

Toy distribution is Dec. 23 in Eagle Lake

Toys will be distributed to children in families of need from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursday, Dec. 23. The distribution site will be in the auditorium of the Prairie Edge Museum on E. Main Street. Please enter through the front door on Main Street and exit by the back door. Only parents or guardians may apply for the bags

of toys. The Legion Post has prepared over 250 bags to help make Christmas a lot brighter for children in less fortunate families. Contributions of toys or money to buy toys are still being accepted at the Furniture Shoppe, Wallis State Bank and Struss Auto Supply.

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Make plans to see 'Oliver' this weekend



Photo Courtesy of Tom Reed

The Prairie Edge Junior Players (PJs) are geared up to bring you the best performance ever this weekend as they present "Oliver".

The cast of 25 young people, ages five to 15, have been practicing since Oct. to learn lines and songs for this demanding production.

Clear your calendar and make plans to attend and be delighted by these local children on Friday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. at the Prairie Edge Museum.

Reserved seats are \$5; regular adults, \$2; and children under 12, \$1.

Reserved tickets may be purchased at Laker Printing, Lake Motors and Dairy Delite.

Other tickets will be available at the door.



Fireman of the year

Greg Contreras, left, is congratulated by Fire Chief Gary Glaiser for being named the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department's Fireman of the Year for 1999. The presentation was made Saturday night, Dec. 11, during the Department's Annual Christmas Party.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing; Assisted by Howard Wilkerson

City's sales tax rebate jumps nearly 40%

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander last week delivered her final sales tax rebates for 1999 — a total of \$222.9 million to 1,105 Texas cities and 119 counties. Comptroller Rylander also delivered Dec. sales tax rebates of \$85.3 million to six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit departments. Another \$7.3 million went to 47 special purpose

districts around the state.

The City of Eagle Lake received a rebate in the amount of \$13,466.15, up 39.65% from the \$9,642.17 received last Dec., bring the City's year-to-date total to \$143,479.81, 8.08% ahead of 1998.

One of the special purpose district, Rice Hospital District, received a rebate in the amount of \$10,388.63,

down 61.76% from the \$27,168.59 received last Dec. The District's year-to-date total of \$105,926.88 is down 0.37% from the same period in 1998.

December's rebates bring the total sales tax allocated to local taxing entities in 1999 to \$3.5 billion, a new one-year record for local sales tax revenue and an increase of 7.1% compared to sales tax allocations in 1998.

"Local sales tax allocations for 1999 confirm the message I have been delivering across the state this year. The Texas economy is robust, consumer confidence is high, and economic growth is creating paychecks and jobs for Texans," Rylander said. This month's \$222.9 million in

sales tax rebates to cities and counties is a 26.4% increase over the \$176.3 million allocated in Dec. 1998. Cities (See Sales, Page 8)

NEWSBRIEFS

City Offices closed for holidays

The City Offices in Eagle Lake will be closed the next two Fridays, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Garbage pickup routes will be as follows: Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Wednesday and Friday's garbage will be picked up Thursday. If you have any questions, call City Hall at 234-2640.

Monte's announces holiday schedule

Monte's Barber Shop will be open Tuesday, Dec. 21, through Friday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 28, through Friday, Dec. 31. Happy Holidays!

E.H. Henry Christmas meeting is tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni monthly meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. at White Cloud Baptist Church. All alumni are urged to attend.

Singles Dance is this Friday

The Fort Bend Singles Club is hosting a public dance on Friday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by Bobby Jones. Admission is \$5, door prizes will be given.

Dept. of Veterans Y2K okay!

The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that all VA computer systems have been certified as Y2K compliant. If you receive a regular, monthly payment from VA, your payment for Dec. will be paid Dec. 30, 1999. If you receive your check by direct deposit, it should be deposited in your account no later than Jan. 3, 2000. If you receive your check by mail, allow for delivery time. Beneficiaries can be assured that VA payments scheduled to be sent in Jan. 2000 and beyond will continue without interruption.

2000 Raider yearbooks on sale

Subscriptions for the 2000 Raider Yearbook are available through Thursday, Dec. 16. Cost of the book is \$30. A minimum of \$15 is required as a deposit to reserve a copy. Sales are made only by advance orders. No extra copies will be ordered. Delivery is expected in early Aug. Contact Melody Grigar at 234-3535 for further information or questions.

E.H. Henry Alumni Christmas party is Dec. 24

The E.H. Henry Alumni will hold their annual Christmas Party Friday, Dec. 24, at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

'The Old Ship Zion' set for Dec. 19

Greater Union Baptist Church (GUBC) and some of their fellow sisters and brothers in Christ will be putting on "The Old Ship Zion" Sunday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. at the GUBC. Please come out and see this exciting rendition of "The Old Ship Zion". Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, pastor.

Finish your shopping with Parents Night Out!

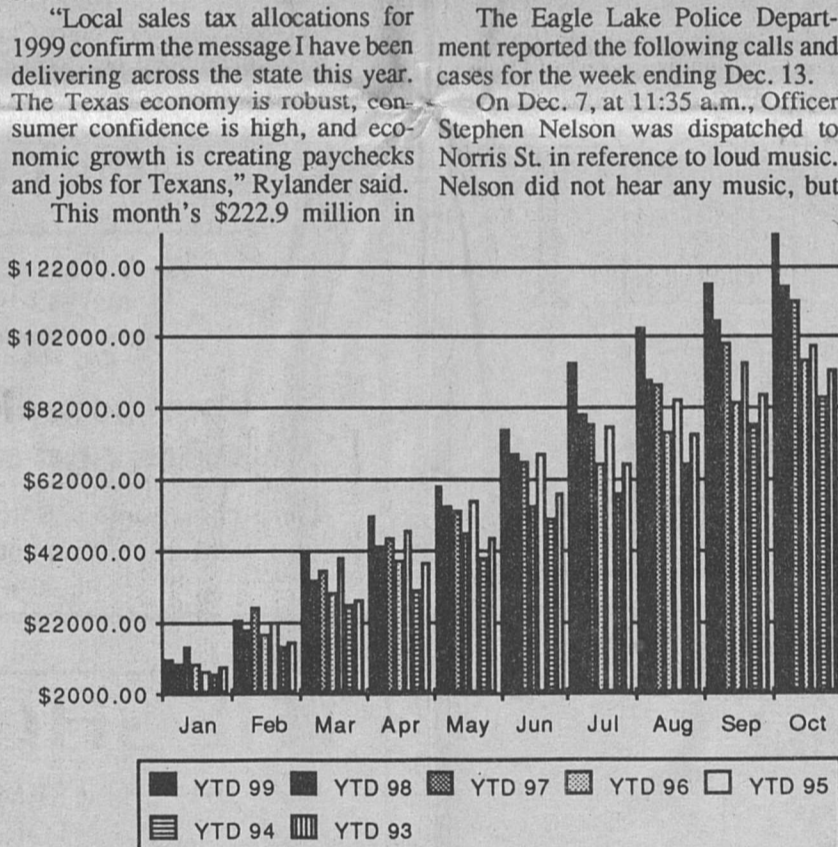
Child care services will be provided at New Beginnings Child Development Center Friday, Dec. 17, from 7 p.m. to midnight for a parents night out. A hot dog, chips and drink will be provided at 8 p.m. This is a one-evening event to give parents who haven't finished shopping a stress-free evening to do so. Please call 409-234-2785 for more information. Space is limited.

CCAD in Eagle Lake Dec. 17

A representative from the Colorado County Appraisal District (CCAD) will be at Eagle Lake City Hall Friday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to collect 1999 taxes. Collections will be made for Colorado County, Rice CISD, Eagle Lake City, Rice Hospital District, Colorado County Water Control and Improvement.

Census jobs available

Temporary Census jobs are available in this area. You could earn extra money by working full or part time. Census takers earn \$10.75 and hour and Crew Leaders earn 12.75 an hour and each are paid 31¢ a mile. Apply now by calling 1-888-325-7733 to find out how and where to apply. The Bureau of the Census is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Testing will take place in Eagle Lake at the Community Center on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 22 and 29, at 2 p.m. Testing in Columbus will take place at the Mansfield Building Wednesday, Dec. 15, 22, and 29, at 10 a.m.



The year-to-date 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 by the City.

Rice meeting is Dec. 16

The Colorado County Winter Rice Meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 16, at 8 a.m. in Garwood at the Lehrer Interests meeting room.

There will be two Texas Agricultural Extension Service Specialists conducting the meeting.

Dr. Joe Krausz, professor for plant pathology and microbiology, will cover topics on rice diseases and their control. He will also discuss demonstration results conducted in rice for this past growing season.

Dr. Arlen Klosterboer, professor and extension agronomist, will cover weed control in rice for improved production, varieties and varietal performance.

This will be an excellent opportunity to get questions answered for the coming production year.

Two CEUs will be offered toward private applicator recertification. If you have or get rainfall soon, you could still plant ryegrass up until about Christmas, but it won't produce much growth until mid-Feb.

In cases where hay is running short, the rye grass could give some supplemental grazing. Some varieties could give extended grazing as late as late June if the weather doesn't get to hot and dry. That obviously is a "best case scenario" for most rye grass fades out as soon as the weather gets hot and soils dry out.

The best time to plant ryegrass was Oct. 1 to Nov. 15.

Without any rainfall, some could

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Dec. 13.

On Dec. 7, at 11:35 a.m., Officer Stephen Nelson was dispatched to Norris St. in reference to loud music. Nelson did not hear any music, but

advised two subjects to keep their music down.

At 2:47 p.m., Officer Nelson was again dispatched to Norris St. in reference to loud music. Subjects were advised to keep the music down or they would be issued citations.

Officer LaWanda Alley met with a complainant at 6:58 p.m. in reference to a runaway. The juvenile was later taken to the juvenile detention center.

At 8:33 p.m., Officer Alley and Sgt. Bill Lattimore were dispatched to Pendleton St. in reference to gunshots. Officers met with subjects and identified them, but no weapons were located.

On Dec. 8, at 8:08 p.m., Officer Michael Krenek was dispatched to an alarm on FM 3013 south. The key holder arrived on the scene and reset the alarm.

At 8:51 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in the 700 block of S. McCarty in reference to a loose dog. The owner was located and the matter was settled at the scene.

On Dec. 9, at 12:51 a.m., Sgt. Lattimore was contacted in reference to a welfare concern. The subject was located and in no danger.

Officer Brian Lasley was called to the 500 block of E. Main St. in reference to a suspicious vehicle on the premises. Due to the vehicle being on private property, no action was taken.

At 8:21 p.m., Officer Krenek met with a complainant in the 1100 block of E. State St. in reference to loud music. The source of the loud music was coming from the 400 block of Beaks St. Subject were advised to turn the music down and they complied.

At 10:16 p.m., Sgt. Tim Crume conducted a traffic stop in the 600 block of FM 3013 north. As a result of the stop, Delbert Lowell Jarvis was arrested for possession of marijuana, processed at the police department and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

On Dec. 10, at 10 a.m., Officer Lasley was advised of an 18-wheeler on S. McCarty losing material from the trailer. Officer Lasley checked the area, but was unable to locate the vehicle.

At 10:43 p.m., Officer Krenek was dispatched to 1600 E. Main St. in reference to a possible intoxicated driver entering the city limits. The vehicle and driver were located in the 700 block of E. Main St. As a result, Manuel Belman was arrested for driving while intoxicated-2nd offense, processed at the police department and transported to the CDC for confinement.

Sgt. Crume was dispatched to a disturbance on Fairview St. at 11:51 p.m. Sgt. Crume arrived and was advised that everything was okay. No signs of assault were observed; no action taken.

On Dec. 11, at 1:32 a.m., Officer Krenek responded to a disturbance call in the 500 block of E. Union St. The matter was handled at the scene and no action taken.

On Dec. 12, at 1:02 a.m., Officer Krenek, while doing a building check in the 100 block of Boothe Dr., observed an open door. The key holder arrived and secured the door. Nothing appeared to be taken.

(See Police, Page 8)



CP&L makes donation to Main Street Program

Central Power and Light Co. (CP&L) generously donated the use of its office space on McCarty Avenue in downtown Eagle Lake to house the Main Street Program manager and the secretary for the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce. The front offices space has been closed for several years, though CP&L will still use the back for service personnel. Along with the office comes a computer and a check for \$2,000 designated for the Eagle Lake Main Street Program.

Pictured above are, from left, Bryan Hale, CP&L; Lesley Matthews, Revitalize Eagle Lake Inc.; Sandy Bandy, Revitalize Eagle Lake Inc.; Susan Wilkerson, CP&L; Sam Thomson, Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce president; Bill Harrison Jr., Revitalize Eagle Lake Inc.; and Joe Lee Perez, Revitalize Eagle Lake Inc. president.

Photo Courtesy of Lesley Matthews