

Library to host reading program

The David and Eula Wintermann Library will once again host a Summer Reading Program, June 5-July 17. The theme is "Read Across Texas." Registration begins May 28. Wednesday, June 5, join them for the Opening Party beginning at 10:30 a.m. All ages are welcome. June 12, all ages again invited to come and see Julian Franklin the Magician at 2:30 p.m. The time for ages four through completed first grade will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and for completed second grade to completed fifth grade will be from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Both programs will be held for six weeks on Wednesdays. July 17 will be the day of the Ending Party for all ages starting at 10:30 a.m.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

Reception for Chief Webb is Tuesday

A reception will be held for Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb Tuesday, May 28, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. before the regularly scheduled Council meeting in the City Council Chambers. Webb tendered his resignation Monday, May 20, and will be with the force through the end of this month.

Academic banquet is tonight

Rice High School's (RHS) 19th Annual Academic Awards banquet will be held Thursday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the commons. Meal tickets for honored students and parents can be purchased from Lee Politsch in the counselor's office at RHS. If you have questions, call Politsch at 234-3535.

Baccalaureate to be held Sunday

The Ministerial Alliance of Eagle Lake has prepared Baccalaureate for Sunday, May 26, at 4 p.m. in honor of the approaching graduation of members of the senior class at Rice High School. The service will be held in the sanctuary of Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church, Mansfield Ave. in Garwood. Don Delaplane, pastor of Eagle Lake United Methodist Church, will deliver the sermon. "Let us gather to give God praise for our graduates and to hold them in prayer," said Rev. Eddie Winkler, president of the Ministerial Alliance.

CCA to meet May 23

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA) will hold a board of directors meeting Thursday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. in Giddings at the CCA Administration building. In conjunction with the board meeting, a public meeting will be held on the intended use of the Community Service Block Grant Budget. The public is invited to attend.

Rock Island Homecoming is Sunday

The Annual Homecoming and Memorial Day Service of the Myrtle Cemetery Association will be held in the air-conditioned former Rock Island School gym, Sunday, May 26. 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 is \$6 for adults; \$4.75 for children. The memorial service and program will start at 12:30 p.m.

Legion to honor deceased veterans

The Eagle Lake American Legion Post #108 will honor all deceased veterans in local cemeteries this Memorial Day, May 27, by placing American flags by their gravesites. The flags will be placed in the designated holders by the gravesites the morning of Saturday, May 25, and will be retrieved Tuesday, May 28. The flag holders are white and red, white and blue stripes at the top and placed, where possible, to the immediate left of the gravesite or marker. If a grave has been missed in the past, please contact Fred Frnka at 234-2065, as it is our intention to honor ALL veterans of ALL services.

Retired teachers to meet June 3

June 3 will be the last meeting of Colorado County Association of Retired Teachers for 2001-02. The meeting will take place at Schobels' Restaurant at noon. Recently retired school employees are strongly encouraged to attend. All retirees are encouraged to join, especially the State Teacher Retirement System. There is much work being done to make your retirement better. Only a strong organization can get the job done. You will be told at the meeting of an easy way to join. Of course, we hope you will become a member of the local unit. Columbus is the host town.

Munke-Laux-Oeding reunion is May 25

The Munke-Laux-Oeding family reunion will be held Sunday, May 25, at the Koenig's K Bar K Ranch, 4303 Knape Road in La Grange, starting at 11:30 a.m. A barbecue and covered dish lunch will be served. Family and friends are invited to attend.

Open mic music fest is May 25

An open mic fest will be held Saturday, May 26, from noon to 10 p.m. at the Sealy Outlet Center, 3701 Outlet Center Dr. All types of music are welcome. Contact Exit 721, Accessories Etc. at 979-885-0514 for more information.

Sheridan Lions chicken dinner cancelled

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Sheridan Lions Club has cancelled the June 2 fried chicken dinner. It will be rescheduled at a later date. The club apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

KC golf tourney is June 2

The Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will host its 18th Annual two-player scramble golf tournament Sunday, June 2. (Rain out date is June 9.) Entry fee is \$100 per team and includes tournament fee, green fees, chicken fried steak dinner and chances for closest-to-the-hole. Entry deadline is May 31. Lady team members are welcome. The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional plates will be served by advance tickets sales for \$6 per plate. Proceeds benefit the KC charities and scholarships. For more information, call Glen Janow at 979-234-5282; Craig Guthman, 234-3211; Pinto Broesche, 234-3780; or the Tee-Up Pro Shop at 234-5981.

Summer reading program starts June 5

The Wintermann Library is gearing up for its Summer Reading Program. "Read Across Texas." Registration begins May 28 with the program starting June 5 with a "Western Ho-down". The time for ages four through completed first grade will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and for completed second grade to completed fifth grade will be from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Both programs will be held for six weeks on Wednesdays. A special feature this year will be Julian Franklin, a magician, presenting a program. More details will follow.

No trash collection Monday

The City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no trash collection on that day. The route will be pushed back one day. Monday's route will be collected Tuesday and Tuesday's route will be collected Wednesday. Also closed Monday will be the First National Bank of Eagle Lake and the Colorado County Courthouse.

Polka dancers to entertain at Heritage House

The Polka Dancers of America will be dancing at Heritage House Friday, May 24, at 2:30 p.m. The public is invited to come and see the dancers perform. Please contact Linda Tillman at 979-234-3591 for more information.

Market hog tag-in is June 1

Market hogs to be exhibited at the 2002 Colorado County Fair will be tagged, tattooed and weighed in Saturday, June 1, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Ag

(See Newsbriefs, Page 8)

Webb resigns as Eagle Lake Police Chief

Wednesday, May 15, 2002, Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith H. Webb announced his resignation to Mayor René Cooper-Scott and City Manager Ron Holland.

"Because the timing of my resignation was in such close proximity to the City's election and, knowing how false rumors get started, I owe it to the wonderful citizens of Eagle Lake and Colorado County to explain why I am resigning, and, in doing so, I would like to give you testimony of my law enforcement journey."

About 30 years ago, I began my law enforcement career with the Houston Police Department (HPD), retiring May 9, 1995, ending 22-plus years of service. I was then hired as Eagle Lake's Police Chief May 10th and have served there ever since. As Paul Harvey would say, "...and now, for the rest of the story."

I grew up in Houston. As a young boy, I had a life-long dream of becoming a "cop". My dad has a home movie that shows an eight-year-old me standing in the middle of our street wearing some police looking garb, while I pretended to direct traffic.

When Houston lowered its age

requirement to 19 years of age in 1972, I eagerly applied and was hired. My dreams had now come true.

Then, tragedy struck in 1974. While assigned to the department's 3-wheel motorcycle traffic division, I was involved in a serious accident. A car had run a red light and "broad-sided" me while I was on my motorcycle.

After a lengthy surgical procedure, which saved my life, I emerged from the operating room with my right arm being completely paralyzed from the shoulder down due to severed nerves. I was told to expect total paralysis in my right arm and hand for the rest of my life.

I lay in the hospital with my dreams of a police career shattered and worrying about how I was going to provide for my wife and infant son.

I soon returned to HPD, under light-duty status, and listened to my supervisors discuss amongst themselves about how long the city was going to allow me to remain on light-duty status before I was terminated.

My brother invited me to a strange meeting where I found people who actually believed that God was mer-

ciful, that He was still in the healing business and it was available for whomsoever believed.

For the first time since my accident, I actually felt there was hope for me and my law enforcement dream was not dead. I suddenly found myself believing that Jesus Christ was the answer.

The pastor there called me out from the crowd and privately shared with me a vision he had just received from God concerning me. I claimed that vision. When I went home that night, I cried out to Jesus asking Him to heal me. God not only healed me, but He saved me, too.

Feeling and use immediately returned to most of my arm and part of my hand and wrist. Later I prayed and agonized with God about why He had not healed my arm and hand completely. God's answer was later revealed to me through the Holy Spirit and His Word. God's answer to me was the same answer that He gave to the Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:9. In that verse Paul wrote that he had a "thorn in his flesh" and he had prayed three times for the Lord to heal him, but the Lord told Paul, "My

grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

I believe the reason why God did not completely heal me was because He wanted to show me that my life-long dream and passion would never

(See Webb, Page 2)



Keith Webb when he was sworn in as Eagle Lake Police Chief, May 1995. Headlight File Photo

City of Eagle Lake's sales tax rebate drops

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander last week delivered \$383.4 million in monthly sales tax payments to Texas cities, counties, transit departments and special purpose taxing districts, a 5.6% decrease compared to the \$406.2 million allocated May 2001. Year-to-date sales tax allocations are down 1.7% compared to 2001.

May sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected by monthly sales taxpayers in March and by quarterly sales taxpayers in Jan., Feb. and March, and reported to the Comptroller in April. The state's share of sales tax reported in April was \$1.16 billion, down 3.3% compared to one year ago.

The City of Eagle Lake received \$18,284.44, down 37.59% from the \$29,300.75 received last May. Comptroller Rylander sent sales tax payments totaling \$259.8 million to Texas cities, down 5.9% compared to May 2001. Texas counties received \$20.9 million in sales tax, up 0.8% compared to a year ago.

Sixty-six special purpose districts received \$10.1 million in sales tax, up 6.6% compared to May 2001. Rice Hospital District, one of the special purpose districts, received \$11,849.50, down 32.67% from the \$17,600.16 received last May.

Sales tax allocations of \$92.5 million went to six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit departments, down 7.2%.

For details on sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Report on the Comptroller's web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/alloscum/compsum.html.

Other cities in the Eagle Lake area and the amount of their sales tax rebate this month are:

Columbus, \$85,933.06, down 2.57%; Weimar, \$20,618.54, down 9.46%; Sealy, \$98,344.11, -0.81%; Bellville, \$42,790.03, -9.01%; El Campo, \$181,782.19, -11.81%; and Wharton, \$114,697.74, -6.67%.

Year-to-date for the above cities and the change from last year are: Columbus, \$342,357.19, -2.82%; Weimar, \$92,097.40, +16.74%; Sealy, \$407,799.55, -12.65%; Bellville, \$134,867.48, down 34.25%; El Campo, \$855,411.60, -3.08%; and Wharton, \$488,501.46, -4.89%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$67,118.79, down

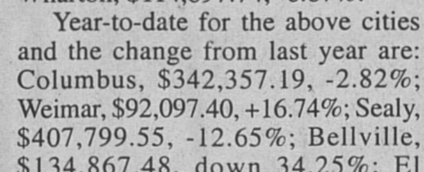
4.92%. Austin County received \$77,978.19, up 13.52%. Wharton County received \$133,429.95, down 1.43%.

Year-to-date figures for these counties are: Colorado, \$286,647.37,

down 1.47%; Austin, \$331,079.57, +1.96%; Wharton, \$613,046.17, -1.21%.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be delivered Friday, June 14.

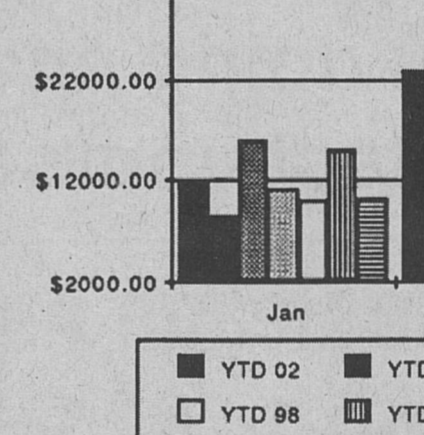
The sales tax year-to-date totals for the City of Eagle Lake are charted against the month the tax was collected, not the month the rebate was received by the City.



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LCRA employees donate to Habitat

LCRA employees have donated \$1,000 to the Colorado County Habitat for Humanity.

The Colorado County Habitat for Humanity recently began construction of its third Habitat house in Colorado County.

The house is in Weimar. With the help of volunteers working alongside the prospective homeowner, this house will be an example of Habitat's mission of building simple, decent housing with those in need of adequate housing.

The group actively seeks donations of money, service and materials

to finance the work.

"Colorado County Habitat for Humanity greatly appreciates the continued support of the employees of LCRA as we work together to eradicate substandard housing, both here in Colorado County and around the world," said Eddie Winkler, Colorado County Habitat for Humanity board president.

"We will be needing additional funds and also volunteers in all areas of expertise to help with this project."

The \$1,000 donation came from employees of the Fayette Power Project near La Grange and the Rail

Fleet Maintenance Facility at Smithville through the LCRA Employees' United Charities program.

"LCRA employees are glad that they can help a family achieve their dreams of having a comfortable home to live in," said Rick Ulrich, FPP United Charities representative.

"Habitat for Humanity is a great

organization with a worthy cause."

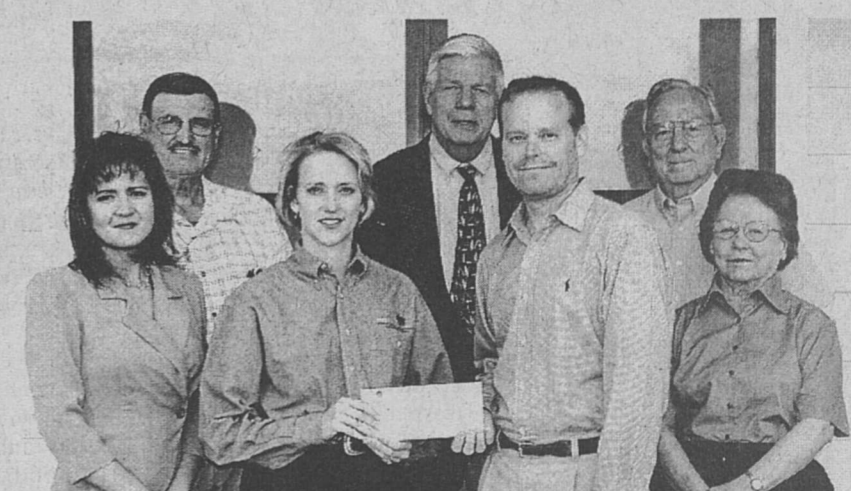
LCRA employees who participate in the United Charities program donate up to two hours of pay monthly and decide how the funds are spent.

United Charities contributes more than \$300,000 annually, supporting a variety of nonprofit organizations throughout LCRA's service area.



LCRA employees donated \$1,000 to the Colorado County Habitat for Humanity through the LCRA United Charities program. Pictured are James Helfrich, Habitat board member; Gary Hollmann, representing LCRA; Rick Ulrich, chairman of LCRA committee; Father Eddie Winkler, Habitat board president; and Al Jamison, Habitat board member.

Photo Courtesy of Weimar Mercury



Coastal makes donation, too

Coastal Banc of Columbus and Weimar donated \$3,000 towards the Habitat For Humanity Home in Weimar. The donation will go towards the remaining costs for construction.

Pictured from left are Joan Coufal, Columbus Branch Manager; Terah Lux, Weimar Branch Manager; Father Eddie Winkler, president of Habitat Board of Directors; and Barbara Helfrich, Habitat Board Member. In back are Richard Luhrs, Colorado County Judge Al Jamison and James Helfrich, Habitat Board Members.

Photo Courtesy of Weimar Mercury