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Sales tax Continued from Page 1

The \$12.1 million payment to the City of Dallas was the second largest for April, and was 19.5% more than the \$10.1 million in sales tax rebates for the same period last year.

"Texas Instruments announced plans to build a \$2 billion dollar microchip plant in Dallas, which will add approximately 1,200 jobs with an estimated annual payroll of \$36 million," Sharp stated.

San Antonio's sales tax rebate was \$7.7 million, 22% above the April 1995 payment of \$6.3 million.

Employment grew by 3.8% during the last year in the San Antonio metro area, with the construction industry showing the greatest gains, climbing by 8.2%," said Sharp.

The City of Austin's April sales tax rebate of \$5.9 million was 11.5% higher than the April 1995 payment of \$5.3 million.

"Employment in the Austin metro area grew by more than 6.1% for the 16th consecutive month, with a 6.4% increase over the same period last year, while Photonics announced plans to reactivate a previously shelved plant to expand in Austin," Sharp said.

The City of Ft. Worth's \$3.8 million rebate was 24% above the \$3 million delivered in April 1995; and Arlington received \$3.2 million, 19.4% more than the rebate of \$2.7 million for the same period last year.

"Construction led employment growth in the Ft. Worth-Arlington metro area, with an 11.4% rise in jobs over this time last year," stated Sharp.

The April rebate to El Paso was \$2.7 million, showing increased spending of 4.1% over the \$2.6 million payment in April 1995.

"Even though sales tax rebates were up, year-to-year employment in the El Paso metro area remained level as the city continues to feel the results of Mexico's peso devaluation," Sharp said.

Production Continued from Page 1

Glenn Sunderman, Tom Reed, Donna Stephens, Clark Powers and others too numerous to mention. And who can forget the incomparable Jeff Frnk as "The Foreigner!"

Concentrating mainly on light, comedic dramas, Prairie Edge Players have also tackled some classics of drama including Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" and Emily Williams' "Night Must Fall."

During the 12-year history of the Prairie Edge Players, there has been but one director—Dr. Raymond Thomas. Long interested in dramatic arts,

Auction Continued from Page 1

Auction items are followed by the donor of each one.

Shotgun shooting lesson, Johnny Metzger; tiny lead glass angel, Rice District Community Hospital Auxiliary; \$10 picture frame with ivies, Jennie Holland, Sealy; 5x7 picture frame with sunflowers, Jennie Holland; 2 Winco caps, Winterman Warehouse; 2ELRD caps, Eagle Lake Rice Dryer Inc.; book (God's Treasury of Virtues), Eagle Trailer Parks; Glynda Turley Victorian box, Double Tree & English Ivy, Columbus.

The following were donated by: Pilot members: Laliqie Madonna with Jesus; 2 hand cross-stitched baby bib; bunny dip dish & carrot server tray; hummingbird porcelain figure; Hawfinch porcelain figure; 2 white eyelet pillows; white apron w/flower applique; decorative bird house; figure of 2 porcelain doves; jeweled calculator; angel lite candle holder; stained glass angel window hanging; Dreamlike angel; two 12-hour therapeutic massages and three 20-minute follow ups; wind chimes; spring time wreath; carrot cake (Lucille's Carrot Cake); wreath; potted plant; book.

Konesheck Continued from Page 1

Mary Duddleston, graduated from Columbus High School. She was living at home and teaching in the Bernardo School, until she married David Konesheck and moved to North Houston, where he was employed on defense projects.

Later they moved to Eagle Lake and raised four children—David Jr., Russell, Carol and John.

To fulfill a dream of becoming a beautician, Charlene dove to Houston Beauty School daily for six months and passed the state exam.

After the tragic, accidental death of her husband David, Charlene worked full time to support her family. Through all these years she was always involved with the school activities of band, sports and room mother duties. She was involved also with church work, taught Bible School and was always willing to help in anyway.

For five years, she sacrificed her home life to care and live with her ill parents, thereby allowing them to spend the final years in their own home.

Since retiring from the beauty shop, Charlene has renewed her Pink Lady work at the hospital and continues to wash and style Heritage House residents hair at no cost.

A wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Charlene is ever faithful to her church and to God. She is a special lady and the Beta Sigma Phi Lady of the Year.

Council Continued from Page 1

the abandoned Semprez Street right of way of all adjoining property owners in proportional shares for an amount of \$2,000 plus closing cost.

Lita Armstrong addressed Council asking, "not to be interrupted until I've finished," concerning her neighbors' barbecue pits that, according to Armstrong, are smoking up her premises, particularly inside her house.

The neighbor's trees that are allegedly growing too close to her house also were an agenda item. The subject of the neighbor's crowing roosters, addressed by Armstrong at a previous Council meeting, was re-addressed.

Armstrong read from the Texas Air Control Board's regulations concerning outdoor burning and expressed concern for her health.

Disgruntlement with the manner in which Police Chief Keith Webb and the officers in the Eagle Lake Police Department have handled her complaints was conveyed to Council.

Following a response by Webb, complete with pictures, maps and police reports as to how his department handled the investigation of Armstrong's complaints, Armstrong was advised by Council that under Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) regulations fire used for "the preparation of food" is allowed and, since the City has no ordinance governing the control of tree growth, these items become civil matters between her and her neighbors and not an issue for the City to be involved with.

Mayor Robby Cook agreed to set up a mediation meeting with Armstrong and her neighbors in an attempt to settle "the dispute" that, according to Armstrong, has been on-going for over five years.

As a result of the loss of several animals (valued at \$1,500) by a pack of dogs, Dan Roan asked Council for stricter enforcement of the dog ordinance.

Council agreed that loose dogs are a major problem and instructed City employee Arnold Cardenas, who also serves as dog catcher, to devote as much time as possible to the problem.

Cardenas reported to Council that he has picked up 89 dogs since Jan. 1. Council okayed a request by Central Power and Light for the approval of a pilot program for Real Time Pricing (RTP).

Bryan Hale and Rob Darcy, representing CPL, were present to answer questions. A memo to Council from

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Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

WALKING BY ANY OTHER NAME

These days when people talk about walking, they may be referring to one of three types: race walking, fitness walking, or regular walking. Race walking, with elbows flapping and hips swinging, has probably turned more than a few people away from walking as exercise. Fitness walking is known variously as aerobic walking, health walking, power walking, weight walking, and even mall walking. Whatever the name, it typically calls for only a slight increase in speed over regular walking - from about 3 mph to 4 mph - and a smooth gait with one foot placed directly in front of the other. For most of us, a regular program of fitness walking holds the greatest potential for strong, healthy feet, legs, and heart.

If running takes too much of a toll on your feet, walk your way to improved health on healthy feet that are personally and professionally cared for. Keep ahead of foot problems and attend to them early on - an easy way to prevent more serious conditions from developing. Whatever your sport, we're here to keep the smile in your step. We're easy to find at Rice District Community Hospital, where I have office hours every Tuesday. Call 234-5571.

P.S. running puts a strain 3.6 times greater than walking on the musculoskeletal system.

Sheridan pre-k, kindergarten to register May 3

Registration for pre-k and kindergarten for students who will be attending Sheridan School during the 1996-97 school year will be held Friday, May 3, at 8 a.m. Parents are asked to bring a birth certificate, social security number and shot records.

Students registering for pre-k should have had the following shots:

Three DPT & polio, the last one should be after their 4th birthday.

MMR, after one year of age.

HIB, if they have only received one shot, it should have been after 15 months of age.

Students registering for kindergarten should have the same shots, but are not required to have the HIB.

If you have any questions about your child's shot record, please call Sharon Webb, the school nurse.

"Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long." — W. Somerset Maugham

"Lying has a kind of respect and reverence with it. We pay a person the compliment of acknowledging his superiority whenever we lie to him." — Samuel Butler

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Eagle Lake City Council

Saturday, May 4

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Your Vote Will Be Appreciated

Public Information and by My Name Gary, Treasurer, Gary to Council, 619 West Houston St., Eagle Lake, TX 77824

13th Sheridan 'Benefair' set for May 4

Members of the Sheridan Ambulance Corps and Volunteer Fire Department wish to extend an invitation to one and all to attend their 13th Annual Benefit on Saturday, May 4.

Proceeds from this fund raiser will help cover operating expenses of the Sheridan Ambulance and Fire Department which have merged to form a new organization, Sheridan Emergency Services.

This will be the last year for the benefit to be called the Sheridan Ambulance Benefair. So look for the benefit under a new name next year.

The line up for the 13 Annual Benefair is sure to bring lots of pleasure. The Benefair will start with (See Benefair, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Headlight

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TNRCC rejects Laidlaw's application

The Executive Director of the Texas Natural Resource Commission (TNRCC) has rejected Laidlaw's application to convert its municipal solid waste landfill at Altair into a landfill for industrial solid waste.

In an April 11, 1996, letter to Laidlaw, the TNRCC stated: "We have determined that the site and the proposed operations do not satisfy the requirements for a permit to dispose of industrial solid wastes..."

The TNRCC then cited five major deficiencies of the site as to why it is not appropriate for industrial waste disposal.

(1) The absence of sufficient uniform clay between the landfill cells and the aquifers under the site;

(2) failure to provide a complete design for the proposed industrial waste cells;

(3) the potential impact of a proposed unfilled retention pond as a recharge system to downgradient landfill cells and its possible impact on the underlying aquifer;

(4) failure to clearly define the site groundwater hydrology; and

(5) failure to fully address the persistent methane gas problems at the landfill.

The Executive Director concludes by saying that Laidlaw has "not shown that the proposed landfill is protective of human health and the environment." The Executive Director then returned Laidlaw's application.

"This is a great victory for the

citizens of Colorado County and a great victory for our land values, environment and health of our community," said Billy Hefner, President of the Alliance for a Clean Environment (ACE).

"Our entire water supply, area agriculture and the health of our children at Rice High School are threatened by the prospect of industrial waste disposal by Laidlaw at his Altair landfill," he continued. "We commend TNRCC for looking hard at the site hydrology and geology and agreeing that it's a terrible site for industrial waste disposal," said Hefner.

"This is another important milestone in our five-year fight against industrial waste disposal at Altair," added Hefner. "While we are elated at this decision by the TNRCC, the war is not yet over. Laidlaw still has a separate application pending to create a new industrial waste dump on land adjacent and to the north of their existing municipal waste dump. Hopefully, the TNRCC will conclude that the adjacent land is also not suited for industrial waste disposal," said Hefner.

"The hydrology and geology are the same for both pieces of land. The north site is directly adjacent to the municipal waste site. There is an absence to a sufficient clay layer beneath the north site, just like the south site. Proposed landfill cells would be at or below the water table. Runoff from the proposed north side would run directly to the Colorado River, threaten-

Blood drive scheduled to benefit ELMS student

The community is reminded that the M.D. Anderson Blood Bank is sponsoring a replacement blood drive for an Eagle Lake Middle School student, 7th grader Anastasia "Stacey" Connor, on Thursday, April 25, at the ELMS library from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stacey is an excellent student and has been involved in many extracurricular activities including athletics and cheerleading. She is currently under treatment for cancer, which has necessitated she receive a large number of platelet transfusions.

Many of Eagle Lake's Middle and Primary School staff have volunteered to donate, but the drive is still short of the 30 units which the Blood Bank has suggested.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, please call Sharon Webb RN, Rice CISD school nurse to sign up for a convenient time. She can be reached at ELMS 234-3501, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday; or at ELPS 234-3587, Monday and Thursday. After 5 p.m. she can be reached at 234-5017.

Stacey's family deeply appreciates your help in this matter.

Commissioners' Court agrees to end burning ban

Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski notified Commissioners' Court that he would lift the county-wide outdoor burning ban, at least temporarily, on Monday despite the extremely dry conditions.

Slominski said that the ban was lifted, effective at 8 a.m. Tuesday, and would be reviewed again when the Court meets in regular session on May 13, if not sooner.

"We are still experiencing some extremely dry conditions. We still have had no rain and continue to have the March winds in April," said Slominski. "It is important that when people burn that they do not leave the fires unattended."

Some parts of the County did receive some light rain Monday afternoon, but it was not enough to weather the dry conditions that the County has experienced in recent months.

"We want to emphasize that anyone who burns should contact their local fire department and even the sheriff's department so they are made aware of the situation," said Slominski.

"Also, we would encourage that no one burn in high winds. If anyone does, they certainly don't have any sense," Slominski added that anyone who starts a fire is liable for any damage caused to another person's property if it should get out of control.

"The state still has regulations when it comes to burning. When we lift the ban, we would encourage anyone who burns to familiarize themselves with these rules," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert.

Prior to lifting the ban, Slominski said he had been in contact with Bruce Tesch, president of the Colorado County Firefighters Association, and Columbus Fire Chief Bobby Walla, among others, for recommendations.

On Monday afternoon, Slominski was to contact other fire chiefs in the County before he announced that the ban would be lifted Tuesday morning.

Although the ban was lifted for a short period, it has basically been in effect since late Feb. Slominski said the county did issue some citations during that period.

The County authorized Honeywell to proceed with a proposal through the Local Government Building Services Program in an effort to gain energy and operational savings.

There is no obligation to the County unless a contract is finalized, but Tim Olson, a representative of Honeywell, said that the "savings will pay for the improvements."

He emphasized that the program is tax-exempt with a lease/purchase plan and the County is "never out of pocket any new money."

The program objectives are to modernize and maintain facilities without added cost to taxpayers, fund from existing budgets, achieve guaranteed results, use environmentally sound solutions and save energy dollars.

Olson said the next step is for an engineer to study the County's buildings and develop a plan. He expects to report back by June 1.

In other business, the Court:

- Amended the term of interim Pct. 2 Constable Chuck Ulbrich until the Nov. elections results are canvassed.
- Received a report that the Colorado County Detention Facility averaged 40 prisoners per day at a cost of 84¢ per meal during March;
- Were notified that Lavaca County had entered into a contract to house male prisoners in the Colorado County Detention Facility at a cost of \$35 per day;
- Received the final judgment, signed by Judge Melinda Harmon, in Robert Charles Thomas vs. Sheriff Bill Esterling case in which the County settled for \$3,000;
- Were notified that the U.S. Department of Interior will not distribute a revenue sharing check from the Atwater Prairie Chicken Refuge until Congress adopts its 1996 budget;
- Were notified that the Basic Emergency Management Plan has been completed; and
- Authorized the advertisement for a part-time health nurse for the Texas Department of Health and bids for pest control for County buildings.

Rice Athletic Banquet set for May 9

The Rice High School Athletic Banquet will be held on May 9 at 7 p.m. in the commons area. Tickets go on sale on Monday, April 22, and may be purchased at all four Rice CISD schools or from Coach Dennis Jackson for \$6 per person.

Seniors dance is Friday

A Senior Citizens dance is scheduled for Friday, May 3 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by The Country Playboys from 8 to 11:30 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome for \$5 per person. Door prizes and drinks available. The public is invited.

Positive Force tour is May 8

The Rice High School Hispanic Organization of Mentors and Educators (H.O.M.E.) Club would like to invite you to the Patsy Torres Positive Force Tour on May 8. The Positive Force Tour is a program about the importance of school, anti-gang, anti-drugs, self-esteem, attaining goals, faith and positive relationships. There will be two shows at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the high school gym. No children under the age of nine will be admitted to the program.

NPSOT meeting May 2

The Native Plant Society of Texas, Columbus Chapter May meeting is set for May 2 at Nesbit Memorial Library in Columbus, at 7 p.m. Kelly Bender with Texas Parks and Wildlife will present a program on backyard wildlife habitat. Her program includes a slide show illustrating how to attract birds, insects and wildlife. Guests are welcome. For more information call Ann Lindeman at 409-352-2772 or Kay Potter at 409-732-5033.

Hospital sells Sealy property

In the regularly scheduled meeting of the Rice District Community Hospital (RDCH) Board of Trustees, Administrator Jim Buckner announced that the hospital's Sealy property had been sold.

The property included the clinic where RDCH operates the Sealy Medical Clinic and the old Brazos Valley Hospital building, which has been occupied by Austin County EMS and the Women, Infants and Children program.

The Hospital will continue to own and operate the Sealy Medical Clinic practice at the same location by way of provision in the sale documents. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to the Sealy community to continue delivery of high quality medical care there.

The sale helped the Hospital relieve itself of a significant portion of debt and the continued liability of the old hospital building which is in need of extensive renovation.

Assurances of the new owner, Sam Johnson, made it clear that a plan is being formulated for renovation and occupancy of the building which will be compatible with the neighborhood and clinic.

In other business, the Board received fiscal year end news that un-audited net income exceeded \$400,000 and the debt has been reduced by nearly \$600,000.

These were goals set by the Board and those involved with the original tax district campaign.

The sales tax proposition on the RDCH ballot was proposed by the Board to reduce the ad valorem tax as intended by state law. Estimated revenue from a sales tax in the RDCH boundaries is approximately \$65,000. Such revenue may help shave as much as 3¢ off the ad valorem tax rate. It will also take the local sales tax rate to the state maximum of 8.25%.

Wharton, Fort Bend and Harris Counties are already at the maximum rate as are the cities of Columbus and Sealy.

The Board also heard the resignation of Administrator Jim Buckner, effective June 1, 1996. He will be assuming the CEO position at Cuero Community Hospital.

Buckner emphasized that he has been very happy during his time at RDCH and is pleased that the plan of the Board has been fulfilled and the Hospital on more secure ground.

NEWSBRIEFS

Rice CISD names Lanier to run Garwood School

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

Michael Lanier was named as an administrator for the Garwood School at a special meeting of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees on Monday night.

Lanier, a 1977 graduate of Rice High School, will assume the position on Aug. 1 under a 215-day contract in the amount of \$40,000.

He is presently employed in the Lamar Consolidated ISD as a teacher in the Guidance Center; he taught science and coached at George Junior High for five years prior to moving to the Guidance Center.

Lanier must obtain his principal certification using one of two options. Option one is to be issued a temporary certificate and named principal while working on his certification.

The second option is for him to be named an assistant principal and perform his duties under a mentor, named by the district, in order to obtain his principal certification.

Lanier holds a bachelor of art and teaching degree from Sam Houston State University and has been in the field of education for 14 years.

According to Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott, the Rice

Eagle Lake Police Department Report

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending April 22.

Lt. Clem Johnson is investigating the theft of a bicycle from B Street, reported to him on April 17.

Lt. Johnson was dispatched to a report of prowlers on Third Street on April 17. Three juveniles were talking to other juveniles inside the house.

On April 18, Officer Randy Davenport met with a complainant who filed a report of terroristic threat on another subject. The case is under investigation.

On April 18, a report was filed with Lt. Johnson in connection with an assault between juveniles at the Middle School. The case (See Police, Page 19)

Cafe on Main cuts ribbon

On April 17, the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the owners of Cafe on Main, Mike and Sherri Gault. Pictured above are Chamber Officers Jean Wiese and Don Bandy; Mike; Chamber President Jerry Hatzliff; Sherri; and Board Members Mary Ann Kaluza and Sandy Bandy.

Headlight Photo by Lane Dalany

