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Not a very pretty picture...

Local sales tax rebate down drastically from 1991

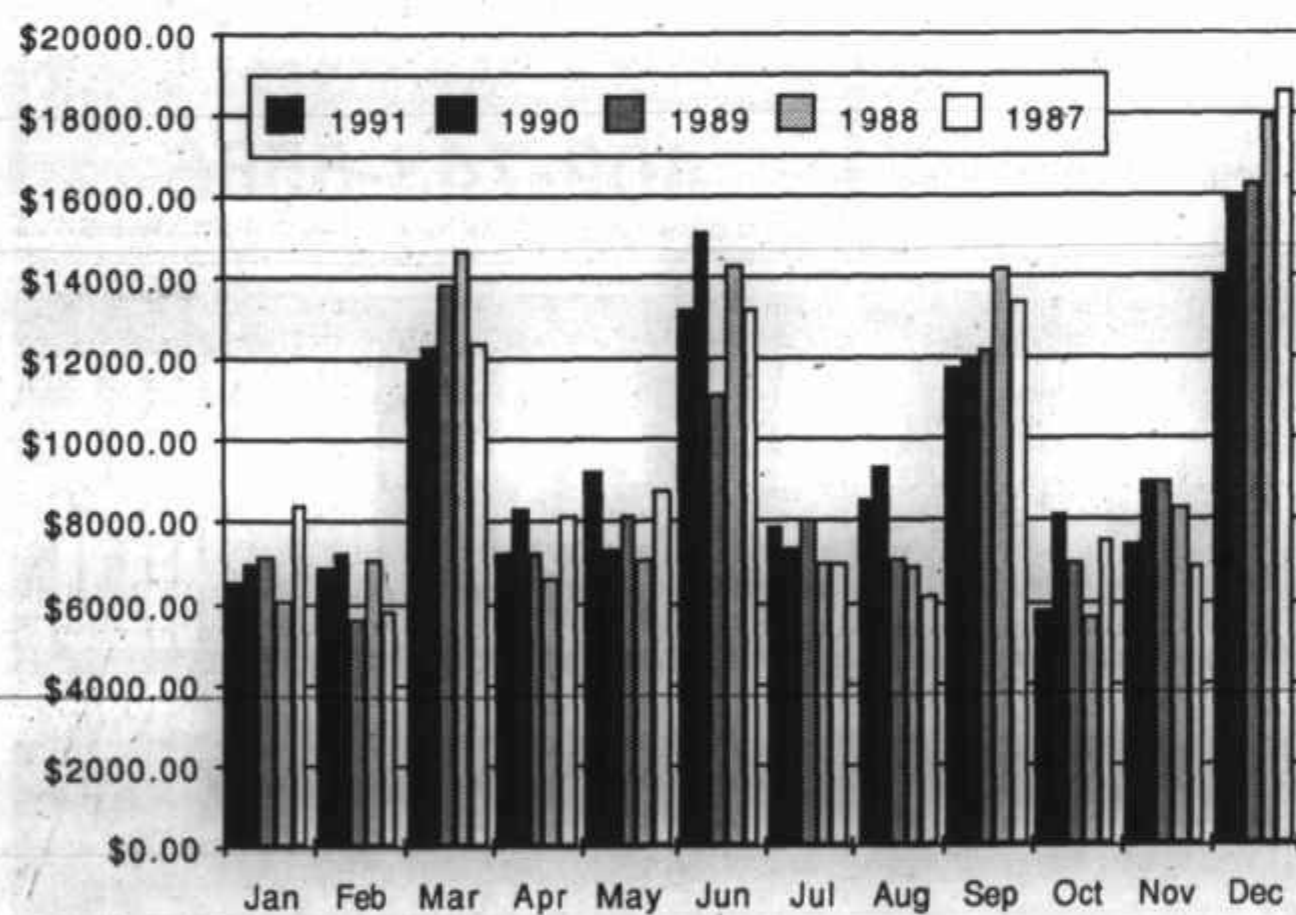
State Comptroller John Sharp recently mailed checks totaling \$163.4 million to 1,066 Texas cities, 1.8% increase above last February's \$160.5 million. Eagle Lake's portion was \$14,032.28.

"Texas retail sales were better than the nation's as a whole during 1991 but the year was sluggish and the Christmas season just brought us more of the same," Sharp said.

This month's payments include taxes collected on December sales and reported in January by businesses filing monthly returns. February's rebates also reflect taxes reported by businesses filing quarterly returns for sales made in Oct., Nov. and Dec. Yearly filers are also included in this month's rebates, reflecting sales made by them during 1991. Businesses file

either monthly, quarterly or yearly, depending on the amount of sales tax they collect.

Both Columbus and Weimar showed increases over last year with the county set collecting \$49,894.73 (up 15.96%) and Weimar receiving \$17,373.49 (up 15.25%).



Council

Continued from Page 1

out" the financing needed for a new building including grants, low and zero interest loans from federal and state agencies.

Smith said these programs were meant to fill in the gap between what was needed to start or relocate a company and what was available from conventional financing, the company itself and any incentives offered by the local governing body. Smith is presently working with two companies looking at Colorado County; one is interested in the Eagle Lake area.

After hearing Smith's explanation, Council agreed they would be willing to look into these options when and if the need arises.

Other Council Business

Council approved a request from the Ministerial Alliance for permission to park the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center's Bloodmobile in front of City Hall on Thursday, Feb. 27, from noon to 6 p.m.

After discussing the traffic problem

lems created by closing Lake Avenue from Main to the 90-A Bypass for the entire month of April as requested by the Wildflower Celebration, Council approved the closing of that street on Saturdays and Sundays only. The street will be closed from Lake to the alley which runs behind the Main Street business section. Also, they approved the closing of Commerce from Main to the no name street behind the post office on Saturdays and Sundays as well as the use of the City Square.

Following their first executive session, Council approved the purchase of land located near the airport as suggested by the Texas Department of Aviation (TDA). The City would need to own this land which is in the "obstacle free zone" if, or when, another grant is applied for and received from TDA.

After a second executive session listed on the agenda as a discussion of the evaluation of the Chief of Police, Council took no action.

Deadline extended... \$10,000 Reward

The deadline has been extended to March 15, 1992, for the \$10,000 reward offered by A&K Railroad Materials.

The reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for the arson-caused fire at A&K's Yard near Eagle Lake, Texas, on or about September 3, 1991. This offer of reward will be paid by A&K on conviction of the criminal or criminals.

If you have any information regarding the above, contact the Eagle Lake Police Department at 409-234-2727 or Crimestoppers at 409-234-5555.

Two from area graduate from A&M

Diplomas were awarded to more than 3,100 Texas A&M University graduates during the December commencement ceremonies.

Among those completing their course of study were two area students.

Sandra Claire Korenek of Garwood received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing.

Lesley Anne Matthews of Eagle Lake earned a Bachelor of Business Education in environmental design.

The commencement speakers were 14th U.S. District Representative Greg Laughlin, Yoshiyuki Kawashima, corporate officer with Mitsui & Co. U.S.A., Inc. and Wendy Lee

Gramm, chairman of the U. S. Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

TEAMS

Continued from Page 1

City, Iowa, no later than 5 p.m. March 11, 1992.

The English language arts test will be given on Wednesday, April 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Rice High School Meeting Room. The following day, the same place will be used for the mathematics test.

Eligible eleventh grade students who are presently enrolled at Rice High School will be registered for the TAAAS test by their respective counselor. This test is given March 31, April 1 and 2.

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Benefit BBQ Lunch

for D.S. "Opie" Roberts

Sunday, Feb. 23

at New Bielau Community Center

Hosted by Friends to Elect D.S. "Opie" Roberts

The lunch of BBQ chicken, sausage and trimmings will begin at 11 a.m.

Everyone Invited!

Public advertisement paid for by Friends to Elect D.S. "Opie" Roberts for Colorado County Sheriff, P.O. Box 151, Winters, Texas 76792.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Eagle Lake Police Department

The Eagle Lake Police Department reports the following calls during the week of Feb. 12-18.

The police department worked two separate accidents this week, one on Friday, Feb. 14 and one on Sunday, Feb. 16.

Friday, Thomas Lilley Jr. of Rosenberg, driving a '91 Ford van, and Darrill Lowery of Overton, driving a '90 Cadillac, were involved at the intersection of FM 3013 and 90-A. Lilley, eastbound on 3013, came to a stop then proceeded into the intersection and failed to yield the right of way to Lowery, who was eastbound on 90-A, striking Lowery's left rear panel and bumper with Lilley's left front section of his vehicle. There were no injuries sustained in the accident.

On Sunday morning, an AMC Matador, driven by Trancito Aguilera of Eagle Lake, and a Chevrolet Caprice, driven by Willie Frazer Jr. also of Eagle Lake, were involved in an accident on State Street at Beaks Street. Frazer was attempting to make a left turn on Beaks when Aguilera failed to realize he was turning and attempted to pass Frazer. There was minor damage to the vehicles, but Aguilera also struck a utility pole, breaking the pole.

Police officer was dispatched to Allen Street to unlock a car where keys were locked inside.

Sgt. Earl Jones was dispatched to N. Lake Street on Feb. 13 to a civil

disturbance.

Sgt. Jones is investigating a report of criminal mischief at the old Snack Center on E. Main, where he found three large windows had been broken with large rocks. There are no suspects at this time.

Sgt. Jones was dispatched to Wilcox Minimex Grocery to a reported shoplifting. A subject was observed putting two cartons of cigarettes inside his coat and leaving the store without paying for them. The manager chased the subject and he dropped the cigarettes, but escaped the manager's hold on him. Suspect has been identified from a lineup and charges will be filed against him.

Officer Keith Matura was advised of an assault that occurred on Feb. 16 to a juvenile male. Two suspects have been located and charges will be filed. One of the subjects is also a juvenile.

Officer Eric Hart was advised of a report of criminal mischief to a vehicle at Stevenson's Cafe. Upon investigation, the suspect advised he would pay the complainant for the car window which he had broken.

Monday morning, Chief Lupe Villarreal was dispatched to a report of two loose horses. Upon his arrival, the owner of the horses was in the process of catching them and returned them to their pen.

Colorado County Sheriff's Department

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reports on the following:

Wednesday, Feb. 5, Deputy W.E. Lattimore went to the home of complainant, Sarah Briscoe. She said a white male with curly black hair had come to her house and asked to borrow a tape measure to survey the lot behind her house.

She let him in and got a tape measure from the toolbox in the bathroom closet. The suspect left through the front door. The complainant went outside to watch but did not see anyone surveying. She went inside the house to find the toolbox missing. She found no footprints outside. No one in the neighborhood had seen anything.

Monday, Feb. 10, at 8:12 a.m. a burglary was reported to the sheriff's office. L.R.H. Wied met with Leslie Heinsohn at his store in Frelsburg. On investigating, the officer found the suspect had entered the business through a second floor window. The pane was broken and the burglar bars

pried from the frame with a tire tool. The tool was on the roof outside the window. The door leading downstairs was also pried open.

The alarm system was disconnected by the suspect using a ladder. \$60 was taken from the cash register in the bar, several handguns were taken from a showcase, which had been left unlocked by the owner and a number of rifles were taken from the wall rack. Approximately \$80 worth of ammunition was taken along with six cartons of cigarettes.

Also missing were two stereo speakers, and about 20 hats were thrown off the shelves onto the floor. Officer Wied removed several torn packages for processing.

Tuesday, Feb. 11, at approximately 3:57 p.m., Officer W.E. Lattimore met with complainant Lisa O'Day in reference to a vehicle windshield being broken. She gave Lattimore a four inch hole which had penetrated the windshield, shattering it and making a two inch hole in it. O'Day said she was driving the vehicle which belonged to someone else. She was unable to describe the other vehicle.

Saturday, Feb. 15, at 9:40 p.m. Deputy Leonard Peters met with complainant Frank Hubenak at Frank and Leona's Lounge in Rock Island about a reported burglary.

The complainant showed the officer where the suspect had removed caulk from around a pane of glass in the window. He also said the double windows by the bar were unlocked and had been locked the night before.

Taken from the lounge were 12 cases of beer and a 48 count box of Snicker bars. Officer Peters took the broken window glass for processing.

Monday, Feb. 17, at 8:25 a.m. L.R.H. Wied answered a complaint of burglary at Pilsner's Place.

A suspect had pried open the change boxes on the pool tables and video game. The jukebox was forced open at the top. Nothing was reported taken from any of the machines because the owner had emptied them the day before. The door from the game room to the bar was pried from its hinges.

Taken from the bar area were all the cigarettes, chewing tobacco, beef sticks and an unknown amount of beer. Shoe prints at the entry point revealed two suspects were involved and two sets of prints led from the building to the vehicle tracks. The scene was photographed and printed.

Black History musical tagged a huge success

The musical put on at E.H. Henry Historical Building, Feb. 15, in honor of Black History Month was a great success.

Over 200 attended the event. All the participants were appreciated. Funds raised from the program will be used for the building.

The E.H. Henry Historical Corporation is asking for willing workers to volunteer to help keep the gymnasium at the building open to the public. The

donations received are going to help Mrs. Elaine Harrison thanked those who gave donations. She assured that progress is being made.

Mr. Harrison also said the general meetings of the historical corporation are open to the public and anyone interested is welcome to attend. The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry Historical Building (the old Eagle Lake Primary School).

Reward offered for information on hit and run

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$1,000 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons involved in the hit and run accident which occurred at 609 Keith Street on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 5:30 p.m.

A five-year-old girl was playing on the side of the road and was struck by a black four door car which sped away onto State Street, then turned left onto FM 3013.

A license plate number was not obtained, but the vehicle was allegedly occupied by six Hispanic males. Further information received was that the driver may go by the name of Gato and may possibly be from Wharton. Crime Stoppers also pays cash rewards for information that leads to the solution of any felony crime. Call Crime Stoppers at 234-5555. You will remain anonymous.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Lady Raiders out of playoffs

Word was received late Tuesday evening that the Varsity Lady Raiders were eliminated from the state playoffs by Waco-Robinson in their area championship game.

The score was reportedly Rice 39, Waco-Robinson 66. We salute the Lady Raiders on their exemplary season and hope they use it as a building block for future seasons.

Council, Farm and Ranch reach tentative agreement

Subject to the outcome of a special City Council meeting called for 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, Eagle Lake City Council and Farm & Ranch Aerial may reach a tentative agreement on the airport land situation.

The root of the problem between the two entities is the inability of Farm & Ranch to load their planes (a Texas Association of Airport Executives bulletin on storm water discharge permits. This type of permit appears to be very expensive; not only to acquire, but also in maintenance and testing.

Before Farm & Ranch representatives were given the floor, Van Nort said, "This Council has never said

loading, the City would have to obtain a Storm Water Discharge Permit following stringent and specific E.P.A. regulations. Obtaining and keeping this permit would cost the City a sizeable amount of money every year.

Mayor Roy Van Nort opened the meeting, attended by approximately 35 citizens, by reading from a Texas Association of Airport Executives bulletin on storm water discharge permits. This type of permit appears to be very expensive; not only to acquire, but also in maintenance and testing.

Before Farm & Ranch representatives were given the floor, Van Nort said, "This Council has never said

Farm and Ranch couldn't use the airport. Our concern is chemicals being loaded and/or spilled on City property. We're not under the same rules and regulations as farmers."

When Farm & Ranch was given the floor, Gene Shanks Jr. presented Council with a title research report prepared by Jim Rutt of Elliott & Waldron Abstract in Columbus. According to this report, only half the easement along North Street (the north end of Airline Drive) belongs to the City of Eagle Lake. Sometime since the original deed was recorded,

(See Council, Page 10)

Posters announce local Wildflower Celebration, tours

Eye catching lime green posters are beginning to appear around town reminding Eagle Lake of the upcoming Wildflower Celebration and tour. A full calendar for April 1 through 26 is planned.

Opening day is Wednesday, April 1. Among the events planned are the antique tractor show and parades, April 4 and 5, and the Lions Club Fun Run and Bike Ride on Saturday, April 11. Rice High School Stage Band will give a concert on Sunday, April 12, and a concert is scheduled by the Youth Choir of Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church on Sunday, April 19.

April 25, the Jazz Girls, Jazz Babies and gymnastics team will give an exhibition.

Daily events include the Prairie Edge Museum, Rotary Club city tours, and the arts and crafts show and sale at the museum and downtown in the former Kids Corner building.

Still in the planning stages are a window painting contest sponsored by Alpha Delta Phi and Xi Pi chapters of Beta Sigma Phi; an elementary art contest and display on the city square; kiddie rides each weekend on the square; food and drink booths; and daily entertainment.

Food and craft booth spaces are still available by contacting Heidi Mills at 234-3383 or Becky Anderson at 234-2601.

Chapter II meeting set at Rice open house

All parents of Rice students are invited to attend a Chapter II meeting to be held at Rice High School on Monday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. It will be in conjunction with open house. Recommendations will be made concerning 1992-93 purchases.

Rotary Pancake supper is March 3

The Eagle Lake Rotary Club will hold a pancake supper on Tuesday, March 3, in the Eagle Lake Community Center. The price is \$3 per plate and the Rotarians will be serving from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the club's scholarship fund. The Rotary gives two two-year scholarships to WCJC each year.

Help welcome visitors

Volunteers are urgently needed to help during the Wildflower Celebration at Prairie Edge Museum. They will help greet the 30,000 visitors expected here between April 1 and 26. To offer your help, call Victor Scott at 234-2792.

Tickets on sale for play

Tickets for the Prairie Edge Players production of "The Foreigner" are on sale at Gifts of Distinction or from any Prairie Edge board member. The performances are March 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$5 each, a reserved seat is \$7. There are only 45 reserved seats available for each performance, so get your tickets early.

Single dance set Friday night

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance Friday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in the K.C. Hall in Needville. Music will be by Sammie Dee and the Jolly Ramblers. The public is invited and there will be door prizes. For information call 713-232-4782 or 409-387-2549.

Christian Women's Luncheon tickets on sale

The annual Christian Women's Luncheon is scheduled for March 31 at First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake. Tickets for the event are now available at the church office or by calling Marg Harrison at 234-5054.

Community Action board meets

The Combined Community Action, Inc. will have its annual board of directors meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. They meet at 400 Gresham in Smithville. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

No ceremony at first baseball game

There will be no opening ceremony for the first Rice varsity baseball game, according to Coach Monte Cain. The baseball game will be here, Saturday, Feb. 29, with Cuero. The varsity team will play at noon. There will not be any other games that day. The date of the official opening ceremony will be announced later.

Rice band French horn player gets first

Lonnie Hutchinson, a member of the Rice High School band also competed at solo and ensemble contest Feb. 15 in Victoria. He earned a first division rating with his French horn solo.

at 234-3522.

Contact Helen Craig at 234-2807 to schedule an event or for more information.

No state disaster aid according to Emergency Management

By Rhonda Lattimore
Contributing Writer

Colorado County Commissioners' Court touched on a number of varied topics during its regular meeting Monday morning at the Colorado County Courthouse.

County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk informed the court that the county would not be receiving any state aid for damages sustained during the December flooding.

Moses S. Dugan, deputy state coordinating officer with the Division of Emergency Management of the Texas Department of Public Safety, contacted Strunk and informed him that the amount of damage to land and homesteads in the county did not meet the qualifications set by the department.

Notified by the American Red Cross and several individuals from the county, Dugan's office evaluated the damages and determined individuals should contact the American Red

cross for assistance. He also mentioned that low interest loans may be available through the Farmers Home Administration or Small Business Association.

"We have submitted an appeal on this decision, but I am afraid we may not see any change in this statement. So far, we have not received a reply,"

Strunk.

The court was also informed by Strunk of a Hazardous Waste Collection Day slated for Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Texas National Guard Armory in Columbus. This event will be co-sponsored by the

(See Commissioners, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Police Department Weekly Report

The Eagle Lake Police Department received the following reports this week, in addition to their miscellaneous reports:

"Burglary of a motor vehicle on Church Street, where a window was broken out of a vehicle and a radar detector was taken."

"Criminal mischief on Seventh Street in which two horses got loose

and broke down a wood linked fence and walked in complainant's yard."

"Investigating the theft of a lawn mower from Eagle Lake Iron Works on W. Main Street."

"Dispatched to a disturbance where David Allen Cardenas was arrested for public intoxication and resisting arrest. He was transported to the county jail."

"Dispatched to a family dispute on Maple Street."

"Received a report of a tire cut on a Ford pickup that was parked at Eagle Tractor."

"Investigating report of criminal mischief in which a car received damage on Church Street."

"Police worked several accidents this week. In the midst of the rain storm early Saturday morning, Rod Adkins reported he was traveling northbound on FM 102 about one mile south of Eagle Lake when he struck a tree that had blown over the roadway during the night."

"Police investigated a report of a hit and run pedestrian accident at 609 Keith Street, in which five year old Anna Maria Marquez was struck by a black four-door car while she was playing along the roadway. The car, occupied by six Hispanic males, sped away on State Street and then onto FM 3013. The child was reported to have sustained a fractured leg."

"Officers investigated a report of a hit and run on Dobbin Street. The vehicle was located on Dobbin that hit the other vehicle but no driver has been located."

"Gary Sosa, driving a Ford Escort, and Robert Louis Tillman, driving a Ford Fairmont, were involved in an accident at Lake and Stockbridge. Tillman stated that his passenger accidentally struck the steering wheel, causing him to swerve into Sosa's vehicle."

(See Open houses, Page 10)

Time to clean up, beautify Eagle Lake

More than 30,000 visitors are expected in Eagle Lake during the month of April. The Wildflower Celebration Committee is working very hard to insure many of these visitors see more than just the highway through town.

"Each homeowner and business person is asked to look around his or her property and note what needs improving to present a more attractive scene to strangers in town," said Helen Craig, Wildflower Celebration committee chairman. "Clean up weeds, prune overgrown shrubs, plant flowers now to be ready before April 1."

Most wildflower seeds needed to be planted back in the fall for spring blooming, but domestic flowers are not out of place. The pots of begonias in front of businesses evoked numerous comments last year. Flowers are always appropriate.

With the planned Rotary Club city tour, visitors will see some year-old Eagle Lake that are usually not visited. A quick coat of paint can help the appearance of many buildings.