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Board require relocation of ELPS summer school classes, given the extensive nature of the repairs. Other future repairs may be necessary, as the foundation of the building may continue to shift.

Laughlin assigned to three committees

Congressman Greg Laughlin was sworn in last week as the Representative for the 14th Congressional District of Texas in the 104th Congress.

Crime Stoppers 'Crime of the Week' The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering between Jan. 10 and Jan. 11. up to \$1,000.00 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and indictment of any person or persons involved in the burglary of 234-5555, or the police department at 234-2727. You will remain anonymous.

Eagle Lake Headlight

Council talks waste collection, okay cable increase

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer Eagle Lake City Council moved one step further toward private solid waste collection and disposal as it held a prebid conference with BFI and Waste Management Inc. the two bidders vying to provide the service.

media building and contents and electric motors. A representative of TML advised that the City is underinsured in its buildings, which include the fire station, police building, post office and maintenance yard.

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.

Chamber Banquet is next Monday If you haven't gotten your ticket for the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Banquet, here's still time. Contact Lynda Lippert at the Chamber office from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Linda Balas or any Chamber director.

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.

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 & 24. 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.

Hallettsville sponsors State Domino Tournery On Sunday, Jan. 22, the Knights of Columbus of Hallettsville invite you to attend the tournament. Warm up dominos and reunion will begin Friday, Jan. 20, with the wild game supper. Hall entry fee is \$5.00.

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 their 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.

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 110-mile journey to San Antonio to kick off the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. Membership fee in the Trail Riders is \$20.00, and everyone must have 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 1 a.m. at the Eagle Lake KC Hall. Andy Gertson and Texas Fringe will provide the musical entertainment. The public is invited to attend.

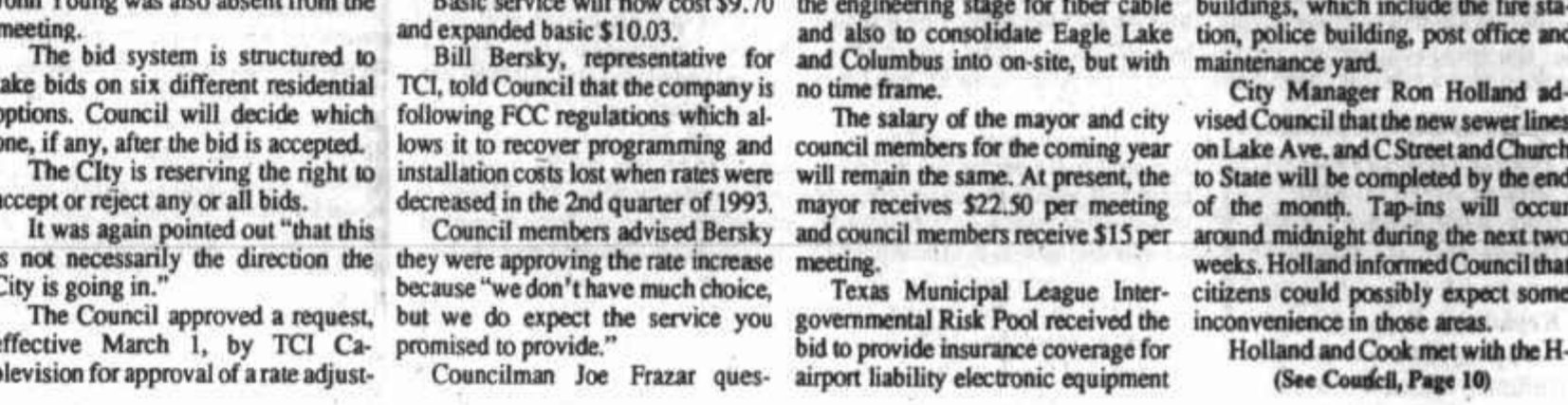
Girl Scouts to have organizational meeting A girl scout organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Interested girls and their mothers are asked to attend. Contact Margaret Henry for more information at 234-5918.

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church to have tea The Mission of Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church is having a Four Seasons Tea on Jan. 22 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Your attendance would be appreciated. Hosting the tea are Pastor Rev. R. Kiser and president Doris Sims.

Thrift Shop open this weekend The Thrift Shop will be open this weekend from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, 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 beginning at 6 p.m. with a stew supper. The business meeting will start at 7. The program will consist of TNRC and LCRA presenting information as well as up-dates on several issues. An action is also planned. If you have something you'd like to donate, call Mary Till at 758-3947, Randy Waligura at 758-3838 or Rita Ruffeno at 752-3832.

Hallettsville man loses life in truck-train collision



This is what remained of the new Ford pickup Russell Janek was driving Saturday after colliding with a Southern Pacific train.

Russell Janek of Hallettsville was 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 Dreyer.)

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 scene by Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Mary Lou Szaymanski 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 departments.

Variety of crimes keep Eagle Lake Police busy

On Jan. 11, Chief Hall received information that a vehicle stolen from Pasadena was in the Eagle Lake area. The vehicle was recovered by Hall and Officer Jeremy Moore. The suspect driver was not located and the case remains under investigation.

Also on Jan. 11, Officer Patrick Olivares was dispatched to a residence on S. McCarty in reference to a burglary. The case is being investigated.

On Jan. 13, Officer Eric Hall received a report at the police station of criminal mischief at the Railroad Depot. This case is also under investigation.

Another case of criminal mischief was reported to Hart on Jan. 13. The mischief occurred on State Street. This case is also open pending further investigation.

Upon receiving a report of an assault on a 911 call on Jan. 13, Officer Hart arrived at the scene. Following an investigation, the suspect, Cheryl Smith, was arrested for assault, processed and transported to the county jail.

Public meeting called for Prairie Chicken Festival

A general public meeting will be held in the Eagle Lake Middle School cafeteria 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 edge of extinction. Fewer than 200 now reside where formerly hundreds of thousands existed.

Lesley Mathews, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee, is working actively with Houston Audubon 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)

State enjoys large cash balance

"When the Texas Legislature convened on Jan. 10, lawmakers had a luxury they haven't seen in a long time—a \$2.2 billion cash balance," State Comptroller John Sharp said. "But Texas isn't the only state reaping the benefits of economic growth. Almost every state ended its 1994 fiscal year with a balanced budget. Only California and Hawaii are expected to have serious financial problems next year," Sharp said.

"Still, Texas \$2.2 billion surplus at the end of the 1994 fiscal year was by far the largest of any state. North Carolina closed its budget cycle with a surplus of \$1 billion, Massachusetts with \$113 million and Maryland with \$105 million.

"Because of a growing economy, rising sales tax collections and implementation of many of the cost-cutting recommendations of the Texas Performance Review, the state has collected more money than it has spent during the first year of the current biennium," Sharp explained.

"The success of the Texas Lottery also has contributed to the state cash surplus. Nearly \$800 million in lottery proceeds went into the state's general revenue fund during the 1994 fiscal year," Sharp said.

Sharp issued the official Biennial Revenue Estimate when the Legislature convened. It was said to be higher than anyone expected. If the current economic trends continue, the state will have more money coming in during the next biennium.

"Lawmakers should have little trouble providing all of the necessary service and avoiding a tax increase, but they can't do it without adopting some of the \$2.1 billion in money-saving suggestions contained in Gaining Ground, the latest Texas Performance 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.

"During the economic hard times in the early 1990s, many states were forced to expand their tax bases or raise taxes to keep state finances in the black. Now almost half of the states are considering tax cuts as economic recovery has caused state tax revenues to increase by an average of 6.7% in the first quarter of 1994, compared to the same period one year ago.

Job growth is spurring the economic 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 1994. The fact that Texas has no

Commissioners Continued from Page 1 if selected to serve; •Voted Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert as the county judge pro-tem;

•Appointed the Colorado County Historical Commission for 1995-96 and scheduled an organizational meeting for 3 p.m. Jan. 19 in the district courtroom;

•Approved a recommendation by County Judge Vince Stominski 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 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 full bids for all county precincts and sheriff's department.

CCA offers help with energy bills

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA) has funds available under the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to households needing energy-related assistance.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, CCA will be taking 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 512-237-4524 or 1-800-688-9065 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to make an appointment. The assistance is based on household income, household size and need for assistance.

Flowers Continued from Page 5

ete, 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 beautiful plants.

Happy Birthday Robert Jan. 13 Love, Becky & Matthew

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EVERYDAY LOW PRICE Dr. Pepper, Pepsi, 7-Up... \$5.99 Plus Tax, Case, 24-12 oz. Cans \$1.29 Plus Tax, 3 Liter Bottle Austin's Grocery 505 E. Main Eagle Lake 234-2574

TESS' SCHOOL OF DANCE Spring Registration •Ballet •Tap •Jazz •Toe Pre-school through high school Please Call for Information 234-5705 We are now preparing for Spring Recital, so call now! Tess Balas, Instructor

Number of animals down this year, but... Rice FFA sale brings in \$33,302+ With only 30 animals entered compared to 39 last year, Saturday's 1995 Rice FFA Show and Sale total still exceeded the expectations of sponsor Leroy Stavinocha by bringing in a total of \$33,302.30 as of press time. The morning hours were taken up with the 30 entrants showing off their animals to the judges. A barbecue lunch, catered by Austin's BBQ & Catering of Eagle Lake, was served from noon to 1 p.m. Once again, Auctioneer Bunge Halla of Weimar worked the smaller than usual crowd, bringing in prices higher than the 1994 sale; sometimes as much as 30% more per pound. Halla was ably assisted by T.J. Smith, George Hagan and Kenneth Brune acting as spotters again this year. Shari Grahmann was the proud exhibitor of this year's grand champion steer. Shown with Shari are Thomas Kalina and his daughter, Kayla, representing Kalina Dreyer, and Reed Strahman, representing Dupre Lewis Service of Sheridan and David Feldman of Houston. (Results and additional pictures on Page 7.)