



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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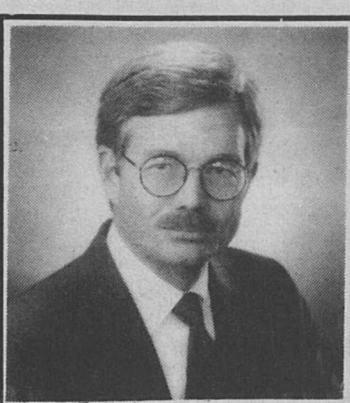
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Texas schools said to be 'increasingly poor'

"Increasingly minority" and "increasingly poor" are adjectives the Texas Education Agency used in its report released last week describing Texas' public school population.

Minority and poor students also are increasingly moving out of urban, inner-city schools and into predominantly white suburban school districts, the report showed.

"That really caught our eye," agency spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

"I think it may be that more minorities are entering the middle class and following the middle class to the suburbs."

During the 1997-98 school year, the number of minority (African American, Hispanic and Asian) students made up 55% of the 3.9 million Texas public school students, the eighth consecutive year minorities comprised 50% of more of all public school students.

The number of minority school students also is growing at a rate eight times faster than that for white students, the report said.

But the growth rate that stands out the most in Texas is that of economically disadvantaged students, which at 65% is the most of any population group tracked in the report.

Economically disadvantaged students now account for 48% of all Texas public school students, compared to 35% in 1987-88.

Students are classified as economically disadvantaged if they are eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture meal programs offered at schools, through which children from low-income families receive free or low-cost breakfasts and lunches.

Bomer OKs Code Changes

Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer has adopted, on an emergency basis, a citizen advisory committee's recommended changes in the state's new coastal building code for windstorm resistant construction.

Without Bomer's emergency action, changes in the code likely would take 60 to 90 days due to public notice and public hearing requirements.

Bomer said he planned to follow those requirements and consider permanent adoption of code changes that would:

State Capitol Highlights
By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

•Increase eave-to-eave roof span of one and two-story buildings from 36 to 48 feet.

•Allow builders to connect building components, such as wall studs, top plates and sole plates with plywood sheathing, appropriately nailed to assure resistance to uplift from hurricane-force winds.

•Add new provisions giving builders guidance on the design of recessed front entryways.

New homes built to the new code will qualify for Texas Windstorm Insurance Association wind and hail insurance premium discounts to be set by Bomer.

Agencies Issue Lens Alert

Four state agencies last week issued a joint warning about possible health risks associated with medically unsupervised use of cosmetic contact lenses.

After receiving about a dozen reports of eye infections and injuries, the Texas Department of Health, Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, Texas Optometry Board and Texas attorney general said risks of using unprescribed lenses include bacterial infection, allergic reaction to the lens coating, insufficient oxygen to the cornea, abrasions and corneal ulcers.

The colored and patterned noncorrective fashion lenses, frequently sold in businesses unlicensed to distribute them or through classified advertising in school newspapers and free community publications, often target junior high and high school students.

Also, the Texas Department of Health said, the sharing or trading of contact lenses can cause serious viral

or bacterial infections.

Other Capital Highlights

•With the voluntary assistance of Texas newspaper publishers, Texas Secretary of State Alberto Gonzales is conducting an essay contest in which school children will write on the topic, "Why My Parents Should Vote." Winning entries will be published in newspapers and displayed at the state Capitol. On Sept. 8, Gonzales certified the ballot for the Nov. 3 election.

•The Texas Department of Insurance reports that the state's 20 biggest automobile insurers are charging just 2.7% more than insurance department benchmarks established to keep rates reasonable. State law permits insurance companies to charge rates 30% higher or lower than a benchmark the state considers reasonable.

•Over a 78-hour Labor Day weekend reporting period, traffic accidents on Texas roads claimed the lives of 29 people, the DPS reported.

Let's Look Back...
24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 20, 1973

Lewis J. Rosprim and Willie L. Fitzgerald, vocational agriculture teachers at Rice High School, will receive 25 year tenure pins and will be honored by the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas in San Antonio July 31...

Mr. & Mrs. Rudy J. Tilt Jr. of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Linda Marie, to Gerald "Birdie" Wayne Segrest, son of Mr. & Mrs. Guy W. Segrest of Wharton. The wedding is calendared for Sept. 15 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Gertson and family of Lissie and Randy Beyer of East Bernard returned recently from a tour of New York City and Washington, D.C....

Clyde A. Farthing of Iago, father of Clyde Farthing of this city, passed away Wednesday, July 18...

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Anderson, Becky and Andy Anderson returned Sunday, July 15, from a very enjoyable six-day vacation trip to Seattle, Washington, Vancouver and Victoria, Canada, and other points of interest along the way...

Last rites were held today, Thurs-

day, for W.H. Warthan of Sheridan who suffered a heart attack Tuesday while mowing grass at his home. Mr. Warthan was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 366 in Eagle Lake for many years.

Sept. 14, 1950

There was speculation right up to the final day as to whether or not Sheriff Lee would contest the election in which he was defeated in the sheriff's race by J.O. "Boyche" Walker of Eagle Lake by 16 votes...

H.H. "Bud" Fitzgerald and Glenn Duve are the first two Eagle Lake men to receive orders for induction into the armed services since draft boards stepped up operations following the Korean War...

New officers for the Eagle Lake Community Center are Mrs. C.E. Evoritt Sr., president; John Carroll, vice president; Mrs. C.W. Causey, secretary; and Lloyd Spalinger, treasurer...

Congratulations to Mrs. R.W. Lange who has completed work on her Master of Education Degree. She is a faculty member of the local elementary school...

The Headlight has been asked by

State Fair officials to pick out a front page of the paper and send it to them to be included in the "Time Capsule" to be sealed and buried at the 1950 State Fair with instructions not to open until 2050 A.D. Wonder which page received the honor?...

A number of former Eagle Lake Eagles who earned fame on local gridirons will be competing with college stars for places on various teams in Texas including: John Walker, Wharton County Junior College; Emmanuel "B.B." Braden, Rice University; Melvin Selph, Southwest Texas State Teachers College; Walter Frnka, Texas A&M University; and George Cason, Southwestern University...

Miss Nell Young will be hostess at Club Montezuma beginning Wed., Sept. 20th. She will be assisted by her mother, Mrs. J.T. Young...

The Girl Scout Council has six new leaders this fall including: Troop 2 Leader, Mrs. John Carroll, assisted by Mrs. C.C. Bradford; Troop 1, Mrs. Ralph Thomas, assisted by Mrs. Robert Cole; and Troop 7, Mrs. M.W. Pape, leader, and Mrs. Edgar Adkins, assistant.

Views On Dental Health

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SHARK — A TOOTH FACTORY

When Mother Nature configured the shark, she must have spent a lot of time when it came to designing the teeth. The shark has teeth that continue to grow all its life. New teeth sprout out of the skin near the back of the shark's jaws, rather than being rooted in bone as ours are, and they gradually move forward as they grow larger. The old teeth in front become worn down and fall out, and the newer teeth move in to take their place.

not a continually replacing lifetime supply.

A shark's teeth are adapted for just one function — ripping and tearing its prey into chunks that can be conveniently swallowed. All its teeth are shaped according to the same basic pattern: a large, sharp, pointed cone. Maybe that's why sharks have such unattractive smiles.

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**Rice Consolidated Independent School District
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Invites All Parents and Interested Citizens to Hear a Presentation on

**ABSTINENCE-BASED
SEX EDUCATION**

This curriculum is being proposed to be added to the regular school curriculum to meet the requirements of Texas Senate Bill 1 and to enhance the education of our children.

**Featured Speaker, Lori Kuykendall of the
Women's Pregnancy Center of Houston,**
will present an overview of the proposed curriculum
for grades five through twelve.

A Question and Answer Period Will Follow

The same program will be presented in the following locations:

Eagle Lake Middle School	Tuesday, Sept. 22	7 p.m.
Garwood School	Monday, Sept. 28	7 p.m.
Sheridan School	Tuesday, Sept. 29	7 p.m.

**PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND ONE OF
THESE MOST INFORMATIVE MEETINGS!**

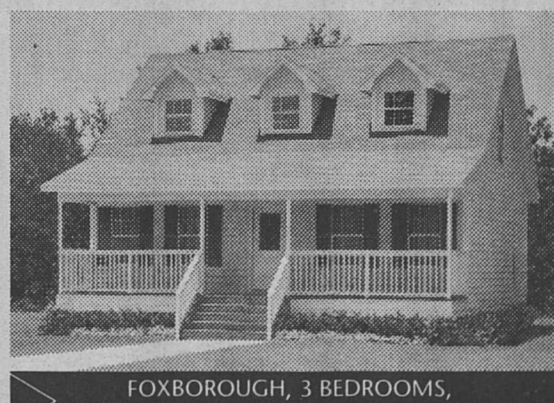
For further information, please contact
**Debra Ugarte, R.N., at Eagle Lake
Primary School, 234-3587**

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