

BARGAIN **Used Cars** **Prices Slashed!** **BARGAIN**

GM PROGRAM CARS...

1992 Geo Prizm Aqua metallic; auto; air; 16,000 miles	Old Price \$12,690	New Price \$9,993
1992 Chevy 3/4-Ton H.D. Pickup Extended cab; loaded; 27,000 miles	\$23,182	\$17,995
1992 Chevy Corsica White; fully loaded; 15,000 miles	\$14,474	\$9,993
1991 Olds Cutlass Ciera	\$11,500	\$9,993

USED CARS...

1991 Cadillac Seville Prestigious car; 28,000 miles	Old Price \$21,450	New Price \$18,993
1990 Chevy Suburban Loaded; low miles	\$16,050	\$15,293
1989 Dodge Dynasty 2.0, 60,000 miles, rear gear	SOLD \$7,475	\$7,195

1988 Chevy 3/4-Ton Pickup Great work truck; 4-speed manual
NADA Price \$8,475 New Price \$6,993

1986 Nissan 4x4 ST Pickup Nice unit
\$5,250 \$4,793

1985 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz A Real Gem!
\$6,295

1984 Cadillac Eldorado Clean car, sick. We finance.
\$3,400

1975 Cadillac Sedan de Ville Real cream puff; 84,121 miles
\$3,495

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- Oldsmobile
- Cadillac

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323 S. McCarty Eagle Lake 409-234-5556

WE'RE SLASHING PRICES!

Sales tax

15.3% increase over the Feb. 1992 rebates of \$17.6 million.

This month's payments include taxes collected on Dec. sales and reported in Jan. by businesses filing monthly returns as well as taxes reported by businesses filing quarterly returns for sales made in Oct., Nov. and Dec.

The City of Houston received \$29.3 million, the largest sales tax rebate for Feb., an 11.2% increase from the \$26.3 million in Feb. 1992.

"Employment grew by 1,100 jobs in Dec. 1991 to Dec. 1992, hinting at a turning point for Houston's overall industrial growth," Sharp said.

The \$18 million Feb. payment to the City of Dallas was the second largest, up 20.5% from the \$14.9 million sent to the city for the same period last year.

Continued growth in the services and government sectors earned the City of San Antonio a \$10.6 million rebate, the third largest payment this month and a 15.9% increase over the Feb. 1992 payment of \$9.1 million to the Alamo city.

"Corporate relocations of tele-marketing and communications businesses in the San Antonio metropolitan area are expected to fill the gap created by military cutbacks," Sharp said.

The City of Austin's payment of \$8.3 million ranked as the fourth highest rebate, a 17.8% increase over its

Continued from Page 1

Feb. 1992 payment of \$7 million. Austin added jobs in all sectors except mining.

"The fastest growing sector was construction, rising more than 10% between Dec. 1991 and Dec. 1992. Much of Austin's growth can be attributed to its high tech manufacturing industries," Sharp stated.

El Paso, with a \$5.8 million rebate, had a 12.1% increase from the \$5.2 million it received last year. Strong growth in the government and service sectors helped outweigh losses in other sectors.

"Positive consumer attitudes may be reflected in Ft. Worth's tax allocations. Ft. Worth's construction employment exhibited a positive turn. Jobs in this sector increased for the first time since early 1991," Sharp said.

El Paso continues to exhibit solid economic growth in all sectors. Employment for the El Paso area rose 3.6% between Dec. 1991 and Dec. 1992. The Feb. rebate to the city was \$4.5 million, an 11.9% increase over the Feb. 1992 rebate of \$4 million.

Other cities in our area, the amounts of their sales tax rebates this month, along with the change from this month last year are:

- Columbus, \$51,032.99, +2.28%;
- Weimar, \$18,345.26, +5.59%;
- Sealy, \$52,965.84, -10.91%;
- Bellville, \$31,749.49, +15.54%;
- El Campo*, \$182,217.14, +66.25%;
- Wharton, \$132,178.92, +28.44%.

Year-to-date totals for the above cities are:

- Columbus, \$76,748.03, +4.5%;
- Weimar, \$25,553.02, +8.46%;
- Sealy, \$79,182.05, -5.53%;
- Bellville, \$2,822.63, +54.36%;
- El Campo*, \$288,081.56, +63.89%;
- Wharton, \$210,464.45, +25.77%.

On the county level, Colorado County's Feb. rebate was in the amount of \$64,671.21, up 10.53% from last year giving a year-to-date total of \$98,664.74, +15.56%. Wharton County received \$126,289.65, up 12.64% from Feb. 1992 making the year-to-date total \$205,992.90, +13.29%. Austin County received \$78,597.68, down 7.67%. Year-to-date Austin County's total is \$121,798.41, up 7.11%.

*El Campo now collects 1.5% city sales tax giving an inflated percentage of increase.

World Day of Prayer set for Friday

The World Day of Prayer, a day set aside for millions of Christian women all over the globe, traditionally takes place the first Friday in March. This year's observance is Mar. 5 at 9:30 a.m. when women will join in "informed prayer and prayerful action" for the 106th year.

United Methodist Women of Eagle Lake are sponsoring the local prayer event which will take place at Eagle Lake Methodist Church. Chairperson Betty Wilcox has announced several local churches will be participating in the ecumenical service.

This year's observance program "People of God: Instruments of Healing" was written by women of Guatemala. The Guatemalan women share their background and experience. They describe difficult social (See Day of Prayer, Page 7)

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NEWSBRIEFS

TPWD Hearing in Columbus today

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. is having a public hearing in Columbus Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. to discuss the proposed hunting and fishing regulations. Those attending will be asked to complete a survey about how the TPWD is doing and how improvements can be made. Everyone is invited to attend the hearing.

Sign up deadline Friday for 'Today's Woman'

The registration deadline is Friday, March 5, for the women's conference sponsored by Gulf Coast Medical Center and South Texas Medical Clinics, P.A. "Today's Woman at Her Best-1993" will be held Saturday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wharton Civic Center. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch and materials. To register call 409-532-2500, ext. 6109.

Parent centers offer classes

At Eagle Lake Middle School, the parent workshop topic for March 4 topic is "It's Great to Be Me" on increasing your child's self-esteem. The sessions are held every Thursday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the school parent center. For additional details contact Maria Vargas at 234-3501.

Eagle Lake Lions sell mops today

The Eagle Lake Lions Club annual mop and broom sale will be Thursday, March 4, on the square. All articles for sale are made by the blind and proceeds from the sale are used for Lions Club projects to help the blind.

Must refund duck stamps by March 5

All goose hunting clubs that have uncollected duck stamps must return them to the post office by close of business on March 5, according to Eagle Lake Postmaster Robert McClelland. No refunds will be available after this date.

Senior citizens dance is March 5

The Senior citizens will have a dance Friday, March 5, at the Eagle Lake KC Hall from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the Country Playboys and the cover charge is \$4 a person. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be door prizes and refreshments.

Band Boosters have sale

The Rice Raider Band Boosters will have a garage sale Saturday, March 6, from 8 to 4 at the old Kids Corner building on the square in Eagle Lake. Funds from the sale go to help the band.

Museum Thrift Shop open

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds from the shop are used to benefit the museum.

Pink Ladies to elect officers

The Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary will have their annual meeting Tuesday, March 9, at 9:30 a.m. in the hospital conference room to elect new officers for 1993-94. All active members should plan to be present.

Study Club to meet

The Eagle Lake Study Club will have its regular meeting Wednesday, March 10, at 2 p.m. in the Winterman Library. Dr. Sandra Thomas will present a video, "Travels to South America."

Crime Stoppers host dance

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers annual fund raising dance and auction will be Saturday, March 13, at the Eagle Lake KC Hall from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music will be provided by Texas Dance Time Band. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door.

LCRA wants old films of Hill Country

The Lower Colorado River Authority is in search of old film that shows scenes of dams being constructed or any movie film relative to the development of the Hill Country. They especially want film footage from 1930 to 1955 for a video they are producing about the LCRA and the impact of the dams on the Hill Country of Texas. Please contact the LCRA Video Dept. at 512-473-3313 or 1-800-776-5272, ext. 3313.

KCs offer catfish dinner

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Youth Organization will sponsor a fried catfish dinner Friday, March 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. The plates will be available for \$5 each to go or to eat at the KC Hall.

GCMC has cholesterol screening

March 17, Gulf Coast Medical Center Lab will offer cholesterol and triglyceride screening from 7 to 9 a.m. You must pre-register by calling 409-532-2500, ext. 1300. The cost is \$8.

Defensive driving class set

A defensive driving course given by Retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel, will be offered at the Winterman Library in Eagle Lake March 16 and 17 at 6 p.m. To pre-register, call 234-2042 or report to the classroom a few minutes early.

Easter service planned

Plans are underway for a community-wide Easter Sunrise Service at Wildseed Farms off Calhoun Road. The service will be Easter Sunday morning, April 11, at 7 a.m. It is sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church of Eagle Lake.

New Town to have fund raiser barbecue

The New Town Improvement Organization will sponsor a fund raising barbecue to continue the clean up project. The barbecue dinner will be Saturday, March 6, starting at 10 a.m. at 204 Beard St. in the New Town area. For additional information call 234-2567. In case of bad weather, the dinner will be moved to the E.H. Henry building.

Class of '43 sets 50 year reunion

The 1943 class of Eagle Lake High School is planning its 50 year reunion the weekend of April 23-25. It is to be a joint reunion with the 1944 class. Plans include a gathering at the Circle K Ranch. Anyone who was part of either class is encouraged to contact Dr. Raymond Thomas at 234-2083, John Canaris at 234-5933, Sonny Spanish at 234-2854 or Gene Paschall at 234-5383.

Wildflower season passes on sale

Season passes for the annual Wildflower Tours at Wildseed Farms will again be available through the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce for \$10 each. All proceeds from selling these passes goes directly to the chamber. Passes may be purchased from the Chamber office or Helen Craig.

Stabbing, shooting leaves one dead, two injured

Shooting and stabbing incident reported early Saturday morning

just outside Eagle Lake. Colorado County Sheriff Bill Esterling reported that Feb. 27 at 1:40 a.m., the sheriff's office received a call from Eagle Lake Police to go to the Charles Hodde residence in reference to a stabbing and burglary. Hodde lives on Calhoun road, one and a half miles south of Hwy. 90A, west of Eagle Lake.

Hodde was transported to the hospital

by the Eagle Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Sgt. Bill Lattimore and Deputy Parcell, assisted by Eagle Lake Police Chief Lupe Villarreal and Officer Jay Reeves, secured the scene.

At the hospital officers learned that a 16 year old male, who had been shot by Hodde, was dead. Hodde, who was severely cut, and a second male,

17 year old Daniel Lopez, who had been shot, were transported by Life Flight to a Houston hospital. Dead was Christopher Lopez, age 16, of Nada.

L.R.H. Wied stated that charges have been filed and the case continued under investigation.

According to a member of Hodde's family, he had apparently been asleep on the couch when the two men arrived. The Lopezes, allegedly armed with a piece of pipe and knives, apparently slashed the tires on Hodde's truck then broke in the door of the house. Hodde was cut on his forehead, chest and abdomen. Hodde somehow broke away from (See Sheriff's report, Page 12)

Proposed City garbage rate increases pass first reading

Two more to go...

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council passed the first of three readings of an ordinance to increase garbage rates, appointed a reserve police officer,

voted to establish a community service program and approved a policy concerning police officers responding to accidents outside the city limits at last week's meeting.

City Manager Ron Holland told

Chamber asks help with 1993 goal setting

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce is conducting a survey of the community to help gather information to set goals for 1993. Both Chamber members and nonmembers are asked to complete a survey questionnaire and return it to the chamber office. Surveys need to be returned by March 5.

The officers and directors are

working on a positive plan of action for the chamber in the coming year. Needs of businesses and individuals must be known in order for the chamber to undertake this project.

Chamber representatives have attempted to contact every business in the Eagle Lake area, both members and those who are not. If your business has not been reached by Thursday,

March 4, please contact the Chamber office at 234-2780, Becky Anderson at 234-3522 or Doug Schwemm at 234-3071 as soon as possible.

Individuals are also being contacted in a related community survey through civic clubs, churches and related organizations. It is vitally important that survey forms be returned to the chamber as soon as possible.

Residents are asked to rate such items as streets and roads, recreation facilities, school, police protection, city services, health services and community spirit.

The chamber wishes to protect the privacy of all persons who take the time and trouble to participate in the survey. Respondents should not sign the forms and may return them in sealed unmarked envelopes if they prefer.

Chamber directors hope to get a wide sample of opinions of this area. There will be a place on each survey to make comments and suggestions. Positive ideas and suggestions will be especially helpful to the planning.

—John Howard

April Wildflower Tours, Celebration are approaching

The April Wildflower Celebration (April 1-May 2) is fast approaching when many visitors will be here to see the flowers, take the Rotary Club's City Tour and to visit the Prairie Edge Museum.

As these travelers come over our way, the Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club urges local citizens to plant, paint and pick-up for a more attractive hometown. Remember, oftentimes the first impression is a lasting one.

The City Tour will be covering a number of our streets, namely, Boothe Drive, Partridge Lane, Laughlin Road, Main Street, Lakeside Drive; also State, Walnut, Prairie, McCarty, Post Office, Burns, Cemetery and Lake streets, Peyton Lane, Melody Lane and West Austin Road.

"With this once a year effort we can benefit the entire community and help to leave pleasant memories for those who passed our way," say the Garden Club members.

"By cultivating the beautiful, we can scatter seeds of heavenly."

—John Howard

Board terminates ELMS teacher

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees voted unanimously to terminate Larry Baker, a sixth and seventh grade math teacher at Eagle Lake Middle School,

following a lengthy hearing last Saturday night at the administration building in Altair.

Baker was terminated for not following the district's policy. The hearing allegedly showed that Baker did not follow directives as set forth in the teachers' handbook and spelled out in his job description.

In addition, Baker's overall appraisal was not satisfactory, according to the Texas Teacher Appraisal System (TTAS), a system used to appraise state teachers.

It also should be noted that Baker is not a certified teacher and was working under the Alternative Certification Program in order to obtain his teacher's certification.

Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey said she had no comment on the hearing since she was not sure whether or not Baker would appeal the board's decision to the Texas Education Agency.

The hearing, which was conducted in open session and lasted until 5 a.m. on Sunday morning, was scheduled to get under way at 7:30 p.m., but did not begin until after 9 p.m. due to Baker's late arrival.

Baker, who was represented by a Texas Classrooms Teachers Association attorney, was reportedly late because he was taking his test for certification. This was the final step in the process to become a certified teacher.

Baker had been suspended from his classroom duties on Jan. 8, pending (See Baker terminated, Page 12)

Cars stolen from East Side Auto Saturday night

Sunday, Feb. 21, two vehicles were reported stolen at about 6:30 a.m. from the parking lot of East Side Auto Sales just outside Eagle Lake.

Deputy Leonard Peters met with the complainant, B.J. Williams who told the officer when he arrived at his lot that morning, the two vehicles were missing.

They are a 1989 Buick Park Avenue, four door, dark blue, TX license number GZP02P, valued at \$9,450; and a 1990 Oldsmobile 98 touring sedan, four door, maroon, TX license number BNJ05T, valued at \$10,550.

Williams said the vehicles were locked when he left the night before because he had checked them. Deputy Peters did not locate any broken glass or footprints in the area. The keys for both vehicles were still in the office

where they had been locked up. Both vehicles were entered in the computer and area agencies were notified.

Feb. 13, at 2 p.m., Deputy Thane Busby met with a complainant from Eagle Lake Energy Systems on CR 210 who showed where a suspect had used a cutting torch to cut two Master locks from an 8 ft. storage box that held welding equipment. Missing were a red welding machine, three welding hoods, welding rods, two pair of gloves, two 3/6" pipe wrenches, a box of tools, pipe threader and heavy duty jack. A pocket knife, possibly belonging to the suspect was found at the location. Tire marks were also found at the scene.

Fast session covers road zoning, alleys

By Rhonda Lattimore, Banner Press Staff

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court zipped through its second monthly meeting Monday morning in less than 45 minutes, touching briefly on some 19 agenda items.

Heading the meeting were public hearings to raise a load zone on C.R. 144 a.k.a. Sandy Creek Road from Precinct 1 and close alleys along Blocks 38 and 39 in Sheridan.

Both items passed without any public participation.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert told the court the load zone needed to be raised on Sandy Creek Road to handle any oversized vehicles which may pass along the road, i.e. oil field equipment.

The new load zone will be posted at 20 tons. Vehicles weighing in over that amount will be required to obtain a permit from the county prior to traveling the area.

The second hearing involving the closing of alleys in Sheridan stems from a request by members of the Sheridan Community Park Project to close off a two-block area donated to

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\$2.99

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89¢

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ST. MARY'S 2ND ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL
Nada K.J.T. Hall
Sunday, March 7, 1993
MASSES: Sat. 5 p.m., Sunday, 7 & 10 a.m.

BBQ Chicken & Sausage Dinner
with trimmings
11 a.m.-1 p.m. All Plates \$5.00
Seating available • Fast drive thru for Plates-to-go

ENTERTAINMENT
Bingo • Auction • Silent Auction • Kiddie Games • Pastry Booth • Drawing

St. Paul's to salute Black History Month

St. Paul's Church will hold a Youth Salute to Black History Saturday, Feb. 27, in the church sanctuary at 916 Fannin Street in Columbus.

The guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Jiles Daniels, U.S. Army-Retired, Vice President for Student Affairs at Prairie View A&M University.

Col. Daniels military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service and Army Commendation Medals; National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea); Vietnam Service Cross of

Gallantry with Palms; Republic of Vietnamese Campaign Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars; and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After retirement and five years with Texas Southern University, he was transferred to Prairie View A&M.

This event is an annual scholarship fund raiser. The program will highlight Black achievements in time, drill team performance and other history briefs. The public is encouraged to attend this program. Rev. Marcus Freeman is the Pastor of St. Paul.

THANK YOU!

Congratulations! The Nurturing Program was a great success. Colorado County Youth and Family Services would like to thank the following for their support of the Nurturing Program in Eagle Lake:

First Baptist Church for the use of their facility and their audio-visual equipment.

We would especially like to thank the following volunteers for their dedication, time and energy in helping to make a difference in the lives of many families:

Billie Gail Cash	Carmen Nunez	Bobby Johnson
Margo Harrison	Cindy Goodwin	Elaine Hess
Laura Belle Potter	Britni Wood	Liz Stiles
David Goodwin		Mary Ann Wood

Thursday Night Special at... Sportsman's Restaurant

Need A Break From Cooking? Take Home a Family Size Order of FAJITAS

Includes one (1) pound of meat, 8 flour tortillas and pico de gallo for only... **\$7.95**

201 Boothe Dr. 409-234-3071

Available 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday evenings only.



All District picks from Rice

The Rice Lady Raiders team were all chosen for all April McMillan, Sophronnie Anderson, Jill Jantah and Nehasha Tillman. They are coached by Mark Johnson. From the left are Danni Piccolini, manager, Annette McTeer, Kaci Klain, Evelyn Washington in front of (See Page 9 for story) Photo Courtesy of Coach Mark Johnson