30th players will comprise the C team; and the last 10 ranked volleyball athletes will comprise the D team. All team members will play in each game.

"Our first concern is the kids and full support in the community is the only way our program will work," said Johnson.

Band Director Floyd Spenrath reported on his major goals for the band program.

Spenrath hopes the band will excel past ratings and members will enjoy being in band as well as working hard. He also hopes to increase and maintain membership and organize band

Newsbriefs

Continued from Page 1

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a parade to honor the servicemen and women who participated in "Operation Desert Storm" on Thursday, July 4th. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. Please notify the serviceman or woman in your family so they can request leave in time to be here for this occasion. For further information, contact Enola Gertson at the Chamber Office, 234-2780, between 8 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday.

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Included In This Issue...
Salute to the Class of 1991
Rice High School

Eagle Lake Headlight

Sixth Annual Special Olympics Sports Banquet honors participants

The Sixth Annual Colorado County Special Olympics Sports Banquet was held on May 13, 1991, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Eagle Lake.

The banquet is held each year to honor the athletes for their participation in the Special Olympics sports programs at the Eagle Lake Middle School and at the Columbus Alternate Education Center.

There were 68 persons in attendance for this festive occasion. The hall was decorated in red, white and blue, and with posters, (decorated by the Girls in Action of the First Baptist Church in Sheridan), honoring each athlete.

The athletes honored for their participation in track and field, bowling, basketball and aquatics were: Sidney Lira, Roman Ortiz, Jon Peters and Jason Wright.

The athletes being honored for track and field, basketball and bowling were: Jessica Burris, Ricky Hem-



NEWSBRIEFS

Special meeting at RHS tonight

A special meeting will be held tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m. in the Rice High School Commons concerning the Consolidation of the junior high athletics departments. Athletic Director Mark Johnson and the School Board of Trustees will be present. All parents and/or citizens concerned about this topic are urged to attend this important meeting to voice their opinions.

Open House to meet new agent

The Colorado County Extension Service will have an open house on Thursday, May 23, from 1-5 p.m. at the County Agriculture Building located at 316 Spring Street in Columbus. The public is invited to attend and meet the new Agricultural Agent, Rick Jahn.

CCA to hold board meeting, May 23

Combined Community Action, Inc. will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at 531 E. Colorado, La Grange. The public is invited and urged to attend.

Garwood Rice Dish deadline extended

The deadline for entering your recipes in the Garwood Rice Dish Contest which is held in conjunction with the Garwood Rice Festival has been extended to Wednesday, June 5th. More recipes are needed.

Remember, cash prizes are awarded to the top three overall winners and valuable prize bags are given to the top three finishers in each of six categories. You may mail your recipe to Rice Dish Contest, P.O. Box 198, Garwood, Texas 77442, or go by Garwood City Cafe, Nada Grocery or call Iris Danklefs at 758-3422.

Rock Island Homecoming, Memorial Service

The Annual Homecoming and Memorial Day Service will be held at the former Rock Island School Gym, Sunday, May 26, 1991, starting at 1 p.m. A beef and sausage dinner with all the trimmings (dessert and iced tea or coffee included) will be served at the noon hour. Cost per plate is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

Christian Mothers holding bake sale

The Christian Mothers of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church will hold a bake sale on Saturday, May 25 in front of Wilcox Minimax and Miller's Grocery store beginning at 9 a.m. Proceeds will benefit upcoming community youth projects.

Memorial Day closings

The First National Bank, Post Office and Colorado County Courthouse will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Runners wanted for 5K run/walk

Runners are wanted for the Oakland Heritage Days 5K run/walk, "Horned Toad Trot", to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 1, Oakland Square. The fee will be \$10 if received by May 29 or \$15 after that date. Shirts will be given to all participants and other awards will go to the top two finishers in each age category (10 year spans): 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, and 50 and over. Contact Henrietta Strunk, 263-5669 or Alice Strunk, 263-5981. Sponsor, Oakland Volunteer Fire Department.

53rd Frnka family reunion

The 53rd annual Frnka family reunion will be held on Sunday, June 2 at the St. Peter and Paul Diamond Center in Frelsburg. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and there will be a meeting at 11 a.m. A chicken fried steak lunch will be served at 12:30. It will be catered and it is very important that you make your reservations before May 27. The money for the meal will be collected at the reunion. If you make a reservation and find you cannot make it, please call John Labay at 409-992-3436 (after 5 p.m.) as soon as possible so the caterers will not have to be paid for extra plates.

There will be plenty of fun and games, so don't miss this exciting event!

E.H. Henry school reunion July 20

Students and/or faculty are invited to attend the E.H. Henry High School Reunion on July 20 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Nanny Joe Castle at 234-2082.

Eagle Lake Police Department Weekly Report

Police nab burglar 'red handed'

Saturday morning at 4:49 a.m., the 18th Officer Argo was dispatched to a burglary in progress at the Rice Package Store. Upon arrival Argo observed a Mexican male running out of the liquor store and Argo pursued the subject on foot, ending the chase at a mobile home on "A" Street. The suspect was arrested and placed in Officer Jones' car and identified by Mr. Kohleff as being one of the suspects in the store.

Upon returning to the store with the suspect, it was discovered that there was another suspect in the store being held by the officers by persons who wished to not be identified. After being transported to the police department, it was learned the suspects were both juveniles and Juvenile Officer Bobby Johnson was advised of the situation and requested she come to the police department. Also assisting in the investigation were Chief Villarreal and Deputy Leonard Peters.

The Eagle Lake Police Department was dispatched to a burglary of a business at D&S Grocery at 734 E. Main Friday morning at 5:16 a.m. Upon arrival, Officer Argo discovered entry into the store was made by breaking a plate glass window at the top of the ice box. Approximately \$230 worth of merchandise and cash was taken. Fingerprints were taken and the case is under investigation.

Saturday morning at approximately 10:45 a.m., Officer Staude was dispatched to 3rd Street to a burglary at Rios' Place. Entry was gained by kicking in two wooden doors. Mr. Rios advised seven cases of beer had been taken. This case remains under investigation.

Officer Johnson investigated a report of mailbox damage on McCreary Street, which occurred some time between Saturday morning and Saturday evening. There are no suspects at this time.

Other cases investigated by the police department this week include

assaults, criminal mischiefs and thefts.

Tuesday morning, the 21st, the fire department was dispatched to a large fire at the A&K Railroad Yard on FM 102. Chief Villarreal assisted and the ambulance was dispatched to stand by. The fire began as a controlled burn, but the wind shifted and caught some other things on fire creating a larger blaze. Farm and Ranch Aerial and the city crew assisted by bringing tanks of water to the scene. Others assisted by bringing drinking water and food. Members of the Fire Department were at the scene most of the day.

Amos is fastest junior college hurdler in nation

At about this time last year Brian Amos was awarded a gold medal for being the fastest Class 3A high school hurdler in the state... and the story continues this year as he was awarded yet another gold medal for becoming the fastest junior college hurdler in the nation.

Brian took the win on May 17 at the J.U.C.O. National Track and Field Meet held in Odessa with a hand-held time of 13.40 sec. (13.59 electronic). As a comparison, Greg Williams of Texas A&M won the S.W.C. championship with a time of 13.73.



Summer activities scheduled at Library

The Eula and David Wintermann Library, located at 101 N. Walnut in Eagle Lake, will begin showing movies on June 6 for children from age 4 years to completed fifth grade. The movies will be shown each Thursday at 2:30 p.m. A story hour program will also be held during the summer beginning on June 5. The program has been entitled "Camp Wanna Read" and will be held each Wednesday for the same age group beginning at 2:30 p.m. The schedule for each program is:

Movies
June 6: The Cricket and the Tuba; Foolish Frog; Frederick; Curious George at the Ballet.
June 13: The Cricket and the Hen; Cow on the Moon; Goliath II; Let's Give Kinky a Bath.
June 20: Chick, Chick, Chick; (See Library Programs, Page 12)

Tax expert to be in Columbus

The public will have the opportunity on Friday, May 31, to meet one-on-one with a state tax expert in Columbus, when a representative from the State Comptroller's Office visits the Colorado County Courthouse.

"Not everyone can get to Austin or to one of our field offices for tax assistance. So we periodically visit county courthouses as a service to Texas taxpayers," State Comptroller John Sharp said.

Carolyn Arkadie, from the Comptroller's Victoria Field Office, will be in the District Courtroom at the (See Tax Expert, Page 12)

'Scouting for Food' a big success

Saturday, May 18 was a very successful day for Cub Scouts Pack #3078.

For the first time the Eagle Lake Chapter participated in a "Scouting for Food" Drive which resulted in the collection of 164 bags with 641 items being donated. Seventeen scouts, 13 parents and 3 guests were on hand to collect the donated items.

Pack Leader Herbert Ramirez was happy to see the town pull together and make a great contribution to the local food pantry which is located at the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake.

Many thanks are extended to all who helped in any way.

In photo below, Herbert Ramirez, left, and Rev. David Mann proudly display all the items which were donated by concerned citizens to the local food pantry.



Gilbert Rodriguez, back left, and Ernest Fields hold a bag of food which was donated by the baggers of Wilcox Minimax who pitched in together for this cause. Shown with the two Minimax employees are Bill Ishee and Tim Lueddecke. Photos courtesy of Herbert Ramirez



Ambulance Corps seeks first aiders

If you have ever had an urge to join the Ambulance Corps but have not been sure it was for you or did not want to tie up so much time to take a certification course, now is the time for you to find out. The Ambulance Corps, due to the decrease in their daytime personnel, are looking for people to take an eight hour First Aid course and become members. First Aiders are used as drivers and to bring equipment to the crew as needed.

"First Aiders are, generally, not asked to help with patient care unless there are too many patients for the crew to handle," said Ron Janow, membership chairman and vice-president. There are several numbers you may call, if you are interested: Janow, 234-2418; Membership Chairperson Dorothy Flores, 234-3323; Training Officer June Mahalic, 234-2678;

Mrkwa places at district 4-H meet

Frances Mrkwa is pictured with her awards she received while participating in 4-H Shooting Sports. She received 2nd place in the Columbus meet on March 16. In the District meet in Rosenberg on April 27, she received a 3rd place ribbon. Frances is the daughter of Patsy and August (Junior) Mrkwa, Jr. of Eagle Lake. Congratulations Frances!!

Spalingers are excited new grandparents

Excited new grandparents Charlie and Kate Spalinger were in Dallas last week to welcome their newborn grandson into the family. They report that Kyle, adopted by Mike and Susan Phillips, loves to be rocked and cuddled, so the highway to Dallas probably will be well-traveled. Congratulations!!