

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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TO THE EDITOR & YOU

Who's towing the note?

There has been much written and County and SPARC.

on 11-22-96. The deed states that without the water slides, all in-ground should Sheridan ever incorporate, the facilities would still be operational County shall deed the property in its entirety with all improvements and appurtenances (accessories) back to more jobs and still have an economic the City of Sheridan. A grant from impact. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) must go to a government entity.

On Feb. 10. 1997, the county judge and Commissioners signed a dedication to continue the agreement with SPARC for the County to hold and disburse the grant funds upon notification by SPARC. The first quarterly Parks Account Agreement was signed report from SPARC shows a total pro- on June 20, 1996, by Judge Slominski. ject cost of \$830,000 with matching funds of \$415,000 from TPWD.

nary Draft, the waterpark itself will be County's obligation in this project. Dells, Wis., billed as the nations larg-ville nursing home handled her roughopen for 107 days per year. The yearly Mr. Brisco said that the County's fiprojected operation cost will be \$253,000.

feasibility study of 80,000 attendees, by \$100,000,000 from 1983-1994. 300 season passes accounting for 20,000 people and \$5 for the remain- should SPARC and the Sheridan ing 60,000 admissions, plus conces- Lions Club fail to meet the requiresions, gift shop and RV income would ments of operation and management, vestigate and determine the public news conference was Barbara Suraci, be in the \$436,000 range.

Using conservative attendance sides complete abandonment. figures from the feasibility study of 63,000 people per year from 300 sea- with another entity for operations and son passes at \$100 being sold to ac-management, operate and manage the count for 20,000 attendees and the park itself or do a partial upkeep of the remaining 43,000 attendees paying an average of \$5, income is projected at \$245,000. This does not include receipts from concessions, gift shop or RV income.

of \$334,000 is projected.

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viewed recently about the Sheridan said that a program is being planned to cilities. Park and Recreation Center Inc. allow youth to pick up trash, now, and (SPARC). The information I offer do other jobs to earn park admission if for TPWD grants for the expected inflicted by their employees.

Neither Phase I or Phase II in- abandoned. SPARC executed a gift deed to the cludes a pool for the immediate com-County of Colorado of 17.922 acres munity. This draft states that even and more entertaining than a standard

\$499,005.

At the present time, Elaine Dill of TPWD says that Colorado County has total responsibility and liability for the waterpark. The Texas Recreation and

After a recent conversation with Ms. Dill of TPWD, the Judge states in According to SPARC's Prelimi- a letter that he is fully aware of the nancial obligation will be zero.

Using optimistic figures from the cause the County's tax base declined

Judge Slominski further states that the County would have options be-

The County could contract out

Jim Brisco, President of SPARC, park without operating the water fa-

The County would be ineligible here is from documents involving the they can't pay the set admissions fee. useful life of the park if it should be

compliance is not met, per agreement if they approved the act or the property signed by Judge Slominski 6-20-96.

I do not doubt the commitment of ing the employee. pool, draw more people and provide SPARC for this ambitious waterpark

Originally, the estimated budget tested" by Phase I (in-ground facility) group that says some laws make it too for Phase I was \$298,000; Phase II is to determine if public response is as great as anticipated.

full operating seasons unless it is business owners who said they have funded by grants, sponsorships and been sued for injuries caused by crimiloans on slides and equipment as nals under whom they have no control. shown in the preliminary draft. If this money is available, then there need hole for nursing homes. C.W. Matteck not be a financial risk or obligation for anyone in the County.

est waterpark. I spoke to Nancy and ly. The Matteck family won a \$1.7 asked how they financed their busi- million judgement. I hope Mr. Brisco is correct be- ness venture, she said the park is privately owned.

Grants certainly are not free - they are funded with tax dollars. People who write grants and entities that Matteck said at a news conference. accept grants should thoroughly inneed for the grant and the long term whose two daughters were among consequences of the grant.

> **Cherry Harrison** P.O. Box 5071 Alleyton, Texas 78935

Proposed state law could change employers', homeowners' liability

Property owners and businesses generally are liable for injuries that occur on their property or have been

But, under a bill being considered by the House Civil Practices Commit-TPWD can involve the State At- tee, the property owner would be litorney General's office if program able for employees' criminal acts only owner showed gross negligence in hir-

The bill, by Rep. Tom Uher, D-Bay City, is being promoted by Tex-I do think the "water should be ans for Lawsuit Reform, a business easy to win a big court judgement against businesses. Uher filed the bill Phase II could be delayed for two after receiving many complaints from

Critics say the bill creates a loopof Lake Jackson and his lawyer talked about injuries suffered by Matteck's I called Noah's Ark in Wisconsin mother after employees of a Pfluger-

"Even management acknowledged that nursing homes routinely employ criminals and other employees who handle their patients roughly,"

Also criticizing Uher's bill at the four teen-agers murdered in 1991 at a yogurt shop in Austin. The civil case was settled for about \$12 million, but the killer never was found.

By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling Texas Press Association She said the shop owner should be

Highlights

liable when their negligence makes it "People making money off of other orem taxes. people" should be held responsible, she was quoted in the Austin American-Statesman.

Bill Protects Elderly, Disabled

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock says a bill that passed the Senate by unanimous vote will broaden the state laws protecting elderly and disabled Texans in nursing homes and other health care facilities.

'No one in Texas is more vulnerable than our elderly or disabled citizens," Bullock said. "We must make every effort to keep them safe from harm."

Bullock said the bill, sponsored by Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, expands current law prohibiting health care workers who have been convicted of certain crimes from coming in direct contact with the residents of nursing homes and other health care facilities that serve the elderly and disabled.

The bill extends the list to exclude workers who have been convicted of sexual assault, aggravated assault, injury to a child or elderly or disabled adult, abandoning or endangering a child and aiding in a suicide.

Unplanned Tax Side Effect

A special House panel is continuing work on a tax plan that would expand the state sales tax to more than 35 previously untaxed goods and serv-

plan has an unplanned side effect: elected State Board of Education with under prior law, local governments an appointed one. Speaking at the who wish to piggyback their own tax Texas Daily Newspaper Associato new state sales taxes could do so. tion's annual convention last week, And doing so would short-circuit Bullock said, "I'm about ready to go Gov. George W. Bush's dream of cu-back to the appointed board, kick this

Let's Look Back...

State Rep. Paul Sadler, chairman State Capitol of the Select Committee on Revenue and Public Education Funding, said, "We're going to make sure that if they raise additional tax revenue, they don't get to keep it."

So, the panel is looking at two ways for making sure: forbidding local governments from adding their own sales taxes to the new levies or forcing them to use the revenue to fix easier for criminals to hurt customers. roads or cut city and county ad val-

> Without safeguards against "piggyback rides" on taxes by local governments, communities statewide would be able to add \$1.4 billion in new sales taxes to the \$6.6 billion they now collect in the state's two-year budget cycle.

Other Capital Highlights

·Lawmakers have filed more than two dozen bills this session offering free or reduced tuition and fees at state public colleges and universities.

Among the beneficiaries of such legislation would be children of veteran teachers, injured or disabled law enforcement officers and children in state foster care.

•The Texas Board of Criminal Justice has granted Prison Fellowship Ministries permission to launch a Christian faith-based rehabilitation

The program, which began last week at a prison camp near Houston, will use no state money. Former Richard Nixon counsel Charles Colson is donating \$1.5 million to run the program for two years. •Almost 5,000 people marched up

Austin's Congress Avenue on Palm Sunday (March 23) to demand stronger laws against hate crimes. Between 1992 and 1995, more than 1,600 hate crimes were reported in Texas.

·Lt. Gov. Bullock says it may But panel members learned their serve Texas better to replace the tting school property taxes in Texas. bunch out and start again."

Thanks to the community

On behalf of the Eagle Lake Unit- Eagle Lake Headlight for all the pub- this most wonderful time of the Total conservative annual income ed Methodist Church, we would like licity they gave our first Easter Lenten Christian's Holy Season.

to take this opportunity to thank the Luncheons in the newsbriefs column.

and contributed to the love offerings. of 12 noon at 1 p.m. Because of your generosity, we will be

to the Eagle Lake Food Pantry.

Many different church denominations were represented by our guest minister speakers as well as the people who attended these weekly luncheons. We fel that this was a means of uniting people of our community in

We hope that next year even more

These luncheons were very suc- from the community will attend recessful and we hope to make them an gardless of race or religion. We again will time it so that work-

Thanks also to all who attended ing people can attend during the hour

We are proud of our community able to contribute approximately \$150 and all Christian people and again for even more "coming together" of all people of Eagle Lake in our future Lenten Luncheons.

Thanks again to you for all your

Sincerely, Jackie & Lee Middleton Co-Chairmen, **Luncheons Committee**

Bible Verse of the Week

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

— Psalms 23:1

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

June 15, 1972 Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Vermillion are in Sanger, Calif., for an extended vacation and visit with relatives following his retirement after 50 years of City.. work in oilfield and more recently as the owner of the V&H Construction Co. in Eagle Lake. Jack Holden, Mr. Vermillion's son-in-law, has been a partner in the business...

Winners in the Phillips 66 Pitch, Hit and Throw contest held Monday are Keith Sommerlatte, Keith Matcheski, Wayne Chisum and Darrell

Appelt, all of Eagle Lake; and Jeff Wied, Ricky Kristynik and John Waligura of Garwood. Another winner was Tommy Sedam Jr. of Bay

Miss Kathryn Lois Means, daughter of Mrs. Vera Means of Rock Island and Robert Means of Houston, and Dr. David Hurr, son of Mr. & Mrs. Glen Hurr of Baytown, exchanged vows in a double ring ceremony at the Columbus First Baptist Church Sunday, June 4, at 2:30 p.m....

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Hengst of Schulenburg announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Dorothy "Maggie" to Edward Fred Walker III of Eagle Lake. They plan to wed June 24 at 3 p.m. in the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Schulenburg...

Miss Margaret Christal, daughter of Joyce Christal, has been named to the Dean's List at Prairie View A&M for the spring semester...

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

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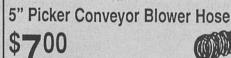
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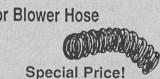
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Parkinson's Disease: Loss of Dopamine

If individuals experience uncontrollable tremors in the arms and legs and have a shuffling walk or gait, they may have a condition called Parkinson's disease. This condition primarily affects people over the age of 60. It can be present in a mild form for many years. A severe case can lead to serious disability within a few years.

Parkinson's disease is caused by a loss of a chemical in the brain called dopamine. This chemical acts as a transmitter of messages along the nerves, from the brain to the muscles. Loss of large amounts of dopamine usually means loss of muscle control. Characteristic signs of loss of muscle control include slow movement, rigidity (stiffness), poor posture (stooping or leaning forward), and tremor (shaking that resembles rolling a pill between the thumb and the tip of the forefinger).

The treatment of Parkinson's disease usually focuses first on dopamine replacement. The medicine levodopa (Larodopa) is converted to dopamine in the brain. It is prescribed alone or combined with carbidopa (Sinemet). Bromocriptine (Parlodel) and pergolide (Permax) both act like dopamine and may be used along with levodopa and carbidopa. Selegiline (Eldepryl) is thought to inhibit an enzyme that destroys dopamine.

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