



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Produced By:

Jeanne Fearing • Linda Waddell
• Shirley Luedicke
Georgia Michalka, Garwood/Nada
Velma Kutzer, Sheridan

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Letters to the Editor

Response to 'Shoot in the Dark' and 'Witch Hunt'

Dear Editor:

As always there are only certain facts that are printed in our local paper. The public has been given a one sided view of "Major Benge's problem". We think it time for the editor to print the other side! So far as the "Shoot in the Dark" from Japan" and the "Witch Hunt" as well as other letters of support for Benge, here's the facts that you've all over looked!

1. A doctor did exam the child, took pictures.
2. A nurse also viewed the child.

3. The police saw/took pictures and report and called child abuse.

4. A school official was called to look at the child.

5. Proper channels were followed, solving nothing.

6. The complaints were not against the discipline, it was for the abusive force in which the matter was dealt. This was devastating for the child as well as for the family.

7. Not only was one child injured in this harsh manner for the school year 1990-91 — but 3 injuries were reported!

Our question to you the public is what would you do if this had happened to you, your children, or grandchildren. Sit by, "pat" him on the back and say that's OK — I seriously doubt it! You're very fortunate if this has not happened to you or someone you love. Yes you're right, it makes us sick to know that this can happen in a town such as Eagle Lake — You do not have to live in Houston for your child to be abused. It can and does happen here!

Maybe the public should use this as a general lesson as far as rumors and gossip!

Any one can spread rumors and gossip until they have "Forgotten who they've told what to". But very few are honest enough to spread the facts and very few in this small town have courage to stand alone for something they know is the right thing to do no matter who it's against! I wonder how many others have had this happen and they are afraid to come forward!

Signed,
Parents in behalf of
injured child
(Name withheld by request)

Put authority back where it belongs

Thanks to Jeff Finka for his letter of support for Major Benge, and the editorial comment that followed. There are petitions circulating throughout the district in support of Mr. Benge.

There are those, who for reasons of their own, may not support Major Benge, however, please consider what has happened here: The severe reprimand sent to Mr. Benge August 5, 1991, impacts the whole system and renders principals and teachers throughout the district ineffective in dealing with disciplinary problems. This means there is no mechanism for teachers or principals to administer

punishment for any act a student may choose. Without the appropriate leadership, we can look forward to guns, drugs, gang leadership and various forms of group intimidation. The students are now in charge in schools throughout the district.

Is this what we in the Rice Consolidated District want for our children? A vote of support for Major Benge is a vote of support for the continuance of our schools.

Let's put the authority where it belongs — back to the teachers and principals who have served this district long and well.

Ann Zbranek

Other problems with schools

Dear Editor:

Taxes and insurance are going up all the time. I don't see how small business people and people on fixed incomes are going to survive. I cannot understand what the school board did according to the local newspaper.

Why buy a Caprice instead of a mid-size car? Why buy a \$100,000.00 insurance policy free? Why pay expenses to the Superintendent except when out of town on school business? Why give a \$7,600.00 raise? Surely anyone can pay their own expense and insurance on \$32,000 a year, when other educated people pay theirs on

less say \$20,000.00. Why did the windows in the middle school have to be replaced at this time? My understanding was that when our other Assistant Superintendent retired, his job would be left vacant.

The school board needs to get out of their surroundings and look at all of the small businesses that have failed. If the school district has this kind of money, how about lowering taxes? As the old saying goes: "Do the best you can with what you have, not what you don't have".

A very concerned citizen,
Butch Szymanski

Lottery losers

After years of legislative maneuvering, citizens of Texas will vote their opinion on a state-sponsored lottery.

Why a lottery? Since early 1990, when the Judiciary ruled that the Legislature must give more money to school districts, which have a low property value base, the need for additional revenues has intensified. The lottery has been introduced as the answer. One of my concerns is that every time additional funds are needed for the state, some legislators introduce the lottery as the answer. Why a lottery? It seems to me that the providers of the equipment and the drive-in stores are pumping dollars into a long-term lobby. Their business is to make the equipment, service it, and to distribute tickets to players. To them, the lottery is business, big business. Is it possible that is why we have a proposed lottery?

Now, for some facts. In April, 1990, during the Texas primary for Governor, one political ad on radio stated that people in Florida spent 1.5 BILLIONS of dollars on the lottery. \$100 MILLION was available for education. Sound good? Not to me. Check the figures. Only 35% of money wagered out of

people's pockets went to the state. To say it another way, 65% disappeared into expenses and vendors' fees. That was over 1 BILLION dollars taken out of local circulation. I say that a lottery is inefficient in raising money for the state.

Fact: One has a better chance of being hit by lightning than of winning at lottery. Virtually all who buy tickets are losers.

Fact: California and Illinois have successful lotteries. Yet, school districts in both states have money problems. In 1990, the Oakland City Council prudently rescinded a \$428 million incentive for the Raiders Football Team to return. One of the powerful arguments that led to this action was that their schools are underfunded. Now, our own Governor Richards admits that the lottery will not solve revenue needs, but will help only in a minor way. Lotteries do not solve funding problems.

The proposed lottery is simply inefficient, unreliable, and insufficient. Each of us will vote our opinion in a few weeks. Think carefully of the consequences of your opinion.

Larry E. Bailey
Pastor, Eagle Lake United
Methodist Church

Governor promises special session to reduce health insurance premiums

Gov. Ann Richards may have signaled Democrats nationwide last week when she promised to call a special session next year to reduce health insurance premiums.

Richards, who quietly signed the new tax bill into law last week, rode the insurance issue to an upset victory in 1990.

In the wake of Dessert Storm and the dismantling of the new Communist empire, Democrats seeking to oust President George Bush in next year's election must concentrate on domestic policies.

With potential candidates declining left and right, Democrats desperately need to hit a nerve center with the American voter.

Enter Ann Richards, who did just that in 1990, overcoming a mint of GOP dollars by promising lower insurance rates.

National Springboard? Richards probably just wants to keep that campaign promise, but it could be a promise heard around the nation.

Using the health insurance issue, some Capitol observers think Richards could springboard to national prominence as a political starlet to meld with her reputation as a compelling orator.

With a solid Democratic majority in both chambers, Richards can feel confident the Texas Legislature will not throw egg on her face in front of the nation.

Follow The Timing Richards' timing will be interesting: will she schedule the session during the spring primaries, or wait until summer to give Democrats an edge in the general election?

One speculation has her waiting until the end of a long, hot summer — say, August — so that Democrats can ride a fresh horse up to the November election.

More than a few skeptics believe that government cannot actually force lower prices in a free market, but the '92 elections will be over before voters realize that premiums may not go down.

In the meantime, mounting evidence suggests that Democrats nationwide plan to borrow from Richards' political genius and use the medical insurance issue which upset Republicans in Texas last year.

Other Highlights Gov. Richards has nominated Jack J. White, 50, as chairman of the state Board of Pardons and Paroles. Kyle was assistant director of the Texas Department of Corrections for 19 years and warden of the Ferguson Unit in Huntsville from 1959-1965.

State district judges in Cleburne and Sweetwater have ruled that education districts can legally levy and collect property taxes and redistribute the revenues to local school districts. Both judges refused to grant temporary injunctions that would have halted tax collections.

Morales Sues Feds Attorney General Dan Morales sued the U.S. government last week for \$1 billion in federal aid he says will be lost due to a faulty census count that missed 600,000 Texans.

"This is our money," Morales said, of the revenues expected to be lost over the next 10 years because of the "fictional census."

Morales said many uncounted citizens are Blacks and Hispanics from big cities in South Texas.

Critics say Morales, federal money aside, seeks to force the feds to in-

State Capitol Highlights
By Lyndell Williams
Texas Press Association

Default The Election?

Former Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White, now a Washington, D.C. political consultant, said he is concerned that Democrats could "default the election" next year unless U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen seeks the party's nomination.

Reports indicate Bentsen is being urged, along with New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, to try for the big brass ring.

So far, Bentsen is pushing the plate away, saying he has no desire to run. A Bentsen-Cuomo, or Cuomo-Bentsen, ticket would surely cause the GOP to think twice about keeping Vice Pres. Dan Quayle on the slate.

Extra Expense Money Fifty-nine House members, including a handful of Republicans, have claimed more than \$150,000 in \$85-a-day expense money privileges permitted by a controversial opinion by the attorney general.

The estate of the late Larry Evans, D-Houston, will receive his payments of almost \$3,000. Evans died of cocaine-related causes during the special session.

In the Sept. 24 election to fill Evans' seat, 11 candidates, all Democrats, filed in Houston last week.

Pay Raises for Some State employees' on-again, off-again pay raises is on again, at least for some workers.

Comptroller John Sharp has notified state agency heads that they have the authority to grant pay increases of at least 3.4 percent to state workers if they can find the money in their individual budgets.

This means workers in some state agencies probably will see pay increases, while workers in other agencies will not.

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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Goldie J. Brown, und. int. in The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; filed 8-14-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Daniel T. Fletcher, Jr. and Gracie L. Fletcher, und. int. in The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 8-14-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Michael L. & Carolyn Jatzlau, und. int. in The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 8-14-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Fred H. & Carmen P. Martinez, und. int. in The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 8-14-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to B. Keith & D. Vonnelle Tins, und. int. in The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 8-14-91.

Deed: Susan Renfro McSpadden to Katherine Shoen, und. int. in various properties, States of Texas and Louisiana; 8-19-91.

Deed: Victoria Rivera to Gregory & Lydia Contreras, lots #34 & 24, blk. no. 9, Highland Park Addition, Eagle Lake; 8-19-91.

Deed: D.J. Wied to Leon Kocurek and Leroy Kocurek, 1 acre, Samuel Kennedy Survey; 8-19-91.

Deed: Billy Joe Davis, Jr. to Lillian M.L. Olsen, 0.257 acre, Allen Winn Subd.; 8-19-91.

Deed: Leon & Leona Dymally to John E. & Mildred L. Hancock, 6 acres, Johan Koehler Survey; 8-19-91.

Deed: Glenda Bartek to Forrest R. & Jamie E. Standley, 96.704 acres, Joseph Thompson Survey; 8-19-91.

Deed: Susie Nelson Stutz to Virginia Hills and Otto E. Matz, part of lot #2, blk. #49, Weimar; 8-19-91.

Deed: Winston B. Harris to James R. Calhoun, und. int. in 101.29 acres, Maraduke Baton Survey; 8-20-91.

Deed: Bessie Keyser to Lee Hall, 0.8752 acre, BBB&C.R.R. Co. Survey; 8-20-91.

Deed: Walter L. Morrison Estate to Ilaella S. Morrison Estate, int. in 10 acres, Northern Harvey Morey Survey; 8-20-91.

Deed: Walter L. Morrison Estate to Ilaella S. Morrison Estate, int. in 10 acres, S. Fowler Survey; 8-20-91.

Deed: Walter L. Morrison Estate to Ilaella S. Morrison Estate, int. in 20 acres, I&G R.R. Co. Survey No. 67; 8-20-91.

Deed: Walter L. Morrison Estate to Ilaella S. Morrison Estate, int. in 20 acres, S. Fowler Survey; 8-20-91.

Deed: Walter L. Morrison Estate to Ilaella S. Morrison Estate, int. in 10 acres, S. Fowler Survey; 8-20-91.

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