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Children profit from anti-trust suit settlement

Underprivileged children in Texas will receive \$2.8 million worth of toys through national anti-trust settlements with four major toy companies, Attorney General John Cornyn announced.

The toys are being distributed by the U.S. Marines Toys of Tots program benefiting needy children in cities across the state.

"This holiday season thousands of underprivileged Texas children will receive toys as a result of these settlements. My office will continue to enforce the law for companies who seek to get around the rules of the marketplace," said Cornyn.

I want to applaud the Marines who are helping distribute these toys. I hope our efforts will bring additional cheer this year."

The distribution of toys resulted from national anti-trust settlements totaling \$56 million with Toys "R" Us, The Little Tykes Co., Hasbro and Mattel. The settlements resolved alle-

**State Capitol
 Highlights**

By Ed Sterling
 Texas Press Association

gations that the companies conspired to withhold popular toys from low-margin warehouse clubs and forced the manufacturers to sell the toys in multi-toy packaging.

These practices ensured that consumers could not easily compare the retail prices charged by the clubs to those charged by Toys "R" Us.

State Limits Fireworks Sales

Sales of fireworks (legal only twice a year in Texas) began Dec. 20 and will end Jan. 1 at midnight.

Fireworks can be sold for two weeks before Independence Day and two weeks before New Year's Day.

Dec. 15 was the deadline for county commissioners to implement a ban on the sale of aerial fireworks (stick rockets and missiles with fins and rudders) for this holiday season.

State Fire Marshal G. Mike Davis said people who use fireworks should be prepared.

"People should pay special attention to the prevention of fires and be ready to take quick action to douse a fire if one does ignite," Davis said.

Each holiday season emergency rooms receive people with face, eye and hand injuries from improper use of fireworks.

The State Fire Marshal's Office recommends that Texans choose a public firework display operating under a state permit as a much safer alternative to the private use of fireworks.

First Online Auction Succeeds

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander declared the state's first online auction of unclaimed property a success.

She said the Dec. 10 through Dec. 16 sale of jewelry and collectibles from abandoned safe deposit boxes attracted worldwide bidders.

The 81 auction items sold for \$12,265. Their appraised value was just under \$10,000.

The state paid about \$282 to sell the items online, using the online auction web sites of eBay, Yahoo and Amazon.com.

AG Halts 'Payday Lending'

Attorney General Cornyn announced the filing of a permanent injunction and comprise settlement with

lender Cash Today.
 Under the settlement, the company, which owns operations throughout the state, will pay \$1 million in restitution to Texas consumers and end its loan business known as "deferred deposit" or "payday lending."

Payday loans are short-term loans made by unlicensed lenders for up to several hundred dollars at extremely high interest rates, ranging from 650% to over 1000% annually.

Texas law prohibits businesses without a license from loaning money to consumers at an interest rate higher than 10%.

DPS Issues Travel Caution

As many as 62 lives could be lost in traffic accidents over the Christmas and New Year's holiday weekends, the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

Extra DPS units will be patrolling the Texas highways over the holidays, keeping a special lookout for speeders and drunken drivers.

Thirty-three people died in traffic accidents during the 1998 Christmas reporting period and 35 deaths were recorded over last New Year's.

Other Highlights

Gov. George W. Bush officially filed Dec. 17 as a candidate in the Republican presidential primary in Texas set for March 14.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission approved a set of proposals calling for "deep emissions reductions" to improve air quality in the state's major metropolitan areas. A public comment period for the proposed plans ends Feb. 1.

To THE EDITOR & YOU

Toy distribution a huge success!

The generosity of the citizens of Eagle Lake and the surrounding area was really and truly exemplified in helping make the annual American Legion Toys for Children in Needy Families a great success.

Toys for children, ages infant through nine years, were distributed by the Legionnaires and their wives to 312 children in 104 families on Thursday of last week.

The response in contributing toys and cash or checks with which to buy toys was overwhelming.

One hundred bags more than the year before were handed out at the Prairie Edge Museum. Over 1400 toys and cans of soda water were included

in the bags, helping make Christmas a happy time for every one of the children.

It would be impossible to list all the donors. The Legionnaires are very grateful to every one of the donors. Special thanks are extended to the Eagle Lake Headlight for publicity; to the Prairie Edge Museum for use of the auditorium for the distribution site; and also to the toy collection sites, the Furniture Shoppe, Wallis State Bank and Struss Auto Supply.

Legion Commander Fred Fmka added his thanks to Legionnaires and wives for their valuable assistance in making the event such a big success. He said, "It is indeed heart-warming to know that so many children in needy families were made happy at this joyous and blessed season. May God bless each of you and may you and yours have a happy and prosperous New Year."

**CELEBRATION
 2000**

We're welcoming in the new millennium with a sincere wish for all the best to our loyal customers throughout the area.

We are most appreciative of your kindness and support in the past, and hope we can continue our friendship through the coming year.

Furniture Shoppe
 Eagle Lake
 Melvin & Joyce Stancik
 Tiffany Samora, Louis Matthews, Adam Leal

**Celebrate
 MILLENNIUM MADNESS**

**New Year's Eve on Friday 12-31-99
 and
 New Year's Day on Saturday 1-1-2000**

Feature Attraction/Both Nights

Chris Chitsey
 Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Chris Chitsey grew up in a town known as "The Live Music Capital of the World."

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

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Oct. 31, 1974

These five pretty young ladies will be competing as finalists for the honor of being named the Rice High School 1974 Homecoming Queen. They are Dana Wiese, Rhonda Kochwep,

Sandy Tate, Janie Rodriguez and Charlene Parker...

Sadness was felt throughout this area during the past week-end when it was learned that Lewis J. Rosprim, 55, Rice High School vocational agriculture teacher, passed away Oct. 26...

Laying of a hot-mix asphalt base for eventual paving of Farm to Market Road 3013 from Eagle Lake to Sealy got underway this week after over two years of work on the six and one-half mile section of the new FM road...

Sheridan Halloween Queen...

Thomas Janish of Nada has been elected President of the Collegiate International Relations and United Nations Association Club at Wharton County Junior College...

Mrs. Mary Saucedo, the Primary School's most recent parent volunteer, is working with eight non-English speaking children three days a week at the Primary School campus...

Walter Lee Bauer of Eagle Lake was the recipient of the Limousin X Angus (Dandin C) bull calf sired by Dandin C that was donated to the Republican Women of Colorado County by Robert R. Wells Jr. of Altair...

Miss Sally Christine Taylor and Dennis Frank Lonner were married Saturday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. in Corpus Christi. The groom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Lonner of Sheridan...

Friends in the community will be (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

**THANKS FOR
 BEING IN STEP
 WITH US!**

*This New Year's Eve, whether you
 Tango...fandango...
 Or all-out shake-it-up on the floor,
 We'd like to cut in and wish you
 A very happy 2000!
 Waltz right in and see us anytime!*

From Your Elected Officials...

- Lawrence Berger Constable Precinct #1
- Darrell Gertson Commissioner Precinct #4
- Darlene Hayek County Clerk
- Wilfred Luedecke Constable, Precinct #4
- Ivan Menke Constable, Precinct #3
- J. Julian Moore County Attorney
- Mary Jane Poenitzsch Tax Assessor/Collector
- Richard Seifert Commissioner Precinct #1
- Joyce Stancik County Treasurer
- Mary Lou Szymanski Justice of the Peace Precinct #4
- Harvey Vornsand District Clerk
- R.H. "Curly" Wied Colorado County Sheriff



**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 1,500 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.