



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
(USPS 152-760)
P.O. Box 67 • 220 E. Main • (409) 234-5521
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067
Published Weekly • Every Thursday
Advertising & News Deadlines
5 P.M. MONDAY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Colorado County and the cities of Uvalde,
East Bernard, Glen Flora & Egypt... \$10.51
Other residents of Fayette, Lavaca,
Wharton and Austin counties... \$12.00
Other Texas Residents... \$13.87
Outside of Texas... \$14.50

Single Copies: 32-cents*

*These rates include the applicable Texas state sales tax.
Second Class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas.
Address Corrections should be sent to
P.O. Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067.

DQ's moon-scape of a parking lot causes at least one lost customer

At about 8 p.m. last Wednesday I vowed to write a column this week urging Eagle Lake area residents to think about something when they spend their money at the local Dairy Queen. It's rare when I want to write about personal events in my life, but my trip last week to the soft-serve ice cream place was a rare event, I hope.

My three year old and I went to the DQ for a cone before going over to watch some of the ball games at the Little League park. We turned off McCarty into the DQ parking lot, and unfortunately the car fell into one of the cavernous potholes that make the lot look worse than a rice field after harvest. The hole was so deep, it caused the front of the car to bottom out. When I heard that noise, I stopped quickly; the hole and the stopping jarred Amy off the seat. After I saw that Amy was OK, I got out to look at the car and noticed people inside the "restaurant" looking at us.

I was mad, and decided we wouldn't spend our money there if we can't even drive into the place safely. However, since the manager was standing at

the drive-up window, I thought I'd drive over there and suggest he fix the lot if he wants any more of our business. That was a mistake.

When I approached the window in the car, we drove into another hole that felt twice as deep as the first. You can imagine that I wasn't able to pick up much speed between the edge of the lot and the building.

When the car ground and crunched to a stop when we hit a second hole, even harder, it bounced Amy off the seat and into the dash. This time I was

scared, fearing Amy had smashed her nose or bashed out her teeth. I grabbed her up, got out of the car, and saw that she was screaming from fright, not pain. She was not injured. I wasn't injured either, but now my temper was two or three times worse than a moment before. The manager of the place just looked out his little window. I became abusive, screaming something about why he was just standing there, when he kindly offered to give me a name and telephone number of someone I could call. I returned a rather unpleasant

to our relationship, and went to T.J. Smith's Dairy Delite. That's a place that cares enough about its customers to keep the parking lot in excellent condition, and they have good ice cream cones.

While I was very, very thankful that my daughter wasn't hurt, I was steamed about what could have happened to her, and about the damage to my car, twice in the same parking lot. No one at that store — or with the company that owns it, for that matter — cares enough about their customers to even call me to see if anything was wrong.

After I reported the damage to the Eagle Lake Police Department, Chief Ben Johnson went to talk to the manager. He was told the incident made the company notice the moon-scape of a pothole problem, and that they would immediately repair and resurface the entire lot.

As an old Navy buddy used to say, I'll hide and watch, then believe it when I see it. In the meantime, my craving for the good soft-serve ice cream the DQ sells will have to go unfulfilled. I'm not going to chance the health of my family on that property. And, I would suggest that if you are going to patronize the place, "let the buyer beware."

They traveled through Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Ohio. Plots of interest seen or traveled by were the Grand Ole Opry, Loretta Lynn's Dude Ranch and Twitty City.

In Kentucky, they viewed the area where the Kentucky Derby is run. They went by St. Louis Cardinal Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri. They viewed the birth place of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois. An enjoyable trip was had by all. It took a total of 26 hours on the road to get back to Houston.

Gettysburg required stitches and suffered bruises as a result of an automobile accident that happened in Sheridan last Friday. His grandson, Billy Joe High, who was a passenger with him was not injured. The occupant of the other automobile was transferred by ambulance to a nearby hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Lusiano Espaz, along with sons, Louis and David, enjoyed a trip to Ohio recently where they visited his brother. While there they attended his nephew's graduation in Sheridan, visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pence and family. Also present was Mrs. Clifford Wiese of Forest Oaks.

Mrs. Dollie Botard is recuperating from heart surgery at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Shaw. Mrs. Dorothy Selph enjoyed spending several days in Tomball visiting with her brother Harry and Twitty City.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cousins spent Sunday in Edna with their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davidson, Kim and Tracy.

Otto Botard, lifelong resident of Sheridan, has been admitted to Stevens Convalescent Home in Hallettsville.

Last summer numerous people called with stories of large or unusual snakes kills. This year seems to be no different. Saturday morning someone had killed a large rattlesnake at the intersection of 90A and FM Road 155 and hung it on the highway sign. It was approximately five feet long with six rattlers still attached.

Closer to home, Mr. and Mrs. Irene Hagendorf whose sister died in Victoria last week.

Heather Munoz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Munoz, celebrated her first birthday in the hospital last week. She is still in Southwest Memorial in

national trade, and the problems created by a congress that leans toward solving urban problems while ignoring rural issues.

Sweeney did say that the Reagan Administration "took a first step" toward establishing a long-term solution last month when it came up with a pretty aggressive export program last month.

He said this administration, like those in the past, have shown reluctance to bargain aggressively for the farmer when negotiating with other countries. It seems, he said, that agriculture is the first card that is dealt away.

The American farmer has no rival in terms of efficiency. We don't have to go to Japan and learn about rice," he said, "like we do to study steel making and automobile manufacturing."

Sweeney was one of 40 Republicans to vote for the emergency farm relief program that Reagan vetoed. Essentially, he said, until the administration develops a long-

range plan for agriculture, I'll vote for the short term help for farmers. As an example of our government not being sensitive to the needs of the agriculture industry, he told about one country that was about to make a deal with the U.S. poultry industry because we had the best price. But, when France stepped in with a subsidy to their farmers, the deal went to Europe.

Also, he said, in the past decade, the government pushed planting fence row to fence row, and now has suddenly reversed itself because of the surplus. That reversal, and the talk of allowing ag product prices to be set in a free market dominated by subsidies of other governments, has led him to his criticism of current ag policies. The PIC program was a good one, he said, and was pushed as a centerpiece of a new program. But, he added, that has not been the case.

When asked about items he would like to see in a long-

range farm program, Sweeney noted that he is early in his first term in Congress, and work on his committee assignments have been taking up 80 percent of his time. He sits on the Armed Services committee, and on the committee that deals with terrorist activities. But, he said government should apply long range thinking to other areas in addition to agriculture, that effect rural populations, such as such as transportation and electrification. One fight in congress is the trend against small town representation. "That's not only where I'm from, but it also is the people I represent," he said.

One of the issues the Armed Services Committee has tackled is the question of whether the government should reduce military pensions in order to reduce government spending. This is the position of those who represent interests from the northeast, he said, noting that not many veterans retire there. While no action has been taken, Sweeney predicted there will be military pension reform. However, he said there has been some misunderstanding of the issue. "The cornerstone of the committee's position is that whatever change is made, it will not effect current retirees or those in the military at the time. Those people will earn the pensions under the plan in effect at the time they enlist," he said. The liberals of the Northeast and Midwest historically are not concerned with veteran matters, Sweeney said, compared to other areas such as Texas where many people move after retiring from the armed services.

Before moving on to his door-to-door talks, Sweeney extended a public invitation to attend the weekend's festivities in Seely.

First election battle of season on in Dist. 1

The political eyes of Texas are turned northward to the First Congressional District where the first election battle of the new season is being waged.

At stake in this June 29 special election is not only a seat in Congress for one party or the other, but also precious momentum which the victors hope will carry over into the '86 regular elections.

Some eight Democrats and one Republican make this race somewhat of a free-for-all, especially in behind-the-scenes dynamics. The Republicans have put all their marbles behind one horse, and a political novice at that. The Democrats, somewhat more comfortable in what has traditionally been their district, are fragmented and combative.

While most analysts agree that a run-off election will be necessary between the top two vote-getters, a Democratic vic-

tor will depend on whether the factions regroup.

The situation on the election eve is one heavily influenced by the new Republican U.S. Senator Phil Gramm and very similar to the circumstances in his home congressional district which catapulted him to statewide office.

In that '83 election, Gramm drew heavily on unified GOP support from around the state and defeated a field of some ten Democratic challengers.

Now from his position as the top Republican officeholder in

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndal Wright
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Gramm's influence

125 at Rice FFA Booster Club meet promote Vo-Ag

The Rice FFA Booster Club held a social and orientation on June 20. Approximately 125 members, students and guests enjoyed a delicious chicken and dumpling supper prepared by Ernie Gens and Frank Popp Jr.

Marvin Swoboda, president of the club, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Phillip Soto the second vice president, who gave a short speech on vocational agriculture. Mr. Soto's two main topics were "community support" and "agricultural education."

During his speech he was quoted as saying that the "FFA is a program essential to the agricultural growth of America, and that we must keep it going strong."

As part of the club's goal to educate and inform parents, students and supporters about the Rice FFA program, chapter advisors Ron Roberts, Finest Axel and Mike McMahon were on hand to inform the students and their parents on the new rules and guidelines for the 1985-86 project year. An informative question and answer session was also held by the advisors. Chapter advisor, Ronel

the state, he has engineered a similar scenario for victory for former Aggie quarterback Ed Hargett, his hand-picked candidate.

First, he enticed long-time Congressman Sam Hall to resign and accept a federal judgeship which Gramm asked Reagan to give him. Then, when Hall vacated the seat, thereby creating the need for a special election, Gramm was ready to run a well-funded, lone Republican.

Democrat vs. Democrat

The strategy of using special elections to win a GOP takeover in a Democratic district is one that pits Democrats against Democrats for the right to run in a runoff against an unblooded Republican.

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Sheridan News

By Velma Kutzer
Call 234-3988

Houston and is a little better this week.

Joe Stapleton is also in a Houston hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wiese and sons of Louisiana spent Sunday in Sheridan, visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pence and family. Also present was Mrs. Clifford Wiese of Forest Oaks.

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DAVID W. EUERS, D.D.S.

IF YOU CHIP A TOOTH

Billy was playing sandlot baseball. He was a catcher — a brave one — without a mask. As fate would have it, the batter swung at a pitch and the backswing hit Billy in the mouth and chipped off two of his front teeth. This is a typical dental emergency which requires immediate dental care.

When injury exposes the tooth pulp, it can be serious since the pulp is the innermost chamber of the tooth and contains nerves and blood vessels.

Temporary treatment of injured tooth pulp includes the use of a restorative dressing to cut down sensitivity in the area. If a pulpotomy (removal of the pulp material) is necessary, it will be followed by a root canal therapy, and the use of a crown or a cap if the tooth can be preserved.

Until you can get to a dentist following an injury, keep the mouth as clean as possible by rinsing it with a solution of salt water. If there are loose teeth, no food should be chewed until the teeth are stabilized in the jaw.

Prepared as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of DAVID W. EUERS, D.D.S., 704 S. McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, 234-3525.

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County Courthouse Report

REAL ESTATE

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