

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
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THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

Produced By:
Jeannine Fearing • Susie Jackson
Carol Cardenas
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Janet Dupré, Sheridan News

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To The Editor & You

We thank you, but still need your help

Dear Editor and Citizens:
Have you or a loved one or friend ever had a serious medical emergency? A heart attack? A mangled limb or body? Ever needed a Life Flight helicopter, the stabilizing or connecting medical system that makes a transfer into a Houston trauma center hospital??

Usually, one pushes thoughts of such nightmarish incidents listed above to the back of the mind and goes on with life thinking, "Hope I never have to face that." Perhaps, even using other medical choices some distance away for routine check-ups, etc., but the whole picture changes when self, family member or co-worker is suddenly screaming in pain, needing life-saving medical assistance instantaneously. The human and normal reaction is to instinctively run to the nearest harbor of dependable help. This is

historically what has happened throughout the 52 years that Eagle Lake Community Hospital has served this area.

Within many of our families there live the stories handed down from generation to generation of tragic times years ago when farm accidents, child birth or terrible illness brought heartbreaking results because the nearest doctor or hospital was miles and miles away. In today's healthcare climate, we are in danger of taking a step backward... a return to the days of the frontier... when help will be a distance away.

Early this summer, Rice Medical Foundation, the supporting system for initiating philanthropy for Eagle Lake Community Hospital, sent out letters to citizens throughout the area and made a public appeal for funds to assist the hospital. The letter stated an

immediate goal of \$300,000 was needed to cover present short-falls with hopes of additional funds needed to help endow or guarantee the hospital's future. To date, 89 individuals, households or business entities have contributed \$227,360 in either cash, securities or pledges. Much, much more is needed.

The Board of Directors and administration of the hospital have struggled for several years to develop a long-range program that meets the community's needs while making the adaptations needed to operate in the changing healthcare climate and difficult reimbursement systems of today. To meet the future head on, we felt it was critical to recruit additional doctors to the area as our long established physicians desperately needed help in serving the local patient population. We also saw the need to expand our service area by establishing rural health clinics in Sealy and Eagle Lake to more fully serve the needs of our patient population.

We have been most fortunate in our recruitment efforts, with Dr. John Lane joining the Thomas Clinic practice, Dr. Jaime Midez staffing the Sealy Clinic and Dr. Ravindra Kumar, recently arriving to staff the forthcoming Eagle Lake Clinic in our Laughlin Professional Building.

The funds we are seeking at present will pay for the costs of recruitment, clinic equipment and start-up costs generated while these clinics develop a patient base.

As a hospital, we are deeply indebted to the commitment and steadfastness of our Doctors Raymond and Russell Thomas. They have carried a tremendous load and worked many, many extra hours during this strenuous period of realignment while we searched for doctors and tried to find the best answers to meet today's needs.

Dr. Russell Thomas has made a

statewide reputation for his efforts on behalf of trauma care and in developing criteria for regional trauma centers. His input, training and enthusiastic inspiration have been the guiding force behind our hospital being designated a regional trauma center. His efforts encouraged our staff in the additional hours of study to become trauma certified. Houston might have Dr. Red Duke, but ELCH has Dr. Russell Thomas! We are all grateful.

Among our family stories is the one about the grandmother who died following an emergency appendectomy performed on the kitchen table because no other option was a possibility due to distance from a hospital. I'm not ready to commit my loved ones and neighbors to the same limits that rural communities in Texas had placed upon them nearly a century ago. Let's not let what has been hard-earned over 52 years just silently slip into extinction. After all, it's not just jobs saved, not just a community institution saved, the real story about this hospital is the lives that are saved.

On behalf of all involved in the past and ask that you keep this very worthwhile institution foremost in your heart and mind as all efforts are mounted to carry on its mission.

Sincerely,
Helen Farris
President, Board of Directors, Eagle Lake Community Hospital

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Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

December 4, 1969
Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Thomas are chairing this year's Eagle Lake Heart Association benefit. Sherman Hyatt is treasurer... Mrs. Virginia Uzzell will have her Christmas open house at Uzzell Florist this week-end...

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Firemen and Auxiliary are decorating the Community Center for the Christmas holiday season assisted by Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Kohleffelt... Three men were arrested for cattle theft in the county last Friday...

L.J. "Sonny" Spaniel was re-elected fire chief with T. J. Smith as first assistant and Monroe Briscoe as second assistant... Mrs. Pansy Burger will hold her open house at Lake Crest Flower Shop on Monday and Helyn Farris will hold open house at Helyn's Flower Basket through Dec. 24...

City Council accepted the bid for a new police car from Lake Motor Co. of \$2,879.14 for a 1970 Biscayne, four-door sedan with police package... Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Pates have a baby son, born Nov. 20... Miss Barbara Crone and John Brzowski were wed Nov. 15 at Eagle Lake First Baptist Church...

Wharton County Electric Coop plans construction of a modern headquarters facility in El Campo announced President Wilfred Kainer...

Jordan says Texas should test job program on aliens

Texas should be one of five states to test program aimed at shutting illegal aliens out of the job market, Barbara Jordan, chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, told a Senate committee last week.

The former Texas congressman's testimony was criticized by civil rights groups, who said it was a disguised attempt at forcing Americans to carry a national identification card.

"Jordan is bowing to politics and to public pressure," said Jeanne Butterfield of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Jordan, who denied the allegations, said there currently is no easy way to check the immigration status of new workers as required by law.

Under the current system, 29 different documents can be presented as proof of citizenship, or legal residence.

Jordan wants Texas, California, Florida, Illinois and New York to give employers access to Social Security numbers, so employers could check to see if the numbers were valid.

AG Files Immigration Suit
State Attorney General Dan Morales sued the federal government last week in an attempt to recoup \$5 billion for services that officials say Texas provided to undocumented immigrants.

State Jail Chief Named
Thomas A. Baker, retired commander of Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, was named last week as director of the new state jail division. Baker started his new job immediately.

The state jail program, which by next year will include space and rehabilitation programs for about 25,000 nonviolent inmates, is scheduled to begin Sept. 1.

Spring rains have delayed the construction of the first jail in Beaumont until at least October. But state leaders worked out a stopgap measure to house the first inmates in existing community facilities or in a partitioned area of prison.

The delay has drawn the ire of Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who earlier criticized the Texas Board of Criminal Justice for what he termed a lack of planning.

TDCJ executive director James "Andy" Collins said, programming has been planned and construction is continuing on schedule.

By late 1995, 18 state jails are expected to be in operation.

Baker, who holds a master's degree in business administration, retired as an Air Force lieutenant general in August 1993. He has served as deputy director of operations in the Pentagon.

Super Collider Settlement
Faced with the alternative of expensive, lengthy litigation, members of the commission that oversees Texas' investment in the super collider last week approved a settlement with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Texas contributed \$539 million of more than \$2 billion spent on the atom smasher and wants to recoup its losses.

The proposed settlement was approved by the National Research Laboratory and now goes to Congress for approval. It would give Texas title to the buildings and land on the collider's campus and \$145 million cash.

Texas could receive another \$65 million if its plan for a cancer treatment center is approved.

But GOP gubernatorial candidate, George W. Bush, wasn't impressed with the proposed settlement.

"The state of Texas is entitled to compensation for its investment in the super collider, but it's unfortunate the state is being forced to settle for a

(See Highlights, Page 3)

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

grants over the past six years.

Morales denied charges of "immigrant bashing," saying the lawsuit did not seek elimination of any services to immigrants. He said the suit simply asks for restitution for Texas.

Joining Texas in the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Brownsville, were Dallas, Harris, and Hidalgo Counties; the El Paso and La Brea school districts; and the City of Odessa.

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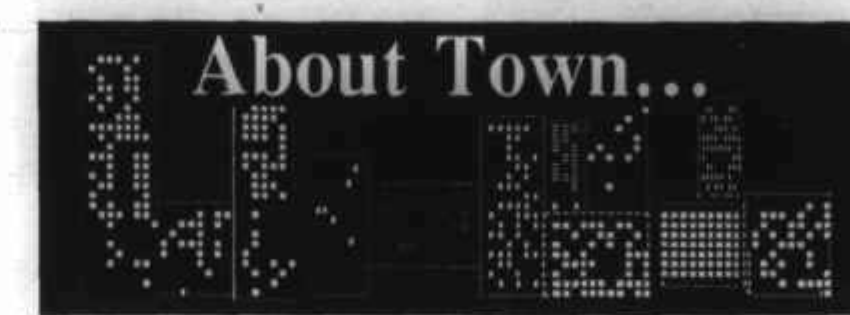


Minimax donates to Rice twirlers

The Rice High School Band twirlers were given a donation of \$200 from Wilcox Minimax this week to kick off fund raising efforts for their trip. Jerry Retzlaff with Minimax presents the check to Rebecca Burrow, head twirler, as Betty Wilcox looks on.

The band auxiliary, made up of the twirlers and flag corps, qualified during their summer training camp for a trip to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla., in Jan. The 1994-95 twirlers are Burrow, Jodi Heard, Joy Hengst, Jackie Schmitt and Leah Brisco. The girls helped pack school supplies in back-to-school bags at the store for primary school students.

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas



Former Rice Raider Brian Amos is in the news again. This time he is pictured in the "Faces in the Crowd" of the Aug. 8 issue of *Sports Illustrated* magazine. He won his third straight national championship in hurdles for NCAA Division II and was named the division's male athlete of the year for outdoor track and field.

Amos, who won state in Class AAA while at Rice High School, is a senior at Abilene Christian University. He is competing in Europe this summer and is the top ranked collegiate hurdler in the nation this season with a best time of 13.37.

Last week, we mistakenly identified Earl Lueddecke as vice commander of the VFW. That title actually goes to Wilfred Lueddecke, the Senior Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8783 this year. He was pictured with the other officers in the Aug. 4 Headlight.

Deed: Katherine Ann Nelson Harrison to Doyle Nelson, part of the H. Austin Five League Grant, Abstract No. 4, City of Weimar, et al; 6-13-94.

Deed: Agnes D. Klekar to Cristi A. Vasquez, 0.9539 acre in the J.M. Steiner Survey, Abstract No. 526, 6-14-94.

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OIL, GAS & MINERAL LEASES
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Did You Know...
It takes 30 coconuts to produce a gallon of coconut oil.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

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Deed: Kawther Jabbur to The Texas Fritsch Survey, Abstract No. 199; 6-9-94.

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Deed: Betty Lou Meyer, Ind. and as Ind. Executor of the Estate of David Barten Meyer, et al to Lorn D. Frazier Jr., et al, 29.115 acres of the Benj. Thomas Survey, Abstract No. 549; 6-9-94.

Deed: Arthur Mahalic and Sons Inc. to Stephen and Mary Mahalic Family Trust, 6.0 acre tract in the James Ross League, Abstract No. 39; 6-9-94.

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