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Let's get back to local problem

By Jeannine Fearing, Publisher

Now that the rush of the primary elections is over, let's get back to something that's near and dear to my soap box.

Next in line to my pet peeve with "Ma Bell" comes service companies who can't or won't provide what you pay for.

Don't get me wrong. I know about expenses in running a small business. There's not much to spread them over. Relatively speaking, it is more expensive to produce *The Headlight* than *The Chronicle*.

But, that fact doesn't soothe me when I turn on my television, expecting to watch a certain show, and all I can get for my near $40 a month is static!

I'd venture to say that some of the hub-bub about equalizing Eagle Lake's service with that of Columbus would die down **if only** the stations we are **suppose to get** would be **watchable!**

I'm not talking crystal clear here... just **decent** picture and sound.

For example, after working all night on Tuesday, Feb. 20, I plopped into my bed preparing to watch some of the morning shows while I finished unwinding from the long work session.

Well, Channel 13 and 11, from **Houston** mind you, were totally unwatchable; Channel 2 was what I would call borderline.

That night, I tried to watch the Rockets' game on Channel 20 out of Houston. There was an occasional decent picture, but most of the time it was flipping and full of static; at times, going out completely.

Since the game wasn't really worth watching that particular evening (the guys just weren't hitting anything), I gave up and decided to watch "Law & Order" on Channel 2. Naturally, that station began to go in and out and the frustration built.

I know, I know... sun spots, atmospheric interference, whatever. My feeling that night... what good is cable service if you can't watch what is **suppose to be available.**

Of course, if you're a fan of the Orlando Magic or Indiana Pacers, you were in luck. Their game was crystal clear!

Maybe with the advent of cableless television, these problems can magically be cleared up by the competition.

Somehow, I doubt it.

Let's Look Back...
24 & 48 Years Ago

June 17, 1971

Five pretty young ladies, daughters of Farm Bureau members, will compete for the title of Farm Bureau Queen this Friday night, June 18. Eagle Lake has one entry in the contest: **Ann Sunderman,** daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sunderman** and a 1971 graduate of Rice High School.

Garwood has two entries: **Sharon Cranek,** daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. Louis Cranek** and 1971 graduate of Rice High School; and **Cheri Lundquist**, daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Lundquist**, a 16-year-old who attends Rice High School...

Rice High School Board approved contracts for the follows: **Jack Grammer, Freddie Melton, Mrs. Diane Wunderlich, Samuel Smith, W.A. William Kell Jr. and his wife Mrs. Jane Kell**...

Miss Wanda Wilkerson of Eagle Lake, bride-elect of **Bart Henry** of Lissie, was honored with a miscellaneous shower on Wednesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Didner Hall...

Friends in the community regret learning that **Richard James (Dick) Putney**, 65, of Houston passed away on Friday, June 11. He was a native of Eagle Lake and son of **R.J. & Margaret (Maggie) Davidson Putney**. He was a graduate of Eagle Lake High School and attended Rice University in Houston...

Miss Yvonne "Bonnie" Jones, daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. August Henry Jones** of Bernardo, and **Daniel Norris Mascheck,** son of **Mr. & Mrs. Louis Mascheck** of Eagle Lake, were united in marriage in St. Roch's Catholic Church at Mentz on June 5, 1971, with **Father Snock** officiating...

Mr. & Mrs. Teodoro P. Yanez of Eagle Lake wish to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Hortencia,** to **Leo Cordova,** son of **Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Cordova** also of this city. The couple plan an Aug. 14 wedding.

Jan. 9, 1948

A familiar figure along the Southern Pacific Main Line in this area, **E.J. Wink** of Eagle Lake left service on Monday after 42 years with that company...

George Engbrock has entered a fat steer in the Boy's Livestock Show at the 1948 Houston Fat Stock Show and Livestock Exposition which opens Jan. 31st...

The first baby reported to have arrived in Eagle Lake was a son for **Mr. & Mrs. Otto Warren** of Garwood. The second baby reported was a daughter born to **Mr. & Mrs. Herman Huddleston** of Sheridan...

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

To The Editor & You
Please support your Festival

Dear Editor:

I am sure that most of you are aware that the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce is hosting the second annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival March 22, 23 and 24. What you might not know are the circumstances which enabled us to become involved with this event.

The Houston Audubon Society and Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. came to the Chamber of Commerce in the summer of 1994 to share their ideas and ask for our help. The Attwater's Prairie Chicken is the most critically endangered bird species in North America, with a total of approximately 70 birds left in the wild. Since Eagle Lake is seven miles from the Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, it was determined that both the community and the Prairie Chicken could benefit from the attention that a festival would bring.

Bird watching has become the number one recreational sport in America today. It involves listing the different bird species which are found in different parts of the country; so it stands to reason that Eagle Lake has a lot to offer. Unfortunately, events like this don't just fall into place overnight.

Last year was the first for our Festival and after a lot of hard work and support from a lot of great people, we feel it was a success. We hope that this year's Festival will be even more successful, but we need your help.

Please buy your tickets for the Eddy Raven concert and come to the other events. If the people of Eagle lake will support this Festival now, everyone stands to benefit later.

Thank you for your help.

Jerry Retzlaff
Chamber of Commerce President

Lesley Matthews
Festival Chairman

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Gov. Bush throws in with Dole

With U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas out of the presidential race, Gov. George W. Bush endorsed the Republican front-runner, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, last week.

Six days before the March 12 Texas Primary, Dole swung through Austin to meet with Bush at the Governor's Mansion and announce the endorsement to the nation.

"Senator Dole knows that Texans can run Texas," Bush said. "He knows Texans can make decisions about our children and our elderly and our poor more compassionately than some soul in Washington, D.C."

The two went to Houston to call on the governor's father, former President George H.W. Bush.

The elder Bush acknowledged Dole's experience, calling the Kansas senator a real leader and a great friend with credentials to serve as president of the United States. But he stopped short of endorsing his 1988 Republican presidential primary opponent and declared his intention to withhold any endorsements until the Republican National Convention in August.

Rejecting the notion that his father's decision not to make an endorsement has to do with the nasty 1988 Republican primary in New Hampshire, Gov. Bush said, "Make no mistake about it, these two men are friends. George Bush holds Sen. Dole in the utmost respect. He knows him to be a decent, courageous, fine leader."

After Bush was elected president, Dole became a legislative leader of Bush's programs.

Sem. Richard Lugar of Indiana and Lamar Alexander of Tenn. dropped out of the race after Dole's March 6 primary sweep.

Other Capital Highlights

The state received its first check from interest in a Culberson County windpower project. The check for $29,365, comes from power generated by 112 wind turbines on a mountaintop north of Van Horn. The money will go to the Permanent University Fund.

State Capitol Highlights
By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Gov. Bush said Texas is still waiting for the Clinton administration to approve welfare system changes passed by the state Legislature last year. Lawmakers set time limits on adult welfare recipients to enter job training and education programs and to get a job. Bush knocked Clinton for being slow to live up to his pledge to grant states flexibility in running their welfare programs.

The U.S. Customs Service is sealing the Mexican border against a sleep-inducing drug that police say is used to commit date rapes. The drug comes in the country mainly through Texas, federal officials say. Rohypnol is a sedative that doctors say is 10 times more powerful than Valium.

As students begin planning for spring break, the Department of Public Safety is warning students to stay safe and sober on Texas roads. The DPS says it will beef up its lookout for underage drinkers, drunken drivers and people not wearing seat belts.

Despite objections from the City of Austin, an administrative law judge has recommended that Time Warner Communications be allowed to offer local telephone service in Austin and Round Rock. The recommendation is tentatively scheduled to be considered March 27 by the three-member Public Utility Commission.

The University of Texas Board of Regents named former UT-Austin business college Dean Robert Witt as the new president of UT-Arlington. Witt, 55, had been acting president of the university since late last spring.

The state attorney general's office has dropped a contempt of court charge against a legislator accused of falling behind in his child support payments. The state dismissed its case against Rep. Eddie de la Garza, D-Edinburg, after learning that he had been paying the proper amount to his ex-wife for care of their four sons.

The Texas Transportation Commission has agreed to provide $5.9 million of the $14 million needed for road improvements to serve the Texas Motor Speedway north of Fort Worth. More than 60,000 cars carrying racing fans are expected to travel to the speedway on racing days.

Ten percent of the school districts in Texas have claimed more than half of the $170 million in grant money set aside by the Legislature for school construction. Of the state's 1,045 school districts, 112 have received money. Most of them are small, rural districts with below-average property wealth.

The Clinton administration has stalled the implementation of the NAFTA trucking agreement with Mexico, citing a report from the congressional General Accounting Office indicating that Texas lacks adequate enforcement staff.

As of Dec. 31, Texas had only 14 truck inspectors to cover the state's 16 crossing points on the Mexican border, the report said. But DPS spokesman Mike Cox said the agency is ready to enforce the rules, and that state lawmakers have approved funds for 85 more truck inspectors.

Bible Verse of the Week

"The word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
— Psalms 119:105

Submitted by
Neddy Phillips

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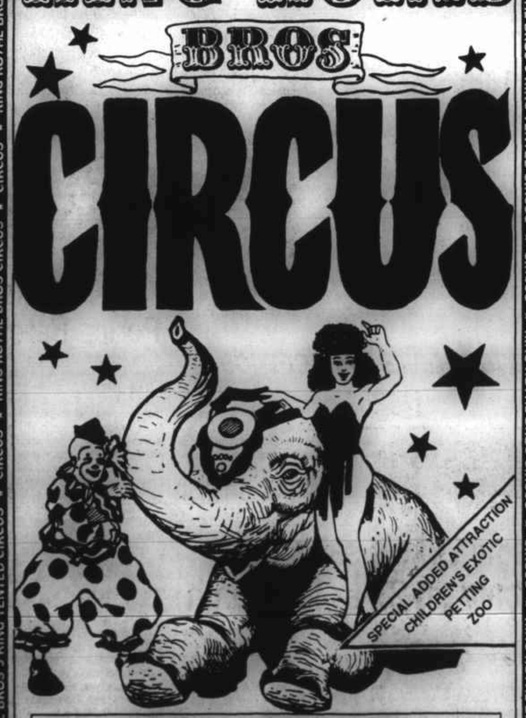

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NOTICE

There will be a Public Hearing on the 1996-1997 Annual Budget of the City of Eagle Lake on Tuesday, March 26, 1996, at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the City Municipal Building.

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Circus

Continued from Page 1

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From our friendly neighbors to the south - a display of llamas, tapirs and a score of cute little loveables will be featured in the King Royal Bros. Kiddie Petting Zoo, plus "Princess Tanzania" King Royal Bros. own baby hippopotamus orphaned at birth, and bottle-raised at the King Royal Bros. Texas ranch.

Acrobats, jugglers, clowns, aerialists, and high wire artists have always been paramount with the show and will return this year.

Rounding out the 100 minute, four-ring spectacular and defying gravity at dizzying heights in the very peaks of the giant tent, and without the aid of a net or safety device of any nature, the "Sensational Stanolians", on their eagerly awaited return to America following three highly acclaimed tours of the European and Asian continents, will headline the gigantic aerial contingency with their stunning array of aerial agility.

For more information, call 234-3795.

Rice Leadership class graduates

The 1995 Rice Leadership Development Class recently wrapped up their activities for the year in a series of meetings with government, regulatory and rice industry officials in Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Senate Agriculture Committee staff and the offices of Senators J. Bennett Johnston and John Breaux of La., Sen,. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Sen. David Pryor of Ark., and Sen. Barbara Boxer of Calif. met with the class to discuss the legislative process and matters pending before Congress. Other Washington activities included meeting on trade, environmental and federal budget issues.

Also during the week-longsession, the class members traveled to the headquarters of Du Pont, the program sponsor, in Wilmington, Del., where they met with agricultural product executives and toured the Stine-Haskell Research Center.

The leadership class was honored at a special graduation ceremony held in conjunction with the USA Rice Federation's Washington Conference. Federation Chairman Rex Morgan presented the graduation certificates.

Keith Glover, president of Producers Rice Mill and a 1989 graduate of the Rice Leadership Program, presented pins to the class members on behalf of the program's alumni association.

Fritz Schumann of Du Pont commended the graduating class on their achievements.

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman addressed the conference's general session immediately after the graduation ceremony.

The Rice Leadership Development Program is sponsored by Du Pont through a grant to the Rice Foundation and administered by the USA Rice Foundation.

"A wise man will see to it that his acts always seem voluntary and not done by compulsion, however much he may be compelled by necessity."
— Machiavelli

Graduating class members who are rice producers were: Andy Anderson of Eagle Lake; Tony Janes of Oak Grove, La.; John Hasbrook of Davis, Calif.; Shelley M. Menefee of Edna; And Leo La Grande of Williams, Calif. From the industry category: John Dornak of Katy, with Uncle Ben's Inc., and Bill Free of Rosenberg, with Riceland Foods Inc.

Rice Leadership Program Photo

Alleyton

By Rollin Baker - Chapter 12, Continued - Old Friends Appear

Last week, we left Seth after his conversation with Karma Beacon.

Seth, somewhat overcome by Karma's green-eyed look at him and wondering why the mere presence of this young lady upset him emotionally, wandered rather aimlessly over to the livery stable.

While the groom put the saddle on his mount, Seth was able to catch his breath, muttering to himself to get back to business.

He rode westward out of town on the well-used and deeply-rutted wagon road toward the Colorado River. There was wagon traffic both ways. Plodding teams drawing carts heavily loaded with bales and escorted by uniformed Confederate guards were heading toward the river. Empty ones were returning to town.

Seth kept out of the way at the trail's edge examining the attributes of the countryside. The vegetation was mostly riparian woodland with oaks and hickories conspicuous. Scattered stumps indicated that many trees had been cut down, evidently to make charcoal or just as fire wood.

Some of the green-leafed and red-berried under-story shrubs reminded him of the Christmas holly back home. He perked up on hearing the songs and seeing cardinals and mockingbirds, birds which he knew well long ago as a youngster on his father's estate.

Suddenly he saw his second familiar human face for the day. It was that of Confederate Private Jerry Tomlin. Jerry was sitting up front on one of the returning empty wagons.

Seth waved to attract Jerry's attention. Jerry recognized him immediately, put on his best boyish grin, and waved back while leaping off the slow-moving ox-cart to approach Seth's horse.

"Hi, Jerry," yelled Seth, "you are the last person I would expect to find here. What are you doing? Guarding loads of cotton bales."

"You bet, Seth," said Jerry, as Seth dismounted to shake his hand. "This is the best of duty but a little boring. When you saw me on that stage in Alabama, I was just coming back from leave. I've been on this far-from-the-action duty for almost a year now."

"If I can earn a transfer," the talkative private added, "I'd sure like to get assigned to General Hood's Texas Brigade. I hear he's really in the action chasing Yankees in northern Virginia these days."

"But meanwhile," he chuckled, "I sure yearn for some local action. Maybe you will bring me luck, and we'll meet up with another road agent and get in a little shooting practice?"

"Come to think of it," answered Seth, "I haven't been in any scraps worth mentioning since Herndon. Are there bad actors around here who we can rile up?"

"You said a mouthful - both big ones and little ones," blurted Jerry cautiously looking around for any onlookers.

"My boss, I mean the major," he added, "has the worst of it. He is trying to round up a bunch of vicious but clever cotton thieves. These traitors or worse are bleeding our stores but, so far, have been slippery as eels."

Jerry then looked sharply at Seth inquiring, "You're not mixed up in this dirty business are you?"

"Come to think about it," continued Jerry with a leery eye, "I haven't seen you in no uniform. I know it is no concern of mine, but maybe you ought to tell me if you are in cahoots with those rascals. If so, we part company right now."

"Cool off friend, I have no finger in that pot," was Seth's uncomfortable and quick-fire retort.

"In due time," he added, "I'll let

(See Alleyton, Page 6)

Announcing New Arrivals

Nicholas Kane Mendez

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Mendez of Wharton announce the birth of their second child, a son, born March 2, 1996, at 9:13 p.m. at Rice District Community Hospital.

Nicholas Kane weighed seven pounds, one ounce and measured 20-1/2 inches a birth.

The attending physician was Dr. Bornstein.

He was welcomed home by his brother Joshua, age three.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Avendano of El Campo. Paternal grandparents are Susie Vasquez and John Castillo of Wharton.

Great grandparents are Louisa Avendano of Mathis and Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Castillo.

Caleb Anthony Scarbrough

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Scarbrough of Rock Island announce the birth of their third child, a son, born March 3, 1996, at 12:56 p.m. at Rice District Community Hospital.

Caleb Anthony Scarbrough weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20-1/2 inches at birth.

The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas.

He was welcomed home by his sister, Paris Ashley, age four; and his brother, Jacob Alan, age three.

Maternal grandparents are David and Loretta L. Cameron of Columbus. His paternal grandfather is Norman Scarbrough of Chatom, Alabama.

Great grandparents are Louis Lewellen of Texas, Lillie Scarbrough of Alabama and Ethel Cameron of California.

About Town...

•The Thomas siblings gathered here Monday for their Mom's (Elfie) birthday. We know for sure that Griff and Julia were in on the surprise visit (they stopped by the office) making it a happy birthday for Elfie.

•Our own ELMS Coach Ginger Smith will be at the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer. She stopped by the office to let us know (brag?) about her trip and ask about sending us a running commentary on what was happening while she's up there. On top of being one of the lucky ones who will attend the Games, she volunteered to help and will be checking ID badges on athletes and coaches as they come and go from one of the venues.

How lucky can you get? We look forward to hearing what she has to say about her stay in Georgia.

•Winners in the drawing held by the City of Eagle Lake were: August Servantes won the oil, filter and lube from Meitzen Oil Company; Blair Hickey won the $20 gift certificate from Johnny's Sport Shop; and William H. Harrison won the Eddy Raven CD and concert tickets.

Their names were drawn from among the respondents to the recent park/recreational facilities survey.

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