

Mark Your Calendar and Take Part in the 1997
Colorado County Fair!
It's Just Around the Corner...
 Sept. 11 - 14



Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

VFW begins work on fundraiser

The Eagle Lake VFW Post #8783 has begun work on a fundraising drawing to be held later in the year. Anyone wishing to donate an item to be included in the drawing should contact Earl Rodgers or any VFW member as soon as possible. The drawing is tentatively set for Nov. 11.

Attention all civic clubs

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, in order to discuss the feasibility of continuing the annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken festival, would like to invite you, or a representative of your organization, to lunch, hosted by the Chamber, at 12:00 (noon), Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Taco Tony's Restaurant.

Your organization is an important part of our community and the Chamber urges you to attend this significant roundtable discussion on the festival's future in Eagle Lake. Your ideas, opinions and support at this luncheon would be greatly appreciated.

Please RSVP to the Chamber office (234-2780) no later than Friday, Aug. 29.

Library offers amnesty period

The Eula and David Wintermeyer Library is offering an amnesty period during the month of Aug. This means you can return overdue books, videos, magazines and audio books without paying a fine! Please locate library materials you may have overlooked and return them, as the library is in need of them. Remember, you cannot check-out anything until all overdue items are returned.

Raider football tickets on sale

Season tickets for Rice Raider home football games will be on sale at the Rice CISD Business Office and will continue on sale through Friday, Aug. 22. After that time, those who have not held season tickets may purchase them on a first-come first-serve basis. These will be on sale until Friday, Sept. 5. The cost of the season tickets for all home games is \$20 per set. There will be no reserved seats sold for individual games. Call Jennifer Korenek at 234-3531 for additional information.

Game afternoon at GCMC

Senior Friends game afternoon, along with popcorn and a movie time, will be held Friday, Aug. 22, beginning at 1 p.m. in the classrooms of Gulf Coast Medical Center (GCMC). Bring your favorite game, cards, dominoes or come watch an interesting movie. Please RSVP to Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

Head Start announces first day of school

The first day of school for children enrolled in the Head Start program will be Tuesday, Sept. 2. Head Start is a free pre-school program for three and four year olds. If your child has not been accepted into the program and you are interested in applying for enrollment, please call Andreana Ledesma at 512-303-7737 ext. 23 or 1-800-484-6634 code 7737 for an application to be mailed to your home, or visit the central office, #10 Settlement Dr., Suite C, Bastrop.

Tournament to be held at Hearthstone

Senior Friends will be participating in a domino and bingo tournament at Hearthstone at Briar Lane on Aug. 27 beginning at 2 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of fun, games and fellowship. RSVP to Sherri Ziegenhals, 409-282-6808.

Community buyers need your help

It's almost Fair time again and anyone interested in donating to the Eagle Lake Community Buyers may do so by calling 409-234-7432. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Youth soccer league gearing up

Fall registration for soccer in Sheridan will take place Saturday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. All interested children, ages four to 13, are encouraged to sign up. Registration fees will consist of a \$10 donation per child. Any questions, call Laurel Milentz at 409-234-2339.

Class of 1976 plans reunion

Rice High School Class of 1976 is planning a reunion for Sept. 27 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Anyone with information on '76 graduates, such as addresses, may contact Denise Austin Janow, 409-234-2418; or Carolyn Bowen Baird, 234-5864.

55 and over fitness classes offered

Rice Medical Center is providing free 55 and over fitness classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 to 9:45 a.m. Anyone interested in joining or, if you would like more information about the classes, call 409-234-5571.

Turner-Amos reunion set for Aug. 30

The Turner and Amos Reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. For more information, contact Jessie Banks, Box 97-A, Garwood, 77442; or Deloris Milligan, 305 Davitt, Eagle Lake.

Back-to-school round-up, kids krusade

Back-to-school round-up, kids krusade (for kids of all ages) sponsored by Rock Island Full Gospel Church to be held Friday, Aug. 22, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 24, 2:30-5:00 p.m. There will be puppets, bible stories, games, refreshments, contests, prizes, surprises and fun! For information or transportation, call pastor Nick 234-5289 or Debbie Harris 234-5214.

Christian rap concert is Aug. 23

Something big is about to happen in C-Town. A christian rap concert at the Church of the Nazarene. They will host Nuwine, from the streets of the 5th Ward like you never heard, on Saturday, Aug. 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Columbus High School. It's free! All are invited to come be blessed and get saved! For information, call 409-732-8769.

Hospice volunteers needed

Hospice, a program that provides supportive care for persons with a terminal illness and their families, needs volunteers. A training session is being planned for Sept./Oct. For more information, call Margaret at 409-543-9487.

Yoga inservice scheduled for Aug. 29

Rice Medical Center is making room for Yoga. Research has shown how effective Yoga is at reducing stress with the crucial aspect of deep relaxation, which is, in essence, a deep form of healing. Dr. John Huff, MD, who has over 35 years experience in Yoga, will be holding an inservice on Yoga at Eagle Lake Home Care, 121 E. Main, on Friday, Aug. 29, at 5 p.m. Anyone interested in attending this inservice, call 234-5571 ext. 5216.

Joins Rice School District...

City drops vehicles from tax rolls

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council voted to remove non-revenue producing motor vehicles from its tax roll at its Aug. 12 meeting.

Based upon last year's tax figures, the City's tax base will drop from \$62,400,132 to \$57,153,462. The tax rate will increase by about 5¢ per \$100 valuation to generate the same revenue, estimated at \$31,000.

The effect of Council's action is that people will pay a slightly higher tax amount on real estate, but will not pay any on vehicles.

Billy Youens, chief appraiser for the Colorado County Central Ap-

praisal District (CAD), earlier told Council that the City would eliminate a lot of delinquent accounts because, with 75% collection rate on vehicles, most delinquent accounts are for vehicles only.

He pointed out that many vehicles are not reported and therefore never placed on the tax rolls.

The City's payment to CAD is based on the number of accounts handled; a great expense that is never recovered.

During the public comment, Dan Canaris told Council that the tax might deter a person from buying locally.

"If a local dealer could sell more easily, that would help our economy more than the tax," Canaris said.

Charles Darnell told Council it seems like a double tax since a tax was already paid when the vehicle was purchased.

Councilman Bill Kell stated that it was the opinion of those he had surveyed that "what's a 5¢ per \$100 property tax as compared to \$400 tax on a new car?"

Kell used his personal vehicle as an example and concluded, "Let's junk it."

Lee Middleton said he had never

lived anywhere, until now, where there was such a tax.

Only one other county, and the City of Dallas, in addition to Colorado County, City of Eagle Lake, local hospital district and Rice CISD, still have such a tax.

The Rice Consolidated ISD recently approved a \$9.7 million budget without the vehicle tax. Official action on the item will be taken when the Rice CISD Board of Trustees sets its tax rate.

Colorado County conducted a public hearing on Wednesday of this week to discuss the items.

Mayor David Mann reported that options on prison sites have been sent.

A time frame for the 1,000-bed facility has not been determined, but Mann said, comparing the prison's completion to a family having a baby, "The prison comes when the prison comes and we, as proud parents, will be happy."

City Manager Ron Holland reported that work at the Eagle Lake Airport will mean closing the facility. It is a 90-day project.

The contractor is presently working on the north end of the airport and will notify the City when it becomes necessary to close the airport so that a 72-hour closing notice can be posted.

In other business, Council:

- Approved building permits in the fire zone for the repair of roof damage and second floor of the building at 107 E. Main and for awning repair overhanging the sidewalk at the Eagle Lake Home Health Office, 121 E. Main;

- Postponed action on joining a class action lawsuit with the City of San Juan against Central Power & Light until the City Attorney can study the matter; and

- Postponed action on the approval of a contract with Dunham Environmental until an agreement can be reached.

Houston Industries merges with NorAm

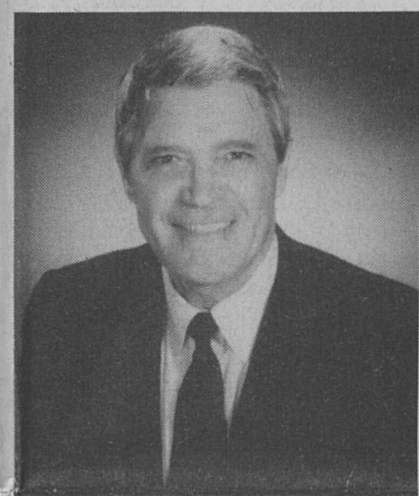
Houston Industries Incorporated (HI) and NorAm Energy Corp. (NorAm) today completed the merger announced in Aug. 1996, creating one of the largest combined electric and natural gas companies in the nation with assets of nearly \$18 billion and annual revenues of approximately \$9 billion.

The transaction is valued at \$3.9 billion, including \$1.4 billion of debt and \$2.5 billion assumed by HI and preferred stock outstanding shares of NorAm common stock.

"This is good news for our customers, whether they're in Minneapolis, Little Rock, Shreveport or Houston. Everyone will continue to receive reliable service at competitive prices, but we now have far more people, resources and technologies standing behind us to keep service a step ahead in the years to come," said Don D. Jordan, HI chairman and chief executive officer.

Earlier this year, in preparation for the merger and the changing regulatory environment, HI organized its operations into three groups.

The HI Retail Energy Group in-



Don Jordan, HI chairman

cludes Houston Lighting & Power, NorAm's natural gas distribution companies Entex, Arkla and Minnegasco (an unregulated retail marketing organization), and HI Energy.

Lee Hogan serves as president and chief executive officer of this group.

HI now serves 3.6 million electric and gas customers in the U.S. and owns interests in electric and utility systems serving approximately 3.3

million customers in Brazil, Argentina and Columbia.

In addition, the company has natural gas gathering, storage and transportation operations, wholesale gas and electric trading, unregulated power generation and retail marketing activities.

"This merger is a natural fit, providing the combination of gas and electric capabilities, strong core businesses and merging growth businesses that we will need to succeed as our industry continues to evolve," Jordan stressed. "HI is now better equipped to meet the energy needs of customers while supporting economic growth in the communities we serve."

"NorAm has been a leader in developing new value-added services for residential and small business customers," said Steve Letbetter, HI president and chief operating officer. "We plan to expand many of these retail services throughout our electric and gas distribution systems, offering customers innovative products and efficient service throughout a broad region of the country."

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EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

patched to W. Union Street in reference to a burglary. Later, Officer Crume was dispatched to the scene to aid in the investigation. A report was filed; the case is under investigation.

On Aug. 14, at 2:25 a.m., Officer Crume and Sgt. Knox conducted a traffic stop on Waverly Street which resulted in the driver being arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

After processing, the driver was transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 11:46 p.m., Officer Carl Risk located a person known to have outstanding warrants. After processing, the subject was transported to CDC by Officer Bill Lattimore for confinement.

On Aug. 15 at 9:33 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson was flagged down by a complainant who reported a burglary of his residence on Keith Street. The complainant was brought to the police department where a report was filed.

At 10:52 a.m., Lt. Johnson received a call advising him of a burglary on North Street. Johnson proceeded to the location. After an investigation at the scene, he filed a report.

At 5:20 p.m., Officer Crume met a complainant at the police department in reference to an assault. The case involved juveniles and is being investigated.

At 5:44 p.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to a residence on B Street in reference to a burglary. Upon completion of the initial investigation, a report was filed.

On Aug. 16 at 12:15 a.m., Officer Risk conducted a traffic stop which resulted in the driver being arrested for DWI and possession of a dangerous drug. Assisted by Officer Lattimore, the suspect was processed, then transported to CDC for confinement.

At 10:12 p.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to a residence on N. Lake in reference to a runaway juvenile. After filing a report, he later learned that the juvenile had returned home.

On Aug. 17 at 12:18 a.m., Officers Lattimore and Risk were dispatched to East A Street in reference to a fight in progress. A report has been filed and the investigation continues.

On Aug. 18 at 10:58 a.m., Chief Keith Webb was at the Columbus Police Department taking a statement in connection with an aggravated as-

sault, when he served the subject with five Eagle Lake municipal warrants. The subject was transported to CDC for confinement.

At 12:49 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to the 200 block of E. Main in reference to the burglary of a motor vehicle. A report was filed and the case is under investigation.

Colorado County Sheriff reports numerous burglaries

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following cases handled for the past two weeks.

Monday, Aug. 4, at 10:00 a.m., Lt. Ron Holub responded to a call concerning criminal mischief on County Road 116, north of Garwood. The complainant reported that suspect(s) had broken the windows of the cab in his farm tractor.

At 5:30 p.m., Deputy Furrh responded to a burglary of a building on Hwy. 71 Business, north of Columbus. The complainant reported a theft of assorted tools, two weed-eaters and an air grinder.

Tuesday, Aug. 5, at 11:30 a.m., Lt. Holub and Deputy Furrh responded to a call concerning the burglary of a habitation on FM 806. The complainant reported a window air conditioner stolen.

At 1:45 p.m., Deputy Furrh conducted a traffic stop on Hwy. 71 at Brushy Road. One suspect was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

Wednesday, Aug. 6, at 5:56 p.m., Sgt. Richard LaCourse and Deputy Jason Pavlicek responded to a call concerning a family disturbance on Shaws Bend Road.

At 9:56 p.m., Deputy Pavlicek and Weimar Officers responded to a report of family violence on Hwy. 90, east of Weimar. One suspect was arrested

and charged with class C family violence.

Friday, Aug. 8, at 12:58 a.m., Deputies Troy Neisner and Pavlicek responded to a call concerning the burglary of a building at the Los Compadres Restaurant on Hwy. 90, east of Weimar. The complainant reported the theft of 18 cans of beer and two \$1 bills.

Saturday, Aug. 9, at 2:05 p.m., Deputies Ron Knighten and Peterson responded to the report of an assault on CR 155. One juvenile was arrested and detained in Milam County.

Sunday, Aug. 10, at 7:51 p.m., Deputies Peikert and Gene Rebel responded to a report of family violence on FM 102, east of Alleyton. A report was taken but no charges were filed at the time of the complaint.

Thursday, Aug. 14, at 9:00 a.m., Deputy Knighten responded to a burglary of habitation on Schutte Road. The complainant reported a television, RCA satellite receiver, assorted car goods and cooking utensils were stolen.

At 4:25 p.m., Deputy Knighten responded to a burglary of habitation at Smith Point, off Hwy. 90. The complainant reported assorted jewelry, a VCR and television stolen.

At 4:30 p.m., Deputy Furrh responded to a burglary of habitation in (See Sheriff, Page 8)