

Colorado SWCD wins national award

The Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District of Texas was honored recently as one of only 57 districts from nearly 3,000 nationwide to be named a Grand Award District in the 51st Annual Conservation Awards Program.

Sponsored by The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and the National Association of Conserva-

tion District (NACD), the nationally recognized program rewards and encourages conservation district members to protect and conserve soil, water, forests, wildlife and other natural resources.

James Helfrich of Alleyton represented the Colorado SWCD and joined representatives from other districts (See SWCD, Page 7)

Eagle Lake Headlight

Dec. 31, 1998

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 95, No. 41
12 Pages Plus 1 Insert
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
409-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

NEWSBRIEFS

City will pick up your Christmas tree

If you call the City of Eagle Lake at 234-2640, they will pick up your old Christmas tree next Wednesday, Jan. 6. Trees picked up will be put through a chipper. Since the City has no plans for the chippings, according to City Manager Ron Holland, you are welcome to call him if you have a use for them.

City departments closed for Holiday

All City offices, including garbage collection services, will close at noon on Dec. 31. The City asks that Thursday route residents please have their garbage out early for pickup. There will be no Friday route pickup. Normal routes will resume Monday, Jan. 4, 1999.

Business close for New Year Holiday

The Colorado County Courthouse and the *Eagle Lake Headlight* will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, for New Year's. The *Headlight* will close at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31. The First National Bank of Eagle Lake will be closed Friday, Jan. 1.

Library closing for automation

The Eula and David Wintermann Library will be closed beginning Jan. 11 for a period of two to three weeks due to the automation project being instituted. Your patience is requested.

Study Club meeting set for Jan. 13

The Eagle Lake Study Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Eula and David Wintermann Library. The program will be entitled "Six Women of the New Testament".

Notice to sewer customers

In order to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year, the City of Eagle Lake will be considering water consumptions of each customer from approximately Dec. 15 through March 15.

Customers are encouraged to fix any water leaks as soon as possible in an effort to keep water consumptions at a minimum during this time. Each residential sewer rate is based on the actual water consumed at that particular location.

Booster Club meeting is Jan. 4

Please make plans to attend the Booster Club meeting Monday, Jan. 4, at noon at the Sportsman's Restaurant. It will be a Dutch treat. Final plans for our powerlifting meet will be discussed.

'Life After Loss' meeting set for Jan. 5

The monthly 'Life After Loss' support group meeting in Wharton will be held Tuesday, Jan. 5, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church, 1717 Pioneer Street. Kathy Springer, LSW will present a program: "The Tasks of Mourning". The group is available to anyone who has lost a loved one through death. For information, call Medshares Hospice at 409-543-9487.

College Information Hotline '99 open Jan. 16, 17

All Texans can call a free hotline at 1-800-347-3475 on Jan. 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to find out more about post-secondary educational opportunities and financial options.

Students and parents will be able to call the College Information Hotline with questions about college selection, admissions, testing and financial aid. The phones will be answered by professional admission counselors and financial aid personnel. Spanish-speaking counselors will also be available to answer questions.

Please take advantage of this free opportunity to explore opportunities in higher education.

Crescent Country Jamboree set for Jan. 5

The Crescent Country Jamboree sponsored by Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF), will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at the WCYF Grounds in the Crescent Hall, intersection FM 960 and FM 961. The concession stand special for this month will be "Chili, Rice and Beans" along with the other concession items such as grilled hamburgers, popcorn and assortment of homemade desserts and drinks ready to serve at 6 p.m. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the admission is only \$3. All proceeds will benefit the WCYF Building Fund. For more information call 409-677-3350.

Senior Citizens' Dance Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' Dance on Friday, Jan. 1, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Daniel and The Country Playboys. Admission is \$5 per person. Door prizes will be given.

Rice FFA Show, Sale set for Jan. 16

The Rice High School FFA Show and Sale will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, starting at 8 a.m. The sale will begin at 1 p.m. A barbecue lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. catered by Austin's BBQ and Catering of Eagle Lake. There will be approximately 30 projects on which to bid.

Defensive driving course is Jan. 5, 6

Retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel has scheduled a state approved defensive driving course in Eagle Lake Jan. 5 and 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake. To pre-register, call 409-234-5411 or show up a few minutes early the first evening.

ICE House needs volunteers

The Ice House has been well received by the youth of our community. A total of 470+ youth have attended to date, an average of 23-24 per day the ICE House has been open. We have signed up over 150 youth as members. With this great number of youth, we are needing additional volunteer help. Those of you wishing to join the volunteer pool, come by the ICE House to fill out a volunteer information sheet. For further information, contact Erik Cameron of the ICE House at 234-7990 or 234-3225.

Pilot Club to hold 'Romance Package' drawing

The Eagle Lake Pilot Club is holding a Romance Package Drawing. The \$10 tickets give you a chance at two nights at the Hilton on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, champagne on arrival, riverside bedroom, Saturday breakfast, \$50 meal certificate and a \$20 gas certificate. The drawing will be held Saturday, Jan. 30. For more information or tickets, call Dorothy Kohleffel at 234-2834 or Mary Ann Kaluza at 234-2619.

ELPS PTO holding 'Penny Drive'

The Eagle Lake Primary School PTO is holding a "Penny Drive". Contain-

(See Newsbriefs, Page 7)

City's sales tax rebate jumps, then falls

On Dec. 11, State Comptroller John Sharp delivered his final sales tax rebates for 1998, a total of \$176,396,918 in monthly sales tax payments to 1,095 Texas cities and 118 counties, a 7% increase over the \$164.7 million allocated in Dec. 1997.

The City of Eagle Lake received a rebate in the amount of \$9,642.17, down 18.46% from the \$11,825.75 received last Dec. This fall followed a huge jump of 37.87% last month when the City received a rebate for \$16,813.96 (compared to the Nov. 1997 rebate of \$12,194.91).

This month's payments include local sales taxes collected by monthly filers on Oct. sales and reported to the Comptroller in Nov.

"Total city and county sales tax rebates for calendar year 1998 topped \$2.3 billion, and were 9.7% higher than total rebates for 1997, as the Texas economy continues its steady upward swing," Sharp said. Total allocations to all local taxing entities for 1998 exceeded \$3.3 billion.

Sharp delivered monthly sales tax rebates totaling \$161.9 million to Texas cities, 7.4% higher than last

year's Dec. payments of \$150.6 million. Rebates of \$14.4 million to Texas counties were up 2.8% from the \$14 million paid in Dec. 1997. Another \$5.1 million went to 37 special purpose districts around the state.

One of those special purpose districts, Rice Hospital District, received a whopping \$27,168.59 payment; 245.5% higher than the \$7,863.43 received last Dec. (the first month the tax was collected by the District).

The City of Houston received a sales tax rebate of \$21.1 million in Dec., 8.2% higher than last year's

\$19.5 million Dec. payment. Overall, payments to the City of Houston for 1998 were 9.5% more than total payments for last year.

The \$13.9 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for Dec. reflects a 5.1% increase from the \$13.2 million sales tax rebate for the same month last year. Dallas received 9.1% more in total sales tax payments in 1998 than in 1997.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation for Dec. was \$8.5 million, up 2.6% over the Dec. 1997 payment of \$8.3 million. This year, San Antonio received 8.3% more in sales tax payments than the total for last year.

The Austin sales tax allocation for Dec. was \$7.4 million, reflecting an increase of 9.5% from the Dec. 1997 payment of \$6.7 million. In 1998, Austin's total sales tax rebates were 10.5% more than those for 1997.

Ft. Worth's \$4.5 million Dec. sales tax allocation was 11.6% more than the City's rebate of \$4.1 million for Dec. of last year, putting 1998 rebates 10.9% ahead of 1997's.

Arlington received \$3.8 million in sales tax allocations, up 23.4% from the \$3.1 million payment for the same month last year, making the City's total rebates for 1998 3.9% above those for 1997.

El Paso's sales tax rebate of \$3 million was up 0.7%, virtually unchanged from the payment delivered in Dec. 1997. El Paso's total sales tax payments for 1998 reflect an increase of 5.9% from those for 1997.

Dec. sales tax rebates to other selected Texas cities, along with their 1998 calendar year increases over 1997 were:

Amarillo, \$2.8 million, up 4.4%;
Plano, \$2.4 million, up 11.2%;
Mesquite, \$1.4 million, up 6.2%;
Abilene, \$1.5 million, up 5.2%;
and, Tyler, \$1.6 million, up 9.7%.

The City of Round Rock, just north of Austin, continues to show up on the list of top 20 cities in the state in sales tax rebates, with a total of \$20.4 million (See Sales tax, Page 7)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Dec. 29.

On Dec. 22, at 11:45 a.m., Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to a two-vehicle minor accident in the 1100 block of E. Main Street.

Colandra M. McAfee, driving a 1994 Pontiac four-door, was stopped behind another vehicle in the 1100 block of E. Main when Ralph Card-nall Gertson III, driving a 1992 Chevrolet pickup, pulled up behind McAfee's vehicle. When Gertson failed to stop, he struck the rear of the McAfee vehicle. There were no injuries sustained in the accident.

At 12:19 p.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to W. Main in reference to criminal mischief. Information was gathered and a report filed.

Sgt. Tim Crume conducted a traffic stop at 9:56 p.m. in the 300 block of Boothe Drive which resulted in the driver, Michael Anthony Cantu, being arrested for Department of Public Safety warrants.

After processing at the police department, Cantu was transferred to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

On Dec. 23, at 8:57 a.m., the police department received information of a

vehicle being stolen from the 500 block of E. Main while the owner of the vehicle was inside the business. Information was gathered and an all-points bulletin was dispatched, but as of press time, the vehicle had not been located.

Sgt. Crume responded to a disturbance call at 3:26 p.m. on S. Austin Road. After meeting with the complainant and suspect, the matter was resolved at the scene.

At 10:32 p.m., Officer McDougall responded to a loud music call on Sempres Street. After meeting with persons playing loud music, the volume was turned down.

Dec. 24, at 4:07 a.m., Officer McDougall responded to a one-vehicle roll-over in the 1500 block of E. Main.

Jeylic Romo Ruvalcaba, driving a 1992 Acura four-door owned by Sue Canaris, lost control of the vehicle which started spinning. The vehicle then traveled into the ditch on the south side of the roadway, hit a culvert backwards. The vehicle stood up on the rear end and began spinning again. The vehicle stopped, landing on its roof.

Four passengers were also in the vehicle. Two were transported to Rice

Medical Center by Colorado County EMS Unit #803.

Dec. 25, at 1:45 a.m., Sgt. Crume was notified of a possible intoxicated driver coming into town from the west side. He positioned his patrol car and made contact with the vehicle in the 1400 block of E. Main.

As a result of the stop, Hermenegildo Rodriguez was arrested for driving while intoxicated, processed at the police department and transported to CDC for confinement.

Officer Stephen Nelson met with a complainant at 210 Golf Course Road at 11 a.m. and took a report of a burglary of a building. The investigation continues in this case.

At 6:15 p.m., Officer Lasley met with a complainant in reference to her purse being stolen from a vehicle on N. McCarty. A report was filed and the case is being investigated.

Dec. 27, at 6:31 a.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant in reference to the burglary of a motor vehicle. Information was gathered and a report filed.

At 8:36 a.m., Officer Nelson met with a complainant, who advised him of the burglary of a vehicle on Glen Lake Court. Information was gathered (See Police, Page 7)

A quick look back over 1998

JANUARY

Joyce Stancik filed for re-election as County Treasurer.

Al Jamison filed to run for the County Judge's seat.

Clay Hosman won first place in the American Choong Do Kwon National Championship.

Bethany Marie Welch was the first baby born at Rice Medical Center for 1998. Her parents are Craig and Peggy Welch of Wharton.

Robby Cook filed for a second term.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Anderson of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Meredith to Eric Nethery.

The home of Rick and Debbie Christ on Partridge Lane was selected as the January "Yard of the Month" by the Eagle Lake Garden Club.

James Kearney announced he was running for County Judge.

James Raabe announced his candidacy for Precinct 4 Commissioner.

Dale Alexander threw his hat in the ring for the position of County Clerk.

The 1998 Rice FFA Show and Sale raised over \$27,000. Scott Bittner raised the grand champion steer.

The first Chesterville reunion was hosted by the Andersons.

The Chamber of Commerce Banquet speaker Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale thoroughly impressed those in attendance on Monday, Jan. 26. Chamber President Sam Thomson presented Don Bendy, out-going president, with a plaque of appreciation.

FEBRUARY

Leonard Peters announced his candidacy for County Judge.

Jill Patrice Janish and Daryl Wayne Zaskoda announced their upcoming marriage on Feb. 21.

Troy and Betty Krenek celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Two famous authors, Mary Carey and Jean Richardson visited Sheridan

School students.

Prairie Edge Museums beautification program, financed by LCRA and the City of Eagle Lake, with help from Morales Construction, has given the Museum a new look.

The first Habitat House in Colorado County was dedicated.

Texas Eagle Radio acquired KULM-FM in Columbus.

Dr. Ravindra Kumar, MD, FACP, an internist in Eagle Lake, was elected to the Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the Society of Internists.

The Texas Rice Council honored David Wintermann for being a Texas rice leader and his innumerable contributions and unselfish dedication to the Texas rice industry.

News was received that Ann Duncan Tucker graduated with honors from the Plan II Program at University of Texas.

John B. Myres DDS finished his new clinic and was ready for a celebration which was planned for Feb. 28 in the form of an Open House.

Colorado County Clerk Darlene Hayek announced that she was seeking re-election.

Two ribbon cuttings were held Saturday, Feb. 28; Dr. John Myres' Dental Clinic and the Tony Tyler Art Studio, located on Main Street in Eagle Lake.

MARCH

Plans for a gala to benefit the Lupus Foundation were announced. The "Gala for Renee" was to be held July 18.

The Colorado County Law Enforcement Association named Lt. Mike Schleider as Officer of the Year. The Hero Award was given to Stacey Hayek Heger.

A plaque commemorating the endowment scholarship in pharmacy was given to the family of Renee Balas Bullard at a dinner held in Austin.

The Larry Lippman home on E. State Street was chosen as the March "Yard of the Month" by the Eagle

Lake Garden Club.

John Paul Supak received a trophy at the School Arts Awards Ceremony at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Supak was a third grade student at Eagle Lake Primary School.

Derland Sanford, 12 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney O'Neal Sanford and student at Garwood School, took part in a rodeo competition held in Beeville March 14. He walked away with three first place and one second place.

Debbie Little was the first Beanie Baby drawing winner held at the Eagle Lake Drug Store. Proceeds from the drawing benefit the Lupus Foundation.

United Way of Eagle Lake received a \$500 check from Wal Mart in Columbus in celebration of their "re-grand opening".

APRIL

Rebecca Lopez was presented with a plaque for being the top reader at Eagle Lake Middle School.

Anthony Williams was chosen as new Public Works Director of Eagle Lake.

LCRA awarded the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department \$25,000 to upgrade their firefighting equipment.

Lori Grigar placed fourth at the State Powerlifting Meet at Fort Hood in Killeen.

Danny Morales of California, formerly of Eagle Lake, and Joyce Quintero, also of California, announced their upcoming marriage on June 6.

Lloyd Sneary defeated Eagle Lake's Tom Reed in the U.S. Representative, Districts 14 run-off election.

The Colorado County Juvenile Detention opened in Eagle Lake.

Eagle Lake Mayor Michael Cooper was named "Teacher of the Year" April 14 at a ceremony held by the Lamar Consolidated School District.

Eagle Lake Rotary members were visited by a group from Chile as participants in the Rotary Club Study

Exchange.

Vicki Lynn Driik and Todd William Nelson announced their engagement and approaching marriage on June 27.

MAY

Laurie Suzanne Abel and Ross Wayne Hovey announced their upcoming wedding to take place in Conroe.

Elizabeth Catherine Stiles and Glen Allen Leopold announced their engagement and approaching marriage June 13 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus.

John Joe Cardenas graduated from Gary Job Corps as a welder and was hired by Brown and Root of Houston.

Rev. Brent Beasley accepted the call of the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake to become their minister.

Eagle Lake General Store held in its ribbon cutting May 7. Tara and Bunge Halla are the owners and operators.

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

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

The 7th and 8th grade girls' softball team from Nada took home a first place trophy from the St. Mary's Field Day.

The second Beanie Baby drawing winner was Charlotte Mieth of Wallis. She, in turn, gave it to her nephew, Ryan Reznicek, as a gift.

The Eula and David Wintermann Library was given a grant which will be used to automate the library.

Madison Smith was elected the new president of the Rice CISD School Board.

Kendrick Pipkens was honored by the Rice High School coaching staff as Outstanding Senior Boy Athlete.

Amy Obenhaus was chosen as Outstanding Senior Girl Athlete for (See 1998, Page 7)