



The Stewart Singers Ministry

Rev. Elvin Stewart and the Stewart Singers Ministry will celebrate their 25th anniversary at the Eagle Lake Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 7 p.m. They will be debuting their CD/tape recording which is #2 on the gospel chart produced by Kerry George Production featuring, "I Believe" and "Bit O' Fashioned". The Stewart Singers Ministry is promoted by KPVO 91.3 FM in Prairie View, KYOK 90.9 AM-Houston and 1390 AM of El Campo.

An Olympic experience

Note: Ginger is a Rice Middle School coach and teacher. She served as a volunteer at the 100th Olympic Games in Atlanta.

As I left Eagle Lake July 1st, I wondered what it would be like to be at the Olympics. I hoped they were going to be as great as anticipated!

The first day of my travels I went to Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss., where I was born and raised and where I visited many childhood sites.

I walked the Vicksburg National Park and saw the Palace of St. Petersburg Exhibit in Jackson. This was a fascinating example of recreating the palaces of an earlier Russia.

After that, it was on to Birmingham and then Atlanta. As I entered Georgia, the state sign was a nice welcome. It stated, "We're glad Georgia is on your mind, the site of the 1996 Olympic Games." The excitement of being there was a real high.

As I entered the city of Atlanta, I naturally was not paying attention to signs and immediately got lost and ran into the Olympic Stadium. I couldn't wait to see inside, knowing that so much would take place there and that I would be a part of it.

I finally got back on the right road and found the home of Bobbie and Bill Bellhouse. This is the couple who opened their home to me. His son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Deborah,

live in Eagle Lake. I was glad to get there after driving nearly 1,100 miles. We celebrated the 4th of July and I rested up for my Olympic adventure.

I met some really interesting people as I received my uniform and badge and finally saw the stadium on July 10th. It was overwhelming to actually be there.

I could almost image what the athletes felt when they entered into the Olympic Stadium for the first time. The pride and excitement of knowing that the world would be there, either in person or by television, was awesome.

The first two weeks in Atlanta I worked with a group based at the stadium. I was able to drive a truck powered by natural gas. Putting natural gas in one of these type vehicles is very different from fueling a gasoline powered car. Two dollars filled up the tank, which took me 100 miles.

While working with this group I was able to see Atlanta. The athletes were not in yet and the city was still getting ready for the world. Much to my chagrin, I couldn't get into the Olympic Village, which was Georgia Tech University. Security was tight at most of the venues, and especially at the Village.

I walked so much that I wore the rubber off my tennis shoes. The city has lots of hills, so walking was hard at first until I got used to it. I rode the

Jackie Joyner Kersee did her long jump this same day. I felt that she would take one jump and qualify, which was exactly what she did at 21 feet. I was very lucky to capture it with my camera.

That afternoon I went to women's basketball. I saw Russia beat Japan and Cuba beat Italy. On Aug. 2nd, I saw a game of field hockey between Korea and Pakistan. On Aug. 3rd, I attended four women's basketball games, one of which was Russia beating Cuba for 5th place. It was interesting to hear the crowd cheer for Russia.

On Aug. 4th, I went to the canoeing/kayaking events on Lake Lanier. There I saw the finals for the men's and women's kayak 500 meter by one person, men's and women's kayak 500 meter for two persons, and men's canoeing 500 meter by one and two persons races.

On a side note, each Sunday at the Rehobeth Baptist Church, there were guest Olympians speaking. The first Sunday I heard Cathy Rigby, followed by Bruce Jenner. These athletes told their inspiring stories about how they got to the Olympics and what it had meant to them.

On Monday, the 5th, it was time for me to drive back to Eagle Lake. I left with sadness knowing that the Olympics were over, and with excitement to be able to share my experiences with Eagle Lake.

I was proud to have represented Eagle Lake during this once-in-a-lifetime experience which I would love to repeat in Sydney, Australia.

get in to see a few athletes from other countries, as well as Dan O'Brian, the American decathlon gold medal winner.

Because it was hot, most of the athletes worked out in the early morning or late evening. I went back the next day and was able to get in one more time.

On July 27th, as I was leaving the house, I was shocked to hear about the bombing at the Olympic Park. The park was so nice and such a special place for everyone to go. It really hurt for such a tragedy to happen. I felt that someone was jealous that people could get along so well and have so much fun. Luckily, I was in bed asleep when the bomb went off.

On the 29th, I got to see men's field hockey, which is an interesting sport. It's played a lot like soccer, but with a hockey stick and ball. One side of the stick is flat and the other is rounded. Players have to hit the ball with the flat side. They can only score when in the circle at their end of the field. I watched Korea beat Malaysia, and the Netherlands beat South Africa.

The events which I actually had tickets for began on Aug. 1st. I attended track and field, where I saw the preliminaries of women's high jump and long jump and the decathlon hurdles and discus events. There was also a men's and women's 1500 meter wheelchair race.

Francisco Daniel weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 inches at birth. The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas. Francisco is welcomed home by Angel, age 13; Josephine, 10; and Daniela, 4.



Sloan Meredith Carr

W. Scott and Shawn Carr of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, born July 31, 1996, at 7:33 p.m. at Rice District Community Hospital.

Sloan Meredith weighed eight pounds, seven ounces, measuring 20-1/4 inches at birth. The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas.

Maternal grandparents are Ms. Leahy Padgett-Graham of Graham and Don Graham of Mountain Grove, Mo. Paternal grandparents Bill and Karen Carr of Tulsa, Ok. Great grandparents are H.L. and Velma Padgett of Graham, Norvin Childress and Ernest and Georgia Carr of Wagoner, Ok.

William Massey Duncan

Walker and Janice Duncan of Altair announce the birth of their third child, a son, born August 4, 1996, at 6:38 a.m. at Rice District Community Hospital. William weighed eight pounds, two ounces and measured 21 inches at birth.

The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas. He is welcomed home by Henry, age 13, and Kayla, 8. Maternal grandparents are Nola Richter of Columbus and the late Lester Richter.

Francisco Daniel Franco

Lourdes and Angel Franco of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their fourth child, a son, born August 4, 1996, at 4:44 a.m. at Rice District Community Hospital.

Francisco Daniel weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 inches at birth. The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas. Francisco is welcomed home by Angel, age 13; Josephine, 10; and Daniela, 4.

James Ryan Frank

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Frank of Columbus announce the birth of their third child, a son, born August 2, 1996, at 8:06 a.m. at Rice District Community Hospital.

James Ryan weighed eight pounds, one ounce and measured 20 inches at birth. The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas. He is welcomed home by his brothers, Jacob, age 8, and Joseph, 6-1/2. Maternal grandparents are Lloyd and Ada Cryer of Columbus.

Paternal grandparents are Leonard and Barbara Frank of Columbus. Great grandparents are Mrs. Dennis Frank of Columbus and the late Mr. Dennis Frank, Mrs. Frank Putsch and the late Mr. Frank Putsch, the late Mrs. Mary Froshur and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Newlin, all of Houston.

Laura Corene Taylor

Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Taylor of Rock Island announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, born August 9, 1996 at 2:40 p.m. at Rice District Community Hospital.

Laura Corene weighed eight pounds, four ounces and measured 20-1/2 inches at birth. The attending physician was Dr. Leonard Bornstein. She was welcomed home by Theresa Escobar, 30, and Godmother, Hailey Frnka, 13.

Maternal grandparents are Cathy Bradham and Allen Pierce of Savannah, Georgia. Paternal grandparents are Barbara and Phillip Taylor of Rock Island. Great grandparents are Annie Laura Pierce and Blanche Clemens of Savannah and Loise and Eddie Ray Taylor of Sheridan.

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Parents need some fixing, too

By Tom Reed (Note: Tom brought by an original of the article which he submitted to the Houston Chronicle in May and was published in the Aug. 5 edition, asking that we publish it in its entirety in response to the numerous inquiries he had received after last week's feature to it.)

Two young men from the rural Texas farming town of Eagle Lake, population 3500, last month finished their first year at Harvard Law School. The inside joke these two, Darryl Anderson and Jaime Marquez, shared with their classmates is: which city has the highest per capita enrollment at Harvard Law? New York? Los Angeles? Boston? Wrong! Eagle Lake, Texas.

Both Darryl and Jaime are exceptionally bright individuals. And both had the desire to excel in their studies, and the ambition to reach for the stars. Both are products of the public schools in Eagle Lake.

Criticism of public education abounds today. Educators and politicians are in a rush to offer all sorts of reasons why the schools are in such "bad" shape: inadequate plant facilities, poor discipline, low teacher pay, too much paperwork, too much control from state level bureaucrats—the list goes on.

And also abounding are proposed solutions: private school vouchers, better facilities, greater discipline, more teacher pay, reduced paperwork, greater local control—the list goes on.

Many parents, after seeing their children underachieving, put much of the blame on all of these blame-worthy reasons. Given the problems besetting public schools, private schooling must surely offer a superior education; moreover, the educational achievement of private school student must far surpass that of public school students.

Such conclusions may be easy to reach, but they are not necessarily valid. From the 20 high school seniors who make up the 1996 USA Today's 1996 All-USA Academic High School Team, 18 — or 90% — come from public schools. Of the 120 total students profiled in this year's USA Today's top high school graduates, 105 — or 81% — come from public schools. With 86% of high school students attending public schools nationwide, it is clear that, for the high achievers, there is no indication that private school students excel at their studies at any greater rate than do public school students.

If public schools are indeed in trouble, how then do its top graduates attain the achievement levels of private school graduates? What is the denominator could be responsible for such similar outcomes?

The answer must surely lie in the role of the parents and the home environment. USA Today has been conducting its All-USA Academic High School Team project for 10 years.

The one consistent fact about the top graduates, according to Pat Orlovsky who heads the project, is that "year after year, the First Team students have two parents at home." Moreover, of the students surveyed, 81% said their parents were just as or more involved with their schoolwork than other parents and 74% said their parents were just as or more strict than other parents.

Thus, these students had home environments that were conducive to learning because, for the most part, two parents were present, they set standards for their children to follow and involved themselves in their children's schoolwork.

The active involvement of the parents and family in a child's education supersedes inadequate facilities, untalented teachers, poor discipline and bad administration. It is only the parent that can set the tone—the culture of education in the home that to a child makes learning and achieving second nature. The USA Today students themselves stressed that it was strong parental support that was the key to their success.

Jaime and Darryl's acceptance to Harvard Law is wonderfully symbolic of all public school students who can excel in school and go on to bright futures. And like the USA Today students, both will be eager to tell you that it was their parents and families who took an active interest in their learning, and who supported their ambitions to go to the most prestigious law school in the world.

Darryl is from a family who farms rice for a living; Jaime's parent are now divorced, but his parents and his older brother read to him as a child, they nurtured his obvious talents and encouraged him to go as far as he could with them. His mother, who works at the local bank, even enrolled him in a university degree program while still in high school.

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ized their son's talent too at an early age, and stocked them with the attention and guidance that only loving parents could give. An older sister also read to him as a small child and helped with his homework when his parents couldn't.

The problem is, however, there are plenty of intelligent children in every school and community, but their parents are not the least bit involved in their children's education.

Regardless of whether they are busy moms, parents who work long hours or self-focused professionals, a whole generation of parents are abandoning their children. Poor parenting skills, fatigue and detachment at the end of a long day's work, or self-absorption in the quest for money and professional kudos — reasons vary, but the outcomes are the same: our children are being abandoned. Reversing this, on all fronts, will do more for children to excel in school than any education reform ever passed by any legislature.

As one frustrated school teacher told me, "not only do parents want to educate their children, they want to raise them as well. It's something that we simply cannot do."

Darryl and Jaime are lucky because they had parents who cared. I know of young people who have the brains to excel, but they do not have the culture in the home to show them

the way to do so. And the rest of their lives they will hold jobs — if they are lucky — but never careers. And so it will be for their children.

As much as public schools need help in this day and time, nothing will be more valuable in a child getting a good education and making dreams come true than the direct interest and involvement of the parent. Just ask Darryl and Jaime. Those parents pointing the finger at public schools need to start looking inward. Public schools don't need fixing nearly as much as parents do.

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Cook to speak at B&PW Aug. 20 meeting

The Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. (B&PW) in 18 cities across Texas gathered to kickoff a major registration drive on Aug. 3. The Women's Vote Project 96 is targeting 10 states with intensive voter registration and get out the vote efforts. Texas is among the targeted states.

The local Wharton B&PW Club is doing their part in bringing political candidates to meet their members so women can be educated and the public can ask their questions of concern.

Next Tuesday, Aug. 20, this opportunity is given and open to non-members of B&PW when Robert L. (Robby) Cook will travel to Wharton

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to be the guest speaker during the luncheon at Avalon Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 1405 Vallarta Drive (across the street from Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center).

Cook is the Democratic candidate for State Representative, District 28, which includes Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Wharton Counties.

A fourth generation rice farmer from Eagle Lake in Colorado County, he served one term as mayor of Eagle Lake and one term as a city council member.

Today, she serves America. When she retires, America will serve her.

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'Strutters' attend TLC camp

Nine young ladies from Becky Moulder's Super Strutters attended the Texas Lutheran College (TLC) Line Camp July 7-11 in Seguin.

They received five days of instruction learning dance routines, 2-baton, solo tricks and series. Specialty classes were also given for fire baton, knives, ribbons and hoops.

A final performance was given Thursday, at which everyone performed a routine they had learned in one of their classes in front of parents, relatives and friends.

Following the performances, Kinsey Hoffman was chosen by the instructors as "Most Improved" and received a medal.

The Super Strutters includes a growing number of 45+ from Garwood, Eagle Lake and now Sheridan. Look for the girls in upcoming local parades and events.

Colorado County Youth & Family Services, Inc. which serves Colorado, Austin and Fayette Counties, is recruiting Host Home families to help provide care for youth ages 10 through 17 years of age who are in need of temporary emergency shelter. Host Homes provide lodging, food, supervision and other support services for children receiving services through our STAR Program. Our youth need non-judgemental support and positive role models who are willing to provide a nurturing and caring environment. If you want to make a difference and have a sincere interest in becoming a Host Home... Please call 409-732-8721 or 800-256-7321 Colorado County Youth & Family Services P.O. Box 306 (Hwy. 71 North), Columbus, TX 78934 Funding provided by a grant from the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

WE DOUBLE COUPONS! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS WILCOX FOODS 200 S. McCarty • Eagle Lake Pepsi & Dr. Pepper 12-Pack Cans 2/\$7 Pepsi & Dr. Pepper 6-Pack Cans 3/\$5.99 Pepsi & Dr. Pepper 2 Liter Bottle 4/\$5

Pharmacy & Your Health EAGLE LAKE DRUGSTORE Steve K. Balas, RPh 702 South McCarty • Eagle Lake • 234-2502 •Patient Counseling • We Accept Master Card, VISA, Discover & American Express •Insurance Plans: Blue Cross, NPA, PCS, Pro-Serve, Sanus, PAID, Texas Medicaid 24 Hour Emergency Phone: 234-3834 A "Prescription-Only" Insulin for Diabetes A new type of insulin, which will be available on a prescription-only basis, has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It will be called insulin lispro (brand name is Humalog). This new insulin, which should be available this summer, is prepared by combining two different amino acid chains that occur with natural insulin. These amino acids are lysine and proline, hence the name insulin "lispro."

Foot Facts By Dr. Eric F. Tepper, Podiatrist NOTHING SWEET ABOUT IT "Ah, sugar, sugar..." go the lyrics to an old pop song. For the more than 10 million people with diabetes in this country, foot problems are a major cause of visits to the doctor, and many of those visits are related to the level of sugar in the blood. High blood sugar makes the body more susceptible to infection by crippling the white blood cells' ability to fight it off. Since the feet are frequently the site of problems for the diabetic patient. Cellulitis, or infection of the skin, may occur, accompanied by redness, swelling, fever, and chills. Osteomyelitis, or infection of the bone and hard tissues, is another possibility, causing such symptoms as bone pain, tenderness, local muscle atrophy, and fever. Sepsis, or blood-borne infection, may also occur. Diabetes should be especially careful with their feet. Self-care may not be the best option when it comes to their health, unless directed by a podiatrist. We see the results of what happens when foot problems are left untreated or are only self-treated. A better avenue of defense is to see a foot specialist. If your feet hurt and you don't have a podiatrist at this time, we are currently welcoming new patients. Please call 234-5571, at Rice District Community Hospital. I am there every Tuesday. P.S. It is critically important that anyone with diabetes avoid do-it-yourself treatment of foot problems.

IF YOU HAVE CANCER, WE CAN HELP. IF NOT, YOU CAN HELP. AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLONING 1-800-462-2345