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### Hospital

enough to solve the Hospital's problems. It is clear that the recruiting of medical practitioners is a wise move, but several years will be required before real benefits from it start to accrue; these are years the Hospital may not have.

Fund-raising, while generous given the economic situation in the Eagle Lake area, cannot make up the losses the Hospital has experienced since 1984 and continues to experience today.

Clearly, more sweeping changes must be made if the Hospital is to be saved and the foundation for health care in this area preserved.

The Board of Directors first approached the situation from the standpoint of down-sizing, or cutting out departments or services, but quickly found that by doing so the Hospital would be placed in jeopardy in another way.

Medicare requires that a certain level of minimum care be provided in order to qualify for payments; the Hospital is at that level now. Therefore, any cuts in personnel or services would result in the loss of Medicare payments which would cause the Hospital to close immediately.

The next move the Board of Directors tried was a merger with another hospital, or hospitals, or the sale of our hospital to a hospital operating company. There appeared some interest for a time in a merger with the Columbus Community Hospital, but ultimately Columbus decided against the merger.

Several operating companies were contacted about acquiring the Hospital and extensive negotiations were conducted. But, no agreement could be reached that would maintain our Hospital as the full-service facility the Board sought for this area.

The best offer received would have reduced our Hospital to an outpatient surgery center and 24-hour clinic staffed by physicians still in training; all patients to be admitted to the hospital would have been transported to another location which was owned by the same company, but some distance from Eagle Lake.

Such an arrangement, the Board of Directors decided, would not deliver the quality of health care that citizens of this area had come to expect. And, since no one could be found who

### St. Jude's Bike-A-Thon scheduled for April 22

Eagle Lake residents are invited to get involved in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Wheels For Life Bike-A-Thon, slated for April 22, at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church at 200 W. Prairie.

We are looking for riders and helpers who will contribute their time and talent to help children live.

In the Wheels for Life Bike-A-Thon, riders ask sponsors to make a donation based on each mile completed. All riders turning in money will receive a certificate. Those who raise \$35 or more will receive a certificate and a special St. Jude T-shirt.

Contact Hortensia Salinas at 234-3250 for details on riding or sponsoring a rider.

St. Jude Hospital was founded by Danny Thomas and operates primarily from public support.



**Auxiliary raise funds for pagers**

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary recently held a fundraiser for the Pager Fund, by selling. The top seller was Lydia Contreras, center, who won a set of cookbooks. The proceeds, \$642.37, go to the Pager Fund for the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Pictured with Contreras are Auxiliary President Carolyn Baird, right, and Lynette Weisbath, Tupperware representative. The Auxiliary thanks everyone who contributed.

Headlight Photo By Sylvia Rucka

### Law

On March 25 at 8:25 p.m., Officers Ochoa and Brian Bakik were dispatched to the Barn at 600 E. Main in reference to a break in. A report of burglary of a vehicle and criminal mischief were taken and are under investigation.

While making a traffic stop on March 26, at 10:10 p.m., Officer Jack Knox was advised of outstanding warrants on the subject. Peggy Navarro was placed under arrest and transported to the police department, where she paid the fines and was released.

On March 27 at 8:15 a.m., Officer Moore met with a complainant at the police department in reference to disorderly conduct. A report was taken and investigation is on-going.

On March 27 at 12:53 p.m., Constable Wilfred Lueddecke requested an officer meet him on B. Street. Sgt. Hassin and Officers Moore and Carl Risk arrived and assisted with a juvenile who was later transported to Columbus to meet with the juvenile probation officer. Charges are pending.

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reports that on Monday, March 20, at 3:36 a.m., Deputy Roy Knighten responded to a call concerning a phone threat at Columbus Oaks Apartment.

At 10:12 a.m. Sgt. Richard Frederick was enroute to Richmond to pick up a mental patient.

Sgt. Gary Stavinocha was enroute to pick up a prisoner in Harris County. He later responded to a call concerning loud music in Glidden at 5:52 p.m. At 7:11 p.m., Sgt. Stavinocha assisted Columbus PD with an accident.

Deputy Ben Vlach responded to a call concerning a subject lying in the roadway at 8:14 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21, at 11:22 a.m., Lt. R.H. Wied and Sgt. Frederick responded to a call concerning a possible burglary at Lake Sheridan Estates.

On Wednesday, March 22, at 8 a.m., Deputy Craig Peikert was enroute to Limestone County to pick up a prisoner.

Sgt. Frederick responded to a call concerning a trailer house blocking the roadway at 10:34 a.m.

Lt. Wied responded to a call concerning something dead on Marek Road at 10:34 a.m.

At 1:41 p.m., Sgt. Frederick re-

Continued from Page 1

sponded to a call concerning a suspicious subject on FM 2434.

Sgt. Stavinocha responded to a call concerning two suspicious subjects on Hwy. 90 East at 7:26 p.m. He later responded to a call concerning shots fired in Glidden at 9:25 p.m. At 11:19 p.m., Sgt. Stavinocha transported a prisoner to Austin County.

Thursday, March 23, at 8:02 a.m., Sgt. Frederick responded to a call concerning a suspicious subject on I-10 feeder road of FM 2434. He later was enroute to Bellville to pick up a prisoner at 8:05 a.m.

Deputy Peikert transported three prisoners to the courthouse for court at 8:50 a.m.

Sgt. Frederick responded to a call concerning a missing juvenile on County Road 106 at 9:27 a.m. He later checked the area on County Road 105 A at 11:16 a.m.

Sgt. Stavinocha was busy with a trail ride on Shaws Bend Road at 12:18 p.m.

At 2:44 p.m. Lt. Wied, Sgt. Stavinocha, Sheriff Bill Esterling and Deputy Peikert assisted with the trail ride to the courthouse. Lt. Wied responded to a call concerning an alarm on Weisshuh Road at 2:56 p.m.

Sgt. Stavinocha responded to a call concerning an open gate at Potter Ford at 6:52 p.m. At 8:14 p.m. he responded to a call concerning a dog bite.

On Friday, March 24, at 12:12 a.m., Deputy Knighten assisted a stranded motorist on FM 109.

Sgt. Frederick responded to a call concerning an accident on Hwy. 90 East at 7:58 a.m.

Deputy Peikert responded to a call concerning a criminal mischief on County Road 253 at 12:28 p.m.

At 4:40 p.m., Sgt. Stavinocha transported a juvenile to Hempstead.

Saturday, March 25, at 7:55 a.m., Deputy Ben Vlach responded to a call concerning a burglary in the Benardo area.

Deputy Richard Lacourse transported a juvenile to Hempstead at 11:28 a.m. Later at 1:57 p.m. he responded to a call concerning cattle out on Meitz Wood.

At 3:25 p.m., Deputy Vlach responded to a call concerning a possible sexual assault in Garwood.

Deputy Troy Neisner responded to a call concerning a theft of service from a Greak Shell #2 at 9:30 p.m.

### 'Crime of the Week'

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering 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 two vehicles at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital parking lot between 10 p.m. on March 22 and 6:59 a.m. March 23rd.

If you saw anyone suspicious in this area during this time, or have any information regarding this case, or any case, please call Crime Stoppers at 234-5555, or the police department at 234-2727.

### Commissioners

Continued from Page 1

quest of Wharton County;

- Adopted a resolution proclaiming the week of March 27 as Older Workers Week;
- Authorized the advertisement for seal coating and double asphalt coating county roads;
- Approved a request of the Magnolia Homes Tour Inc. and Live Oak Ant Center for the use of the Courthouse square the third weekend in May; and
- Opened, but tabled, a decision on bids for computer hardware and software for the County's justices of the peace offices.

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- Family Practice/Obstetrics: Raymond R. Thomas, M.D., Russell Thomas, Jr., D.O., John C. Lane, M.D.
- Internal Medicine: Ravindra Kumar, M.D., Jaime Midez, M.D.
- Ear/Nose/Throat: Harold Griffin, M.D.
- Dentistry: John Myers, D.D.S.

**SPECIALISTS (Holding Local Clinics)**

- Cardiology: Ronald Mahoney, M.D., Earl Mangin, M.D.
- Neurology: Nelson Bernier, M.D., Steven Croft, M.D., Herbert Edmundson, M.D., William Fleming, M.D.
- Orthopedic: Wayne Damm, M.D., Edwin Taegel, M.D.
- Dermatology: Steve Mahoney, M.D.
- Podiatry: Eric Tepper, D.P.M., Hal Anderson, D.P.M.
- Ophthalmology: John Huff, M.D.
- Plastic Surgery: Richard Vanik, M.D.
- Urology: Gary Appelt, M.D.
- Surgery: Robert Hillery, M.D.

For Appointments or Information About Specialty Clinics, Call 409-234-5571 800-926-7954

**Candidates for royalty sought**

If you are interested in entering the Miss Eagle Lake (grades 8-12), Jr. Miss or Mr. (grades 4-7) or Little Miss or Mr. Eagle Lake (kindergarten-3rd grade), please call Tess Balas at 234-2502 during the day.

Many businesses are interested in sponsoring an entrant at the pageant on April 30 at the Prairie Edge Museum. Interviews will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the pageant slated for 3.

The Miss Eagle Lake division includes talent competition and formal attire. The Junior and Little Mr. & Miss divisions require Sunday dress only. All participants will be interviewed by judges from out of town.

It is not too late to enter. Let's support our community! (See Royalty, Page 6)

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## A reminder of ordinances, laws

The Eagle Lake Police Department would like to remind citizens of several laws and ordinances officers are actively enforcing and citizens seem to have forgotten:

- Texas laws:**
  - a. wearing of seat belt(s): all front seat passengers must be wearing seat belt(s); all children under the age of 5 must be restrained (front seat belt, car seat, etc.) no matter where they are riding in the car (front or back);
  - b. having your drivers license with you; and
  - c. having verification of insurance with you.
- City of Eagle Lake ordinances:**
  - a. curfew: 16 and under, 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.;
  - b. dog ordinance: may not run loose, must be on a leash or in a fenced area, must be registered with the City;
  - c. loitering: not allowed; and
  - d. noise ordinance: prohibits excessive noise (music, etc.).

Your cooperation in complying with these laws is appreciated. If you have any questions or comments, contact Sgt. Steve Hassin, Eagle Lake Police Department, at 234-2727, Monday through Friday, 8 to 5.

## City Council approves \$1.8 million budget

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council adopted its 1995-96 budget and tax rate and agreed to stricter enforcement of the city's dog ordinance at its meeting last week.

The budget for the fiscal year, beginning April 1, 1995, and ending March 31, 1996, lists a total estimated revenue of \$1,868,043 and the total of all fund expenditures estimated at \$1,859,062.

Of the budgeted expenditures, \$44,000 is for the completion of the Airport Improvement Program and \$272,071 is included to complete the sewer line improvements funded through a Community Development Block Grant.

When adjusted for these two special projects, the operating budget is actually \$1,542,999, which is \$153,662 less than the budget five years ago.

According to City Manager Ron Holland, a severe cash flow problem was experienced during 1994-95, which resulted in a reduction or omission of many scheduled expenditures.

"In preparing the 1995-96 budget we have tried to hold the line on spending by not adding any new projects and delaying some needed capital purchases. We will need to watch our expenditures very carefully again this year to make sure we keep a reasonable cash balance on hand," said Holland.

The budget shows the revenue in the utility fund will increase 15.78% due to a \$1.50 increase in garbage rates. The increase is due to a landfill rate increase in May 1994 and an expected increase in Oct. of this year.

In capital outlay, the budget stresses the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department by providing additional papers to upgrade its alarm notification system and Police Department by continuing the lease-purchase of three patrol cars.

Remodeling City offices to provide a more efficient and safer working area is planned.

Capital expenditures for other departments are being delayed until next year.

The approved ad valorem tax rate will remain at an estimated \$3.973¢ per \$100 valuation. The proposed rate will be reviewed and probably revised in July when new information is received from the Colorado County Central Appraisal District.

"With a tax rate that is already the highest in the area and a depressed economy, no tax rate increase is recommended," said Holland.

T.J. Smith commended the Budget Committee during the public hearing on the budget it prepared. "I commend you for getting a little rein on the budget. Your beginning to become concerned about maintenance is a real plus in my book," he said.

Mayor Robby Cook told Council that, as a matter of health concern, the dog ordinance must be more strictly enforced. Council agreed to let the public know the penalty clause will become a reality.

"Citizens who don't comply will be ticketed," said Cook. "We are going to enforce this ordinance."

Stephen Meinecke asked Council to address the cat situation, as well as dogs. "Cats are greater carriers of rabies than dogs," Meinecke said.

Council will study the problem of stray cats.

Presently, the City provides once a year mandatory dog registration and vaccination for a fee of \$13 or \$6, plus proof of vaccination from one's own veterinarian.

"If dog owners must pay to enjoy having a dog as a pet, cat owners should have to pay for the same pleasure," said Meinecke.

Council postponed a request by Judy Stewart of Judy's Treasures to have a dog as a pet, cat owners should have to pay for the same pleasure," said Meinecke.

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(See Council, Page 10)

## NEWSBRIEFS

**You can register to vote locally**

Anyone who is qualified to vote, but not registered, can do so locally by contacting one of two persons who have been "deputized." Call Sherri Gould at Eagle Lake Community Hospital, 234-5571, or Marilyn Mueller at 234-2066, the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic. Calling during regular business hours to add your name to the list of registered voters in Colorado County.

**Lupus group to meet April 6**

The Lupus Support Group will meet at 12 noon on Thursday, April 6, at Sportsman's Restaurant. Anyone interested is urged to attend.

**Boy Scouts selling popcorn**

Boy Scout Troop #334 will be selling popcorn to raise funds for camp. You are asked to help the scouts as they go door to door. Call Larry Contreras at 234-2378 for more information.

**Polka Fest is Sunday**

The Knights of Columbus Council # 4843 will hold their annual Polka Fest and dinner at the KC Hall in Eagle Lake on Sunday, April 9. The dinner, chicken fried chicken breast, will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meal tickets are \$5. The dance, 2 to 6 p.m. with Bobby Jones providing the entertainment, will cost you \$6 each. Door prizes of a quilt will be given.

**Providence Baptist Church Sunrise Service**

The 13th annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Providence Baptist Church, 1207 E. State Street, on April 16 at 5:30 a.m. Participating will be Wright Grave Baptist Church, Rev. T.J. Cunningham, Pastor; and Providence Baptist Church, Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., Pastor. Everyone is invited.

**ELMS PTO meeting set for April 11**

The Eagle Lake Middle School PTO will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

**Little League field clean-up Thursday, Friday**

The Eagle Lake Little League has set clean-up nights for Thursday and Friday, April 6 and 7. The public is invited, along with the coaches, to help spruce up the little league field. The clean-ups will start at 7 p.m. each evening.

**RHS Class of 1975 working on reunion**

The Rice High School Class of 1975 is looking for class members to help plan their 20 year reunion. Anyone having addresses and/or phone numbers of class members is asked to call Cindy Pavlu Fink at 409-234-2659 or Margaret Wilcox Henry at 409-234-5918. The class needs to decide on a date, place and time to hold the reunion. They need your input.

**Cholesterol/triglyceride screening next week**

A cholesterol/triglyceride screening will be held on Wednesday, April 12, from 7 to 9 a.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center lab in Wharton. You must pre-register by calling 409-532-2500, ext. 1300. The cost is \$8.

**Do you love theatre?**

You are invited to support the youth of our communities at the Area One-Act Play Competition on Saturday, April 8, in Edna. The play begins at 2 p.m. in the Edna High School Auditorium. Rice one-act players will perform Moore's "The Doctor in Spite of Himself." The public is invited.

**School needs volunteers**

Eagle Lake Middle School is searching for volunteers to help students with self-esteem and lessons. Contact Olivia Maxie at 234-3501 for more information. Also, volunteers are needed to assist with the Chili Cookoff scheduled for April 6. Contact Ms. Maxie if you'd like to help.

**Senior Citizens dance April 7**

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will sponsor a senior citizens dance on Friday, April 7, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the KC Hall. Music will be provided by the Country Playboys. Singles and couples of all ages are welcome for \$4 per person. Refreshments and door prizes will be given.

**'100 Women in Hats' presentation on April 9**

Providence Baptist Church will present "100 Women in Hats" on Sunday morning, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., Pastor, invites the public to attend. For more information call 409-234-2069.

**Seaholm Golf Tournament set for April 22**

The annual Nancy Juul Seaholm Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 22. Information has been mailed out regarding sponsorship and player spots. If you need more information, contact Bud Seaholm at 803-232-7229. Make plans now to be a part of the tournament.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

## City needs Council candidates

The deadline of Wednesday, March 22, has passed and the City of Eagle Lake is short of candidates for the three City Council seats which are to be filled in the May 6 election.

As of Tuesday afternoon, April 4, only two had filed to run for the seats of René Cooper-Scott, Mike Duarte and Joe Frazier. Cooper-Scott has filed for re-election and J.W. Shavers has added his name to the list of candidates.

According to City Secretary Lucille Perry, write-in candidates (whose names will not appear on the ballot but votes for will be valid) have only until 5 p.m. today, April 6, to declare their candidacy and file the required paperwork.

If there are not enough candidates to fill the positions by April 6, Texas law provides a set procedure to be followed. With only one vacancy, members of City Council would be able to appoint someone to serve until the next general election (next spring), at which time the "vacant" position would be added to the ballot.

Rice CISD will also hold an election on May 6 to fill two seats on the Board of Trustees.

As of Tuesday, Jack Vawter, incumbent for Place 4, had filed for re-election, and Robin Thomas of Eagle Lake had filed for Place 5 which had been held by Sam Center before he moved to Llano.

## Police investigating burglary, assault

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases during the past week.

On March 28, at 12:10 a.m., Officer Clem Johnson was dispatched to a reported disturbance at Norris and Prairie Streets. After meeting with the complainant and subjects, the problem was resolved and no action was taken.

On March 28, at 3:12 a.m., Officer Johnson was dispatched to a report of burglary of a building at Third and East A Streets. A report was made and the case is under investigation.

Officer Johnson was dispatched to a report of criminal mischief on Norris Street on March 28 at 7:05 a.m. After investigating the incident, a report was filed.

Also on March 28, at 8:15 p.m., Officer Jeremy Moore was contacted at the police department in reference to an assault. The case is being investigated.

On March 31 at 12:09 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to Country Time Inn in reference to someone throwing bottles.

After meeting with the complainant and the subject, the matter was resolved and complainant did not want to press charges.

On April 3 at 1:48 p.m., Officer Eric Hart was advised of a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Boothe Drive and S. McCarty Street.

Wesley Earl Jasek of Columbus, driving a 1990 Dodge Ram belonging to the Highway Dept., made a left turn from the wrong location into the path

called the police department to report a theft.

After meeting with the complainant, Officer Hart took a report and the case is under investigation.

With the completion of their performance Saturday night, the Prairie Edge Players completed their eleventh production. Some of the cast and crew in this year's "Bull in a China Shop" were, from left, Deborah Postach, Vicki Powers, Lee Postach, Marsha Trismeyer, Helen Craig (producer), Pat Bishaw, Dr. Raymond Thomas, Debbie Schmitt (stage manager), Tim Powers, Janet Dupré, Sherri Gould, Ben Cassiday and Ronnie Primmeyer (properties). See Page 6 for more photos.

Headlight Photo by Jeanette Peering

