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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Rosenberg PD commends Eagle Lake

The following is a letter received recently by Eagle Lake Mayor Michael Cooper from Robert Garcia, Rosenberg Chief of Police.

The Honorable Michael Cooper
Mayor, City of Eagle Lake
P.O. Box 38
Eagle Lake, TX 77434

RE: Commendation

Dear Mayor Cooper,

I would like to commend your

officers for the assistance they provided our detectives on June 22, 1998, and the excellent work in the apprehension of two individuals wanted for robbery from our city.

Chief Keith Webb, Sgt. Jack Knox and Officer Brian Ochoa's excellent knowledge of your community and good solid police work lead to the arrest of two individuals without incident.

I am definitely impressed with the manner in which these officers were

eager to assist by providing the detectives with information that led to an arrest.

Their actions exemplify the best attributes of employees committed to serving the community.

The Eagle Lake Police Department should be proud to have officers of this caliber in the department.

Sincerely,
Robert Garcia
Chief of Police, Rosenberg

State investigates care facilities

After a long investigation of personal-care facilities in Texas, a Senate committee has found enough evidence, including deaths and poor treatment, to seek changes in the law.

Last week, the Senate Interim Committee on Home Health and Assisted Living Facilities recommended more thorough oversight by the state for frail, elderly people and others in assisted living or served by home health-care agencies.

"After 10 months of investigating and researching unlicensed personal-care homes in Texas, I am sorry to say that this story is repeated almost daily



State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

somewhere in our state," said committee member Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth.

Texas has an estimated 4,000 unlicensed assisted-living facilities with more than 900 personal-care facilities licensed by the Texas Department of Human Services, Moncrief said.

Among the panel's proposals:
•Help families get information or lodge complaints.

•Impose stricter requirements for assisted-living facilities.

•Centralize oversight among agencies that often don't share information.

•Increase the \$400 cap on facility-licensing fees.

The proposals will be forwarded to the 1999 Legislature, which convenes in Jan.

Scholarship Give-Back is Eyed

Campaigns are gearing up for the 2000 elections so there's a lot of political interest in giving money back to taxpayers.

With a projected state budget surplus of \$6 billion, state officials are dreaming of ways to help students pay the high cost of college education, as a way to return money to taxpayers.

Scholarship proposals range wide, from giving \$500 million a year to the neediest Texans, to giving every student with a certain grade-point average free tuition and fees regardless of family income.

Georgia, Florida and Kentucky dedicate their state lottery proceeds to pay for scholarship funds. In those states, students are eligible to receive scholarships regardless of their family income.

House OKs Nuke Waste Pact

Legislation allowing shipment of nuclear waste to a site near the West Texas town of Sierra Blanca was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives last week.

The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, authored by U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, has moved to the Senate for

consideration. Texas Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison have supported the measure.

Congress already has approved nine such compacts involving 42 states.

The Texas compact would allow Vermont and Maine each to pay Texas \$25 million to ship their waste to the site.

Insurers Work on 'Y2K' Liability

Insurers are working on a way to limit claims related to the potentially devastating Year 2000 computer problem.

Insurance Services Office Inc., a New York-based firm that compiles loss data for insurers, has asked the Texas Department of Insurance to approve a standard form that insurers could use on liability policies to exclude claims on a "Y2K" problem.

The department has not yet taken action on the request, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported last week.

Helmetlessness Has Its Price

Since Sept. 1, 1997, motorcyclists have enjoyed the legal luxury of cruising down beautiful Texas highways with nothing separating their skulls from eternity but the wind itself.

Turns out, however, that fatal motorcycle accidents have increased since the use of helmets became optional for riders age 21 and older, Department of Public Safety records show.

Thirteen riders in 37 fatal motorcycle accidents from Sept. to Dec. 1997 weren't wearing helmets. In 1996, two motorcyclists died without helmets.

Under the 1997 helmet law, riders who don't wear helmets must carry a minimum of \$10,000 in health insurance coverage or successfully complete a safety training course.

Other Capital Highlights

•Although Gov. George W. Bush has said he is a candidate for governor in 2000, not a candidate for president, he attended a GOP fund-raiser in Akron, Ohio, last week.

•Former Gov. Ann Richards is serving as co-chair of Democratic candidate Garry Mauro's campaign for governor.

•Gov. Bush and challenger Mauro agree on this: that Texas should spend more to build prisons and schools.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

June 26, 1973

An Altair man, Freddie Wilkerson, 32, was killed in the collision of his large gravel truck and trailer and a pickup truck pulling a stock trailer on FM 109, 2.2 miles north of Columbus at 12:15 p.m. Saturday. Werner Kalden of Columbus was the driver of the pickup...

Mrs. Mona Neal, 81, of Rosenberg and grandmother of Bobby Raley of Garwood, passed away Thursday, June 21, at Caney Valley Hospital in Wharton following a brief illness...

The St. Phillips Music Department of El Campo presented Sheryl Deniese Shorter in a Senior Piano Recital May 27 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Sheryl began taking piano lessons at the age of six under the instruction of Miss Lillian Duvall in Hungerford...

Little Miss Lisa and Johnny Nash of Bay City are spending this week with their grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Behrens in Eagle Lake and Mr. & Mrs. Ray Nash in Lissie...

A new employee at the Universal Motor Co. in Eagle Lake is Miss Pat Hamman of Columbus. Pat will be assisting Sonny Breithaupt in the parts department...

Ann Sunderman and her friend, Sally Tucker, returned last Friday from a pleasant trip to Hawaii. They had the opportunity to visit with Lt. (j.g.) Don Frnka, son of Publisher & Mrs. Fred Frnka.

Aug. 4, 1950

The Rev. & Mrs. G.K. Kerr of Baxter Springs, Kansas, are the new pastors of the Apostolic Faith Mission here...

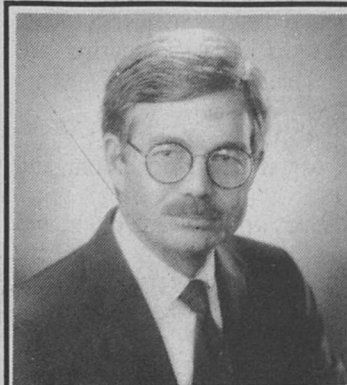
If you think Rudy Spanihel's not on the ball, you should have seen him last Sunday handling the cash during the Catholic barbecue. He fingered the green stuff like it belonged to him and Dr. Lewis Kopecky watched every move...

Don Smith surprised his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Hargrove Smith, in more ways than one last Saturday evening. He walked in unannounced after a six-week's visit in El Paso with his grandmother, Mrs. Helen H. Smith, carrying a cage containing two hamsters...

James W. Hearn, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joe S. Hearn, just completed his initial ten weeks of training with the Marines and has been promoted to the rank of Private First Class...

Mr. & Mrs. M.E. Selph became the proud grandparents of a baby girl born to Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Schluter of Austin on July 31st. Mrs. Schluter is the former Leonora Selph...

Mrs. Roger Killough complimented Mrs. B.L. Vineyard on her 87th birthday Wednesday with a coffee. Guests included Mesdames J.H. Foster, M.G. Calvert, Robert Martin, A.L. Baring, Ira Hay, Earl Rodgers Sr., Vic Engelhardt, William Waddell, Hayes Stephens, C.B. (See 24 & 48, Page 4)



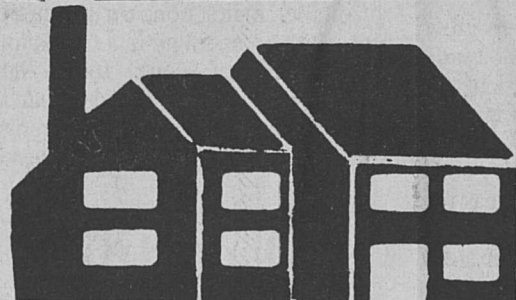
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