

Only 8 Days Left Until Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival



Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

PJs present 'Beauty and the Beast'

The Prairie Edge Juniors present Beauty and the Beast on Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m. The performance will take place at the Prairie Edge Museum Theater. Reserved seats are \$5, general admission, \$2 and general admission 12 and under \$1. Tickets are available at the Dairy Delite. For more information, call 234-3701.

S. Texas Polka, Sausage Festival is March 27, 28

The 16th Annual South Texas Polka and Sausage Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday March 28 and 29, 1998 at the KC Hall in Hallettsville and is sponsored by the KC Council #2433. Polka Mass will be held on Saturday at 3 p.m. and supper will be served beginning at 4 p.m. Musical entertainment will be by Leo Majek, Jodie Mikula, Vrazel's, Red Ravens and Tony Janak. Admission is \$6 per day per person. Meals begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 512-798-2311. All proceeds benefit the KC Fund and Sacred Heart School Athletic Program.

APC Festival includes street dance March 27

The Attwaer's Prairie Chicken Festival (PCF) wants to remind the public about the free street dance on Friday, March 27 on the square in Eagle Lake. The band 'Colorado' will perform at 7 p.m. Persons will be able to purchase hamburgers and fried fish. For more information contact Tanya Wiese at 234-7469.

Trailriders... get ready!

It's time again for the annual membership trail ride for the Colorado River Trailriders Association. The ride will be held March 28 starting at Christine's (Columbus, FM 1890-Shaws Bend Rd. off Hwy. 71) We'll meet at 9 a.m., ride out at 10 and return by 4 p.m. A spaghetti supper will then be served. Everyone is invited to enjoy the ride with us at no cost. You are responsible for your own drinks and lunch. Remember to bring your coggins papers as required by state law. For more information, contact Doris Hatterman, 409-263-5302 or Cindy Arrison at 409-758-3957.

IDCW is forming

A Inter-Denominational Christian Women's (IDCW) organization is forming. Come hear what this new group plans to do. Fellowship with Christian Women from all churches Thursday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Rhonda Bridges, 601 Tate Ave. Call for more information 234-7379. make sure your church is represented!

APC Festival silent auction set for March 28

The Attwaer Prairie Chicken Festival (PCF) Silent Auction will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 28. Bidding and viewing will start at 10 a.m. The auction will be held in the First National Bank lobby. A complete list of auction items will be listed in the next issue of the Headlight.

Legion Post #108 to meet March 24

W. Cherry-M. Perry Post 108 of the American Legion, Eagle Lake, will have an important quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the sun room at the Fred Frnk home, 618 Melody Lane.

Business will include the election of 1998-99 officers and discussion of projects for the year. These projects will include: the display of flags on graves of deceased veterans; the disposition of flags which have been retired from service because of age, etc.; the annual distribution of toys to needy children at Christmas-time; and for ladies night meetings in July and Dec.

All members and interested veterans are urged to attend.

APC Festival to include chili cook-off

The Attwaer Prairie Chicken Festival (APC) will hold a chili-cook-off on Saturday, March 28, starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Entry fee is \$10. You must supply all cooking utensils and take this includes butane burner. You must cook at least 3 lbs. of meat, no beans allowed. Chili will be judged at 4 p.m. for taste, color and aroma. For more information, call Darlene Argo at 234-5185 or Annie Broesche at 234-3200.

St. Mary's School to hold registration

St. Mary's School in Nada will hold pre-registration on March 25 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. This registration is for first graders and any new students that will be attending St. Mary's for the first time. Please bring the student's birth and baptismal certificates, immunization record and social security card.

St. Mary's Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color and nationality or ethnic origin.

PCF volleyball tournament set

The Eagle Lake Prairie Chicken Festival (PCF) will hold a volleyball tournament on Saturday, March 28, 1998 on the lawn beside the Community Center. First game is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. There is a \$40 entry fee per team. You may pick up applications at The Headlight or Laker Printing. For more information, call Joe Lee Perez at 409-234-7365.

Senior Friends to visit casino

Senior Friends will be going to the Isle of Capri Casino on March 26. Be at Gulf Coast Medical Center at 7 a.m. We'll return about 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person. You must RSVP by calling Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

Horseshoe players wanted

Horseshoe players are need to participate in the Eagle Lake Prairie Chicken Festival on Saturday, March 28, on the lawn next to the Community Center. Games will start at 12:30 p.m. Admission is \$7.50 per player, and you must provide your own horseshoes. Partners will be drawn. For more information, call Pinto Broesche at 409-234-5981. You can pick up applications at The Headlight or Laker Printing.

Class of 1946 planning reunion

The Eagle Lake High School Class of 1946 is planning a reunion for June 12 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. They will also honor the football squad of 1945 (bi-district champions). For more information, contact Melvin Selph, 740 Willowick, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979; call 512-552-2704.

Entries needed for APC festival royalty

Entries are now being taken for Miss Eagle Lake, Junior Miss Eagle Lake, Little Miss Eagle Lake and Little Mister Eagle Lake which will be chosen for the Prairie Chicken Festival. If you are interested, call the Chamber of Commerce Office at 409-234-2780 before March 17.

Lions BBQ dinner is March 22

The Eagle Lake Lions Club will hold a barbecue chicken dinner Sunday, March 22, for \$5 per plate at the Eagle Lake Golf Course. Serving is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You may get your tickets from any Lion.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

4th Annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival draws near, filled with activities

The 4th Annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival in Eagle Lake, touted as a weekend in the country focusing on the most endangered bird in America, is set for Friday and Saturday, March 27-28, and will feature a trade show, educational exhibitors, and well-known speakers with information for farmers, ranchers, citizens and visitors.

Trade show exhibitors are scheduled to open, along with the regular business houses, in downtown Eagle Lake at 3 p.m., Friday, March 27. The band, "Colorado", will perform at a street dance from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Saturday, March 28, the festival will open at 7 a.m. with free van tours leaving from the city square to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (APCNWR) and a downtown 8

a.m. "fun" run.

The exhibitors will show and sell such items as bird houses and feeders; historical tours by wagons drawn by matched mules; native Texas plants; container trees, shrubs, and plants; landscape, bird and flower photographs; aquatic plants, fish, pond fountains; one-of-a-kind photographic and art note papers; with lots of informational displays and presentations, ranging from fly fishing demonstrations to food and drinks.

The day will include not only free

tours of the APCNWR, leaving every half hour from the square, but also visitor self-drives to the LCRA lake-side irrigation plant on Eagle Lake for free bird and nature observations led by Doris Laughlin.

Residents and visitors also will be offered a KidFish fishing contest, exhibits, petting zoo, children's games and rides, volleyball and horseshoe tournaments, musical and talent show entertainment, and a number of land-use speakers.

The event finale will be a wine and

cheese social affair after 5 p.m. on Saturday at the First National Bank with a silent auction offering numerous bid items.

For more information on the March 27-28 country weekend in Eagle Lake, focusing on the most endangered bird in America, the Attwater's Prairie Chicken, call Coordinator Laura Myres at 409-234-5172 or the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce.

For exhibitors' information call Becky Anderson at 234-3522.

City's sales tax collections still ahead for year...

City's sales tax collections take nosedive

State Comptroller John Sharp last week delivered a total of \$163.3 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,090 Texas cities and 118 counties, an 8% increase over the \$151.2 million allocated last March.

The City of Eagle Lake, however, saw a drop in their payment from \$15,026.71 in March of 1997 to \$9,907.81 this month.

"Texas continues, for the fifth consecutive year, to experience strong economic growth, while consumer confidence remains the highest in the nation," Sharp said.

"Sales statewide for the past several months have surpassed earlier expectations and far exceeded sales in the previous year."

Sharp delivered monthly sales tax rebates totaling \$147.8 million to Texas cities, 7.1% higher than last March's payments of \$137.8 million. Rebates of \$15.5 million to Texas counties were 16.5% higher than allocations of \$13.3 million in March 1997.

Another \$4.3 million went to 30 special purpose districts around the state including Rice Hospital District which received a rebate in the amount of \$6,181.71.

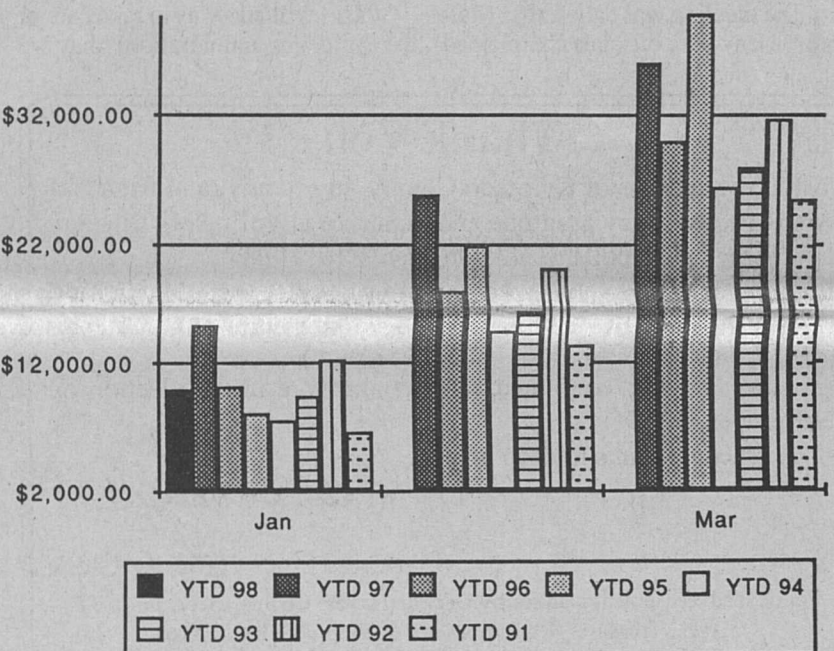
The City of Houston received a

sales tax rebate of \$20.2 million in March, 8.4% above the previous March's \$18.6 million. Year-to-date payments to Houston are up by 11.4%.

The \$12.7 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for

March reflects a 3.5% increase from the \$12.3 million in sales tax rebate for the same month last year. The year-to-date increase to Dallas is 10.5%.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation (See Sales tax, Page 10)



The year-to-date totals of the City of Eagle Lake's sales tax rebates are charted against the month the tax was collected, not when the City received the rebate.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

On March 10 at 9:18 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to an accident on Sixth St. involving a garbage truck and a vehicle. A DPS Trooper arrived and assisted in the investigation.

At 12:11 p.m., Lt. Clem Johnson met a complainant at the police department. The complainant wanted to report a disturbance on S. Austin Rd. Lt. Johnson met with subjects and the matter was cleared at the scene.

Sgt. Jack Knox was called to the 100 block of Commerce Street in reference to a window being broken out of a vehicle. Sgt. Knox investigated the scene and collected evidence. The case is still pending.

Sgt. Knox was dispatched to a fight in progress on E. State Street at 8:13 p.m. Sgt. Knox arrived and talked to several people, none of whom wanted to give any details or wanted to file charges.

At 10:30 p.m., Sgt. Knox was contacted and advised of a stolen bicycle from E. Main. A report was filed.

On March 11 at 12:24 a.m., Officer Tim Crume observed some criminal mischief in the 100 block of N. McCarty. Officer Crume initiated an investigation.

At 4:20 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to the 100 block of W. Post Office in reference to loud music coming from a vehicle. The subject was located and issued a warning for violation of the noise ordinance.

At 10:28 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Donovan Street in reference to an overdose. Sgt. Knox found the subject semi-conscious on the floor and called the EMS, who transported the subject to Rice Medical Center. The matter was investigated by Sgt. Knox; no criminal charges are

pending.

At 11:14 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to 6th Street in reference to a medical emergency. EMS arrived shortly thereafter and transported the subject to Rice Medical Center.

On March 12 at 3:34 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to Stephens Street in reference to an accident. There was no damage or injuries. No accident report was filed.

At 10:38 p.m., Officer Bill Lattimore was advised of the burglary of a vehicle. A report was filed and the case is under investigation.

On March 13 at 12 a.m., Officers Carl Risk and Lattimore were working the crowd at the Jazz Room Bar, around the closing hour, and were being assisted there by Deputy Gene Rebel, when a large fight broke out.

After the initial investigation, five persons were arrested: Leatrice Nannette Johnson, LaToya Denise Simms, LaTwana Denise Mangum, Dorrie Elaine Hopes and Terry Joe Mitchell were all charged with disorderly conduct.

After processing at the police department, all five subjects were transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

On March 14, Officer Risk received a call of a stolen vehicle. Upon investigation, it was discovered the incident occurred in the county and the matter was turned over to a county deputy.

At 3:48 p.m., Officer Crume conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Boothe Drive.

As a result of the stop, Maximino Agostader Mendoza of Eagle Lake was arrested and charged with; failure to identify to a peace officer, no driver's license and no liability insurance.

After processing, Mendoza was transported to CDC for confinement.

At 6:45 p.m., Officer Crume conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of

W. Post Office Street which resulted in the arrest of Shanna Andrea Sewell of Garwood for outstanding warrants.

At 5:22 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to a harassment call. Sgt. Knox contacted the suspect and settled the complaint.

At 7:44 p.m., Officer Lattimore responded to a civil dispute and met with the complainant and suspect. The two were instructed as to the necessary action they should take in the resolution of the civil matter.

On March 15 at 4:54 p.m., Sgt. Knox received a wild animal call. Deputy Game Warden Butch Herman was called to the scene and took control of the wild animal, releasing it back to the wild.

At 6:10 p.m., Officer Lattimore received a call of suspicious activity on Boothe Drive. Lattimore checked the area, but was unable to locate anyone suspicious.

On March 16 at 1:05 a.m., Officer Lattimore met with a subject on State

Street in reference to a verbal disturbance. No violence took place; no action was taken.

At 8:49 a.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to S. McCarty in reference to a civil matter. After an initial investigation, the parties were referred to Justice of the Peace M.L. Szymanski.

At 9:56 a.m., Officer Ochoa met with a complainant and took a report of a burglary of a residence. The case is under investigation and charges are pending the outcome of an on-going follow-up investigation.

At 9:02 a.m., Officer Lattimore met with a complainant about two suspicious transient subjects walking adjacent to the railroad property. The two were identified and then given courtesy transportation. Information was later turned over to county deputies.

On March 17 at 12:04 a.m., Officer Lattimore was sent to Walnut Street in reference to a suspicious noise, but was unable to locate the source of the noise.

Postal inspection service warns patrons of mail theft

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service issued a consumer alert recently on the growing problem of mail theft occurring at residential and business mail boxes and mail receptacles.

Theft of outgoing mail, or "flagging" is occurring at an increasing rate throughout the greater Houston area, particularly in the suburbs.

Typically, thieves will look for unlocked mail boxes with the "flag up" as an indication to letter carriers there is outgoing mail in the box for pickup. Victims of this type of mail theft often have their personal checks, bank and credit card account numbers

used for fraudulent purposes.

"This is a serious problem that is growing rapidly," says Karl Kell, Inspector-In-Charge for the Gulf Coast Division of the Postal Inspection Service. "We're asking the public to help us deal with this criminal activity by eliminating the use of the familiar 'flag' signal on curbside mailboxes."

Inspector Kell advises the following to reduce the potential of mail theft: Deposit outgoing mail in an official U.S. Postal Service collection box, or take the mail to your nearest

(See Theft, Page 10)