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1996 Pontiac Grand Am 2-Door, Dark Green, Spoiler, Factory Warranty!	\$12,975	\$12,975
1995 Pontiac Grand Am 4-Door, Candy Apple Red, Factory Warranty!	\$11,425	\$10,995
1995 Olds Cutlass Supreme White, Factory Warranty, LOADED!	\$12,995	\$11,995
1995 Olds Cutlass Ciera Light Blue, Come See!	\$11,995	\$11,495
1994 Chevy Corsica Blue!	\$7,995	\$6,995
1994 Chevy Pickup		
Extended Cab 350 Engine, Clean, Autumn Wood color, Come See!	\$15,995	\$14,995
1994 Mazda Red Pickup Just 78,000 Miles!	\$6,500	\$5,995
1993 Geo Prizm LSI Only 50,000 Miles!	\$7,995	\$6,995
1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera Just 50,000 Miles!	\$8,995	\$7,995
1992 Chevy Silverado Extended Cab, Super Clean!	\$9,995	\$8,995
1991 Geo Prizm Super Clean, Low Miles, GMPP Warranty!	\$6,595	\$6,200

... And Tons More!

1996 Buick Regal 4-Door Maroon Metallic, Program Car	MSRP \$20,319	\$13,899
1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme SL Dark Green Metallic	MSRP \$18,200	\$12,500
1996 Pontiac Grand Am SE Loaded! Dark Gray-Green Metallic	MSRP \$17,272	\$11,995
1996 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme SL Coupe Just 16,000 Miles!	MSRP \$19,539	\$14,539
1996 Cadillac Concours Executive Car, 10,000 Miles	MSRP \$43,740	\$31,740
1996 Chevrolet Tahoe "LT" 4x4 Loaded!	MSRP \$35,075	\$27,500
1995 Chevrolet Ext. Cab Silverado Buckets, Loaded, Indigo Blue Metallic, One Owner		\$15,995
1995 Chevrolet Corsica White, Loaded, Factory Warranty!		\$8,995
1995 Chevrolet Corsica Brilliant Blue Metallic, Great Buy!		\$7,995
1995 Oldsmobile Achieva Red Metallic, Loaded!		\$9,995
1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme SL Maroon Metallic, Loaded!		\$8,995
1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera Carmine Red Metallic		\$7,995

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Sommerlatte not seeking FSA re-election

D.A. (Lionie) Sommerlatte, chairperson of the Colorado County Farm Service Agency (FSA), said that a list of the names of all known eligible persons to receive ballots in the upcoming annual FSA committee election is available in the county office at 816 Wallace St. in Columbus.

Sommerlatte is not seeking re-election to the committee.

Candidates to replace him on the county committee are Mark Anderson, Forest English and John Mahalic, all farmers from Eagle Lake.

The person receiving the most number of votes will serve a three year term on the county committee.

Election will be by mail ballot between Nov. 22 and Dec. 2. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters.

Voters can request ballots at the Colorado County FSA office.

FSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers farm commodity, crop insurance and conservation programs for farmers and ranchers and makes farm ownership and operating loans.

Anyone who meets the following requirements is eligible to vote in the upcoming election: any individual of legal voting age with an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper or who is eligible to participate in any FSA program.

Also, the spouse of an eligible voter is also eligible to vote.

A person under legal age can vote; if he or she runs a farm and a legal guardian who runs a farm for a child can vote for the child.

No person can be denied the right to vote because of race, sex, age, color, religion, handicap or national origin.

A person can cast a ballot in any county in which he or she is an eligible voter. However, a voter may only have one vote per county.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political be-

Court updates

The court date for Steve Hassin of Eagle Lake has been reset for Jan. 23, 1997.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, Office of Communications, at 202-720-5881 (voice) or 202-720-7808 to file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, US Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

According to the parent of one of 23 young people picked up the end of this summer, the charges (minor in possession) against a large majority of them were dropped.

He reported that fewer than five are still charged with contributing.

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Police

then transported to CCDC for confinement.

Chief Webb met with subjects in connection with a civil dispute. The subjects agreed to settle the matter in a legal fashion.

Chief Webb met with subjects in reference to a civil matter. No action was necessary.

Officer Crome was dispatched to Clark Street in reference to a disturbance. Both parties agreed to leave each other alone and no further action was necessary.

Sgt. Jack Knox and Officer Gary Gipson met with a complainant who

advised of suspicious activity around her house. The officers were unable to locate anyone at the time.

On Dec. 9, L.L. Clem Johnson was dispatched to the 100 block of East Post Office in reference to vandalism. He investigated the scene and filed a report accordingly.

Sgt. Jack Knox and Officer David Fletcher were dispatched to A Street in reference to drug activity.

Their investigation led to the arrest of Nelson Ray Dabney of Eagle Lake for possession of drug paraphernalia. Dabney was processed at the police department, then transported to CCDC for confinement.

Officer Fletcher was dispatched to a family disturbance on Union Street, but one subject was gone upon his arrival. No other action was taken.

Officer Fletcher was dispatched to

Continued from Page 1

Davitt Street in reference to a suspicious subject, but the subject was gone upon Fletcher's arrival.

Officer Ochoa was dispatched to the 600 block of East Main in reference to a theft. Suspects and vehicle information was gathered and a report filed.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

The Nov. 1996 summary from the Eagle Lake Police Department listed 171 calls answered; 98 miscellaneous, 32 disturbances; 14 thefts; 10 criminal mischief; seven accidents; six assaults; and four burglaries.

Officers investigated 47 criminal cases, cleared 40 and made 23 arrests (23 misdemeanor, two felony). There were 134 citations issued and 121 warnings.

Santa

Continued from Page 3

usual share of excitement these past few days.

Some shuddered a bit when reaching the conclusion that they had just found themselves about as far away from home as they could possibly get and still remain on Planet Earth.

"What an adventure," was all that Tiny Jove could say.

The two vehicles, shortly after arriving over the ice-bound land, began to slow down and lose altitude. Almost at once they settled down amid an assortment of huts and barn-like buildings.

Even before chief Pilot Sorab had signaled that his passengers on the four-tram could deplane, they were ready - donning their padded, green, great coats.

The eager visitors formed a line as the hatch was opened so that they could step out smartly on to the hard-packed snow.

All seemed pleased to listen to the new-fallen snow crackle under the soles of their shiny green boots.

"This may not be truly our home," was the loud remark of a green-clad elf, "but it sure looks and even feels like it anyway!"

The elves had a kind of magical power which prevented them from suffering from the cold weather.

Their ears, noses, and cheeks might redden a bit, but frost bite just did not happen.

"Here we are," said Tiny Jove, "ready for whatever comes next!"

Next Chapter 13, South Pole Sojourn

Come See Santa at **Dollar General**

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Saturday, Dec. 14; 2-4 p.m.

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Diane L. Prather, O.D.

IF THE NOISE COMING FROM NEXT DOOR WERE LOUD MUSIC, YOU'D DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

It's not a private family matter. Every nine seconds another woman is beaten by her husband or boyfriend. And unless we all work together, it's never going to stop. For information about how you can help stop domestic violence, call 1-800-777-1960.

THE NO EXCUSE for Domestic Violence.

Family Violence Prevention Fund

Included in this issue:

"Letters to Santa" and Greetings to all!

The staff of *The Headlight* wish you and yours a merry, but safe, Christmas!

Happy Holidays!

Eagle Lake Headlight

December 19, 1996

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Fireman of the Year

Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Chief Darrell Gertson presented Greg Contreras a plaque commemorating his being named Fireman of the Year for 1996. The department awards the designation based on evaluations of each member's performance over the past 12 months.



1997 Mascot, 'Sparkle' named

The Eagle Lake Fire Department and its Ladies Auxiliary introduced their new Mascot and "Miss Sparkle" for 1997. Thomas James Pirtle, 4-year-old son of Sam and Cindy, will serve as the department's Mascot. Stefani Gertson, 4-year-old daughter of Darrell and Gail, is "Miss Sparkle".

NEWSBRIEFS

Elite Club party is this Saturday

The Elite Club is having their Christmas Party at the Community Center Saturday, Dec. 21, starting at 8 p.m. and you are invited to join the celebration.

Blood drive scheduled for Jan. 2

A blood drive will be held at Rice District Community Hospital in the conference room on Thursday, Jan. 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. To make an appointment contact the hospital by calling 409-234-5571.

'Heaven's Gates' to be presented

The Morales Family and staff invite you to a dramatized video presentation on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Admission is free and a nursery and children's ministry will be provided. The presentation portrays certain realities concerning the outcome of how we chose to live. Call 234-3071 or 234-5877.

Art exhibit judging is Jan. 11

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Exhibit will be Saturday, Jan. 11, in the Rice High School Commons. There will be an open house from 12 to 1 p.m. with refreshments. The judging will begin at 1. Everyone is invited to come and view the art from noon until the judging begins.

Defensive driving course is Dec. 28

A state approved six-hour defensive driving course has been set by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel at the Agriculture Building, 316 Spring in Columbus, on Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To pre-register, call 409-732-2734 or arrive at the class room a few minutes early.

Bible study to start next month

Bible study classes will begin every Thursday starting in Jan. at 7 p.m. at 714 Partridge Lane. For more information, contact Larry Wiese at 234-2702.

'Pink Ladies' selling Christmas decorations

The Hospital Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) are selling decorations for the Hospital lobby Christmas tree. The ornaments may be purchased in the gift shop for only \$1 each.

Singles dance is this Friday

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance on Friday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by Bobby Jones. The public is invited. Door prizes will be given. For more information, call 232-4782 or 409-793-4573.

Blood drive set for Dec. 23

A blood drive, hosted by the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston, will be held Monday, Dec. 23, at the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus from 2 to 7 p.m. An appointment sheet is at the library now to schedule times and help the Center determine staff, beds and snacks for the drive. For more information, call 409-732-3392. "Holiday Hero" t-shirts will be given to all donors on Dec. 23. The busy holiday season is also a busy time of year for blood requests. So please, have a heart and give blood - "Give the Gift of Life."

Council considers bond issue for street repairs

By Lyndia Appelt, Contributing Writer

Consideration of a bond issue for a street improvement program for the City of Eagle Lake was continued at the Dec. 3 meeting of the Eagle Lake City Council.

David Fetzer of Moroney, Beissner & Co. presented debt service schedules for bond issues of \$500,000, \$750,000 and \$1 million. The schedules are based upon the assumption that the bonds can be sold at an interest rate of 5.5%.

Fetzer also presented a schedule showing the total payment that would be made each year and tax rate needed to make that payment based upon the 1996 tax base of \$62,141,082. The tax base would change every year.

Council postponed any action until the report from engineer Craig

Kankel, that Council authorized at its Nov. 26 meeting, is received. Kankel was authorized to do an evaluation of every City street with prioritization of each street based on need for repair.

Council spent a considerable length of time discussing goals and objectives submitted by each department head in the City's structure of operation.

Councilwoman Rene Cooper-Scott, who has been a strong proponent of goals and objectives since being elected to Council, told fellow members that "we need some sort of document that gives us an idea where we're going and how we're going to get there."

"The thing I like about goals is that each department head can sit down

and analyze his or her goals and find out where they are and where they're going. We must make our goals attainable, but make them challenging," said Councilman Bill Kell.

The goals were accepted contingent upon department heads adding time lines to their documents where possible.

The document will be used as a means of communication with Council and a means of measuring performance during employee appraisals.

Department heads reminded Council that many goals are dependent upon the City budget and Council's action.

The City will conduct tests before the person is hired; when a reasonable suspicion exists; following certain accidents; and on a random basis.

Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and police reserve officers are exempt from random alcohol testing due to their volunteer status. All other testing includes volunteers.

The City received a notice of the proposed alteration of a public-use airport, Eagle Lake, from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The notice precedes construction.

The proposal extends Runway #17 by 850 feet; widens it to 60 feet; rebuilds the existing runway; reconstructs the apron and taxiway; constructs turn around on Runway 17 end; installs MIRL, lowers the power line on the north end; installs segments circle and improves drainage.

Interested parties, either pro or con, are invited to reply to the FAA no later than Jan. 3, 1997.

In other business, Council: "Accepted a gift of real property from Joe Herbert and Candy McCrea, 1-4338 acres located in the area behind the Brookshire Bros. site."

"Approved year-end salary adjustments for employees as required by the Texas Constitution."

"Learned that Eagle Lake Reserve Officer Randy Davenport has joined the county attorney's office as a reserve officer for investigative duties; and "Heard a report from City Manager Ron Holland that the construction of the juvenile boot camp facility is anticipated to begin in early Feb. just one month behind the initial goal of Jan. 2, 1997, due to the need to trim cost estimates submitted by the architect."

(For the report on Council's Nov. 26 meeting, turn to Page 8.)

Eagle Lake's sales tax rebate makes slight recovery

last Dec.

Year-to-date, the City's total is \$115,327.53, down 6.66% from 1995. (This month's payment gives the appearance of late payments since last month's rebate was down over \$2,000 from the same month in 1995.)

Sharp delivered city sales tax rebates totaling \$144.9 million, 25.9% above last year's Dec. payments of \$115 million, the largest amounts due at least in part to several days of additional processing time this year. Rebates of \$13.9 million to Texas counties were 20.7% above the \$11.5 million allocations in Dec. 1995.

The City of Houston received a

sales tax rebate of \$19 million, 23.3% more than last Dec. Total payments for 1996 were 6.4% more than the total payments last year.

The \$12.7 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for Dec. reflects a 26.3% increase above the same month last year. Dallas received 10.6% more in total sales tax payments in 1996 than in 1995.

The San Antonio sales tax rebate for Dec. was \$8.2 million, up 26.1% from Dec. 1995. This year, San Antonio received 7.3% more in local sales tax payments than 1995.

The Austin sales tax rebate for Dec. totaled \$6 million, 11.6% more than the Dec. 1995 payment. In 1996, Austin's total sales tax rebates were 4.5% more than those of 1995.

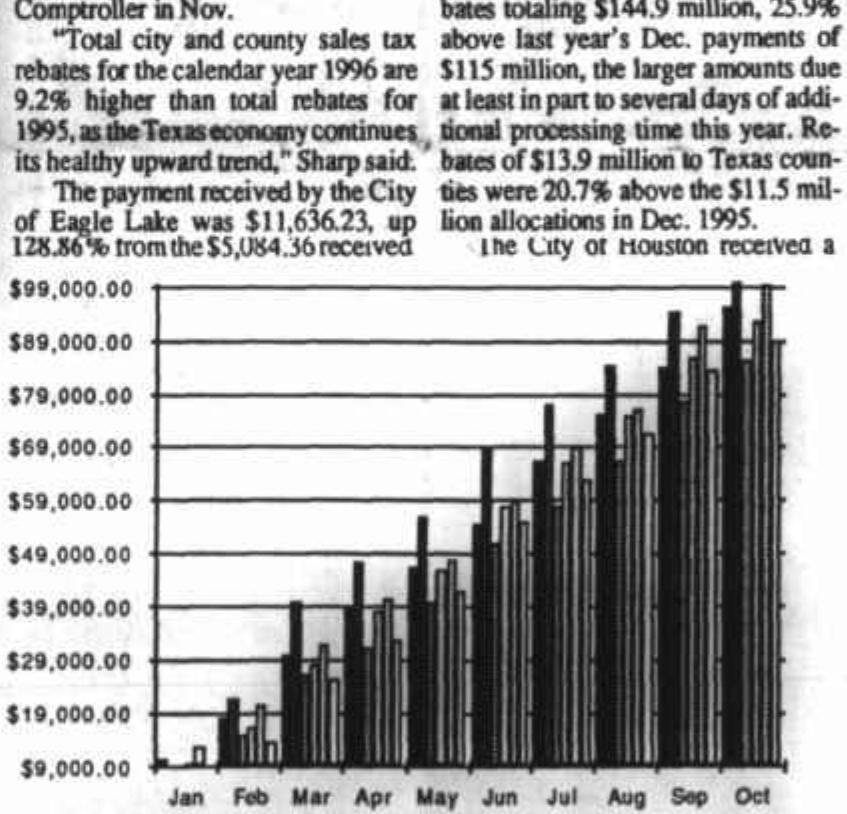
The City of Fort Worth's \$4.1 million allocation was 23.9% higher than Dec. 1995, for total rebates in 1996 that were 6.6% above 1995.

Arlington received \$3.6 million in sales tax rebates, 21.2% higher than the \$3 million in sales tax rebates for the same month last year, and a year-over-year increase of 8.3%.

El Paso's sales tax rebate this month was \$2.9 million, 12.8% more than Dec. 1995. El Paso's rebates for 1996 were 2.4% ahead of 1995.

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

Columbus, \$52,718.16, up 77.72%; Weimar, \$8,673.58, up 42.61%; Sealy, \$50,375.98, +5.78%; (See Tax, Page 8)



EAGLE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Dec. 17.

On Dec. 3, the police department took a report of a 13-year-old female runaway. She was located by police in Eagle Lake on Sunday, Dec. 8.

On Monday, Dec. 9, the juvenile and her mother alleged that the child had been sexually assaulted. Chief Keith Webb conducted the investigation which also revealed that the juvenile may have been sexually assaulted on two other occasions as well. The cases are still under investigation and will be presented to the grand jury.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, during the early morning hours, Sgt. Jack Knox stopped a vehicle suspected of being driven by an intoxicated driver. Officer Brian Ochoa assisted after the vehicle was stopped. Deputies Neisner and Krenke of the Colorado County Sheriff's Department notified the officers that the vehicle which had been stopped matched the description given in a report of criminal mischief to traffic signs.

Driver of the vehicle was 19-year-old Ramiro Rico and occupied by a 23-year-old, Juan Hernandez.

Rico was arrested at the scene for driving while intoxicated (DWI) and placed in a sheriff's department vehicle. Rico had been contaminated by the spray due to his close proximity with Hernandez in the back seat.

Rico and Hernandez threatened the officers at the scene and again at the sheriff's office, the jailer was also threatened. Both were placed in a padded cell for their protection.

Rico was charged with DWI, two counts of terroristic threat and Class C theft. Hernandez was charged with resisting transport, two counts of terroristic threat, criminal mischief, public intoxication and Class C theft.

Damage to the police car consisted of a broken rear window and a bent window frame. Repairs to the "City vehicle" came to \$1,199.

On Dec. 10, Officer Carl Risk responded to an alarm in the 200 block of S. McCarty.

son and Chief Webb met with the dogs' owners and issued written warnings for loose dogs, not in compliance with the dog ordinance.

L.L. Johnson was dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Church Street, but no one was located.

Officers Duc Do and Risk investigated two reports of stolen Christmas

lights from Stevenson Street and W. Main Street.

On Dec. 12, one set of Christmas lights were turned into the police department. A short time later, L.L. Johnson took a report of stolen lights and that complainant was able to identify those lights.

(See Police, Page 8)