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To THE EDITOR & You

United Way sends thanks

Dear Editor:

The United Way of Eagle Lake wishes to thank everyone who made our Bridge and Domino Fun Day so successful.

In particular we want to thank the Eagle Lake Headlight for running the notices, The Prairie Edge Museum Board for making the Museum available and the players and contributors

who joined in the fun.

United Way raised \$450 from this effort which kicked off the 1998 Fund Drive.

For all this, we thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Tom Reed,
United Way of Eagle Lake

Insurance Commission wants to change accident 'surcharges'

Many Texans who have been in motor vehicle accidents involving claims for bodily injuries have noticed that their premiums go up 15% for the next three years.

The Texas Department of Insurance is proposing a rule that would bar these insurance premium "surcharges" for drivers at fault in accidents causing less than \$1,000 in repairs and less than \$3,000 in medical expenses.

A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for July 1, Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer said.



State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

While consumer groups welcomed the idea of limiting the surcharges, insurance industry officials said the proposal could penalize accident-free drivers.

About 44% of noninjury accidents

in Texas result in vehicle damage of less than \$1,000. About 20% of all injury accidents result in medical expenses lower than \$3,000.

Child-Care Legislation in Works

In preparing for the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature, which begins Jan. 12, Democratic state lawmakers are working on legislation to make child care better, more accessible and more affordable.

"Our Texas families should not have to choose between the jobs they need and the child that they love," said Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin. Barrientos and others are preparing a plan that includes:

- Tax breaks for companies that provide or help pay for high quality child care;

- The pooling of nonprofit and private money to attract federal child-care funds;

- Working with state and local officials to open more child-care facilities; and

- Speeding up background checks on child-care workers.

Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin, said a big problem is attracting good workers to the child-care industry because of low pay and high stress. If the Legislature can get more money into the industry, it could help, she said.

But Karen Hughes, spokeswoman for Gov. George W. Bush, called the Democrats' effort "a nice-sounding political ploy."

Hughes said Texas already is getting the maximum amount of federal assistance for child care and Gov. Bush has always advocated increased funding for child care.

UT Votes to Appeal Hopwood

At a meeting last week in Odessa, University of Texas System regents voted 9-0 to appeal the case that made it illegal for universities to use race as a factor in admitting students.

The board of regents asked Attorney General Dan Morales to let the Houston-based law firm of Vinson & Elkins handle an appeal of the "Hopwood" case, because Morales earlier said he would not handle it himself.

Vinson & Elkins already has assisted in the case for five years, free of charge.

The board of regents face a May 18 deadline in filing notice with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In its motion to seek an appeal, the board said, "If the Hopwood injunction is not challenged, all institutions in the state of Texas are at a competitive disadvantage in the recruitment of students."

Regents said it is essential for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether U.S. institutions of higher learning can consider race when admitting students, awarding them scholarships and financial aid.

Interstate Branch

Banking Is Allowed

Texas Banking Commissioner Cathy Ghiglieri announced last week that she would be accepting applications for interstate merger and branching transactions for all state-chartered banks.

In permitting the 450 state-chartered banks to operate offices under the same rules as nationally chartered banks, Ghiglieri made the decision because she doesn't want to put state banks in a position of "competitive inequality" with national banks.

Her decision came a week after a federal judge in Dallas sided with the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency in a merger application filed by NationsBank of North Carolina and NationsBank of Texas.

NationsBank of Texas is a branch of NationsBank of North Carolina and does not pay state franchise taxes and avoids other Texas laws.

Other Capital Highlights

• Houston attorney Joe Jamail, an alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin, has given his alma mater \$2 million for minority-student scholarships: \$1 million to endow a scholarship program for undergraduates and \$1 million for a similar program for law students. Black and Hispanic enrollment at UT has dropped since the 1996 "Hopwood" ruling stopped race-based admissions policies.

• A study of the 23,000 sex offenders in Texas state prisons has identified 33 inmates as violent predators. Those inmates may qualify for involuntary commitment beyond the completion of their sentences under a proposal to be debated during the next legislative session.

• Attorney General Morales said last week that Texas would get more money in its settlement with the tobacco industry and be able to impose broader restrictions on cigarette makers' marketing tactics because of Minnesota's farther-reaching tobacco settlement.

• Attorney General Morales ruled last week that most health maintenance organization complaint records are open to the public. The records are kept at the Texas Department of Insurance. HMO officials contended confidentiality was necessary to protect the privacy of patients.

TWONC to meet at Attwater

The Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club (TWONC) plans a late afternoon tour of the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (APCN-WR) along the San Bernard River about five miles NE of Eagle Lake on the road to Sealy (FM 3013).

This field event will be Wednesday, May 20, beginning at 5 p.m. (late arrivals can easily catch-up) at the Refuge headquarters.

Although the spring migration is winding down, there will be plenty of upland, marsh and water birds to view plus an assortment of prairie and riparian flowering plant life.

This locality, says TWONC President Fannie Merle Welch of Wharton, is plenty close for the convenience of most members, would-be members and visitors.

(See Nature, Page 3)

Bible Verse of the Week

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God."

— II Timothy 3:16

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

May 18, 1973

Being named valedictorian has been like a family tradition with the Janish's of Nada. Thomas Janish, the youngest, has upheld this tradition by being named 1973 valedictorian at Rice High, making the fifth valedictorian in the family. They have also had two salutatorians...

Rice High School students elected these five young ladies to be their cheerleaders for the 1973-74 school year: Paula Szymanski, D'Ann Davison, Shirley Fajkus, Peggy Stallman and Debra Parker...

Ten members of the Rice High School senior class had perfect attendance and received certificates at the

awards assembly May 11th. They are Matthew Schoellmann, Pam Krennek, Terry Gant, Reggie Brisco, Mary Alice Perez, Kay Jones, James Matthys, Audrey Coleman, Tim Berger and Traylor Walker...

Mrs. Verner Thomas Matthews announced the engagement of her daughter, Verner Sue Matthews, to George Arnold Weller Jr. of Beaumont. The wedding will be on Aug. 4 at Christ Episcopal Church in Eagle Lake. The groom-elect is the son of Mr. & Mrs. George Weller Sr. of Beaumont...

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Sommer Sr. of Eagle Lake are proud to announce the engagement and approaching

marriage of their daughter, Carolyn Marie, to Randy Louis Burrow, son of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Burrow of Eagle Lake. The wedding is planned for Aug. 4, 1973, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Mathis Jr. are the pleased parents of a son born Wednesday, May 16, at 4:07 p.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The young man weighed five pounds at birth. A name had not been definitely decided at the time of this writing...

Friends here will regret to learn of the death of Paul Barnett of Macon, Ga., the son of Mrs. W.A. Barnett of this City and the late Mr. Barnett.

April 28, 1950

Over 65 senior members have been signed up for the Eagle Lake Civil Air patrol, is the report of W.M. Thomas Sr., Chairman of the Aviation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce...

The Rice Recipe Contest of the Agricultural Committee of the Chamber of Commerce begins this week. Monthly awards of \$10 will be made for the "Rice Recipe of the Month"...

The Eagle Lake High School Band will play a concert in the school auditorium the night of Friday, May 5, Martin Hale, director, said this week...

Members of 15 organizations of the town rose to their feet to signify their approval of the project of building a Community Hall for Eagle Lake at a meeting held at City Hall Wednesday night. David Wintermann presided as chairman of the meeting at the request of Mrs. C.E. Evoritt Sr., president of the Eagle Lake Garden Club, who called the meeting...

Dianne Duncan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gardner Duncan, celebrated her third birthday last Friday afternoon with a party at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. I.V. Duncan...

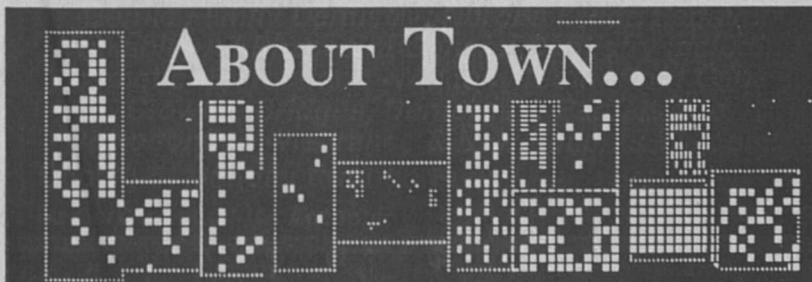
Eagle Lake School will make the records next fall term for the first time in history, the scholastic count in Eagle Lake goes over 1,000...

The 1950 Seniors have scheduled their trip West from May 27th to June 8th. What a wonderful way to go!... Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs.

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Foot Facts
By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist
REST VS. EXERCISE FOR ARTHRITIS
Arthritis is one of the most common complaints of people over 50, affecting more than 40 million Americans. That's probably why there are so many "experts" on how to handle it, from the know-it-all elderly aunt to the guy who fixes your car. Unfortunately, a little knowledge can do a lot of damage where your feet are concerned. For example, some types of arthritis of the foot require exercise to combat the stiffness and pain. For others, such as gout, exercise could be the worst approach, as rest is needed for healing. Depending on the type and severity of the condition, treatment options may include anti-inflammatory medication, physical therapy, exercise, and special shoes or inserts (orthotics).
It's time to pay attention to what your feet are trying to tell you when each step is more painful than the one before. Don't ignore foot problems like arthritis, injuries, diseases, or inherited conditions. Your feet aren't supposed to hurt and there is help through techniques of modern podiatry when they do. At Rice Medical Center, we offer foot care for all members of your family by appointment on Tuesdays. Please call 234-5571.
P.S. In severe cases of arthritis, surgery may be needed to repair or replace damaged joints in the foot.

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Will Be Closed Memorial Day Weekend
Closed Saturday through Monday, May 23-25.
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• Carey Elizabeth Gore, the grand daughter of Fair Wells of Eagle Lake, graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., on Sunday, May 10.
Driving up for the graduation activities were Mrs. Clarence Gore, Mrs. Robert R. (Fair) Wells Jr., Mrs. I.W. Russek and Mrs. Eliot Tucker. Mr. Gore flew up May 9 to join the group.
On the way to Raleigh, the four-some spent one night in Spartanburg, S.C., with Dr. Sandra Thomas, President of Converse College and daughter of Rusty Thomas of Eagle Lake.
The next night was spent in Blowing Rock, N.C., in one of Dr. Thomas' houses.
The group also visited Calaway Gardens in Georgia and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C.

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.

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Views On Dental Health

PERIODONTAL DISEASE?

It's a fact. Adults lose more teeth to periodontal (gum) disease than they do to tooth decay or any other dental problem. There are two stages of gum disease. The mildest and earliest form is gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums due to plaque buildup. If treated promptly, it is reversible. The most destruction of all is periodontitis, which causes irreversible changes in supporting tissue and even destruction of the bone that holds the teeth in place.

The primary cause of periodontal disease is plaque, a sticky, colorless, bacteria-laden film that forms on the teeth. This eventually turns to tartar (a

hard, granular substance) which irritates the gums and causes them to pull away from the tooth and form "pockets" which become inflamed.

The only way to guarantee healthy gums and teeth is to remove plaque each day with proper brushing and flossing. Also, don't miss your checkups and professional cleanings. Your dentist can detect and treat early gum problems if given a chance.

Presented as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S., 700 S. McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, 234-3525.

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