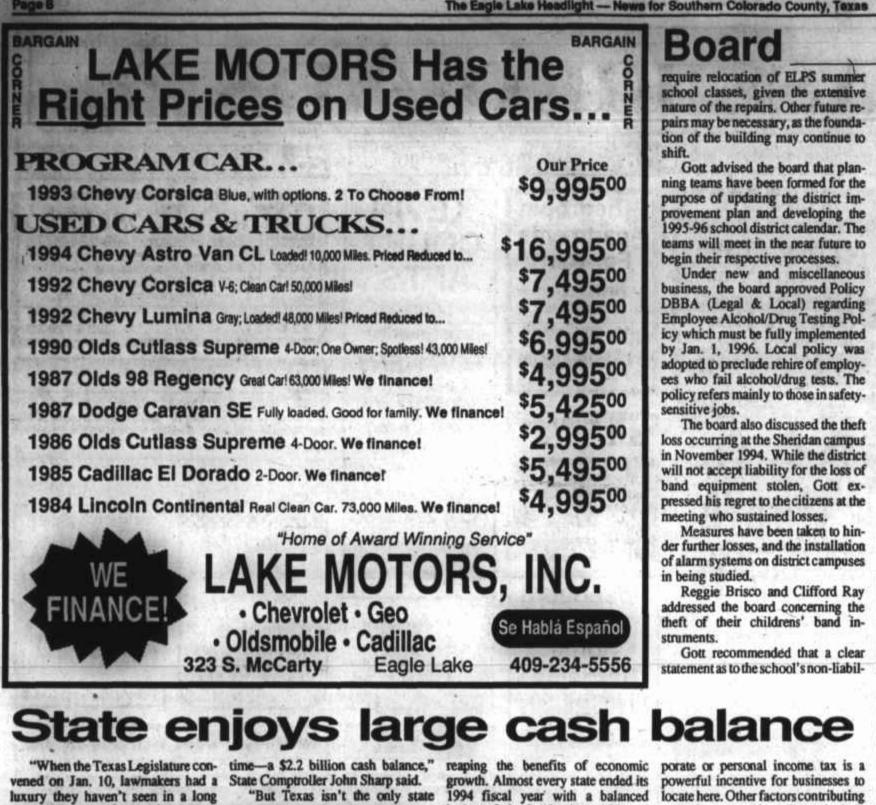
The Engle Lake Headlight -- News for Southern Colorado County, Texas



Keeping an eye on Tex **USDA weeds out Texas field offices** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will move 74 field offices **Results of USDA restructuring** Counties with in Texas and close 34 in a five-year restructuring period designed to cut federal spending. When complete, 35 Texas counties will be without field service centers Counties without service centers offices. The remaining 219 one-stop 'service centers' will include the offices of the Farm Service Agency as well as the Natural Resources Conservation ICE. The USDAN save an estimated \$2.3 billion nationwide when restructuring is complete. The following counties will see their USDA offices close: Banders, Borden, Camp; Dallas, Franklin, Glasscook, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Irion, King, Kinney, Marion, McMullen, Montgomery, Mortis, Newton, Rain Real, Rockwell, Sabine, San Jacinto, Tyler, Ward and Zavais. SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Act and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



**CCA offers help** with energy bills

Combined Community Action for assistance inc. (CCA) has funds available under the Comprehensive Energy Assis-tance Program (CEAP) to households ng energy related assistance. federal income gu

If you or someone you know is in Family ed of assistance, CCA will be taking Size applications from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Eagle Lake City Hall Council Room. Please call Helen of the Family

Services Department at 512-237-4824 or 1-800-688-9065 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Prilay, to make an app

ce is based on house- For each additional

budget. Only California and Hawaii to business growth on Texas include are expected to have serious financial an influx of new residents, the rela-

\$105 million.

rising sales tax collections and im- and that means strong retail sales, plementation of many of the cost-cut- particularly of durable goods. ting recommendations of the Texas Proceeds from lotteries and casino Performance Review, the state has gambling have also helped produce collected more money than it has budget surpluses for some states. Fisspent during the first year of the cur- cal year 1994 sales for the 34 lotteries rent biennium," Sharp explained. in the U.S. increased by 13%, to \$28.5

also has contributed to the state cash by the Texas Lottery. surplus. Nearly \$800 million in lottery However, budget experts warn proceeds went into the state's general state officials that it is dangerous to year," Sharp said.

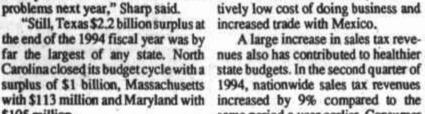
than anyone expected. If the current nue available from gambling. ing the next biennium.

ance Review report," Sharp said.

The Dec. issue of Fiscal Notes, a publication of the Comptroller's Research Division, compares Texas' economic recovery and state revenue growth with other states which have experienced similar ups and downs in the last few years.

the early 1990s, many states were forced to expand their tax bases or raise taxes to keep state finances in the Historical Commission for 1995-96 are considering tax cuts as economic recovery has caused state tax revenues to increase by an average of 6.7% in the same period one year ago.

Job growth is spurring the eco-nomic recovery in Texas and other states. More than half of the states exceeded the national 2% job growth rate between June of 1993 and June of



The board also discussed the theft

Measures have been taken to hin-

Gott recommended that a clear

same period a year earlier. Consumer "Because of a growing economy, confidence is high in most regions,

"The success of the Texas Lottery billion, including \$2.7 billion in sales

revenue fund during the 1994 fiscal rely on gaming revenue. As more states legalize gambling, the market Sharp issued the official Biennial could become saturated with lotteries, Revenue Estimate when the Legisla- casinos and other games of chance, ture convened. It was said to higher reducing each state's share of the reve-

economic trends continue, the state State spending across the nation is will have more money coming in dur- expected to increase by 4.4% next year. When the Texas Legislature "Lawmakers should have little convened, lawmakers will faced the trouble providing all of the necessary pressure to spend more on programs service and avoiding a tax increase, such as education, corrections and but they can't do it without adopting Medicaid. They are depending heavsome of the \$2.1 billion in money- ily on continuing economic growth to saving suggestions contained in Gain- bring in the needed revenue, because ing Ground, the latest Texas Perform- state leaders have pledged not to increase taxes.

### Commissioners Continued from Page 1

if selected to serve;

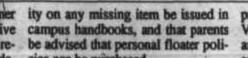
 Voted Precinct 1 Commissioner During the economic hard times in Richard Seifert as the county judge

 Appointed the Colorado County black. Now almost half of the states and scheduled an organizational meeting for 3 p.m. Jan. 19 in the district courtroom;

·Approved a recommendation by the first quarter of 1994, compared to County Judge Vince Slominski to review proposals for new recording equipment for Commissioners' Court, juvenile court and county court;

 Adopted the new policy manual; Approved law enforcement liability insurance through the Texas 1994. The fact that Texas has no cor-Association of Counties at a cost of \$21,652;

 Agreed to pay \$25 per member for EMS personnel to take a basic prehospital trauma care course; and ·Approved fuel bids for all county precincts and sheriff's department.



shift. Gott advised the board that planning teams have been formed for the purpose of updating the district improvement plan and developing the Marty Graves of the Colorado County School. Milligan is a graduate of 1995-96 school district calendar. The Extension Service as adjunct faculty Brigham Young University and is teams will meet in the near future to members of Rice CISD. While the appointees will not be School.

Under new and miscellaneous remunerated by the district, the ap- The board also approved the embusiness, the board approved Policy pointment allows RHS students to be ployment of Patrick E. Milligan as DBBA (Legal & Local) regarding Employee Alcohol/Drug Testing Pol-icy which must be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 1996. Local policy was

policy refers mainly to those in safety-sensitive jobs. Laughlin assigned loss occurring at the Sheridan campus in November 1994. While the district will not accept liability for the loss of

Congressman Greg Laughlin was sworn in last week as the Representa-pass. There is no reason why Congress tive for the 14th Congressional Dis- should be exempt from them. It's only der further losses, and the installation trict of Texas in the 104th Congress. fair that Congress adhere to the same

portation and Infrastructure Commit- county," he concluded. Reggie Brisco and Clifford Ray tee, formerly known as Public Works The Congressional Accountabiladdressed the board concerning the and Transportation. He has also been ity Act applies ten existing employee theft of their childrens' band in- assigned to sit on the Surface Trans- protection and anti-discrimination portation Subcommittee and the Wa- laws to the employees of Congress, inter Resources and Environment Sub-committee. cluding: 1. Fair Labor Standards Act, 2. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, 3. statement as to the school's non-liabil- committee.

> highway and bridge construction as Age Discrimination in Employment well as safety regulations. In addition, Act, 5. Family and Medical Leave the committee holds jurisdiction over Act, 6. Occupational safety and transportation aspects of the Clean Air Health Act, 7. Federal Labor Manage-

> The Water Resources and Envi- Polygraph Protection Act, 9. Worker ronment Subcommittee has jurisdic- Adjustment and Retraining Notification over several issues of interest to tion Act, and 10. Rehabilitation Act. the 14th District including Superfund, H.R. 1, the Congressional Ac-Clean Water Act, civil works pro-grams of the Army Corps of Engi-voted on last week, is nearly identical neers, fish and wildlife habitat en- to the legislative package approved hancement, wetlands protection and during the 103rd Congress. The legiswater transportation issues.

Laughlin's office reported that he House each time it has been considvoted in support of the Congressional ered, has been defeated each time in Accountability Act which over- the Senate. whelmingly passed the House by a This legislation now goes before vote of 429 to 0 last week.

"More than ten similar resolutions have been introduced in the House during the 102nd and 103rd sessions of Congress but only one comprehensive package was voted on by the full House," said Laughlin.

"I have continually supported this of their lives. equisitation when it has been intro-The evening will begin at 0.30 duced and voted in support of it on the p.m. with a social time for visiting. House floor on Aug. 10, 1994, during followed by dinner and the program. the 103rd Congress," he added. "I Tickets may be purchased at Eagle believe it is important that employees Lake Drugstore, Wilcox Foods, Laker by these laws. It is also important that Chamber director.





We are now preparing for Spring Recital, so call now!

tiful plants.

Eligibility for participation is es-tablished according to the following

Annual Gross Income \$9,200 \$12,300 \$15,400 \$21,600

\$27,800

Flowers **Continued from Page 5** ette, Colorado, Wharton, Austin and Lee Counties. Ellison's donates plants

several times a year for distribution to nursing homes. Employees, who volunteer to help deliver the plants, say the faces of the residents light up as they see the beau-

Happy

Birthday

Robert

Love,

Becky &

#### Thursday, January 12, 1995

**Continued from Page 1** require relocation of ELPS summer school classes, given the extensive nature of the repairs. Other future re-pairs may be necessary, as the founda-tion of the building may continue to the

presently employed at Klein Oak High

He will again serve on the Trans- laws we impose on the people of this

Surface Transportation oversees Americans with Disabilities Act, 4. ment Relations Act, 8. Employee lation, although approved by the

the Senate for approval.

## Banquet

**Continued from Page 1** 

## Crime Stoppers 'Crime of the Week'

up to \$1,000.00 cash reward for any informa- / If you have any information regarding this tion leading to the arrest and indictment of any case, or any case, please call crime stoppers at person or persons involved in the burglary of 234-5555, or the police department at 234a residence at 745 S. McCarty which occurred 2727. You will remain anonymous.

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering between Jan. 10 and Jan. 11.



# Council talks waste collection, okay cable increase

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer

a prebid conference with BFI and methods

one step further toward private solid Lewis Epps also met with Council of Mayor Robby Cook. Councilman ice, but not the expanded basic.

The bid system is structured to Bill Bersky, representative for and Columbus into on-site, but with maintenance yard.

accept or reject any or all bids.

City is going in. effective March 1, by TCI Ca- promised to provide."

ment of 21¢ on basic service and 58¢ tioned Bersky on plans for future pro- and media building and contents and Waste Management Inc., the two bid- Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Duarte pre- on expanded basic. The City has the gramming and plans for modern electric motors. Eagle Lake City Council moved ders vying to provide the service. sided over the meeting in the absence power to regulate only the basic serv- equipment

waste collection and disposal as it held concerning recycling machinery and John Young was also absent from the Basic service will now cost \$9.70 the engineering stage for fiber cable buildings, which include the fire staand expanded basic \$10.03.

> take bids on six different residential TCI, told Council that the company is no time frame. options. Council will decide which following FCC regulations which al- The salary of the mayor and city vised Council that the new sewer lines one, if any, after the bid is accepted. lows it to recover programming and council members for the coming year on Lake Ave. and C Street and Church The City is reserving the right to installation costs lost when rates were will remain the same. At present, the to State will be completed by the end

is not necessarily the direction the they were approving the rate increase meeting.

blevision for approval of a rate adjust- Councilman Joe Frazar ques- airport liability electronic equipment

Hallettsville man loses life in truck-train collision



Pacific train.

# Variety of crimes keep Jan. 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for 6th grade, and Jan. 26 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for 7th grade. For more information call 234-3501. Eagle Lake Police busy

On Jan. 11. Chief Hall received Depot. This case is also under investi information that a vehicle stolen from gation. case remains under investigation.

Olivares was dispatched to a residence sault on a 911 call on Jan. 13, Officer ceived a report at the police station of essed and transported to the county criminal mischief at the Railroad

Number of animals down this year, but ... **Rice FFA** sale brings in \$33,302+

sponsor Leroy Stavinoha by bringing in a total of \$33,3002.30 as of press

A barbecue lunch, catered by

Austin's BBQ & Catering of Eagle Once again, Auctioneer Bunge Halla of Weimar worked the smaller than usual crowd, bringing in prices

Pasadena was in the Eagle Lake area. Another case of criminal mischie The vehicle was recovered by Hall was reported to Hart on Jan. 13. The

and Officer Jeremy Moore. The sus- mischief occurred on State Street. pect driver was not located and the This case is also open pending further investigation. Also on Jan. 11, Officer Patrick Upon receiving a report of an as-

On Jan, 13, Officer Eric Hart re- Smith, was arrested for assault, proc-(See Police, Page 10

----- AND AURICULIUKE 1995 Grand Champion Steer

NEWSBRIEFS

#### Reminder to truck drivers

Eagle Lake City officials would like to remind truck drivers that it is time to renew their permit(s) with the City. Contact City Hall at 234-2640 for more information or if you have any questions,

Wilcox Foods IGA celebrates change

A week-long celebration is underway at Wilcox Foods, 200 S. McCarty in Eagle Lake, marking the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Retzlaff. The Retzlaffs recently purchased the operation from Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilcox. Everyone is invited to stop by for a visit and enjoy some coffee and cake during the week of Jan. 18 to 24.

#### Chamber Banquet is next Monday

If you haven't gotten your ticket for the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Banquet, there's still time. Contact Lynda Lipperdt at the Chamber office from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Linda Balas or any Chamber director. The \$10 tickets include a social time beginning at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7. Rory Aplanalp, a muchsought-after motivational speaker, will address the group following the meal.

#### Sheridan Baptist Church plans concert

The First Baptist Church of Sheridan invites the public to a concert featuring the Christian group Eternity. The concert will be held Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. The First Baptist Church is located on Farm Road 2437 in Sheridan. If you need more information call Brent Pittman at 234-3136.

#### Houston winter antique show

The Houston winter antiques show will take place at the Adam's Mark-Hotel Exhibit Center located at 2900 Briarpark Drive at Westheimer, on Jan. 23 & 23. On Sat. from 10 to 6 p.m. and Sun. 10 to 5 p.m. Admission will be \$3. and good for repeat attendance for both days. Parking will be free.

#### Hallettsville sponsors State Domino Tourney

On Sunday, Jan. 22, the Knights of Columbus of Halletsville invite you to attend the tournament. Warm up dominoes and reunion will begin Friday, Jan. 20, with the wild game supper. Hall entry fee is \$5.00. Friday night for the sportsman will also feature the exhibition of the 1994 Big Buck Contest of This is what remained of the new Ford pickup Russell Janek was driving Saturday after colliding with a Southern Lavaca County and out of County including South Texas.

#### Math workshops for parents

You are invited to attend a series of math workshops for 6th and 7th graders. A math class review is planned for parents to inform them of math skills to be taught this six weeks. The goals is for parents to have a better understanding of these skills so they can help their children. The workshops will be held

#### Rice Rookies to hold dinner and dance

The Rice Rookies baseball team will hold a benefit dinner and dance on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The meal will be served by Austin's BBQ & Catering. The dance will feature Andy Gertson and the Texas Fringe. For more information contact Darrell Quinney at 234-7716 or Cindy Fink at 234-2659.

#### Texas Trail Riders goin' to San Antonio

Cowpokes from near and far will circle their wagons at Strunk's Ranch near Oakland, on Saturday, Jan. 27. They'll hit the trail bright and early for the 110mile journey to San Antonio to kick off the San Antonio Livestock Show and on S. McCarty in reference to a bur- Hart arrived at the scene. Following an Rodeo. Membership fee in the Trail Riders is \$20.00, and everyone must have glary. The case is being investigated. investigation, the suspect, Cheryl a 1995 badge. For more information call 409-758-3516, 263-5346 or 543-1384.

### Neighborhood Health Watch plan meeting

The Eagle Lake Neighborhood Health Watch, sponsored by the Texas Department of Health, will be providing a free community health education meeting, "Nutrition for Daily Living". They invite you to come and learn about proper nutrition. The meeting will be held at City Hall on Jan. 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. Call 732-3662 for more information.

#### Battle of the fans drawing There will be a battle of the fans drawing at Austin's Grocery at 2 p.m on Jan. 29th.

#### Eagle Lake KC's plan dance

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 are planning a dance on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 9 p.m. to 1a.m. at the Eagle Lake KC Hall. Andy Gertson and Texas Fringe will provide the musical entertainment. The public is invited to attend.

#### Girl Scouts to have organizational meeting

A girl scout organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 compared to 39 last year, Saturday's p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Interested girls and 1995 Rice FFA Show and Sale total their mothers are asked to attend. Contact Margaret Henry for more informa- still exceeded the expectations of tion at 234-5918.

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church to have tea The Mission of Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church is having a Four The morning hours were taken up Seasons Tea on Jan. 22 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Your attendance would be with the 30 entrants showing off their appreciated. Hosting the tea are Pastor Rev. R. Kiser and president Doris Sims. animals to the judges.

#### Thrift Shop open this weekend

The Thrift Shop will be open this weekend from 9 a.m to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Lake, was served from noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 21. Among the many bargains for sale are a recliner and an electric broom. ACE to meet

Alliance for a Clean Environment will have their annual meeting on Jan. 25 higher than the 1994 sale; sometimes beginning at 6 p.m. with a stew supper. The business meeting will start at 7. The program will consist of TNRCC and LCRA presenting information as well as up-dates on several issues. An auction is also planned. If you have something you'd like to donste, call Mary Till at 758-3947, Randy Waligura at 758-3838 Brune acting as spotters again this or Rita Ruffeno at 732-3832.

The Council approved a request, but we do expect the service you governmental Risk Pool received the inconvenience in those areas.

**新**在泉

STOR ANDY

A representative of TML advised Bersky told Frazar the process is in that the City is underinsured in its and also to consolidate Eagle Lake tion, police building, post office and

City Manager Ron Holland addecreased in the 2nd quarter of 1993. mayor receives \$22.50 per meeting of the month. Tap-ins will occur It was again pointed out "that this Council members advised Bersky and council members receive \$15 per around midnight during the next two weeks, Holland informed Council that because "we don't have much choice, Texas Municipal League Inter- citizens could possibly expect some

> bid to provide insurance coverage for Holland and Cook met with the H-(See Council, Page 10)



killed in a pickup truck-train accident shortly after noon last Saturday on Canal Road 2.7 miles north of Eagle Lake. (The road intersects Hwy. 102 next to Thomas Dryer.) According to the DPS report filed

with Pierce, Janek, 30, was traveling eastbound on Canal Road in his 1995 Ford pickup when he failed to stop and yield right-of-way for the southbound Southern Pacific Railroad train, driven by engineer T.D. "David" Hellen, 39, of Houston, at 12:11 p.m.

Janek was not wearing a seat belt, according to the report. He was pronounced dead on the

by Precinct 4 Justice of Peace Mary Lou Szymanski of Colorado County at 1:05 p.m.

The accident was investigated by DPS Trooper Richard Slubar. He was assisted by personnel from the Colorado County Sheriff's, Eagle Lake Police and Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

# Public meeting called for **Prairie Chicken Festival**

A general public meeting will be held in the Eagle Lake Middle School cafetorium on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m. to bring the citizens of Eagle Lake up to date about plans for the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival to be held here March 24-26.

This once-abundant inhabitant of the coastal prairie is now on he edge of extinction. Fewer than 200 now reside where formerly hundreds of thousands existed.

Lesley Matthews, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce commit-tee, is working actively with Houston Aubudon Society to host a festival designed to draw attention to the plight of this bird. Co-sponsors are Mobil Exploration & Producing U.S. Inc.; National

Fish & Wildlife Foundation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Texas Parks (See Meeting, Page 10)