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To The Editor & You

To all our friends, patients

Effective May 12, 1997, the Eagle Lake Dental Clinic is changing location!

Our lease is up and we are taking this opportunity to build our own dental facility.

The Rice Medical Center (RMC), located at 600 S. Austin Road, has generously provided part of their south wing to accommodate our patients until construction of the new dental clinic is complete.

Our plans are to design a facility with you, our patient, in mind.

Not only will the facility be new

and up-to-date, it will also be larger to comfortably accommodate the growing number of patients we continue to treat.

The phone number will stay the same, 409-234-3525.

We apologize for the inconvenience but, the New Eagle Lake Dental Clinic will be worth the wait.

Eagle Lake is growing and we are proud to be part of that growth.

Sincerely,
John B. Myres, DDS
Eagle Lake Dental Associates

House says let Texans decide on tax reform

Last week, the House voted to allow Texans to decide whether they want a tax reform package that would reduce the local tax burden on property owners.

Before last week, the prevailing hunch in the capital city was that lawmakers would sooner jump off a skyscraper than pass a sweeping tax reform package.

But the hunch crumbled when the House voted 114-35 for an Aug. 9 statewide vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow a statewide business tax and make proceeds from the Texas Lottery go to public education. The House's action moved Texas a giant step closer to making

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Gov. George W. Bush's dream of property tax relief come true.

The next day, the House began to consider the actual bill (House Bill 4) that says how much property taxes will be cut and the taxes that would have to be raised to make up the difference.

"Every issue is going to be diffi-

cult, but I think we are going to hold it all together," Paul Sadler, D-Henderson and the chairman of the select committee that worked 10 weeks crafting the measure.

A list of more than 200 amendments to the tax reform bill are up for consideration. Adding to the dynamics is a petition - signed by more than 50 prominent Dallas and Houston business executives, including former Gov. Bill Clements - urging legislators to support the bill.

The tax package would raise about \$4 billion over the 1998-99 biennium by expanding the business franchise tax to partnerships, ending sales tax exemptions on many goods and services and increasing taxes on alcohol, cigarettes and other items.

In its present form, the tax code rewrite would make it possible for the state to cut residential school property taxes in half and school property taxes for business by about one-third.

Senate OKs Appraisal Measure

On separate 30-0 votes, the state Senate last week approved the Property Tax Relief Bill of Rights and proposal for an accompanying constitutional amendment.

The measure by Sen. David Cain, D-Dallas, would allow deferred tax payments, simplify appraisal appeals and allow elderly Texans whose school taxes have been frozen to keep getting the tax break if they move.

"Texans are losing their homes and being forced to move because of increases in their property tax rates," Cain was quoted by the *Dallas Morning News*. "We have checks in the law to protect against runaway tax rates, but there are no safeguards when it comes to runaway tax appraisals."

Gov. Bush said Cain's measure is "an important ingredient to make sure that property taxes, once down, stay down."

TAAS Scores Are Up 7%

The Texas Education Agency reported last week that 67% of 10th grad-

ers taking the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (reading, writing and math) passed all three sections of the test given in February, a 7% increase from the previous year.

Scores for Black, Hispanic and white students improved. African-American students scored 10% better than last year for a passing rate of 48%; Hispanic students gained 8% for a 52% passing rate, while white students' scores increased 7% for an 81% passing rate.

Other Capital Highlights

•The state attorney general's office said it will appeal an Austin judge's order for the state to pay more than \$230 million for an emissions testing program canceled by Texas lawmakers.

•University of Texas President Robert Berdahl gave his farewell speech to the faculty last week. He will leave at the end of June to head the University of California at Berkeley.

•Oklahoma trucker Benjamin Herbert Doyle, 53, was executed April 21, for raping and strangling a Fort Worth-area woman more than 11 years ago. Doyle was the fifth condemned killer to be executed in Texas in April.

•The nation's top two cigarette makers, Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco, are negotiating a settlement with eight states to get protection from lawsuits about smoking-related health problems. But Texas isn't among them. In a letter to legislators, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales said any settlement of Texas' \$14 billion lawsuit against the tobacco industry would not grant those companies immunity in future wrongdoing.

•The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service reported the number of legal immigrants settling in Texas grew to 83,385 last year - an increase of 67% from the previous year. The increase nationwide was 27%. For 1996, Texas ranked third in the number of legal immigrants behind No. 1 California and No. 2 New York.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 13, 1972

Miss Robin Engstrom was named 1972 County Farm Bureau Queen in Columbus last Friday night. Miss Melba Wied was runner-up. Both hail from Garwood. Miss Engstrom was crowned by 1971 Queen

Miss Cheri Lundquist, also of Garwood...

Frank Higgins is the new president of the Rice Parent's Group; Lee Roy Lundquist was named vice president; while Mrs. Walter Schellmann will take over the secretar-

ial duties...

The Eagle Lake community was deeply saddened last week by the death of William Spalinger, 86, a longtime resident and former businessman in this community...

A.G. Cleaveland has been named the deputy sheriff at the Colorado County Sheriff's Department to succeed Dennis Slubar who resigned to accept a position in another county...

Miss Candy Farris and Dale Dixon were honored with a dinner and shower at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Higgins. Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kallina and Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hunt of Garwood were co-hosts...

Major Robert Zahradnick is residing in Jacksonville, Ga., following an extended tour of duty in the Army. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. David Zahradnick of this city...

Mr. & Mrs. George Konvicka of Schulenburg announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Doris Jean, to Darius Brisco, son of Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie L. Brisco of Eagle Lake. An Aug. 18 wedding is planned at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg...

Misses Margaret Wilcox and Julia Thomas enjoyed a delightful two weeks at Rocky River Ranch in Wimberly from June 25 to July 9. The

two received numerous awards at the end of the camps' closing ceremonies...

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Mathis and daughters, Sarah, Patti, Linda and Mrs. Beverly Marquart, and grandson, Jeffrey Marquart, have recently returned from a most enjoyable two and a half weeks vacation trip to California...

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Gold of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Judy, to Harvey Heimann, son of Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Heimann of El Campo. The wedding is planned for Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada.

March 18, 1949

Funeral services were held yesterday, March 7, at Mill Funeral Home for Mrs. Louis Tyler, 69, who had been a resident of Colorado County for 57 years...

E.F. Abercrombie signed up as master of ceremonies for the womanless style show to be staged in the High School Auditorium Friday, March 25...

W.A. Baumert, of Eagle Lake Ice Company, has received a diploma from A&M College School of Engineering. The diploma states that Mr. Baumert has satisfactorily completed 30 hours of instruction in the short course for engineers of ice manufacturing plants...

Barbara Jean Reese, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Reese Jr., invited all of her classmates in the second grade to celebrate her 8th birthday at her home Friday afternoon...

Jerry Clipson is starting out young, having "stag" parties when he invited only boys to his sixth birthday celebration...

Ferns and white gladioli formed an improvised altar before which Miss Betty Jane Kilgore and Roy C. Beasley were married Thursday, March 10, at the home of her parents...

Lee E. Petrosky is visiting his mother, Mrs. W.P. Petrosky, having been allowed to leave the hospital in Del Rio where he has been since a serious injury in an automobile accident Jan. 29...

A birthday party for Charmaine Marx, who was four years old Monday, was given by Mrs. Jacob Zoeller at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George (See 24 & 48, Page 6)

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE
United Methodist Church
234-3330
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!
Reduced Registration Fees
Through May 15, 1997
Pre-School Starts September 2, 1997
Registration Starts May 1, 1997
CHILD CARE: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
PRE-SCHOOL: 8 a.m. to 12 Noon
Christian Curriculum Included
Licensed Facility, Trained Teachers & Care Givers
Pre-School Free with Full Time Day Care

Would you like to be able to recognize gang and other youth problems?

Eagle Lake Police Department and Crime Stoppers Presents
the Aldine I.S.D. Police Department's Gang Task Force

G.ang

A.wareness

T.hrough

E.ducation

Thursday, May 15

Beginning at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School,
600 Johnnie D. Hutchins, Eagle Lake

Why Do Kids Join Gangs?

- Feeling that there is no other choice
- Too much unsupervised time
- Peer pressure
- Friends or family members belong to a gang
- Wanting recognition, sense of belonging, companionship
- Poor communication and decision-making skills

Keith H. Webb, Chief of Police

Parents, Teachers, Grand Parents, Interested Citizens and/or Family Members:

Come join the Eagle Lake Police Department and Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers in an interesting and enjoyable learning experience. The G.A.T.E. program will be presented by the nationally recognized Aldine I.S.D. Police Department's Gang Task Force.

Hear their presentation in English and Spanish. All teachers and parents of school age or younger children owe it to themselves and their own families to attend.

The 1-hour program will end with a question and answer forum and will conclude with free refreshments.

Then, hang around, enjoy the refreshments and visit with the officers so you can see, up close, the many display items they will have.

When you leave, you will be able to detect gang and other youth problems and recognize them before they destroy your family and this community.

For more information, contact Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith H. Webb, 409-234-7307

News from John Sharp, State Comptroller

Comptroller's Web site is new home for 'college bible'

State Comptroller John Sharp announced that his ground-breaking *Window on State Government*, the source of on-line public information, is now offering an electronic version of Texas' most comprehensive guide to colleges and universities.

"Over the past 30 years, the *Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar* has earned its reputation as the 'bible' of financial aid and other college information," Sharp said. "The full compendium is now just a click away for anyone with access to the Internet."

Sharp applauded the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation of San Antonio, which publishes the annual compendium, and the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, for making it possible to offer a wide range of information on Texas colleges and universities on his electronic Web site.

Located at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/mspmain.html>, the new Web site lists all public and private colleges and universities in Texas. Updated each year, the site also provides the latest on college admission requirements, costs, sources of financial aid and application deadlines, as well as links to the Web pages of individual schools for those who wish further details.

Sharp said the new electronic site also features reports on federal and state financial aid programs and descriptions of more than 100 scholarship programs available to Texas students.

"Since 1967, the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation has seen to it that students, parents and high school counselors have the most up-to-date information at hand when selecting a university," Sharp said. "I'm happy to help make this invaluable resource even more widely available."

Based in San Antonio, the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization that supports a number of educational programs. Its college compendium is published under the guidance of the Foundation's executive director, Michael J. Balint, and for years has been known informally as "Balint's Bible".

"As a kid who came up during the Depression, I know the lasting value of education," Balint said. "But little did I know, when I first authored the compendium back in 1967, that it would receive such wide acceptance as a viable counseling tool for Texas students."

"We here at the Foundation are grateful to Comptroller Sharp, his staff, and the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation for helping us to help students through this new Web site."

Sharp said the electronic version of the college compendium continues the Foundation's tradition of presenting a wealth of helpful hints to the college bound. "From admissions requirements to financial aid packages, Texans will find everything they need to make an informed decision about their higher education," Sharp stated.

(See Home, Page 4)

Views On Dental Health

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.
234-3525

Located Next to
Eagle Lake Drugs

WHEN HOSPITAL TREATMENT IS NEEDED

Most dental patients receive all of their dental care during their lifetime in their friendly dentist's chair. However, there are circumstances when hospital dental care is indicated.

Obviously, if you are involved in a serious accident that involves facial injuries (including the jaws or teeth), the dental work will be performed in the hospital. Also, there are less traumatic situations where dental treatment may be performed in the hospital.

If a patient has advanced dental disease, a more concerted effort to salvage some dentition can be made in the hospital. Patients who have a medical condition that puts them at risk can also be treated in the hospital in one session with the use of general anesthesia as can some children with serious dental disease or psychological disabilities.

About 40,000 U.S. dentists practice part- or full-time in hospitals. Most treatment is performed on an outpatient basis.

Presented as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S., 704 S. McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, 234-3525.

Affordable Dental Care for the Whole Family
•Gentle Family Dentistry •Nitrous Oxide Sedation
Available •All Phases of General Dentistry including
Cosmetic •Extractions •Wisdom Teeth, Root Canals,
Crowns, Bridges, Dentures & Partials and
Orthodontics •Insurance & New Patients Welcome
Open 8-5, Monday through Friday Saturday: 8-2
MasterCard and Visa Accepted After Hours Call: 409-234-5172

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards