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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:

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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,
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

Nationwide General cited for 'redlining'

State insurance regulators last week cited Nationwide General Insurance Co. and its subsidiaries for widespread "redlining" practices.

The companies were accused of avoiding selling auto and homeowners' policies in minority neighborhoods of the Dallas-Fort Worth

area and three other urban areas.

In a report published by *The Dallas Morning News*, Bob Sohovich, a spokesman for the Ohio-based company denied the allegations, saying, "Nationwide insurance is extremely surprised."

Lawyers for the Texas Department of Insurance recommended that the company be assessed a \$10 million fine.

"Census data show that the effect of the company's market strategy is to steer Nationwide agents away from sales in ZIP Codes areas where the population consists predominantly of racial minorities," the report said.

"The result of the strategy is to systematically exclude minority customers from the market in which Nationwide operates."

Nationwide has 20 days to respond to the report. They can seek an appeal hearing before an administrative law judge or try to negotiate a settlement with the Department of Insurance.

Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer will make the final decision in the case.

Jerry Johns of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service told *The Morning News* the industry does not illegally discriminate in selling products.

"Insurers do practice risk selection, which means that insurance companies base decisions on the characteristics of each individual risk," he said.

Court Proposes Records Rules

The Texas Supreme Court has proposed rules that would open most administrative documents, from travel expense records to appointment calendars, kept by state courts. The Associated Press reported last week.

Chief Justice Tom Phillips said the draft rules, to be reviewed in a public hearing this week, would open judges' telephone records to public inspection.

Last year, the state's highest civil court overruled an opinion by Attorney General Dan Morales that would have required release of telephone records.

The proposed rules would prevent release of draft opinions and internal memos on court rules and procedures, but would subject to public scrutiny travel and expense records, visitors' logs and judges' personal and business appointment calendars.



State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Phillips said the proposals follow a national trend.

"Most Freedom of Information acts excluded the judiciary, dealing instead with those branches of government that taxed and spent your money," he told *The Associated Press*. "There's been a movement in the past 10 years to include the judiciary."

The proposed rules roughly follow suggestions drafted by the Texas Judicial Council this year at the court's request. The council is headed by Phillips and includes judges, other state officials and members of the public.

Issuance of the rules starts a four-month process to refine them before they take effect.

Tree Removal Prompts Complaint

The bulldozing of juniper trees at the Fort Hood military reservation is damaging the habitat of endangered golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos and ruining archaeological sites, an environmental group says.

Public Employees for Environmental Possibilities, an alliance of state and federal employees in pollution control, land management and wildlife protection agencies, lodged the complaint.

Fort Hood spokesman Cecil Green said there has been no damage, adding that junipers are considered a noxious shrub that inhibit the growth of beneficial native grasses, which prevent water runoff and soil erosion. And, he said, endangered birds' nesting areas aren't destroyed.

Jim Stinebaugh, senior resident agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in San Antonio, said the agency would look into the matter.

Travis Leads in Traffic Deaths

Travis was tops among Texas' six largest counties last year with 1,533 traffic fatalities for every 10,000 people, according to data assembled by the Trans Texas Alliance, a coalition. (See Highlights, Page 8)

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 27, 1973

Simon S. Sinclair, chairman of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank, and Mrs. Nelson Isenhour, president of the Study Club, were on hand to examine the microfilm tapes and the new viewer given by the bank to the new Eagle Lake library building upon its completion. The Study Club sponsors the library...

The COGS Pee-wee All Star team which was victorious in end of season All-Star game Wednesday night consists of David Sosa, Phillip Schorlemmer, Victor Reyes, Richard Cordova, Chris Barela, Mark Salazar, Joey Barela, Reginald Hemphill, Arthur Rhodes, Paul Lopez, Terry Cotton, Ralph Cordova, James Rhodes, James Zickhur and Calvin Foster. Coaches are Louis Schorlemmer, Billy Salazar and Paul Trcka...

The First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake was the scene of a lovely, double wedding when two sisters chose to be married on the same day. The two young ladies are the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Richard English of Eagle Lake. Lucy Ann became the bride of Randolph Rhodes Buffington, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Buffington of Eagle Lake; and Mary Leah married Richard Wayne Schmidt, son of Mr. & Mrs. August Schmidt of Eagle Lake. The weddings took place July 1st at 2:30 p.m....

The Eagle Lake Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) attended the district meeting in Brenham last Sunday. The election of officers was conducted at this meeting, and Joe Frybert of Eagle Lake was elected president of the district. Other local CYO officers include Terry Ostal, vice-president; Kathy Frybert, secretary; Susan Kucherka, treasurer; and Teresa Spanihel, historian...

Friends in the community will regret to learn of the death of Mrs. C.J. Jennings of San Antonio, the former Mary Maude McCarty a native of this community. She died Sunday, July 22, in a San Antonio hospital.

Sept. 28, 1950
The first Patna rice sold this year

was sold last week by Miles Thuman for \$9.19 a barrel...

S.S. Sinclair, Gulf distributor in Eagle Lake, has been appointed chairman of the Eagle Lake "Oil Progress Week" committee...

A four-eared white pig, owned by J.F. Mazac of Jefferson, made the Ripley "Believe it or Not" column in Tuesday's *Houston Post*. Mr. Mazac is a brother of Frank and John Mazac of Eagle Lake. Wonder if they have some of their brother's believe it or not animals...

The Eagle Lake Eagles and the Louise Hornets battled to a 6 to 6 tie last Friday. Eagles shining on defense were Frankie Parma, Jack Dowdy and Albert Dutcher and handling the secondary nicely were Bill Hanly and Tommy Scott...

Mrs. Gardner Duncan of Eagle Lake has accepted an invitation to participate in the 1950 Citizens Advisory Conference on Education to be held on Oct. 9 in Austin. So far, 21 other residents of the Ninth Congressional District have accepted invitations to participate...

Eagle Lake High School classes have elected their officers and sponsors as follows: senior class officers: Bill Reading, president; Raye Dodd, vice president; Betty Futh Beane, secretary-treasurer; senior sponsors: Mrs. Be K. O'Donnell and L.J. Rosprim; junior class officers: Sammy Tise, president; Ernest Larmer, vice president; Lula Gene Snelling, secretary-treasurer; junior sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kirksey; sophomore class officers: Leon Simank, president; Patsy Scott, vice president; Kenneth Nolan, secretary-treasurer; sophomore sponsors: Mrs. E.O. Ranft and Ray Smith; freshman class officers: Carey Hanly, president; Gayle Thomas, vice president; Grace Dell Sinclair, secretary-treasurer; freshman sponsors: Mrs. Lizzie Westmoreland and Coach Arnold Payne...

The Rev. Joe Anderson will fill the pulpit at the Lissie Evangelical United Brethren Church Sunday in the absence of the regular pastor, Rev. Robert O. Tupper...

Members of the Eagle Lake Garden Club brought back two ribbons for two entries Tuesday from the Wharton County Fair. Mrs. V.T. Matthews was awarded a blue ribbon for a pedestal arrangement and Mrs. R.P. Wilcox received a pink ribbon for a shadow box arrangement.

About Town...

County Farm Bureau Board member Leon Hattermann of Weimar and President Dean Venghaus of Columbus attended the 1998 Legislative Seminar Sept. 16-17 in Austin.

The focus of this year's program was on Electrical Deregulation and its potential impact on rural Texas, as well as an opportunity to hear each of the statewide candidates Farm Bureau has endorsed for the Nov. election.

Speakers at the General Session-TFB Agfund Endorsed Candidate Forum were: Paul Hobby, Comptroller; John Cornyn, Attorney General; David Dewhurst, Land Commissioner; Tony Garza, Railroad Commissioner and Supreme Court, Place 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Speaker for the Legislative and Congressional Race was Brian Eppstein, of the Eppstein Group. The main speaker for the program was Gov. George W. Bush.

The Colorado Valley Alumnae Panhellenic has announced the following girls from Eagle Lake have pledged a sorority: Risa Waddell, student at Texas A&M University and daughter of Beth Waddell and Davis Waddell, has pledged Zeta Tau Alpha; Kelly Mathys, Southwest Texas State University student and daughter of Ann Pavliska and George Mathys, has pledged Alpha Chi Omega.

Lt. Vera Reeves of Rock Island is reported to be in San Francisco attending a computer programming school at the University of California, Berkeley. Her employer, the Ft. Bend County Sheriff's Department, chose her to accept this "tough" assignment.

Word was received about Vera's trip via a jealous husband who would rather be in San Francisco than feeding horses and fighting mosquitoes. Sorry, Jay. Maybe next time!

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

(Exemption Registration No. 39354)

Class Concrete has made registration with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) under TNRCC 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 106.201 (formerly known as Standard Exemption 71) to operate a Concrete Batch Plant in Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas. The proposed location is on County Road 3013, just west of Carter Walker Road. Additional information concerning this registration is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper. This notice is to be published on October 1, 1998, and October 8, 1998.

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First Drug Approved for Crohn's Disease

Crohn's disease was described by Dr. Burrill B. Crohn and colleagues in the 1930s. This is a chronic illness characterized by fever, diarrhea, continuous loss of weight, and progressive anemia associated with inflammation of a section of the small intestine called the ileum. The term regional ileitis is sometimes used for Crohn's disease. In some instances with Crohn's disease, fistulas develop. These are tube like passages linking the large intestine to the anus, vagina, or other organs. Although some researchers have discovered a link between a bacteria and this condition, that link remains controversial.

Sometimes surgery is successful in removing gastrointestinal fistulas. In more severe cases symptoms can return, however, and involve much of the gastrointestinal tract, including the mouth. No specific drug has shown much progress against Crohn's disease until the recent approval of infliximab (Remicade). Infliximab reduces levels of a protein called tissue necrosis factor. This protein is thought to contribute to the inflammation associated with Crohn's. In one clinical trial, 65% of those who took the drug experienced a clinical response. One-third of the group experienced no symptoms of the disease within 4 weeks.

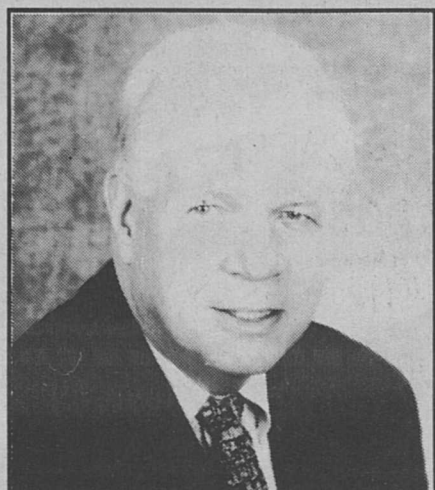
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A successful business man with 30 years experience in running Jamison Crane Rentals and Jamison Equipment Company ...will use this experience to run the affairs of our county.



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