



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Produced By:
Carol Nelson
Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Luedecke • Katherine Smith

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Report shows medical error deaths

At least 44,000 hospitalized Americans die each year because of medical errors, according to a report released last week by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine.

But the report does not cite how many accidental deaths of patients were recorded in Texas or any other state, for that matter.

Neither the Texas Department of Health nor the Texas Board of Medical Examiners keeps track of deaths attributed to "medical errors" that could include misdiagnosis or mis-prescribed drugs.

Texas health officials reacted to the report, however, saying physician-and facility-licensing procedures help to ensure patient safety.

"Our system has worked well, and physicians that don't meet our requirements are disciplined," Dr. Bruce Levy, executive director of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, told *The Dallas Morning News*.

"If a medical provider represents an imminent threat to the public, we can suspend their state license, and we now do that about a dozen times a year," Levy said.

In Texas, physicians do not have to be re-examined once they are licensed, but they must take at least 24 hours of continuing medical education each year.

More than 900 Texas physicians have been disciplined in the last six years for violating state rules and requirements.

Disciplinary actions ranged from license revocations and suspensions to public reprimands and fines, Levy told *The News*.

Ninety-nine physicians have been disciplined for malpractice or other infractions in 1999, including nine who lost their licenses to practice in Texas.

Licenses of 43 doctors have been suspended and 18 doctors have had restrictions put on their licenses, Levy

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Texas hospitals are required to report any abuse, neglect or exploitation of patients to the Department of Health, said Nance Stearman, director of the Health Facility Licensing and Compliance Division at the Texas Department of Health.

TNRCC Sends Y2K Alerts
Failure to prepare for the year 2000 computer bug will not be accepted as an excuse if violations of state environmental regulations occur.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has sent a series of "Y2K" alert letters to companies that must comply with state environmental regulations.

"It is important that you understand the failure of any aspect of your operation as a result of Y2K problems that cause noncompliance with TNRCC rules will not be considered an 'act of God,'" cautioned TNRCC Executive Director Jeff Saitas in an Oct. 26 letter.

"Consequently, any such failure

will be subject to normal enforcement procedures."

Since Aug. 1998, three letters have been sent to alert the regulated community of its Y2K responsibilities.

The most recent letter, mailed Nov. 19, was sent to about 900 small chemical companies and allied products companies that have less than 50 employees.

Other Highlights
• On Nov. 30, Texas Attorney General John Cornyn became the first Texas attorney general in 23 years to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Cornyn spent four months preparing for his 20 minutes before the Court, during which he defended a Texas sex-crimes law being challenged by a convicted molester in *Carmell vs Texas*. A ruling is expected next spring.

• The unclaimed property list published by the Texas Comptroller in Oct. soon will reunite 23,142 people with \$63.6 million in forgotten cash and other valuables. Claims are being processed as quickly as possible. Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander announced last week.

• Texas Parks and Wildlife is accepting applications until Dec. 16 for a game warden class scheduled to start in July 2000. Applications can be obtained by calling 1-800-792-1112. (See Highlights, Page 3)

File with party chair, not clerk

Notwithstanding reports to the contrary, the Democratic Party in Colorado County is alive and well. Its chair is James "Jim" Kearney.

Applications for a place on the Democratic Primary Ballot will be accepted by Jim through Monday, Jan. 3. He can be reached by a calling 409-732-8297.

Any person who wants to enter a political party primary for a county

office must file with the county chair of that party (Democratic or Republican).

The candidate should file a designation of campaign treasurer with the County Clerk before filing for office with the party chair.

The County Clerk is not the person with whom to file for a position on a ballot.

METRO NEWS BUSINESS REVIEW

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HERITAGE HOUSE

HERITAGE HOUSE is dedicated to providing quality care to meet the changing needs of each of its residents. The quality of care that the patient receives at this fine facility is rated with the best, with two consecutive years with deficiency free surveys from the Texas Department of Human Services. HERITAGE HOUSE is certified by Medicare and Medicaid. Their team of health care

professionals is led by a licensed administrator, and a local physician serves as their medical director and advisor of medical practices. HERITAGE HOUSE provides 24 hour nursing care, physical, occupational, speech and respiratory therapies, regular and specialized diets, a secured Alzheimer care center, and daily activities seven days a week to meet your loved one's needs.

HERITAGE HOUSE is located at 751 Heritage Lane, phone 234-3591. The writers of this 1999 Holiday Business Review and Reference Guide recommend this fine care center to anyone needing the utmost in quality care. HERITAGE HOUSE would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

THE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE

SUSAN GEORGE ~ MANAGER

Trends toward a longer life span and the need for opportunities to serve our senior adults who need some assistance with daily living, but wish to maintain their personal independence, are creating a need for different levels of continuing healthcare. THE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE is located in Columbus, TX., at 203 Charter Street, phone (409) 732-9590, and is a health care facility dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our senior citizens. There are studio apartments and one-bedroom apartments each complete with a mini-kitchen, living area, and a private restroom. THE OAKS provides 24-Hour supervision in a secure, safe environment with a security lock system and

intercom emergency call system. Three meals a day will be served in a lovely dining room, and residents also have the opportunity to fix snacks in a mini-kitchen in their apartment. Housekeeping services are provided once a week and a laundry facility is available for residents to use at their convenience, staff will assist with laundry if and when help is needed. Assistance, when needed, is available for daily living tasks including help with bathing, dressing, grooming, transferring and medication management. Social, physical and recreational activities are scheduled daily. THE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE invites you to contact Susan George for

additional information on the levels of assistance provided. At THE OAKS, their staff believes that it is possible for their residents to have independence and the help necessary to make life more fulfilling and more secure. "WE PROVIDE ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME."

We, the writers of this 1999 Business Review and Reference Guide highly recommend THE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE as one of the truly outstanding assisted living centers in our section. THE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

GUADALIJARA RESTAURANT

The splendor of *Old Mexico* is yours when you experience a dining adventure at GUADALIJARA RESTAURANT, located at 1308 Prairie Lea in Brenham, phone (409) 830-8007. The house specialties include sizzling fajitas, enchiladas, burritos, tamales and more. They have captured the true flavor of Mexico by using the exact spices and fresh ingredients to prepare their meals. Contrary to the belief that Mexican food is very hot, they serve their dishes with the hot sauce on the side, so you can enjoy it the

way you want. GUADALIJARA RESTAURANT now has a lunch buffet everyday from 11am-2pm, and a dinner buffet Friday and Saturday 5pm-10pm serving seafood. Through their efforts to serve the true Mexican dishes with a real flavor of the country, as well as an interesting South-of-the-Border decor, they've become very popular eating establishments. They also have specials on drinks; Monday Draft Beer 99¢, Tuesday Mexican Beer \$1.50, Wednesday Ameri-

can Beer \$1.25, and Monday through Thursday Margaritas 4pm-7pm only \$1.99.

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SHOPPA'S FARM SUPPLY

FIVE LOCATIONS

LLOYD SHOPPA - CHRIS SHOPPA - ALAN HESKAMP OWNERS

For nearly a lifetime, the name JOHN DEERE has been synonymous with the finest farm equipment that money could buy. Smart farmers and ranchers all over the world have been depending on a "DEERE" to get the job done for many, many years and their faith has always been rewarded by a superior job. In the Eagle Lake area, you can see what's new for JOHN DEERE for 1999 at SHOPPA'S FARM SUPPLY at 1701 East Main Street, phone (409) 234-5524; in East Bernard on Highway 60

South, phone (409) 335-4887; in Edna at 2202 Highway 111, phone (512) 782-3301; in El Campo (same location, new address) at 1010 Highway 59 South, phone (409) 543-8363; and in Bay City at 1402 FM 3156, phone (409) 245-2711, your authorized JOHN DEERE dealer. Whether it's a new tractor or a combine or most any farm implement, there's a JOHN DEERE product that will do the job for you in the most efficient manner possible. For sales, service, and parts of famous JOHN DEERE equip-

ment, you need to see the SHOPPA'S FARM SUPPLY in your area. As the authors of this 1999 Holiday Business Review and Reference Guide, we know your crop will look better and get a better price when you use the best equipment to cultivate and harvest it. Remember: "Nothing runs like a DEERE!" SHOPPA'S FARM SUPPLY would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

GENE'S CUSTOM PICKUP ACCESSORIES @ GENE'S WRECKER SERVICE

Attention pickup truck and utility vehicle owners! If you'd like to customize your truck or utility vehicle for work, recreation or just want to enhance it's appearance, GENE'S CUSTOM PICKUP ACCESSORIES can be of help. They are located at 2507 West Loop in El Campo, phone 409-543-7374 or 1-800-543-9633, and in Wharton at 4502 Highway 60 North, phone 409-532-5322. GENE'S CUSTOM PICKUP ACCESSORIES offers one of the area's largest selections of after market truck accessories. Whether your truck is new or old, GENE'S CUSTOM

PICKUP ACCESSORIES will be glad to offer helpful suggestions on customizing your truck based on their years of experience. They carry the famous RAWSON KOENIG tool boxes which are the best heavy duty boxes made, and they have a lifetime guarantee on their latches! In addition, they offer chrome and heavy duty pipe grille guards, bumpers, and headcack racks, bedrails, tailgate covers, and step bars (chrome or black), heavy duty bedmats and liners, and many other accessories. They have shopped the market to give you the best

quality product at the absolute lowest price. For attractive, and durable accessories for your pickup or utility vehicle, we, the writers of this 1999 Holiday Business Review and Reference Guide, suggest you see the pros at GENE'S CUSTOM PICKUP ACCESSORIES (GENE'S WRECKER SERVICE). Open Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, and Saturday from 8 - 12. GENE'S CUSTOM PICKUP ACCESSORIES would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

DALEY SALVAGE

RONY DALEY ~ OWNER

"SINCE 1983"

HOURS ~ 8:30AM-5:30PM MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY
1/2 DAY SATURDAY - CLOSED WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY

If you're in the market for auto parts, you have two choices. You can go to a new auto parts house and spend a small fortune, or visit DALEY SALVAGE, where they have one of the area's largest selections of quality used and rebuilt auto parts at prices sure to please. With the price of auto parts as high as they are today, the average person cannot afford to keep their vehicle in the best of repair, unless they save their money by selecting their parts from DALEY SALVAGE, located at FM 109 in Columbus, phone (409) 732-5413. From starters and alternators to both standard and automatic transmissions, they can supply you with most any part you may need. If your vehicle has been in an accident they may

have just the right fender, bumper, hood or door at a fraction of the price that you would pay for a new replacement. The people at DALEY SALVAGE are experts in their field and can help you find the part you need with a Nationwide Parts locating service. They pay market value for wrecked and disabled vehicles, and then disassemble them to give you the best buys anywhere. The writers of this 1999 Holiday Business Review and Reference Guide know you're sure to save money when you pay a visit to DALEY SALVAGE. DALEY SALVAGE would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

CHRISTINE'S

CHRISTINE GRAFE ~ OWNER

Known for their fine beverages and pleasant atmosphere, CHRISTINE'S at FM 1890 in Columbus, phone (409) 732-5970, is one of the area's leading fun spots for all types of people! Here's one place where you are never a stranger long, and where the good times just seem to roll on. CHRISTINE'S is a great place to go sit back and unwind in the pleasant surroundings of this fine night spot. They have pool tables, Dominoes, jukebox, and PacMan. Either way... you'll enjoy yourself more when you

enjoy yourself here! The writers of this 1999 Holiday Business Review and Reference Guide suggest that you make plans NOW to spend an evening of fun at CHRISTINE'S. "See ya there!" CHRISTINE'S would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season! Hours: 10am-12midnight, Monday through Friday ~ Saturday 10am-1am ~ Sunday 12am-12pm.

Letter to Editor Policy

The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will accept reasonable length letters for publication in the "Letter to the Editor" column under the following guidelines:

1. Letter should not be more than 1,5000 characters.
2. All letters must include the writer's name printed as well as the writer's signature, and include the writer's address and home and work telephone numbers. The *Headlight* must be able to reach the writer in person before the letter can be published.
3. The writer may request that their name be withheld from publication, but the information mentioned in No. 2 must be included for our files.
4. Letters about political activity will be published but those which mention candidates will be considered advertising and charged at the regular advertising rate.
5. Letters from political candidates espousing a political view, will be considered for publication but the writer's name will not be printed unless the writer pays the retail advertising rate.
6. The newspaper reserves the right to apply fairness standards in withholding any letter from publication, and to edit letters for libel protection.

1999 Christmas Party

Doors Open

5:00 p.m.

RUDOLPH'S PLACE

Both Shows start about 9 p.m.

Feature Artist
Patrick Murphy & Murphy's Law

Patrick has been singing professionally for over 6 years. He loves what he's doing.

Spur 529 @ 59 South (SW Freeway)
Rosenberg, Texas • (281) 238-0000

For Information on Future Events,
Check us out on the Web: www.rudolphsplace.com

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