



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Texas workers' comp. on verge of collapse

Old-school lawmakers have Gov. Ann Richards' ethics reform bill locked up in a House committee, but a coalition has formed off the floor to challenge Speaker Gib Lewis to action.

Meanwhile, state insurance officials warned lawmakers the Texas workers' compensation program is on the verge of collapse because of rising costs and some major insurers pulling their operations out of Texas because of low rates.

Business lobbyists say the rates are already too high and employers can't afford to buy the insurance coverage.

This unraveling of the issue that was the subject of a very bloody battle two years ago comes at exactly the wrong time, or the right time depending on who's talking, for Ann Richards, who was elected in November on an insurance industry reform pledge.

Richards, of course, was speaking of auto and homeowners insurance for private citizens, and that bill is progressing nicely through the legislative gates.

Some say it won't work, that it will oppress more insurance companies to desert Texas, but if it does, then perhaps we have the right governor to resolve the long-standing workers' compensation problem.

But some observers are quick to point out that if she fails at either, she'll have a lot of explaining to do next election.

"Dirty 30 Ride Again"

Capitol observers are likening the current ethics reform coalition of 12-35 members to the "Dirty 30" reform group of the early '70s which spurred

ethics reform in the House. They were affectionately named the "Dirty 30" after reporters overheard a top lobbyist use the phrase to malign 30 lawmakers who stood up for ethics in the first record vote during those ethics reform wars.

The new group is apparently made up of both Republicans and Democrats.

State Capitol Highlights
By Lyndell Williams
Texas Press Association

crats, including several freshman lawmakers who campaigned on an ethics platform.

These campaign pledges may force them to stand up to Lewis, who presently faces two indictments on ethics charges, if he doesn't let the reform bill go through to their liking.

Legislative Action

*The House overwhelmingly passed a bill reducing the state tax on pari-mutuel betting at horse tracks and also allows simulcasting, or the televising of races and betting on them at other tracks. The five percent tax would be scrapped for a sliding scale tax beginning to one percent.

*House members tentatively

passed a bill which would hike the fee on hot checks from \$15 to \$25 and raise the maximum interest rate on retail charge accounts to 21 percent from 18 percent. The Senate already has approved the measure.

*The House Urban Affairs Committee also sent out a bill permitting Port Arthur residents to vote on whether to allow casino gambling on Pleasure Island.

*Speaker Lewis subcommittee a resolution by Rep. Glenn Maxey, D-Austin, the first openly gay legislator, which would honor a lesbian couple for living together 20 years. One of the women was a member of the executive committee of the Texas Democratic Party.

*Rep. Irma Rangel says she has enough votes to pass her bill establishing a law school at Texas A&I University.

Redistricting Efforts

Redistricting plans in the Senate so far include a new Hispanic congressional seat below San Antonio to the Rio Grande River. Two others will be drawn in Houston and Dallas.

Democrats are submitting plans to make the new districts winnable for their party, and they hoisted at a Republican plan which would pair 26 House members, including 23 Democrats, in next year's election.

Outnumbered and with their backs

American Rice Growers Association Report

Overall rice planted in the nation is far from completion with approximately 30% of the rice crop planted thus far.

Texas has nearly completed their planting except for the eastern portion of the state with approximately 50% of rice planted.

California has recently started planting rice, expecting a 15% crop reduction. Louisiana will have to replant approximately 1/4 of their acre-

age due to fields being flooded. Arkansas is also running late with planting, fields have been covered with more than a foot of water, some rice being planted in standing water. If planting in Arkansas runs into late May, seed rice may become a problem.

Thai prices have eased considerably, evidently no new buyers.

(See Rice Report, Page 3)

In Case of Emergency...

Knowing how to access emergency medical services is the simplest thing you can do to help save a life. Our community is served by a team of volunteers and professionals who are specially trained to care for you in an emergency. They're available whenever you need them, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But they can only help if they're called. Take time now to learn the emergency number... just in case.

234-5311

Emergency Medical Services: The Team That Cares
National Emergency Medical Services Week — May 12-18, 1991
Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps

For Victoria and Robert Thonhoff, there's no place like a Good Cents Home.

What's so special about a Good Cents Home? We asked people who own one, like Victoria and Robert Thonhoff in Karnes City.

"Our electric bill is averaging about \$65 a month."

"I put a pencil and paper to it," Robert said, "and I was really impressed — our bill is averaging about \$65 a month. Now, that's a real bargain for all the comfort and convenience we get."

"It's a much more comfortable home. There's just no comparison."

"We just love our home," said Victoria. "It has all the conveniences we wanted, and it's comfortable year-round."

If you're planning to buy a home, look for the Good Cents sign. If you plan to build, call us first here at CPL. For comfort, value and substantial energy savings, there's no place like a Good Cents Home.

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Letters to the Editor

PTO President Grigar responds

Dear Editor:

As director of the recent Talent Show at the Eagle Lake Middle School, I think I should respond to the concerns raised in last week's Letter to the Editor.

There were complaints after the Talent Show, as well as many compliments. The problems at the show arose from the fact that we were neither equipped nor staffed for the large crowd that attended. We had approximately 100 more spectators than we were prepared for, and we were caught off-guard.

Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey, Principal Charles Abel and I have discussed the problems we had in the audience and changes for next year's show have already been planned. The behavior of the audience should not reflect directly on discipline at ELMS. I have attended many functions at the school and the student body conduct is generally very good. Much of the noise at the Talent Show was not created by middle school students but by older students and people no longer in school.

The Talent Show was sponsored by the PTO. Teachers were not involved in this production — only myself and one other teacher. Next year we need several adults, male and female, who will assist at the door and act as ushers and monitors. This will help assure crowd control. One concerned grandmother called me on the day after the show and has already volunteered to help next year. I need to hear from more people like her.

The PTO will meet later in May to elect officers and appoint committees for next year. I invite you and other concerned parents to come to our meeting and hear what is planned for next year. See if you can help in some way.

The students I worked with in the Talent Show gave me their respect and cooperation throughout, and I was proud of their performances as well as their behavior. Among the student body at ELMS is a remarkable amount of talent and some great kids. They deserve our efforts.

Sincerely,
Melody Grigar
President,
ELMS P.T.O.

Eagle Lake, are we TCI's stepchild?

The following is a letter sent to the district manager of the company who operates the cable television service in Eagle Lake. It was in response to the "Customer 1st Program" information which was recently mailed to all subscribers.

April 30, 1991

Mr. Randy Grimes,
District Manager
TCI Cablevision of Texas, Inc.
P.O. Box 6607
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

Dear Mr. Grimes:
I just received your CABLE TV Communications and followed the instructions. Please read immediately for important details.

The Customer 1st Program will be an improvement in service if indeed it is implemented. However, the Customer 1st Program will not improve the poor reception that we have so often in Eagle Lake.

The City of Eagle Lake has been treated as a stepchild by your company. Eagle Lake is always the last to receive new channels. In fact, Eagle Lake is not offered as many channels as the City of Columbus. But, we always receive the rate increase notices on a timely basis.

Mr. Grimes, I would like to call your attention to the following sentence which is also included in your CABLE TV Communications: "During 1991, TCI Cablevision in Columbus/Eagle Lake will undertake to support, both financially and with human resources, to raise funds to help beautify the City of Columbus."

I feel that the letter from the McCreary's and your comment in support of their assumption needed a response. First of all, the talent show was a P.T.O. sponsored activity, not a school sponsored one. As a matter of fact, some of the people who were creating problems WERE NOT STUDENTS. Teachers and administrators who attended the P.T.O. activity were there in the same capacity as the rest of you; they were not on duty.

I agree, you do have to start somewhere and care enough to create

Discipline needs to start at home

Every day at school, we must fight the battle against the disrespect and poor discipline that students display, yet our hands are tied by the state and by some parents who limit greatly what we can do. A child's conduct starts at home, and if it does not come from home, it is a lost cause for teachers and administrators to try to enforce a decent level of behavior. Your children ARE our most precious gifts, and we want to provide them with the best. For us to be able to accomplish this goal, parents, teachers and administrators must work together.

Teachers also would like to have a school in which students show respect to teachers. We do, indeed, need strong leadership in our school from everyone associated with the district. However, let's not go on a witch hunt for something that was not school related in the first place. Let's also not forget that behavior problems exist not only in our school district, they are prevalent across the state.

Concerning the editor's comment that the problem with young people is compounded in the school, if it did not occur at home, it would not happen at school. I believe that it is time to stop putting the blame on the schools and take a little responsibility at home.

Sincerely,
Dennis A. Jackson

EDITOR'S COMMENT: My comment last week was not meant to insinuate the school was to blame for all the discipline problems. My point is that a school situation which includes firm discipline would help some of these young people who receive no guidance in their homes. Maybe, just maybe, it could give them the basics on which to build a better life.

Brunson Building Centennial Year celebration at Live Oak Art Center May 10

The Live Oak Art Center, located at 1014 Milam in Columbus is celebrating the Brunson Building Centennial year, 1891-1991, and the exhibition of "Private Art Collections" of John H. and Elizabeth S. Massey. They extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend a reception at the Center on Friday, May 10, from seven to nine p.m.

Performing throughout the evening will be noted Houston musician, Ms. Bonnie Goodrich. Bonnie Goodrich began her musical training at age five. As a young student of Houston Symphony Principal Harpist Beatrice Rose, she won numerous awards and competitions, including the Corpus Christi Young Artists' Competition and the prestigious Houston Symphony Student Auditions. She also spent twelve years as a senior member of the Houston Harp Ensemble, a popular local group of young harpists. Their two television specials, "Christmas Festival of Harps" and "Harps of Gold", were syndicated by PBS and continue to be

televised nationally every year. Their recording "A Christmas Festival of Harps" was released in 1979 and quickly sold out. Over a twelve-year period, the group enjoyed great success, appearing frequently on local television, at gala events and festivals, and as guest performers with the orchestras of the Houston Symphony and the Houston Pops.

During her studies at the University of Houston on full scholarship, she won the School of Music Concerto Competition, as well as began performing regularly with the orchestras of the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, Houston Pops, the Theatre under the Stars, and Texas Opera Theatre. She received her advanced training with Lucile Lawrence, attending Boston University and the summer music programs at the Tanglewood Institute. Her Boston orchestral experience included the position of principal harp with both the concert Opera Orchestra of Boston and the Romanul Concert Orchestra, in addition to performances with the Boston

University Symphonies, Wind Ensemble, and chamber groups. Upon earning her degree in performance, Ms. Goodrich returned to Houston and won the audition for assistant principal harp with the Houston Symphony. Two seasons later, she returned to the world of solo performance, preferring its challenges and greater playing opportunities. She is featured in recitals and concerts often, and is in great demand for performances at elegant private occasions. She has performed in Houston's finest luxury hotels and restaurants and is currently appearing daily at the Ritz-Carlton during afternoon tea and Sunday brunch.

Deed: E. Glenn McMillan to Joe A. Ratcliff and Gloria E. Ratcliff, 5 acres. John Hall Survey, Filed 04-22-91.

Deed: Johnny Hobbs Jr. to Ethel Can- n, lot No. 21 and part of lot No. 23, blk. No. 78-Sheridan, Filed 04-22-91.

Deed: Donald W. & Louise Kasparek to Frances Peck Quarles, lots No. 13 and 14, blk. No. 78-Weimar, Filed 04-22-91.

Deed: George & Ronnie Janocka to Lela E. Arnold, parts of No. 22 and 23, blk. No. 31-Subd. of Weimar, Filed 04-25-91.

Deed: W. Richard Lovely to B.H.C.H. Mineral Joint Venture and William C. Sawelle, int. in 278.91 acres-James Cummins Survey, Filed 04-26-91.

Deed: Sam John Davidson, Estate and Ernestine Jo Sommerlatte to William R. Cook, tract in blk. F-Patrick Reels Survey-Eagle Lake, Filed 04-26-91.

Deed: Texas A&I University Foundation, Inc. to Melvin Curry Jr. and Wanda Curry, 2.65 acres and easement-Henry Austin Five League Grant, 04-26-91.

Deed: Alice & Joe F. Lemish to Lucille & Jan Dee Tobias, 3.1 acres-J. Duty League, Filed 04-26-91.

OIL & GAS LEASES
Arizona Riggs to American Trading & Production corp., 5 acres-Thomas Cartwright Lg. Filed 04-22-91.

DIVORCES FILED
Cynthia Marie Lev Chazened and Gary Joseph Chazened, Filed 04-25-91.

Timmy Dean Kleppel and Margaret Ann Kleppel, Filed 05-01-91.

DISTRICT COURT CASES FILED
Boyle Fore Chevrolet and Pontiac, Inc. vs General Motor Acceptance Corp. Reimbursement of Funds.

DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITIONS
Patrick R. Richeson; burglary of a habitation; probation revoked and five years ITDTCI.

Charles Marx; felony DWI; probation revoked and five years ITDTCI; escape; five years ITDTCI.

Wanda Lynch; forgery by passing; five years probation with deferred adjudication; \$500 fine plus court costs and 160 hours community service.

Emergency farm loan applications being accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by severe storms, flooding and tornadoes are being accepted at the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office located in Bellville, FMHA County Supervisor Brenda K. Brient said.

Colorado County is one of 16 counties in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Youtter as eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes.

Ms. Brient said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80% of their actual losses or the operating loans needed to continue in business or \$500,000, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 4.5%.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30% loss of production to be eligible for an FmHA emergency loan," Ms. Brient said. Farmers participating in the PIK or Federal Crop Insurance programs will have to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until December 23, 1991, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Ms. Brient said.

FmHA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility starts on May 1.

For those who want to see a Mississippi Kite up close, there is a mounted specimen from the Tom Waddell collection on display at Prairie Edge Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Valdez had as their guests the Chapa families from Illinois. Visiting with them last weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Gus Chapa and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Chapa and baby from Waukegan. Also Mr.

Rice Report Continued from Page 2

Since Iraq still owes millions, new market is not possible in the near future. Locally, there has been little trading done at the \$3 premium.

World Market Price
The World Market Price (\$5-70) as of Tuesday, May 7 remained at \$5.91.

Weather
Tropical Storm Vanessa rolled through the southern Philippines with sustained winds of 35 knots, bringing beneficial rainfall (25-95mm) for planting to most southern and eastern crop areas. Scattered showers (10-

59mm) also covered crop regions of southern and eastern Luzon, but dry weather dominated main season rice areas of western Luzon. Vanessa hit the coast of central Vietnam on the 27th, bringing moderate to heavy showers (30-105mm) to most central and southern rice areas. In Thailand, much needed, moderate to heavy showers (25-50mm or more) covered a large portion of the major rainfed rice and corn areas, providing much needed moisture. Further south, moderate to heavy showers (25-100mm or more) lingered over most primary crop regions of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Views On Dental Health HEALTHY GUM AND BONE

You probably care about your dental health or you wouldn't be reading this column. One of the keys to good dental health is to have healthy gum and bone and do whatever you can to protect them. This is not as easy to achieve as you might think. Also, appearances can be deceiving. For example, when you look into your mouth you may think your teeth and gums look healthy. You may see no signs of decay in your teeth, and your gums don't seem to be giving you any problems. They may not be as healthy as they look, however, if bacteria have already started to work to destroy your teeth and gums.

Presented as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of DAVID W. EUERS, D.D.S., 224 S. McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, 234-3525.

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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

9 Gift Deeds: Frances Rose Frka to Milford Curtis Frka and Madalyn Lavene Ostrom, und. int. in 141.23 acres-Bernard Scherrer League, et al. Filed 04-24-91.

Gift Deed: Frances Rose Frka to Milford Curtis Frka, und. int. in 131.23 acres-Bernard Scherrer League, et al. Filed 04-22-91.

Deed: E. Glenn McMillan to Joe A. Ratcliff and Gloria E. Ratcliff, 5 acres. John Hall Survey, Filed 04-22-91.

Deed: Mary R. Frka, Estate to Martin V. & Beatrice V. Rojas, parts of lots 5 thru 10, 16 and all of lots 11 and 12, blk. No. 25-Gilman, Filed 04-24-91.

Deed: O.A. Cowart to Douglas A. Schmidt, 4.2 acres-James Cummins Survey, Filed 04-25-91.

Deed: George & Ronnie Janocka to Lela E. Arnold, parts of No. 22 and 23, blk. No. 31-Subd. of Weimar, Filed 04-25-91.

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Wanda Lynch; forgery by passing; five years probation with deferred adjudication; \$500 fine plus court costs and 160 hours community service.

THANKS...

to all of the voters in the Rice Consolidated School District who showed interest in our school's future by going to the polls on May 4th, and to my family and friends who gave me encouragement and support. I look forward to a challenging three years.

Melody Grigar

Political advertisement paid for by Melody T. Grigar, 601 Willow Lane, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

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At First Heights, we have a good book for you to take home! It's our Bonus Coupon Book filled with valuable coupons that are yours when you open a Total Banking account.

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