

BARGAIN CORNER

# Used Cars

BARGAIN CORNER

1996 Pontiac Grand Am SE Green/Gray Metallic. Loaded!	Our Price... \$11,995 <sup>00</sup>
Or A Monthly Payment of Only	\$264 <sup>00</sup> *
1996 Pontiac Grand Am SE Beige Metallic. A Real Looker!	\$12,395 <sup>00</sup>
Or A Monthly Payment of Only	\$273 <sup>00</sup> *
1996 Buick Park Avenue Silver. 26,000 Miles.	\$20,295 <sup>00</sup> \$19,995 <sup>00</sup>
1995 Chevy Extended Cab Pickup V-8. Loaded! Just 17,000 Miles!	\$17,995 <sup>00</sup>
1995 Cadillac DeVille GMAC Lease Car. Only 21,000 Miles! Chrome Wheels, Gold Package, Leather	\$23,695 <sup>00</sup>
1995 Chevy S-10 Blazer 4x4 with 4-Wheel Drive.	\$18,500 <sup>00</sup> \$17,995 <sup>00</sup>
1994 Olds Cutlass Supreme S Rental Car. Priced to Sell!	\$9,495 <sup>00</sup>
Or A Monthly Payment of Only	\$251 <sup>00</sup> **
1994 Oldsmobile 88 Royale LSS Green.	\$13,988 <sup>00</sup>
1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limite	SOLD \$11,995 <sup>00</sup>
1993 Chevrolet Suburban 61,000 Miles. Real Clean!	\$17,995 <sup>00</sup>
1993 Olds Cutlass Ciera Red. Rental Car. Priced to Move!	\$7,495 <sup>00</sup>
Or A Monthly Payment of Only	\$242 <sup>00</sup> ***
1993 Chevy Astro Van Blue. One Owner Family Van.	\$8,795 <sup>00</sup>
1993 Chevy Caprice Blue. Excellent Condition.	\$8,995 <sup>00</sup>
1992 Dodge Dynasty LE 25,000 Miles. Real Clean!	\$6,595 <sup>00</sup>
1991 Geo Prizm LSI GM Protection Plan. Spotless!	\$5,995 <sup>00</sup>
1988 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham One Owner. Clean!	\$5,995 <sup>00</sup>

\*60 Months at 10.75% APR with \$1,000 down; with credit life insurance.

\*\*48 Months at 12.50% APR with \$1,000 down; with credit life insurance.

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## City's sales tax rebate still on the rise

John Sharp, State Comptroller of Public Accounts, last week delivered a total of \$142.5 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,085 Texas cities and 117 counties.

“While April sales tax rebates overall were somewhat below those of the same month last year, year-to-date rebates to Texas cities and counties are still up by 4.3% over the first four months of 1996, as the state economy continues a slow, steady rate of growth,” Sharp said.

Sharp delivered sales tax rebates totaling \$130 million to Texas cities, 2.9% lower than last year's April payments of \$133.9 million. Likewise, rebates of \$12.4 million to Texas counties were 2.9% below their allocations of \$12.8 million in April 1996.

This month's payments include sales taxes collected in Feb. and reported by businesses filing monthly returns in March.

The City of Eagle Lake received a rebate in the amount of \$10,814.39, 34.50% above last year's April payment of \$8,040.40.

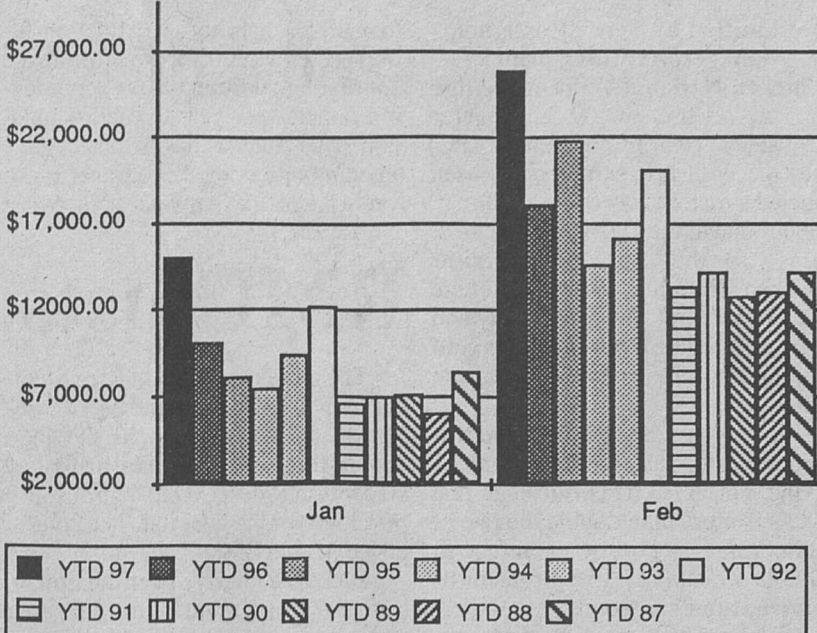
The City of Houston received a sales tax rebate of \$17.5 million in April, 6.3% smaller than last year's \$18.7 million for the month. However, year-to-date payments to Houston are up by 1.9%.

The \$11.2 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for April reflects a 7.3% decline from the \$12.1 million in sales tax rebate for the same month last year. Year-to-date payments to Dallas are virtually unchanged from those for the first four months of 1996.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation for April was \$7.3 million, 5.1% below the April 1996 payment of \$7.7 million. However, year-to-date, San Antonio has received a 4.3% increase in local sales tax payments.

The Austin sales tax rebate for April totaled \$5.8 million, reflecting a 1.6% decrease from their April 1996 payment of \$5.9 million. For the first four months of 1997, Austin's sales tax rebates are 1% higher than those for the same period last year.

The City of Ft. Worth's \$3.5 million allocation was 6.6% less than the



City of Eagle Lake's year-to-date state sales tax rebate totals charted against the month the tax was collected by local merchants.

\$3.8 million delivered in April 1996, placing year-to-date rebates at 2.6% ahead of 1996.

Arlington received \$3.5 million in sales tax allocation in April, a 7.4% increase above the \$3.2 million rebate for the same month last year. Year-to-date rebates to Arlington show an increase of 5% over the first four months of 1996.

El Paso's sales tax rebate this month was \$2.8 million, 3.6% more than the \$2.7 million payment delivered in April 1996. El Paso's local sales tax payments year-to-date are 2% ahead of those through April of 1996.

Other cities that received notable sales tax rebates were: Lubbock, whose \$1.7 million places that city's payments 1.6% ahead of 1996 year-to-date; Beaumont, \$1.5 million, year-to-date decrease of less than 1%; McAllen, \$1.4 million, year-to-date increase of 1.7%; Mesquite, \$1.3 million, 2.5% ahead of 1996; and Richardson, \$1.3 million, year-to-date increase of 18.8%.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation is scheduled for Friday, May 9.

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, \$42,346.32, up 40.17%; Weimar, \$6,919.35, down 20.35%; Sealy, \$41,844.06, down 6.94%; Bellville, \$15,256.67, down 3.28%; El Campo, \$120,364.11, down 7.73%; and Wharton, \$63,951.99, down 17.57%.

Year-to-date for the cities above are, Columbus, \$207,663.92, up 49.67%; Weimar, \$35,844.90, down 10.88%; Sealy, \$223,326.54, -2.34%; Bellville, \$74,793.96, -0.69%; El Campo, \$526,345.44, -0.74%; and Wharton, \$328,656.06, +6.18%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$33,910.34, down 0.24% from last year's payment of \$33,993.03. Austin County received \$47,501.64, down 5.62%. Wharton County received \$82,412.44, -8.39%.

Year-to-date figures for the above counties are, Colorado County, \$177,452.70, +8.43%; Austin County, \$243,856.81, +4.78%; and Wharton County, \$357,972.91, down 3.19%.

\*Columbus increased its portion from 1% to 1.5% effective 4-1-96, therefore, these are not accurate comparisons.

## New slate of officers chosen by 'Pink Ladies' Auxiliary

The Rice Medical Center Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) enjoyed their annual salad luncheon and installation of officers April 8 at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

A large buffet of delicious, pretty salads were served to 22 active Pink Ladies and several guests including

Hospital Administrator David N. Keith and Methodist Pastor Barry Bauerschlag, who led the blessing of the meal.

Welcomed guests also included several Charter and Life Members of the organization: Mrs. Allen D. Casady, Mrs. Fulton Dromgoole, Mrs. William H. Harrison, Mrs. Frank Higgins, Mrs. Charles Spalinger, Mrs. Raymond Thomas, Mrs. Robert P. Wilcox and Mrs. William Zboril.

Administrator Keith spoke to the Auxiliary, updating the group about new activities, changes and procedures at the hospital as well as touching on the financial situation. He urged all to vote in the May 3 Hospital Board election.

Betty Wilcox, Volunteer Services Chairperson, presented service award pins to Isabel Vecera who has completed 1500 hours and Freda Johnson for 2000 hours.

New Auxiliary officers were installed by Kate Spalinger. She presented each with a basket of pink Impatiens, using a play on words, urging each not to be "impatient" with fellow members and have utmost "patience" with our hospital "patients".

Elected officers installed were: President, Barbara Pidgeon; First Vice-President, Charlene Kones-

check; Second Vice President, Olga Hefner; Secretary, Jackie Middleton; and Treasurer, Becky Anderson.

President Pidgeon thanked the committees for their service in the past and spoke of plans for the coming months.

She then introduced Rev. Bauerschlag who sang and led the group in several fun as well as inspirational songs as he accompanied them on his guitar.

This proved to be an enjoyable ending to a very nice event for the Pink Ladies.

## Weimar physician convicted of DWI by jury

A Colorado County jury took two and one half hours of deliberation last Wednesday to find Herman Patino, a Weimar doctor, of driving while intoxicated (DWI) for an offense occurring Feb. 2, 1997, on State Highway 71, south of Columbus.

The jury was impaneled on Tuesday afternoon by Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski and the five

women and one man were seated late in the day.

Testimony began just after 8 a.m. on Wednesday.

The State's evidence, presented by Colorado County Attorney John Julian Moore, consisted of the testimony of Colorado County Sheriff's Deputy D.C. Peikert who made the arrest.

According to Peikert's testimony,

he stopped Patino for failure to maintain a single lane and speeding (82 in a 65 speed zone) at 1:50 a.m. on the morning of Feb. 2, about 3-1/2 miles south of Columbus on Hwy. 71.

Upon stopping the vehicle, Peikert, who is trained in standardized field sobriety tests and certified to run an intoxilyzer, determined by field tests that Patino was intoxicated.

Upon booking for DWI, Patino refused to take a breath test.

Patino's defense, presented by Attorney Ken Sparks consisted of Patino, Susan Kunz, who was a passenger in his GMC pickup at the time of the stop and Monica Orsak who had seen Patino earlier in the evening.

All of the defense witnesses testified that, in their opinion, Patino had not lost the normal use of his mental or physical faculties as a result of alcohol, even though Patino admitted to drinking beer earlier in the evening.

After the verdict was reached, the defendant, who had previously elected to have the judge access punishment, entered into a sentencing bargain with the state whereby he was fined \$1,000 plus court cost and given community service and nine months of probation.

## Museum

Continued from Page 12

businesses printed on them.

Recently, for example, Edward Sunderman brought in two yardsticks bearing the advertising of Justin Smith and the Spalinger Hardware Company, two former Eagle Lake business establishments. Bill is currently designing an exhibit of lead pencils, each bearing the name of an extinct local business.

Another collector's gem is a never-used aluminum gadget designed to fit on the top of an automobile license plate. Printed on it, in school colors, is Eagle Lake High School.

Old-time calendars bearing the names of concerns long-gone visually reflect the colorful history of the Eagle Lake area.

And don't forget, Prairie Edge Museum, a thoroughly solvent public institution, is not going away and will be here long after all of us are gone.

Thus, if you wish some of your keepsakes preserved in your names for posterity, we can protect and cherish them for you now or later if, instead, you wish to will them our way.

## I-10 Members support Sheridan

I-10 representatives stepped forward to support the small community of Sheridan following a Houston TV report that posed a set-back to Sheridan specifically, and all rural community parks development generally.

Reportedly, Houston Channel 2 Newsman Ron Regan visited Sheridan and filed a report that suggested grant monies received from the Texas Parks and Wildlife were being wasted on the rural community of Sheridan.

Sheridan residents requested the opportunity to present their position.

Regan was assigned to file a follow-up story on the Sheridan project because of the number of calls and letters the station received following his broadcast.

The group gathered for Regan's return visit included Sheridan Park and Recreation Center Directors, SPARC President Jim Brisco, SPARC volunteers, Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski, Rice CISD Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott and I-10 representatives Ron Layton, Gloria McCain and Pat Carr.

Sheridan's community improvement project is converting what was

once a junk yard along Hwy. 90A into a 25-acre public park.

Already completed are the baseball and soccer fields and under construction are a covered pavilion, RV and camping facilities, biking and walking trails, a playground with a catch and release fishing pond and a waterpark.

Support for the park improvement was received from LCRA, San Bernard Electric Coop, Wal-Mart, Shell Foundation, Texas Parks & Wildlife and other individual grant resources.

40-50% of the project is being funded with volunteer and in-kind services. SPARC President Brisco is concerned that the negative publicity will hamper future funding.

In response to Channel 2's criticism of tax monies being spent in this rural community, I-Ten's Chairman Layton voiced their support of the project stating that rural communities depend on and support one another. With a projected attendance of 60,000 to 80,000 visitors per year, the Sheridan Waterpark will have an economic impact on residents in Colorado, Lavaca, Fayette, Gonzales and Wharton Counties.

I-Ten commends the Sheridan volunteers for the outstanding job they have done to provide recreation for area youth and their boost to the local economies in the I-Ten region.

“Marriage is that relation between man and woman in which the independence is equal, the dependence mutual and the obligation reciprocal.”

— Louis Kaufman Anspacher

“Most of the change we thing we see in life is due to truths being in and out of favor.”

— Robert Frost

## Town

Continued from Page 13

interest, originality, spelling grammar, punctuation and neatness.

•Word has reached us that Bill Harrison Jr. has resigned as president of the Centex Development Corporation (the organization that helps small businesses by making loans for expansion, startup, etc.). He was succeeded by Ron Holland, who is also City Manager of Eagle Lake.

We're sorry to see Bill Jr. step down, but send congratulations to Ron.

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Served 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. each Thursday

Friday & Saturday Nights Seafood!

\$14<sup>75</sup> All You Can Eat

Served 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday & Saturday

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