

Crime Stoppers dance is Saturday

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers Annual St. Patrick's Day Benefit Dance & Auction is planned for this Saturday, March 22, at 8:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the Eagle Lake Community Center and will feature music by the band, Colorado.

Included in the benefit will be a live auction and a

silent auction, containing items donated by area merchants.

Crime Stoppers has earmarked the funds raised by the benefit for reward money for tips received which lead to legitimate arrests and for the Eagle Lake Police Department to purchase items for the department which (See Dance, Page 10)

Only 23 days left until

Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival!

The 1997 Attwater's Prairie Chicken Endangered Species Festival (See Festival, Page 6)

Eagle Lake Headlight

March 20, 1997

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 93, No. 52
10 Pages Plus 2 Inserts
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
409-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

NEWSBRIEFS

Rehab facility to hold ribbon cutting March 20

Eagle Lake Rehabilitation will have an open house beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 20, including a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. The public is invited.

Thrift Shop open this Saturday

The Prairie Edge Thrift Shop will be open this Saturday, March 22, so be sure to go by and check out their specials from 9 a.m. 2 p.m.

Crime Stoppers dance set for Saturday

Your presence is requested at the Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers St. Patrick's Benefit Dance and Auction is this Saturday, March 22, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Colorado with a special treat for you to hear Stephen Brown will start at 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Beer and set-ups will be available. For tickets, \$5 each, contact any Crime Stoppers member or the Eagle Lake Police Department. Anyone wanting to donate an auction item may contact Catherine Berger at the Eagle Lake Police Department, 234-2727; or Lynda Appelt, 234-5878. Thank you for your continued support!

APC festival committee to meet

Please mark your calendars for the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival Committee meetings between now and the festival: March 20, March 27 and April 8. All of the meetings will be held at the Prairie Edge Museum and will begin at 5:30 p.m., lasting approximately one hour. Please come to the meetings if you'd like to help with the festival.

Defensive driving course in April

A state approved six-hour defensive driving course has been set for April 1 and 2 at Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. To pre-register, call 234-2042 or 234-5411. If unable to pre-register, arrive early.

CCA board meeting is March 27

Combined Community Action Inc. will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Nutrition Center on 275 Ellinger Road in La Grange. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

TWONC to meet Thursday

The Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club (TWONC) will hold its March meeting in conjunction with the APC Festival at 5:30 p.m. this Thursday at the Prairie Edge Museum, lasting approximately one hour. All members are encouraged to attend for work schedules for the festival. Members not attending will be assigned to unfilled time slots and contacted with that information.

LUMC sunrise service set for Easter morning

Lissie United Methodist Church will host its annual Sunrise Service on the lake beginning at 6:30 a.m., Easter morning, at the home of Mark and Becky Anderson, 701 Lakeside Drive, Eagle Lake. Everyone is invited to join them and continue the Easter Celebration.

KC's shrimp dinner is Sunday

Eagle Lake KC Council #4843 will be serving shrimp dinners for \$6 per plate at 102 Main in Eagle Lake on Sunday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Football officials needed

The Houston Chapter of the Southwest Football Officials Assoc. needs officials for the 1997 season. This chapter supplies officials for junior and senior high school football games in the area. New member training classes start in early April. For information, please call 281-376-5839 or 281-893-4229.

Sunrise service to be held at Grace Lutheran

Grace Lutheran Church, 408 N. Stevenson in Eagle Lake, will be having an Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 30. You are invited to join them in celebrating this beautiful gift of sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. God bless!

Singles dance is this Friday

The Fort Bend Singles will sponsor a public dance Friday, March 21, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KCHall. Music will be provided by the El Campo Melody Boys. Door prizes will be given, admission is \$5 per person. Call 409-793-6557 or 793-4573 for more information.

CCAD representative will be here Friday

A representative from the Colorado County Appraisal District will be in Eagle Lake on Friday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at City Hall to assess taxes for 1997 as well as accept Homestead and Ag Applications for Colorado County, RCISD, Eagle Lake City, Rice Hospital District, Colorado County Water Control & Improvement District #2 and Weimar ISD. They will be in Weimar on March 20, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

UMC to hold last Lenten luncheon

The last Community Lenten Luncheon at United Methodist Church will be Monday, March 24, with Rev. Barry Bauerschlag as guest speaker. Bauerschlag presides over the United Methodist Church. Join them for soup, sandwiches, deserts and singing. A love offering will be accepted with half going to the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. The community is invited to help celebrate the Easter Holy season.

Easter egg hunt is this Saturday

A FREE Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 22, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Sealy High School football field sponsored by the Sealy Assembly Word & Worship Center. There'll be over 36,000 eggs, 50 bikes, 150 prize baskets and 50 baby chicks, food coupons, clowns, free face painting, puppets, skits and more. The drama, "Whip, Hammer and Cross", with special effects will be presented. For more information, call 409-885-3113.

Sealy Assembly to perform "He's Alive"

The Sealy Assembly Drama Team proudly invites all to attend this year's Easter musical production, "He's Alive!", the Easter story as told through the eyes of Peter. There will be actual "live" fishing scene, the Ascension of Christ, water fountains, live animals, special effects and beautiful music with a cast and crew of over 60! Come join us on March 28, 29 or 30 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 409-885-3113.

Make-up, early release dates for Rice schools

Make-up day for Rice CISD will be Monday, March 31, due to the bad weather in Jan. Regular hours will be followed. Also, Thursday, March 20, will be an early-release day with school being dismissed at 1 p.m. for U.I.L.

Nada KC's fish fry offered during Lent

Nada Knights of Columbus are holding their annual fish fry every Friday through March 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Nada Community Center. The all-you-can-eat meal comes with catfish, French fries, slaw, tea and all the trimmings. Homemade desserts will be available. Prices are \$6.75 for adults, \$3.75 for children 6-11 and under six eat free. Plates to go are \$5.50.

Filing period for spring elections coming to close

Filings for three positions on the Rice CISD Board of Trustees and three aldermen for the City of Eagle Lake began Monday, Feb. 24.

As of Tuesday afternoon, March 18, only three persons had filed for School Board positions.

Clark Powers of Eagle Lake filed to run for Position 1. Madison Smith, the incumbent in Position 1 (Garwood), filed for re-election as did Laurel Milentz in Sheridan (Position 3).

The City of Eagle Lake reported that the three incumbents have filed. The seats of Council Members René Cooper-Scott, J.W. Shavers and Bill Kell are up for election; each has filed to run. So far, unopposed.

Deadline for filing was 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 19.

Public budget hearing scheduled by Council

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council set March 25 as the date for a public hearing on the 1997-98 proposed budget during its regular monthly meeting last week.

The hearing, at 7:30 p.m., will be part of Council's second meeting of the month.

Council expressed its desire to inform the citizens of Eagle Lake of proposed projects and expenditures for 1997-98 during the public hearing.

Action on the proposed budget is expected to be taken immediately following the hearing. The new budget year begins April 1.

Council approved the temporary closing of Heritage Lane to through traffic during construction of the 10 duplexes being constructed by the Eagle Lake Housing Corporation.

Contractor Jed Thies requested permission to close off the street between the entrance to Heritage House Nursing Home and Austin Road during the construction project.

Thies cited the large trucks coming in and out of the site as hazards to through traffic and closing the road temporarily would eliminate a danger.

Council approved utility extensions to the new housing units. The majority of extension work is needed at Chapman and Warwick Streets, northeast of Airline Avenue; utilities are pretty well in place at the Heritage Lane site.

A total of 25 duplexes are being constructed.

City Engineer Craig Kankel was present at the meeting to report the results of an evaluation of Eagle Lake streets. He presented a prioritized evaluation of 24 streets that he would recommend for improvement.

Council members will study the list to see if they have other street priorities compared to Kankel's list



Golf, tennis anyone?

We don't know about any of you golf and/or tennis fanatics, but it appeared that no matter how hooked you were on either sport, there would be no little white (or yellow) balls flying at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center Tuesday, March 18. After receiving nearly six inches of rain during the first part of last week and a weekend of lighter rain, the near-five inches Tuesday was more than the ground and drainage here could handle. Fortunately, when the precipitation stopped, the water drained quickly, from this area anyway. Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

Festival advertisers sought

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Endangered Species Festival is planning a festival brochure sponsored by area businesses.

Most of the businesses in Eagle Lake have been contacted for advertising space. If your business has not been contacted and you would like to advertise in the brochure, please call Susan Tomchesson at 409-234-5591 or 234-2465.

Ads start at \$25 for one a little larger than a business card (3.75" x 2") and the largest ad is a half page (6.5" x 9.56") which sells for \$125.

The brochure will be distributed throughout surrounding counties as well as be available during the festival. Articles about the town of Eagle Lake, a map and schedule of the festival events are planned.

There will also be information about the speakers and demonstrators, where to go and what to see while there.

If you would like to have a story or an ad included in the brochure the deadline is 5 p.m. next Monday, March 24.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending March 18.

On March 11 at 12:13 p.m., Lt. Clem Johnson took a report of a stolen bicycle. The case is under investigation.

At 4:39 p.m., the police department received a call concerning a shoplifter in custody at 104 Boothe Drive.

Officer Carl Risk responded and issued the suspect a citation for theft. Officer Risk was dispatched to Union Street at 9:25 p.m. in reference to a suspicious person and car.

The area was checked, but no vehicle or person was located. On March 12 at 5:52 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of loud music in the area of Sempres Street.

After checking the area, Risk was unable to locate any loud music.

At 9:49 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of a domestic problem on East Prairie.

After meeting with the concerned parties, no physical contact had been made, the disturbance was only verbal. The matter was cleared at the scene.

At 11:14 p.m., Chief Keith Webb received a report of loud music in the area of Gonzales and Sempres Streets, but could not locate any noise.

On March 13 at 12:56 a.m., Chief Webb was flagged down by a complainant in reference to a family disturbance on Schely Street.

After discussion with the complainant, the matter was cleared at the scene.

At 1:50 a.m. Chief Webb found an open window on S. Austin Road. A keyholder was notified. A search of

the building by Chief Webb showed it to be secure.

At 6:15 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to a 911 hangup on Keith Street, where he verified that a small boy was playing with the phone.

Sgt. Knox received a report of loiterers in the 400 block of Fairview Street at 10:45 p.m. Sgt. Knox arrived and disbursed the crowd.

Officer Risk received a call of a possible intoxicated person at 10:49 on Murphy Road. Upon his arrival, the (See Police, Page 10)

Hospital board election filing deadline passes

The filing period for Rice Hospital District, dba Rice Medical Center (RMC), Board candidates was Wednesday, March 19.

The Board of Directors of RMC ordered the election to be held Saturday, May 3, for the purpose of electing four directors for two year terms and adoption of a local sales and use tax in the Rice Hospital District at the rate of

0.5%. David Keith, administrator of RMC, stated, "The purpose of adopting the 0.5% tax is to relieve the burden on the property owners. If the sales and use tax passes, we will reduce the property tax by 0.5%."

Keith will be speaking at area clubs to discuss the sales tax in further (See Hospital, Page 7)

City's sales tax rebate takes huge jump

March payment of \$10,046.10.

The City of Houston received a sales tax rebate of \$18.6 million in March, 4.9% more than last year's \$17.7 million for the month. Year-to-date payments to Houston are up by 4.3%.

The \$12.3 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for March reflects less than a 1% increase from the \$12.2 million sales tax rebate for the same month last year. The year-to-date increase to Dallas is 3.1%.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation for March was \$7.2 million, up 2.7% over the March 1996 payment of \$7 million. Year-to-date, San Antonio has received a 7.1% increase in local sales tax payments.

The Austin sales tax rebate for March totaled \$5.7 million, reflecting a 10.3% decrease from the March 1996 payment of \$6.3 million. However, for the first three months of 1997, Austin's sales tax rebates are

1.8% higher than those for the same period last year.

The City of Fort Worth's \$3.7 million allocation was 4% higher than the \$3.5 million delivered in March 1996, putting year-to-date rebates 5.1% ahead of 1996.

Arlington received \$3.4 million in sales tax allocation, 6.5% lower than the \$3.6 million rebate for the same month last year. However, year-to-date rebates for Arlington show an increase of 4.4% over the first three months of 1996.

El Paso's sales tax rebate this month was \$2.8 million, 1.9% more than the \$2.7 million payment delivered in March 1996. El Paso's local sales tax payments year-to-date are 1.6% ahead of those through March of 1996.

Other cities that received notable sales tax rebates were: Plano, \$2.3 million, 12.5% ahead year-to-date; Irving, \$2 million, 6% increase year-

-to-date; Lubbock, \$1.7 million, 2.6% ahead of 1996; Mesquite, \$1.3 million, 3% year-to-date increase; and Abilene, \$1.4 million, 2.7% ahead year-to-date.

Twenty-four special purpose districts around Texas were sent monthly payments totaling \$4 million.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation is scheduled for Friday, April 11.

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, \$43,242.24, up 29.30%; Weimar, \$9,057.10, down 10.17%; Sealy, \$44,810.43, up 2.36%; Bellville, \$21,494.62, up 28.26%; El Campo, \$123,388.89, up 1.42%; and Wharton, \$83,473.53, up 27.55%.

Year-to-date for the cities above are, Columbus, \$165,317.60, up (See Sales tax, Page 2)