



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & You

Help make a place for young people

To the citizens of Eagle Lake and surrounding communities:

A project is underway to benefit all the youth of our communities.

The Old Ice House building is being restored to offer a place for youths, grades 6 through high school seniors, to hang out and have fun in a safe and encouraging environment.

Several area churches and individuals have already pledged support in resources and time to make this project a reality.

The success of the project depends on broad-based community involvement: inter-denominational and inter-racial, covering all ethnic and economic backgrounds.

This letter is a plea for that involvement!

Our youth are too important for you to think, "someone else can do that."

Please make arrangements to attend the next meeting that will be this coming Sunday, June 7, at 2:30 p.m. at the Ice House.

This meeting is for adults interested in assisting in the project.

Youth who may want to find out what's going on are also welcome.

We recognize how over-committed most of us already are, and don't want to think about adding another activity to a hectic schedule. Don't let that hold you back.

The project will, of course, need workers, but it will also need advice and opinions from all sectors of the community if it is to be a place the

young people WANT to go.

If you would like more information on the progress that has already been made, please contact Rhonda Bridges at 234-7379.

Tell your friends. Tell your neighbors. Be at the Ice House on Sunday, at 2:30 p.m.

Let's come together as a community for the benefit of our most precious resource... the young people!

Sincerely,
Rhonda Bridges

A few words 'in support of a friend'

Allegations about the character and professionalism of my friend and co-worker Dawn Horndt R.T. (R) (M) ARRT, has been made by Rice Medical Center (RMC) administration and staff. I would like to comment on her behalf.

Dawn started working at Colorado-Fayette Medical Center (CFMC) in Weimar in Jan. of 1998.

On her days off and on weekends she continued to help in the Radiology and Mammography Department in Eagle Lake.

The last weekend she worked at RMC, she was accused of not responding to her page, and a bad attitude, by the second shift. Dawn gave the day-shift two telephone numbers, and her pager number with which she

Panhandle school still has to share

A school district's bid to free itself from Texas' share-the-riches school finance system was rejected last week by State District Judge Scott McCown.

The 200-pupil Miami school district, located in the Panhandle, must continue to share about half its operating revenues (about \$1 million) under the school finance law, McCown ruled.

"The equity question has been decided. Our state has advanced. We will not go back," McCown wrote in his ruling and said the present system is working. "The court takes not of the most recent Texas Assessment of

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Academic Skills. Student performance was the best ever. Improvement was both significant and across the board.

A spokesman for the school district said McCown's ruling probably would be appealed.

Miami is one of 86 property-rich school districts that must contribute property tax revenue to a state treasury fund that is distributed to property-poor districts. The wealthy districts surrendered about \$365 million this year.

In its lawsuit filed last year, the Miami school district argued it was exempt from the school finance law because it was rated an "exemplary" district - one with high test scores and a low dropout rate - by the state.

McCown suggested that the Miami school district "join with others to seek additional resources for the education of all of the children of the state from our Legislature, rather than move alone to seek money for itself... by advancing arguments for loopholes to equity," *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

Earlier in May, a group of 126 mostly poor, rural school districts filed a lawsuit to reopen the school finance case, saying their students have been deprived because of unfair funding advantages for wealthy districts.

Exit Test Results Improve
About 7,750 - or 3.7% - of the state's 207,226 high school seniors failed the must-pass Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test.

That's an improvement, Education Commissioner Mike Moses said last week, noting that 9,400 of the

Class of 1996 and 8,373 of the Class of 1997 failed the exam.

"The results are definitely moving in the right direction," he said.

To get a diploma, students must pass the exit-level TAAS and satisfactorily complete all course work.

Students can take the exit exam up to eight times, beginning when they are sophomores.

Tribe Files Suit Against Governor

Tigua Indians last week filed a federal lawsuit to stop Gov. George W. Bush from interfering with the tribe's right to operate its Speaking Rock casino in El Paso by falsely accusing it of violating state gambling laws.

The lawsuit seeks to recover unspecified damages from Bush and a declaration from the court that the games offered at the casino are legal. The lawsuit also refers to Bush as an "unannounced candidate for president" and alleges he has raised "the issue to 'advance his national political ambition at the expense of stifling' the tribe's rights."

Before the lawsuit was filed, Bush had accused the tribe of operating illegal slot machines. He then asked Attorney General Dan Morales to go to federal court to put an end to the use of the slot machines which dispense tokens redeemable for cash.

Guidelines in the National Indian Gaming Act allow tribes to offer any kind of gambling that is legal in the states in which they reside.

Bush met with Kickapoo tribal leaders last week, apologized for statements he made concerning their casino operations and said he would leave it to the federal courts to decide whether their slot machines are legal.

The Kickapoos operate the Lucky Eagle casino in Eagle Pass.

Bush said the Tigua's casino in El Paso is different because that tribe comes under state jurisdiction.

Jail Contracts to Save Money

Under new contracts for the private operation of five state jails, Texans will save \$21 million over the next five years, prison officials said last week.

"We are going to save the taxpayers of this state a great deal of money by rebidding these contracts," said Texas Board of Criminal Justice chairman Allan Polunsky.

The less-expensive, lower-security state jail system was created by the Legislature in 1993 to relieve crowding in prisons. The 18 state jails house some 25,000 "nonviolent" inmates.

Other Capital Highlights

David J. Freeman, who resigned as executive secretary of the Texas Race Commission last year, was indicted last week on charges of misusing state property. An indictment returned by a Travis County grand jury alleges Freeman misused a cellular telephone and computer equipment belonging to the state.

Statistics for each of Texas' 254 (See Highlights, Page 4)

School Board hires teachers

Benito Garza was hired as assistant principal for the Eagle Lake Middle School for the next school year at a special meeting of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees held at noon on May 22.

Among other employees hired were Claudia Mann as the District's diagnostician; Michael Adams, Rice High School teacher/coach; Jeanette Volkmer, RHS math teacher; and Bill Hefner III and Rochelle Glover, Garwood School teachers.

The Board also accepted the resignations of Patricia Fink at ELMS and Tonya Kier, Eagle Lake Primary.

In other action, the Board upheld the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott to transfer a teacher from one campus to another. Gott's decision followed a recommendation from the campus principal.

The employee in question had filed a grievance with the Board asking to remain on the original campus.

Bible Verse of the Week

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

- Psalms 46:1

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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Heart Association: New Guidelines for Dental Procedures

A precaution taken by dentists and surgeons prior to certain procedures is the prescribing of antibiotics to prevent *infectious bacterial endocarditis*. This condition is an inflammation of the tissues that line the internal chambers and valves of the heart. Bacteria enter the blood stream and travel to the heart by a number of different ways and cause the infection and subsequent inflammation.

Certain dental procedures (e.g., fillings, tooth extractions, and gum surgery) can introduce bacteria into the blood stream of the person having the dental work. *Erythromycin* and other antibiotics have been recommended by the American Heart Association (AHA) to prevent the build-up of such bacteria and resultant endocarditis. Recently the AHA issued new guidelines for preventing bacterial endocarditis associated with dental procedures.

- Persons with mitral valve prolapse do not need antibiotics unless they have a murmur.
- Amoxicillin in a single 2 gram dose is recommended for adults.
- Erythromycin is no longer recommended for persons who are allergic to penicillin. A single dose of one of several other antibiotics can be used.

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