

County Fair tickets now on sale

Advance tickets for the Colorado County Fair are now on sale. This year, a new program is being used to sell the season and day passes.

Six area high school students, sponsored by civic and school organizations, are selling the tickets with the top seller receiving a \$1,000 scholarship.

Members of the sponsoring organizations are as-

sisting the students in this sales drive.

You can save money by buying your Colorado County Fair tickets in advance from Eric Yearwood, sponsored by the Columbus Noon Lions Club; Barbara Cooper, sponsored by the Eagle Lake Rotary Club; Brett Boenisch, sponsored by the Garwood Lions Club; (See Tickets, Page 6)

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Arrest of Boot Camp employee ends four-month investigation

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb reported to the Eagle Lake City Council concerning the amount of time being spent by his department on Boot Camp investigations.

The report was made at the Aug. 10 meeting of the Council.

Webb told Council a follow up is required on every complaint generated at the facility because it is under the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

Webb reported over 28 criminal investigations have taken place this year.

The arrest of Joseph Daigle Jr. on

July 30 for injury to a child, a first degree felony, concerning a juvenile at the Boot Camp finalized an investigation that took four months.

Daigle was indicted by a Colorado County Grand Jury on May 6 after it was presented with evidence of three investigations by Webb and Assistant County Joe Fling.

Daigle was indicted on four felony charges: injury to a child, aggravated assault by a public servant, sexual performance by a child and retaliation.

Six additional warrants were issued for Daigle after Webb presented probable cause affidavits to Justice of

the Peace, Mary Lou Szymanski.

Daigle was a sergeant in charge of supervising juveniles at the boot camp.

Webb was assisted in Daigle's arrest by Rosenberg Police after he attempted to purchase a handgun in Rosenberg.

Another time consuming investigation last May resulted in boot camp sergeant Adrayle Watson being indicted for two counts of indecency with a child and two counts of retaliation.

According to Webb, he is presently investigating six more cases which he does not expect to result in indictments; however they are time consuming and very involved.

"I promised when I became chief

that I would take on nothing that would lessen the security of Eagle Lake. If my officers had to do these investigations, their street patrol time would definitely be lessened, so I do the majority of the investigating myself," Webb told Council.

Webb told Council that Correctional Service Corporation (CSC), a private management group from Sarasota, Fla., who opened the facility in April 1998, will hopefully assist his department financially in adding a full time investigator as an employee in his department.

Webb praised CSC for their cooperation and communications.

"The facility has shown every effort possible to make sure this doesn't happen again," Webb said.

A new training program will begin for employees within the next month.

Scott Glass, Director of Public Safety training at Wharton County Junior College, will provide prospective and new employees services which will include interviews, screening, criminal background checks and two weeks training.

Gary Lacina, CSC's present administrator, is working with Webb to present current employees procedural reminders and reviews.

Corporation Officer Jack Patton and Vice President Sherri Short were also at the facility to present a code of ethics video and expectations to the entire department.

Webb assured Council that CSC is working diligently to correct the prob-

lems at the Boot Camp.

Webb added that the pay scale at the facility could affect employment standard.

Council postponed the renaming and re-addressing of FM 3013 and 1093 within the city limits until it can survey business owners affected by the change and obtain the numbering system which will be done by the County.

Commissioner Richard Seifert had suggested that to avoid double numbering confusion, the City either number from city limit to city limit or allow the County to number within the City.

Willard and Connie Lange were present to express their objections to a (See Council, Page 8)

NEWSBRIEFS

E.H. Henry Alumni meeting is tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni will meet Thursday, Aug. 19, at White Cloud Baptist Church at 6 p.m. All alumni and ex-students are asked to attend.

Opening ceremony for Fair set for Sept. 9

The Opening Ceremony for the Colorado County Fair will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in front of the National Guard Armory. The public is invited to attend.

ELHS reunion planned

A reunion of all persons who attended Eagle Lake High School from prior to 1920 through 1970 is planned for the first full weekend in Oct. of the year 2000.

By next summer we plan to have a list of names and addresses for a mail out with more details. If you have any questions please call Ernie Sommerlatte, 409-234-3452, e-mail, ernies@elc.net; Bob Wilcox, 234-3554; or Grace Dell Cooper, 234-2937, e-mail gdcoper1@aol.com.

Raider yearbooks are in!

The 1998-99 Raider Yearbooks have arrived. Yearbook staff members will distribute them during lunch periods (10:45-12:15) thru Aug. 20. Yearbooks may also be picked up in Room 21 from 3-3:45 p.m.

Another chance to register for soccer

The Eagle Lake Soccer Club (ELSC) will hold registration on Saturday, Aug. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Dairy Delite. All kids ages 4 to 18 are encouraged to sign up. Fees are \$20 per child, \$15 for additional children in the same family. Questions, call David Keith, 409-234-5571. Forms will also be available at the Eagle Lake Primary School and Eagle Lake Middle School.

Class of 1988 reunion being planned

The Rice High School Class of 1988 is planning a reunion for this fall. Names and addresses of former classmates are needed. Please contact Melissa Perry at 409-234-7411 or email Melissa L. Perry @ AFCC.com or Leslie (Sunderman) Holden 830-816-2299 or email SLES1 @ AOL.com.

Football tickets available

Season tickets for Rice High School home football games went on sale at the Rice CISD business office Monday, Aug. 9, and will continue on sale through Friday, Aug. 20.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 23, 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. 3. The cost for 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. Adult pre-game general admission tickets will be sold this year. The cost for these tickets is \$4. Tickets will be available only at the high school on Thursdays and Fridays until 3 p.m.

Shutterbugs get ready!

It's time for Colorado County photographers to busy themselves taking pictures which can be entered in the 2000 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Photography contest.

Entries must be 8x10 black and white or color no frame or matte and must have a western or Texas theme.

An individual may enter as many photographs as he or she wishes. The Colorado County Go Texan Committee will be asking for the photographs in late Dec.

Stancik reunion Saturday

The 32nd Stancik reunion will be held Sunday, Aug. 22, at the St. Roch's Catholic Church Hall in Mentz. The fun starts at 11 a.m. and will include a basket lunch, lots of visiting and maybe even a few surprises. If you need more information, call Mike or Bobbie Lejeune at 409-732-6409. Mark your calendars. We're looking forward to a GREAT day!!!

RHS Class of 1989 schedules reunion

The Rice High School (RHS) Class of 1989 is planning a reunion for this summer. Please contact Jennifer (Matthews) Olson at 281-403-6290 or jolson @ LFPC.com or Steven Meinecke at 234-3104 or SDM929 @ Hotmail.com. Addresses and phone numbers for 1989 alumni are needed so that they can be contacted with more information as arrangements are made.

Xi Pi Psi taking calendar orders

Xi Pi Psi Sorority is taking orders for its annual Birthday calendar. To list birthdays and anniversaries and order a calendar, call Ernie Sommerlatte at 234-3452 or contact any sorority member. The cost is \$5. Birthdays and anniversaries and in memory of may be included on the calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales go to support the chapter's community service and scholarship projects. Your support is appreciated.

Donations still welcome

Unit #803 of the Colorado County Emergency Medical Services (Eagle Lake's Ambulance Corps) is still accepting donations to cover the purchase of the memorial placed on the Square. You may send or deliver your donation to the Tobin Thomas Monument Fund at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake; or you may give it directly to any member of the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps.

Rice teachers, administrators given raises

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the \$3,000 per year raise to teachers, nurses and librarians as mandated by the 76th Legislature, at its Aug. 9 meeting.

The Salary and Benefits Committee also recommended raises for all other personnel in the Rice District. The recommendation was approved as follows:

Administrators, \$3,600 yearly bringing salaries to:
Superintendent, \$75,600;
Assistant superintendent, \$68,600;
Rice High Principal, \$63,600;
Assistant RHS Principal, \$48,600;
Eagle Lake Middle School Principal, \$54,350;
Eagle Lake Primary School Principal, \$49,000;
Garwood Principal, \$48,600;
Sheridan Principal, \$57,606;
Boot Camp and AEP Administrator, \$50,050; and,
Special Ed Director, \$53,050.

Technology coordinator and athletic and band directors will receive \$3,000 more yearly; aides, \$187 a year; secretaries and Peims clerks, \$3 per day based on number of days worked; counselors, \$3,300 for 11 months, \$3,000 for 10 months; maintenance, maids, cafeteria workers and transportation, 25¢ per hour; cafeteria manager, \$600 yearly; adm./staff, \$3 a day based on the number of days worked; and central/main, \$496/year.

The Board approved \$12 per hour for bus driving. A route less than an hour will pay a minimum of \$10 for the trip or route.

The District will continue to grant the two local leave days, but allow the employee to choose when and how they wish to use local or state leave.

Local leave will be able to be used first if the employee desires since it does not accumulate as state leave does.

The District will continue to pay

health insurance premiums 100% for fulltime employees. In the event claims exceed premiums paid the district reserves the right to adjust premiums. Substitute pay was increased to \$60 per day for college degreed teacher certified, regardless of the number of days substituting;

\$45 per day for non certified sub-

stitutes; \$50 for an assignment of five consecutive days beginning on the 6th day; and \$60 beginning on the 16th day. Long-term substitutes hired for six weeks or more will receive \$60 per day.

New teachers awarded contracts were Tamara Gooden, ELMS; Robert (See Board, Page 8)

City's sales tax rebate improves

Last Friday, Aug. 13, Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander delivered a total of \$272.3 million in

monthly sales tax payments to 1,098 Texas cities and 117 counties, a 6.4% increase over the \$255.8 million allo-

cated in Aug. 1998. Year-to-date, payments to cities and counties are running 6.5% ahead of last year.

The City of Eagle Lake received a rebate in the amount of \$15,858.22, up 9.02% from the \$14,546.11 received last Aug., bringing the City's year-to-date total to \$100,585.22, 4.03% ahead of 1998.

"Texas continues to gain new businesses and new jobs, and consumer confidence remains high as the state economy continues to expand," Comptroller Rylander said.

Aug. sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected by monthly filers on June sales and by quarterly filers during April, May and June, and reported to the Comptroller in July.

The sales tax rebates included \$251.9 million to Texas cities. Thus far in 1999, rebates to cities are 7.0% higher than for the same period in 1998.

Texas counties received July sales tax rebates of \$20.3 million. Year-to-date rebates to counties are up 0.4% compared to 1998.

Another \$8.9 million went to 42 special purpose districts around the state.

One of those special purpose districts, Rice Hospital District, received a rebate in the amount of \$10,410.28, 13.50% more than the \$9,171.91 received last Aug. The year-to-date total for the Hospital District is \$69,290.04, 18.91% ahead of 1998.

Other cities in the Eagle Lake area, the amount of their sales tax rebate this month along with the change from the same month last year are:

Columbus, \$87,806.72 up 12.31%; Weimar, \$18,946.25, up 13.23%; Sealy, \$148,804.41, up 27.20%; Bellville, \$44,706.69, +37.03%; El Campo, \$201,188.47, +11.45%; and Wharton, \$115,427.54, -0.40%.

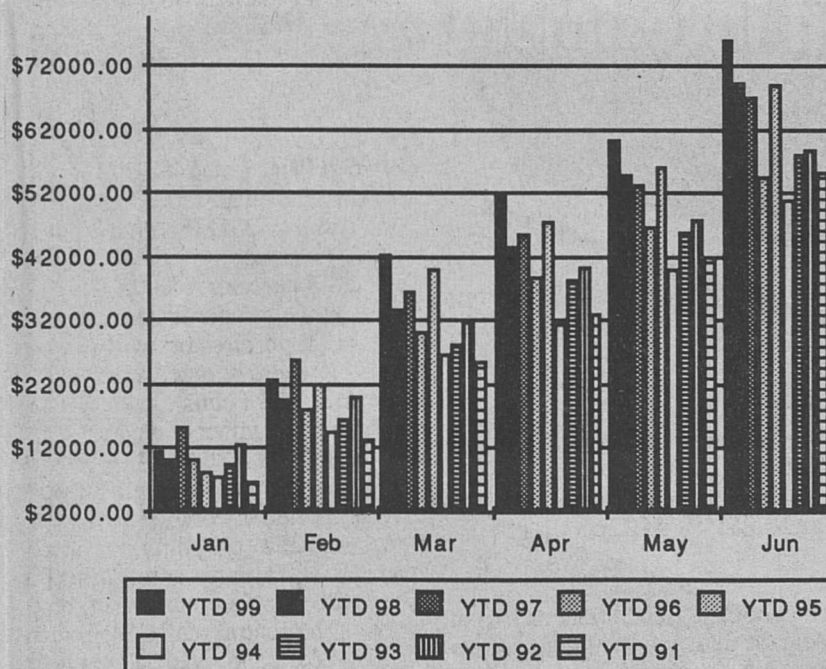
Year-to-date for the above cities and the change from last year are: Columbus, \$544,384.07, +10.33%; Weimar, \$101,275.59, +10.55%; Sealy, \$836,648.67, +7.19%; Bellville, \$261,816.16, +48.43%; El Campo, \$1,269,101.84, +9.16%; and Wharton, \$713,685.61, +1.41%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$80,185.06, up 28.50% from last year's payment of \$62,398.13. Austin County received \$114,135.17, up 14.38%. Wharton County received \$141,054.66, up 12.49%.

Year-to-date figures for these counties are, Colorado, \$442,214.56, up 10.55%; Austin, \$646,005.70, +2.06%; Wharton, \$871,000.32, +6.66%.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 2.

*Bellville increased their portion from 1% to 1.5% in Oct. 1998, therefore, this is not an accurate comparison.



Values for the City of Eagle Lake's sales tax rebates are charted against the month the tax was collected, not the month the rebate was received from the state.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending Aug. 16.

On Aug. 10, at 8:12 p.m., Officer Randy Schlauch was advised of a vehicle driving on W. Main St. with loud music coming from it. The area was checked, but Schlauch was unable to locate any vehicle with loud music.

At 9:18 p.m., Officer Schlauch observed an open door at a residence on Church St. It appeared no burglary had occurred.

Officer Schlauch checked on a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of FM 3013 east. The building nearby was checked; no forced entry was found.

On Aug. 11 at 10:22 a.m., Chief Keith Webb was advised of two juvenile detainees being abused at the Boot Camp. The incidents are under investigation.

At 3:08 p.m., Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to E. Davitt St. in reference to a suspicious subject. The area was checked, but no one was located.

At 4:39 p.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident on Fourth and B. Streets involving Lamonte D. Miller, driving a 1995 Mazda four-door, and Graciela Lopez Navarro, driving a 1986 Lincoln four-door. Investigation shows Miller was north bound on Fourth St. and failed to yield right-of-way to Navarro who was west bound on B Street. Miller's

vehicle struck the driver's side of Navarro's vehicle. No injuries were sustained by the drivers or passengers.

Chief Webb received information at 4:59 of a possible sexual assault occurring at the Juvenile Boot Camp. The case is being investigated.

At 7:39 p.m., Officer Schlauch responded to a report of a disturbance in the 600 block of E. Main St. Upon his arrival, the subject had left the area.

On Aug. 12, at 6:28 a.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to Beaks St. in reference to a stolen vehicle. It was later learned the vehicle had been repossessed, not stolen.

Officer Krenek assisted with traffic control in the 800 block of E. Main St. at 11:30 a.m. without incident.

At 1:44 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume was dispatched to the 600 block of E. Main St. in reference to a disturbance. As a result of the call, Johnny Main Johnson was arrested for public intoxication and disorderly conduct, processed at the police department and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 4:11 p.m., Sgt. Crume was dispatched to a snake call on 8th St. at 2:31 p.m. Upon his arrival, he found the snake was already dead.

At 4:11 p.m., Sgt. Crume was dispatched to an alarm in the 1400 block of E. State St. The building was found to be secure.

At 8:57 p.m., Officer Schlauch was advised of two vehicles racing on

W. Prairie St., but was unable to locate the vehicles.

On Aug. 13 at 2:07 a.m. and 3:09 a.m., Officer Schlauch observed suspicious vehicles on S. McCarty St. and E. Main St. Businesses were checked, but no forced entry was found at either location.

At 4:06 p.m., Eagle Lake officers assisted DPS troopers in arresting Julian Ross Woodall on S. Austin Rd. for out-of-county warrants. After processing, Woodall was transported to the CDC for confinement.

Sgt. Crume was dispatched to E. Main St. at 11:21 p.m. in reference to two suspicious subjects in front of the store. The area was checked, but the subjects had left.

At 11:27 p.m., Officer Schlauch was advised of a juvenile disturbance on Murphy St. The area was checked, but no subjects were located.

On Aug. 14, at 12:39 a.m., Officer Schlauch was dispatched to subjects fighting in the parking lot at 400 Beaks St., but no subjects were located.

At 4:45 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore and Officer Brian Lasley met with subjects in reference to a disturbance. The matter was resolved at the scene.

Officer Stephen Nelson met with a homeowner on Cat Spring Rd. at 9:39 p.m. in reference to someone driving through his yard. The suspect was located and issued a citation for reckless damage.

At 11:56 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore and (See Police, Page 8)