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To THE EDITOR & YOU

A letter from Mayor Michael Cooper

To the Citizens of Eagle Lake:

In the early morning hours of Thursday, June 18, Eagle Lake lost one of its finest. Officer Tobin Thomas of the Eagle Lake Police Department died in the line of duty.

At a time when most of us were asleep, Officer Thomas was doing what he had sworn to do: protect the citizens of Eagle Lake. Although mortally wounded, Officer Thomas was

able to kill his assailant, a man suspected of murdering a young Eagle Lake citizen, Betty Lou Holloway.

The citizens of Eagle Lake extend their sympathy to the Thomas and Holloway families.

In talking with Officer Thomas' wife on Thursday morning, I discovered that I do not possess the wisdom or the words to express the anger, pain, and sorrow that we all feel at this

senseless tragedy, this inexplicable loss. In the Thomas home, however, I gained some understanding of why Officer Thomas was where he was Thursday morning. I saw a brave young wife, a lovely young daughter, a picture of a uniformed young man, his pride obvious for all to see. I believe Officer Thomas wanted to make the world a little safer for his family and for us.

For that desire and for his sacrifice, we honor him.

Yours truly,
Michael Cooper
Mayor of Eagle Lake

'Thank You' from the Chamber

To all the members of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce who

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

June 5, 1973

Emerson (Ike) Etheridge, operator of Ike's Flying Service of the Eagle Lake and Chesterville community, fortunately escaped injury when his Stearman aircraft crashed on a landing at a strip near the Anderson Crop Care facilities in Chesterville at around 9

a.m. Monday...

Ernest Rees was installed as President of the Sheridan Lions Club on Thursday night, May 31, 1973...

Kathleen Rees of Garwood was on the Dean's List of Texas A&I University, while Billy Joe Briscoe of Eagle Lake was listed on the Honor Roll at A&I...

Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Rucka of Eagle Lake are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Ramona, to David Gatiloff of San Saba. A July 7th wedding is planned at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Pvt. Joe Mike Spanihel of Eagle Lake was awarded a letter of commendation and a \$25 Savings Bond for outstanding service during a Tank Gunnery Program held by the U.S. Army, 1st Battalion, 73rd Armored Division...

Kurt Thomas, son of Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Thomas and a 1973 Rice High School graduate, was named the recipient of a two-year tennis scholarship to Navarro Junior College in Corsicana.

June 16, 1950

Featured this week on the Eagle Lake Radio Hour will be the Friendship Gospel Trio of the Friendship (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

have completed and returned the survey forms: Thank You!

The response has been tremendous and all of the ideas proffered have been or are being considered by the Chamber. Some of the surveys have not been returned; however, we are extending the time allotted for returning these forms so every one will have an opportunity to be heard. Consequently, we will allow until Aug. 1 to get these remaining surveys into our hands.

We have had several new members join the Chamber in the last few weeks. If we have failed to provide you with a survey form, please call the Chamber Office at 234-2780 and we will get one to you.

Thank you again for your outstanding and thoughtful response.

Sam Thomson,
President Chamber
of Commerce

A.G. Morales says settlement on lawyers' fees is imminent

A renegotiated tobacco settlement resolving a conflict over lawyer fees was imminent last week, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales said, but he gave no clue as to when a new \$17 billion agreement with the industry might be announced.

No wonder. Lawyers for five counties and hospital districts have sued to be included in the original \$15.3 billion settlement, and their lawsuit may affect the success of the new one.

The lawyers contend their clients have a right to a piece of the settlement because costs of treating poor people for smoking illnesses are largely not reimbursed by the state-and-federal Medicaid program.

Their lawsuit could affect the success of a new \$17 billion settlement Morales was free to renegotiate after the state of Minnesota settled with cigarette makers.

Last week, however, Morales' spokesman Ron Dusek said, "We're finalizing a deal with the tobacco companies. Both of these are really, really close."

But, regarding the hospital districts and counties, Dusek said Morales is inclined to cut them out of the latest settlement. If that comes to pass, the counties and hospital districts will have to ask the Legislature for funds to pay for the treating of tobacco-related illnesses.

The original Jan. tobacco settlement met an early obstacle in Gov. George W. Bush and seven state legislators. They protested the amount of attorneys' fees - 15% of the \$15.3 billion - to be awarded to private lawyers hired by Morales to represent the state. Bush and the legislature argued that the state would be liable for part of the amount.

Poll Shows Bush Has Big Lead

Republican Gov. Bush leads his Democratic gubernatorial opponent, Garry Mauro, by 35%, the latest Texas Poll revealed last week.

Seventy percent of the 691 likely voters who answered the poll picked Bush.

One year ago, the margin in a similar poll was identical, though neither man had formally announced his candidacy at the time the poll was taken.

Mauro, Texas' land commissioner, said the poll was off base. "By the time Texans take part in the only poll that matters - the one on election day - they'll know they are voting with us for the right to choose their own doctor."

In his reaction to the poll, Bush said the election-day vote will narrow. "I've got to send a signal to my supporters that we've got to take this race seriously. We've got to make sure we turn out the vote, and I will do so. I will campaign hard."

Texas Poll director Ty Meighan told *The Dallas Morning News*, "Bush is so strong, it's going to take an awful lot for Mauro to close that gap, and I don't know how he's going to do it."

Taken by telephone June 1-12 by

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Scripps Howard and the Office of Survey Research of the University of Texas, the poll also showed:

•Bush leads by big margins in every region of the state and among every demographic group except blacks and Democrats.

•Sixty-five percent of those surveyed said they still would vote for Bush even if they knew he was going to run for president in 2000.

Officials Oppose Nuclear Dump

A dozen Mexican lawmakers last week spoke out against the proposed construction of a nuclear waste repository near the West Texas town of Sierra Blanca.

The officials met in Austin and tried unsuccessfully to get a meeting with Gov. Bush.

They charged that the proposed site - 18 miles from the Rio Grande - would violate a 1983 pact between Mexico and the United States to curb pollution along the border.

Norberto Corella, a federal senator from the Mexican state of Sonora, said, "We cannot permit the U.S. to build [nuclear] garbage dumps on our border..."

The site would store low-level nuclear waste from Texas, Maine and Vermont. Federal legislation approving the three-state agreement to store the waste at the Sierra Blanca site has been passed by the House and Senate and has been forwarded to a conference committee.

Karen Hughes, a spokeswoman for Bush, said the governor won't allow construction to proceed until there are scientific guarantees that the site won't pollute.

The proposed dump also has drawn heavy opposition from the Texas side of the border.

Veteran's Homes to Be Built

Groundbreaking for four long-term care homes for Texas veterans is expected on July 1 in Big Spring, Bonham, Temple and Floresville.

The homes will be the first built in Texas since one was built for Civil War veterans in Austin. It closed in the 1970s.

Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, head of the Veterans Land Board, said, "It was a long, hard fight to make people aware of Texas' aging veteran population."

The Austin architectural firm of Graeber, Simmons and Cowan will oversee the construction.

Other Capital Highlights

•The National Trust for Historic Preservation last week listed Texas' 225 historic courthouses among the (See Highlights, Page 8)

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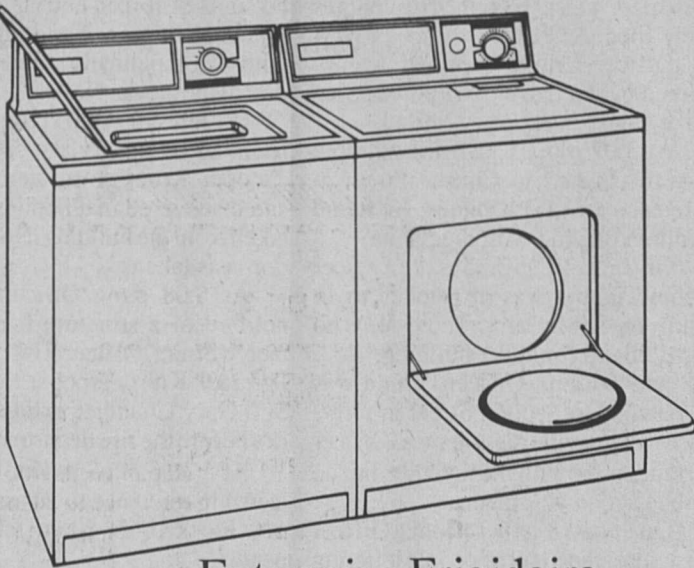
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