

Texas Reading Club keeps kids reading

What has both furry tails and funny tails? The 1998 Texas Reading Club, of course!

This summer, as in many previous summers, the Eula and David Wintermann Library will participate in the Texas Reading Club, a program designed to encourage reading and promote Texas libraries.

This year's program, *Furry Tails! Funny Tails!*,

will run June 10 to July 15 and highlight animals, trickster tales, light-hearted folktales, whimsical stories and humor.

Registration begins Tuesday, May 26, for ages four to completed 5th grade.

If a child reads 12 or more books during the program (See Reading, Page 8)

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NEWSBRIEFS

United Way Fun Day set for May 16

The United Way of Eagle Lake is holding its second Annual Fun Day of Dominoes and Bridge Saturday, May 16, beginning at 11 a.m. The event will be held at the Prairie Edge Museum. The entry fee is \$10 and includes lunch. Domino and bridge players are urged to attend. The event kicks off the 1998-99 United Way Drive.

Booster Club BBQ, golf tournament are May 16

The Rice Raider Booster Club will have a BBQ chicken dinner and golf tournament Saturday, May 16. The dinner will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are available; contact any booster club member or call 758-3933 after 7:30 p.m. For the golf tournament, contact 234-6343 (work) or 234-2235 (home) for information.

RHS Drama to perform at Museum

The Rice High School One-Act Play cast and crew will perform their entry for District Competition at Prairie Edge Museum Sunday, May 17, at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 409-234-3501 or 234-3535 or from any Drama Club member. Plan to support the RHS Drama Club.

Car wash, bake sale is May 16

Prairie Fellowship Youth would like to wash your car, truck or van Saturday, May 16. They would like to go to Discovery Camp and will be earning their way with a car wash combined with a bake sale at the First National Bank drive-thru driveway in Eagle Lake from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Suggested donations for washing are: cars, \$5; trucks, \$7; and vans, \$10. Rain date will be Saturday, May 23... same time, same place!

E.H. Henry Alumni meeting is May 21

The E.H. Henry Alumni will hold their monthly meeting Thursday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry site.

'Life After Loss' meeting this Tuesday

The monthly Life After Loss support group will meet Tuesday, May 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in El Campo. The group will be facilitated by Kathy Springer, Hospice Bereavement Coordinator and will include a short film and discussion relative to coping with grief. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for attendance. For additional information, call Gulf Coast Hospice at 409-543-9487.

Church-wide garage sale set for May 15, 16

A city-wide garage sale will be held at the First Baptist Church Parsonage, 516 Strickland Ave., Friday, May 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 16, from 8 a.m. to noon. There will be something for everyone, light fixtures, handyman items and dishes, just to name a few. Proceeds will be used for the church building fund.

American Legion to decorate graves

Members of Eagle Lake American Legion Post 108 will be placing flags on graves of deceased veterans in local cemeteries in observance of the traditional Memorial Day, May 30, at 9 a.m. Friday, May 29. The flags will be picked up at 6 p.m. Monday, June 1.

In the event a grave of a veteran is unintentionally missed, contact Commander Fred R. Frnka at 234-2065 or Adjutant W.L. Bauer at 234-2478.

Rock Island annual homecoming set for May 24

The Annual Homecoming and Memorial Day Service of the Myrtle Cemetery Association will be held at the air-conditioned former Rock Island School gym, Sunday, May 24. A beef and sausage barbecue dinner, with all the trimmings (dessert and iced tea or coffee included), will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost per plate: adult, \$6; children, \$3.50. The Memorial Service and Program will commence at 1 p.m.

Sealy Outlet Center hosting pageant

Sealy Outlet Center will host a Little Miss and Mr. 4th of July Beauty Pageant. All contestants must have a current photo and proof of age. For more information, call Judi at 409-885-1231. Ages are 2 years-10 years as of July 4. Age groups are ages 2-4, Little Ms. and Mr. Petite Fire Cracker, ages 5-7 Little Ms. and Mr. Jr. Fire Cracker, ages 8-10, Little Ms. and Mr. Fire Cracker.

Habitat to host dinner theater

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH) will host a dinner theater featuring The Prairie Edge Players in *Dirty Work at the Crossroads*; or *Tempted Tried and True*, a hilarious 'nineties melodrama' by Bill Johnson. The event will take place May 30 at Stafford Opera House in Columbus. Cocktails start at 6 p.m. dinner at 6:30 and the show at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 for dinner and the show and \$10 for the show only. Tables for 8 are available on request by reservation only by calling 1-800-243-5369. Proceeds benefit Colorado County Habitat and the Prairie Edge Museum.

Laux, Munke family reunion June 7

The Margaretha Laux/Christian Munke annual family reunion will be held on Sunday, June 7, at the Ammannsville KJT Hall beginning about 10:30 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served at noon, with beverages, flatware and bread provided. Family and friends are invited to attend. For more information call 409-247-4555.

Donate to scholarship fund

Sheridan Elementary & Junior High Student Council would like to thank all those who have donated to the Sheridan scholarship fund. This scholarship is available to any senior who has graduated from Sheridan Elementary and goes on to graduate from Rice High School (RHS). In the past, our school has been able to give scholarships to deserving RHS seniors. This year we would again appreciate any donations to this fund so we may carry on this fine tradition. Anyone desiring to make donations may contact the office at Sheridan Elementary School at 234-7334. Any and all help will be appreciated.

Country Peddler show is May 15-17

The Country Peddler Show will be held May 15 from 4 to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, 4310 Hwy. 36 south. They will feature an excellent selection of quality personal apparel, furnishing and decorator accessories, paintings, potpourri, porcelain, stenciling, dolls, bears, jewelry and fashion items. Musical entertainment will be provided by Jes Playin' Folks. Admission is \$4 for adults and 12 and under get in free; seniors citizens, \$2.

My Friends House sets fund raiser, bake sale

The United Methodist Church My Friends House Child Care Center will hold a fund raiser and bake sale at Austin's BBQ & Catering, 507 E. Main, Tuesday, May 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets, available from any My Friends parent or the center, are \$5 each. You may contact the center at 409-234-3330.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

Hajovsky, Galvan named top 1998 Rice graduates

By Namita Verma
Raider Review Staff

Jenny Hajovsky, named Valedictorian of the Class of 1998 at Rice High School, is the daughter of Jerry and Fran Hajovsky of Sheridan.

Jenny will attend Texas A&M University where she plans to study English and Humanities.

After receiving her doctorate in her chosen area of study, she will pursue a collegiate teaching career.

Jenny is involved in Future Farm-

ers of America (president), 4-H, Junior Fair Board, Fair Queen, National Honor Society (president), Student Council, Band Council, Flag Corps, and serves as yearbook editor and also participates in U.I.L.

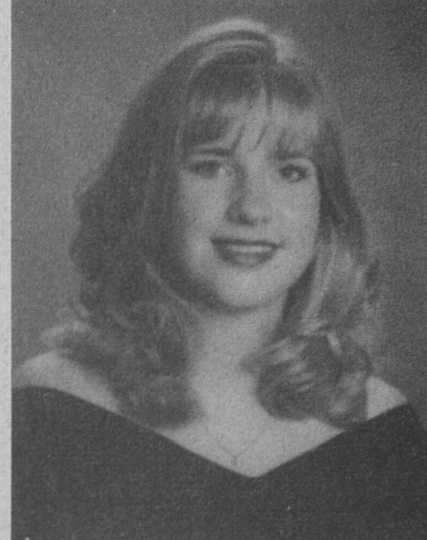
Tim Galvan, named Salutatorian, is the son of Tommy and Theresa Galvan of Eagle Lake.

Tim plans to major in Interactive Simulation and pursue a career as a video game designer at the DigiPen Institute of Technology.

Tim is a member of the National Honor Society.

Jonathan Burrow, son of Randy and Carolyn Burrow of Eagle Lake, plans to major in computer science at Texas A&M University to become a computer programmer.

(See Honors, Page 7)



Jenny Hajovsky
1998 Valedictorian

Eagle Lake hospital awarded state loan

The General Services Commission, State Energy Conservation Office, has approved an efficiency loan in the amount of \$233,576 for Rice Community District Hospital.

The loan will enable Rice Community District Hospital to finance the installation of energy efficient retrofits which will save the district an estimated \$29,000 in annual utility costs.

This loan was provided through the LoanSTAR Program, which finances energy efficient projects for state agencies, school districts, hospitals and local governments at an interest rate 4.04% APR.

Loans are repaid through the cost savings achieved by the projects.

The program is administered by the General Services Commission, State Energy Conservation Office, and funded by Oil Overcharge Funds.

"I am pleased to hear about the energy efficiency loan awarded to Rice District Community Hospital. This effort made by the Hospital will

result in a significant reduction in operating costs to the facility," said Representative Robby Cook whose legislative district includes Rice Community District Hospital.

Gott nominated for 'Superintendent of Year'

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

26 in conjunction with the 1998 TASA/TASB Joint Annual Convention in Houston.

The District's media coordinator, Lynda Appelt, met with trustees and reviewed the comprehensive entry form she prepared at the Board's request.

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) recognizes a select group of superintendents for exemplary and visionary leadership each year.

The winner receives \$4,000 for a professional development opportunity of his/her choice.

The award will be presented Sept.

It covered the areas of administration and school climate, school board-superintendent relations, school improvement, fiscal management, facilities management, instructional management, student management, personnel management, school-

(See Nomination, Page 10)

County moves forward with 911 addressing

Colorado County Commissioners' Court on Monday morning established a date to conduct a public hearing to adopt road numbers and/or names for County roads as part of the County's 991 rural addressing program.

The hearing will be held at 9 a.m. June 8 and will include County roads in the unincorporated areas.

In a related 911 agenda item, the Court also received notice from the law firm of Fletcher & Springer that a lawsuit — Colorado County, Texas vs. Fred Sedgwick, d/b/a Sedgwick Associates — has been filed in district court.

Sedgwick Associates had been contracted by the County to furnish rural addressing mapping, but the County never received the necessary items it needed to complete the 911 project.

The Court also executed contracts with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission in the amounts of \$292,600 and \$117,930 for distribution of state-appropriated operational funding and start-up funding, respectively, for the Colorado County Juvenile Facility in Eagle Lake;

Precinct 4 Commissioner Leon "Sonny" Spanihel was appointed to

sell, through public auction, 8.32 acres of property behind the present juvenile facility for the possible construction of a female juvenile facility.

The County currently owns 13.168 acres at the site. A total of 3.84 acres has been used for the present facility and another acre has been reserved for Eagle Lake's recycling center.

Correctional Services Corp., operators of the present juvenile prison, wants the balance of the acreage to construct a female facility.

In other business, the Court: •Adopted a resolution to seek a grant through the Criminal Justice Department for federal funds for the Texas Narcotics Control Program in conjunction with DeWitt, Goliah, Guadalupe and Lavaca Counties with Colorado County's share being \$18,304;

•Received a check in the amount of \$23,864 from the U.S. Treasury as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service payment that was authorized by the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act of 1978;

•Adopted a resolution of appreciation for Deputy County Clerk Helen Hammack for her nine-year service to the County;

(See County, Page 7)

Assisted living coming to Eagle Lake via RMC

On April 27, the Rice Medical Board (RMB) of Directors voted unanimously to initiate plan development of a 45 unit assisted living facility to be located next to Rice Medical Center.

A resolution was passed to form the Rice Health Facilities Development Corporation (RHFD) which will serve as the sponsoring entity for the assisted living facility.

According to David Keith, administrator, the Board asked that the \$3 million dollar financing for the project not encumber the district tax payers nor put the hospital at risk. This is called non-recourse funding.

Obtaining non-recourse funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs Mortgage Insurance Program for assisted living requires establishing a separate non-profit corporation.

The RMB will appoint the Board of the new corporation and approve its bylaws.

RHFD will then be responsible for the management and operations of the assisted living facility.

The incorporators of RHFD are Bill Harrison Sr., Betty Wegenhoft, Betty Schiurring and Joan Matthews, all current RMB members.

Additional board members will be added once the articles of incorporation and bylaws are complete.

Toni Jackson, RMC administrative staff member and project coordinator, will also assist the new Board.

The state must eventually approve the not-for-profit status of RHFD.

The planned assisted living facility is a 32,000 square foot facility which will serve up to 65 residents in private or semi-private rooms.

According to DFD architect Rob

(See Assisted, Page 10)

City's sales tax catching up with 97

State Comptroller John Sharp last week delivered a total of \$236 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,092 Texas cities and 118 counties, a 9% increase over the \$216.5 million allocated in May 1997.

The City of Eagle Lake's rebate was \$14,102.55, 37.08% above the \$10,287.67 received last May.

This month's sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected in March by monthly tax filers plus the first three months of 1998 for those reporting quarterly, and reported to the Comptroller in April.

"The robust growth of the Texas economy still shows no signs of slowing, with higher employment numbers going hand-in-hand with higher consumer spending," Sharp said. "Year-to-date, rebates to cities and counties are up 10.3% over last year."

Sharp delivered monthly sales tax rebates totaling \$217.6 million to Texas cities, 9.2% higher than last May's payments of \$199.3 million. Rebates of \$18.3 million to Texas counties were 7% higher than allocations of \$17.1 million in May 1997. Another \$6.3 million went to 31 special purpose districts around the state.

Rice Hospital District, one of those special purpose districts, re-

ceived \$8,079.93, bringing their year-to-date total to \$36,435.84.

The City of Houston, continuing its recovery from the economic downturn suffered in the 1980s, received a sales tax rebate of \$30.1 million in May, 10.8% above the previous May's \$27.2 million. Year-to-date, payments to Houston are up by 11.3%.

The \$18.2 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for May reflects a 1.6% increase from the \$17.9 million in sales tax rebate for the same month last year. The year-to-date increase in payments to Dallas is 9%.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation for May was \$11.8 million, up 13.7% over the May 1997 payment of \$10.4 million. Year-to-date, San Antonio has received an 11.2% increase in local sales tax payments.

The Austin sales tax allocation for May was \$9.1 million, reflecting an impressive increase of 16.4% from the May 1997 payment of \$7.8 million. For the first five months of 1998, Austin's sales tax rebates are 11.8% more than those for last year.

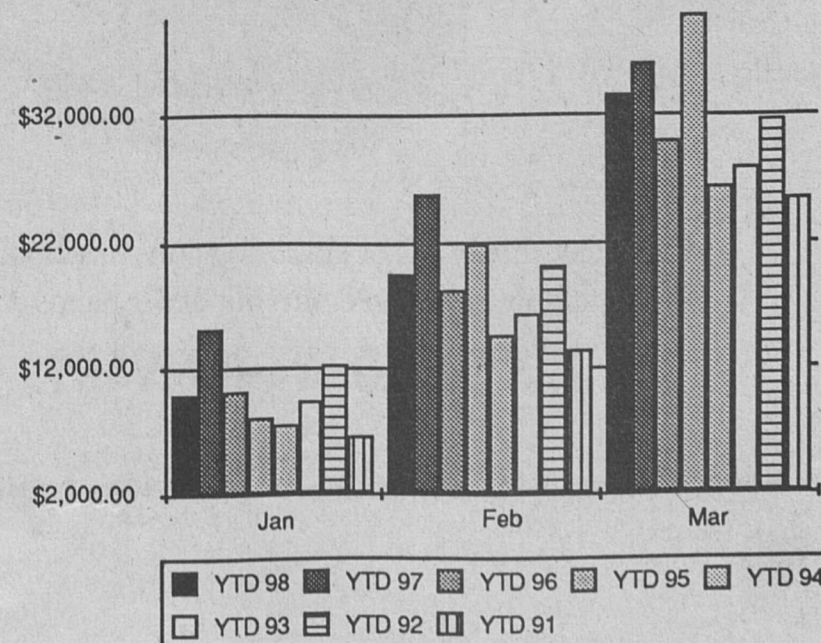
Ft. Worth's \$6.6 million May sales tax allocation was 9.7% more than the rebate of \$6 million for May of last year, putting year-to-date rebates 9.1%

ahead of 1997.

Arlington received \$5.7 million in sales tax allocation, up 2.5% from the \$5.6 million payment for the same month last year. Arlington's rebates are running 2.4% ahead of those for the first five months of last year.

El Paso's sales tax rebate of \$3.9 million was up 9.5% over the \$3.5 million payment delivered in May 1997. El Paso's local sales tax payments year-to-date are 4.1% ahead of those for the first five months of 1997.

(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.