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THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)
P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main
(409) 234-5521
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,
TEXAS 77434-0067
Published Weekly
Every Thursday

Produced By:
Carol Nelson • Lynda Appelt
Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Luedecke • Betty Drymalla

ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MONDAY

Subscription Rates

Colorado County (including Lissie and Egypt)\$12.00
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton, Austin counties\$13.50
Other Texas Residents\$15.00
Outside of Texas\$16.50

Single Copy Price: 35-Cents
Second class postage paid
at Eagle Lake, Texas

Address Corrections
should be sent to P.O. Box 67,
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Bush discusses death penalty with state sheriffs

A defendant's guilt or innocence is the key to his decisions in death-penalty appeals, Gov. George W. Bush said last week.

"Of all the death penalties we've had in our state, I am confident that those who have been put to death have been guilty under the eyes of the law," Bush said while speaking to the Sheriffs Association of Texas.

Following a recommendation from the Board of Pardons and Pardon, Bush recently commuted the death sentence of Henry Lee Lucas to life in prison. Lucas recanted testimony claiming responsibility for hundreds of murders, including the "Orange Socks" murder for which he was sentenced to death.

Bush also followed the board's recommendation against clemency for convicted murderer Karla Faye Tucker, who did not claim innocence

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

and was put to death Feb. 3.

Lee County Sheriff Joe G. Goodson, head of the association, disagreed with Bush's decision to commute Lucas' sentence to life. "He let a guilty man not go free, but he commuted his sentence to life and the guy is evil. He should have died," Goodson said, but added, "I still like (Gov. Bush). Everybody makes mistakes."

Garry Mauro, a Democrat challenging Bush in the upcoming gubernatorial race, also disagrees with Bush's decision on Lucas.

Mauro said he agrees with the jury that found Lucas guilty and sentenced him to death and 23 appellate judges who reviewed the case and let the jury's decision stand.

At the Sheriffs Association meeting, Bush also said he would seek:

- Automatic jail time for minors who commit crimes with a firearm or are caught unlawfully carrying handguns.

- Additional funds for juvenile probation officers.

- Expansion of regional gang databases to a statewide database.

Funds for Crime Victims

Texas counties in 1997 collected \$61.5 million in court fees that went to the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

In fiscal year 1997, \$23 million was paid to victims in those counties, the office of the Texas attorney general reported.

"Even though we've done a lot to make it known across Texas that this money is available, there is still more money coming into the program than going out," Ron Dusek, spokesman for Attorney General Dan Morales, told the Associated Press last week.

At the end of last fiscal year, there was \$140.8 million in the fund created in 1979.

The main requirement for a person to be eligible to receive money from the fund is that the crime be one in which the victim died or suffered physical or emotional harm. Sources such as health insurance benefits and Medicaid must be exhausted before money is given from the fund.

Expenses paid from the fund have included medical treatment, counseling, compensation for loss of support payments to dependents of a deceased victim, loss of wages, funeral expenses and child care.

23 Die From Oppressive Heat
Record-high temperatures across

the state have caused 23 heat-related deaths this year. Sixteen of those deaths have occurred in Dallas since June 1.

Criteria for determining whether a death is heat-related:

- A person is found dead from stroke, emphysema or heart attack in a hot, closed area.

- A person's body temperature is above 104 degrees at the time of death, or immediately thereafter.

Fire Preventing Crops OK'd

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a waiver in 49 Texas counties allowing farmers to grow one cutting of hay on their Conservation Reserve Program land.

The waiver for haying on the fallow land, requested in May by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry, is meant to remove a source of fuel for wildfires.

Perry said the waiver will provide a source of forage when hay supplies are dangerously low because of drought in many areas of the state.

The waiver expires Aug. 31, or earlier if the USDA deems the haying is no longer necessary.

Other Capital Highlights

- Last week, Garry Mauro reported he had about \$222,000 in his Democratic gubernatorial campaign account. Incumbent Republican Gov. Bush said he had about \$13 million in his campaign account. About \$2 million of Bush's money came from out-of-state supporters.

- A New Jersey police officer who won a \$10.4 million Lotto Texas jackpot settled last week for \$3.2 million. He sued in 1995 to collect the entire prize after the Lottery refused to honor his claim. His lawyer will receive \$1.2 million of the settlement.

- The U.S. House of Representatives voted last week to name the federal office building in downtown Austin in honor of retired Rep. Jake Pickle, a Democrat who served in Congress or 31 years.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

June 19, 1973

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce won a blue ribbon for originality with their float in the Weimar Centennial parade last Saturday. Riding on the float were Marvin Tyler, owner of Blue Goose Hunting Club; Miss Annette Hengst, Miss Debbie Frenzel, Miss Jacalyn Bauer and Miss Kathy Ruether...

Sammy Meitzen, son of Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Meitzen Jr. of this city, escaped serious injury but his 1970 Chevrolet was completely destroyed by fire in an accident on Hwy. 71, 3.2 miles south of Altair, at 1:30 a.m. Friday, June 15th...

Mrs. Anna Hintz and Mrs. Ida Stafford, the state's oldest living set of twin sisters, passed their 96th birthday anniversary Sunday. Mrs. Hintz resides in Galveston with family and Mrs. Stafford is residing in the Heritage House...

Roy Dean Van Nort was installed by district governor Dexter Anderson as 1973-74 President of Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club at their 32nd Annual Installation of Officers Banquet last Thursday night. Noon Lions Queen Tinker Baker was on hand for the events and well as outgoing president Mark Anderson...

Eddie Lee Balusek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Balusek of Garwood, attended the Bexar County TYRA Youth Rodeo in San Antonio, June 7-9. He was declared Champion Senior Ribbon Roper competing against 49 other boys. Tommy Dee, Eddie Lee's brother, was Champion Junior Breakaway Roper with 17 other boys competing. Each won a beautiful belt buckle...

Teresa Marie Spanihel, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. L.J. Spanihel of Eagle Lake, was elected City "A" Fire Chief in a program being held in Seguin at Texas Lutheran College. Teresa is a Rice High School student.

Miss Ramona Rucka, bride-elect of David Gatloff, was honored with a miscellaneous shower at Dider Hall on Sunday, June 10...

T Lang and Major Bengie were recipients of the president's appreciation awards at the 32nd Annual Installation of Officers Banquet Thursday night held by the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club...

Frank Norris Davidson had two occasions to observe Sunday, June 17, Father's Day and his 90th birthday...

Misses Margaret Wilcox and Melody Farris returned June 14 from a nine-day, three-island tour of Hawaii...

Funeral services will be held from the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Eagle Lake at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23, for Mrs. Laura Young, a long-time respected resident of this city. Her husband, the late Stiner Young, was employed by the Bruce McCarty at the Headlight for many years.

July 14, 1950

Tomorrow night, voters of the community will have an opportunity to see and hear in person many of the candidates for office for which they will be voting the following Saturday. This is the first time in a number of years that an old-fashioned political rally will be held in this area and citizens owe this opportunity to the civic mindedness to W.L. Coffey, Scoutmaster, and Boy Scouts of 127, who are sponsoring the event...

Mrs. Grace Towell has been hired for the position of County Health Nurse...

Eagle Lake rice produced last year brought the highest price average in the co-op association with the average price for Eagle Lake being \$7.88 and the association's average was \$7.35...

Miss Ann Carrington of Bay City became the bride of Roy Stallman of Garwood on July 1st...

Mrs. C.M. Womack has graciously given the Eagle Lake High School Library a set of World Book Encyclopedias...

Two Southern Pacific Transport Company truck drivers who have driven more than 250,000 miles without a preventable accident received (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

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Clay Krhovjak of Metropolitan Mortgage and Mark Skelton of Citywide Mortgage are pleased to announce the merger of their offices. Starting in June, Mr. Skelton and Mr. Krhovjak will be in operation under the name of Citywide Mortgage.

Both Clay and Mark have strong financial backgrounds which have enhanced their capabilities in the mortgage business. Together, they can offer present and future homeowners a wide variety of financing options to meet individual needs.

Citywide Mortgage is located at 22 N. Bell in Bellville. Mark and Clay are looking forward to serving Austin and surrounding counties for many years to come.

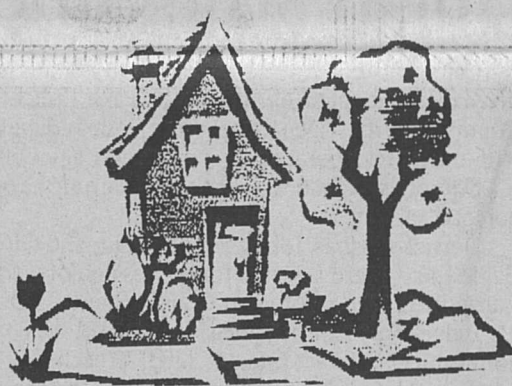
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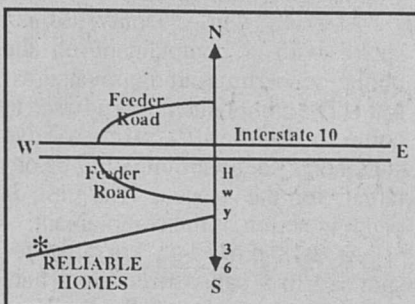
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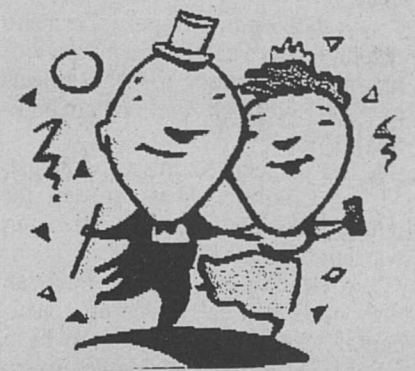
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Bible Verse of the Week

"My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

— Psalms 121:2

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

Views On Dental Health

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.
234-3525
Located on 90-A
at Laughlin Road

TONGUE THRUST THREAT

The curious habit of tongue thrusting, which some dentists call reverse swallowing or immature swallowing, can result in forcing the front teeth outward or a "buck tooth" condition. Though we are not usually aware of it, the tongue plays an active role in chewing and swallowing food, continually moving the food around and finally shoving it backward down the throat. Some children develop the habit of thrusting the tip of the tongue forward until it is pressing against the upper front teeth. (To see what tongue thrusting feels like, place the tip of your tongue on the roof of your mouth, and

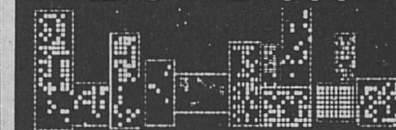
then slide it forward until it is pressing strongly against your front teeth.)

The tongue is capable of giving quite a strong push which, if repeated many times a day, can eventually move the front teeth out of place. There are devices which dentists can use and patient therapy and training to help stop tongue thrusting — but stopping is a must if teeth straightening is to be successful.

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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ABOUT TOWN...



•Saturday, July 11, Butch and Mary Lou Szymanski were honored by their children and grandchildren on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at the Taste of Texas Restaurant in Houston.

Following dinner, an anniversary cake was enjoyed by all at their daughter and son-in-law's home, Paula and Bud Kopczynski.

Those in attendance were Steve and Pam Bertsch; Rebecca Bertsch and Bart Dunaway; Courtney Bertsch and Adam Harwell; Bud, Paula, Ashley and Kurt Kopczynski; and Keith, Penny, Andrew and Anna Kate Cathcart.

•Debbie, Joseph and Kayla Curtis of Alma, Wisconsin, are in town for a 10-day stay visiting the Balas family. The special trip was made to attend "The Gala for Renee".

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