

# Comptroller Shows Sales Tax Payments Down 15 Percent

Sales tax payments to the city of Eagle Lake in April were \$12,261, a decrease of 15 percent from last April figures from the state comptroller show.

So far this year in Eagle Lake, sales tax payments have totaled \$59,602, a decrease of 6.40 percent from the same period last year.

The half-cent sales tax rebate for Colorado County in April was

down 0.94 percent, with a payment of \$59,650.

For the year in Colorado County, the payments totaled \$284,389, an increase of 1.13 percent.

In Fayette County, the half-cent sales tax was up 14.20 percent, with a payment of \$85,958.

For the year in Fayette County, the payments totaled \$363,242, an increase of 9.40 percent.

Checks sent to area cities for April with changes from last year are as follows:

Columbus - \$73,897, up 6.29 percent; for the year \$340,451, up 6.82 percent.

Weimar - \$19,214, up 5.90 percent; for the year \$90,236, up 6.07 percent.

Schulenburg - \$41,231, up 2.81 percent; for the year \$172,626, up 4.14 percent.

La Grange - \$100,188, up 8.72 percent; for the year \$422,737, up 3.08 percent.

Flatonia - \$11,091, down 0.35 percent; for the year \$56,479, down 9.77 percent.

Hallettsville - \$64,826, up 9.43 percent; for the year \$286,889, up 7.99 percent.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said the state received \$1.53 billion in sales tax revenue in March, up 11.9 percent compared to March 2006.

"The national economy is showing signs of a slowdown, particularly in the housing sector, but we are still seeing healthy growth in the Texas economy and a corresponding growth in state sales tax revenue," Combs said.

Local sales tax revenues also continue to grow. Combs sent \$404 million in April sales tax

allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, a 9.7 percent increase compared to April 2006.

So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to local governments are up 6.4 percent.

Comptroller Combs sent April sales tax allocations of \$272.4 million to Texas cities, up 9.3 percent compared to April 2006.

Calendar year-to-date, city sales tax allocations are running 7.1 percent higher than last year.

Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$24.8 million, up 11.1 percent compared to one year ago. Calendar year-to-date,

county sales tax allocations are 8.4 percent higher than last year.

Another \$12.5 million went to 115 special purpose taxing districts around the state, up 17.2 percent compared to last April.

Ten local transit systems received \$94.1 million in sales tax rebates, up 9.8 percent compared to a year ago.

State sales tax revenue for March, and April payments made to local governments today, represent sales that occurred in February.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, May 11.

## Ballots By Mail Applications Due May 4

Darlene Hayek, Colorado County Clerk is now accepting applications for ballots by mail for the May 12 Constitutional Amendment Election.

Persons voting early by personal appearance may vote at the County Clerk's Office, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., beginning April 30 through May 8.

There will not be a Saturday Early Voting for this election.

Qualifications for persons wishing to vote early by mail:

The law requires that the address to which the ballot is going to be mailed must be the residence address of the voter indicated on the mailing address record with the Voter Registrar.

The exceptions to the rules are as follows:

1. The voter is 65 or older, or disabled:

If the grounds for voting by mail is either 65 or over, or disability, the application must give the address of a hospital, nursing home, long term care facility, or retirement center, or the address

of a relative within the second degree of affinity or third degree of consanguinity, with whom the applicant is living.

2. If the voter is confined in jail:

If the reason is confinement to jail, the application must give the address of the jail facility at which the voter is confined, or the address of a relative within the second degree of affinity or third degree of consanguinity.

3. If the voter is expected to be absent from the County:

If the voter is expected to be absent from the County on election day and during Clerk's regular office hours for the remainder of the early voting period, the application must give an out of County address to mail the ballot. If submitted after early voting in person has begun.

Early voting by personal appearance begins on April 30.

Persons voting by mail must have their applications in the County Clerk's office by the close of regular business hours on May 4.

## NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

information please call Kate Harrison at 282-9426 or Julie Aaronson at 532-5554.

### RMC to hold blood drive

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will be having their quarterly blood drive on Tuesday, April 24 from 3 to 7 p.m. The donor coach will be in the hospital visitor parking lot. All individuals who donate or attempt to donate at this drive will receive a scratch off ticket that includes numerous prizes-even watches and diamond jewelry from IW Marks, who has partnered with Gulf Coast Blood Center for April's "Diamonds for Donors" promotion. Contact Barbara Pidgeon at 234-5571, Ext. 5236 for an appointment. Walkins are always welcome.

### MCA meeting is April 24

The annual business meeting of the Myrtle Cemetery Association (MCA) will be held Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. in the Rock Island Community Center Cafeteria. Maintenance of the cemetery and plans for the annual homecoming will be discussed. Anyone interested in the cemetery is welcome to attend.

### Crawfish boil and drawing

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus will hold its annual All You Can Eat Crawfish Boil and Drawing on April 28 at the Parish of the Nativity Pavilion on S. Austin Rd. The gate will open at 3 p.m. and will serve crawfish from 4 to 8 p.m. Music will be provided until 9 p.m. The All You Can Eat Crawfish pre-sale tickets only are \$20 per person. Proceeds to benefit local scholarships and charities. For more information call Kurt Sunderman at 234-7175.

### Swim registration is April 28

Gator Swim team registration will be held at Golden Goose, 217 E. main on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration fee is \$35 for each swimmer. Registration includes Gator fee, team t-shirt, CCAA dues and TAAF fees for the regular season. Team swimsuit fittings will be held at registration. Cost of the team swimsuit varies with the gender/size of the swimmer and the additional gear selected for purchase. If you have questions call Jeanne Young at 234-3393.

### Sisterhood sets meeting schedule

Chapter FB of the P.E.O. Sisterhood will meet on the following dates: April 28 at 4 p.m. in Bastrop, and May 19 at 10 a.m. in Smithville. A summer social will be held in June. P.E.O. was founded in 1869 and is an international philanthropic and educational organization interested in bringing to women increased opportunities for higher education. For more information, unaffiliated members, please call Helen Craig at 979-234-2807.

### Little League hamburger lunch April 29

The Eagle Lake Little League will hold a hamburger lunch, Sunday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the little league field (drive thru only). The meal includes a homemade grilled hamburger, fixings, chips and dessert for \$5. Proceeds benefit Eagle Lake Little League. Tickets can be purchased from any player.

### Reception to honor Brunner planned

The First Presbyterian Church of Eagle Lake will honor the life and 96<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ted Brunner at a reception in the Fellowship Hall of the church, Sunday, May 6 from 1 to 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend and to wish Mr. Brunner "Happy Birthday".

### Arellano in diabetes race

Miguel Arellano formerly of Eagle Lake will ride in the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure May 18-19. He asks for your support in his effort. The send a donation mail to Miguel Arellano, 701 Woodward St., #233, Austin, TX 78704-7455. All donations are tax deductible.

### Library needs your help

During the months of May and June the Wintermann Library will display nostalgic everyday items from the past. If you have items that belonged to grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, etc. that you would like to share for a couple of months bring by the library on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays or call Patty Holloway at 234-5411. We'd like to have the items by the end of April so details of the displayed items can be worked out.

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