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To The Editor & You

It's time for MDA Telethon

Dear Editor:

Labor Day weekend marks the end of summer for many people. But to me it means it's time for the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Telethon.

Not only does this broadcast bring nationwide attention and support to the fight against neuromuscular diseases, it also recognizes our family and all the great people involved with the MDA in Eagle Lake.

My family is among those facing the onslaught of challenges caused by progressive muscle wasting, and we take great comfort in knowing that MDA funds hundreds of the world's top scientists with contributions made to the Telethon. These investigators are working around the clock to find treatments and cures for neuromuscular diseases. We also know that thanks to public support of the Telethon, MDA provides unparalleled help through a network of some 230 clinics from coast to coast.

We can count on excellent doctors, nurses and therapists at the MDA

clinics at the Vicki Appel MDA Neuromuscular Clinic and at the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation & Research, both in Houston. Their guidance has been a godsend, and MDA experts have answers for us when other doctors might not. MDA also helps pay for wheelchairs and leg braces, and hosts support groups in which families can network with others facing similar challenges.

Each summer, thanks to the Telethon, my child and other kids with neuromuscular diseases spend a week of fun and freedom at MDA summer camp in Burton. It's a fantastic time

for the kids, and a welcome respite for families who otherwise provide year-round care.

The MDA Telethon broadcast airs locally Sept. 3 at 11 p.m. on KPRC-TV, Channel 2. On behalf of our family, and families everywhere who've been touched by muscle-wasting disorders, please tune in Labor Day weekend and make a pledge by calling 800-FIGHTMD, or by visiting MDA's web site at www.mda-usa.org.

Sincerely,
Barbara Babbitt
Houston

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Aug. 5, 1976

Charles Boatner, Texas coordinator for the National Park Service, and Lee Herzberger, manager of the Attwater Prairie Chicken National

Wildlife Refuge, unveiled the landmark plaque at the refuge open house and dedication on Tuesday of last week...

Police Chief Roy Chisum resigned after inconsistencies are verified by the police department audit...

William E. Ordelt Jr. was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in services held July 25th... Mrs. Robert Wilcox and Miss Margaret Wilcox named Miss Marsha Thomas as honoree for a luncheon and kitchen linen shower on July 21...

Mr. & Mrs. Ludwig P. Zbrank of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Sylvia Ann, to Michael Ervin Rucka, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ervin J. Rucka of Eagle Lake. The couple plans a Sept. 25 wedding at St. Mary's Church in Nada...

Last reports of Richard & John Seifert, sons of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Seifert of Garwood, who are in John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, are that they are doing well as can be expected and are slowly improving...

Friends in the community regretted to learn of the death of Luther Smith, 79, of Pearsall, father of City Manager T.J. Smith...

Massey Duncan, owner of M&M Western Store, is recuperating in St. Luke's Hospital in Houston from serious back surgery...

Local citizens Janet Bauer, Janelle Bauer and Susan Spalinger and friend Susan Addy got some national TV coverage while attending the Oly-

New program launched to notify state residents of sex offenders

Texas residents have begun to receive notification by post card when high-risk sex offenders move into their neighborhoods.

The new program, implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety, gives residents more information about recently convicted sex offenders deemed most likely to re-offend.

The program affects only offenders convicted on or after Jan. 1, 2000, who have been designated Risk Level I under guidelines set by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Post-card notifications supplement those already required by law,



State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

such as notices that must be published in newspapers in both English and Spanish.

The first mailing of post cards, which went out last week, involved about 30 offenders and nearly 16,000 pieces of mail.

Post cards containing information about the sex offender, including

photograph, name, age, address and offense, were mailed to neighbors within a three-block radius in subdivisions and a one-mile radius in rural areas.

"The Legislature has given the people of Texas another tool to protect themselves from potentially dangerous people," said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr.

The post-card program came about through legislation authored by State Sen. Mike Jackson, R-La Porte, and sponsored by State Reps. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prairie, and Pat Haggerty, R-El Paso.

Shoppers Took 'Holiday' Seriously

Texas' second annual "sales tax holiday" appears to have been even more successful than last year, State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said last week.

"Judging by media accounts and an informal survey of shopping mall managers, families across Texas headed for malls and department stores in droves to stock up on back-to-school clothes for the kids, and clothes for Mom and Dad, too," she said.

At stores offering layaway plans, shoppers responded positively to an administrative change Rylander made this year: eligible items placed in layaway during the sale tax holiday can be taken out later without having to pay sales tax.

"This change enables hard-working families with limited budgets to pay for their purchases a little bit at a time and still receive the tax break," she said.

Rylander predicted shoppers would save at least \$34 million in state and local sales taxes during the three-day shopping spree, Aug. 4-6.

The actual amount of tax saved will not be known until late October, Rylander said.

Mall managers statewide reported crowds and sales up to three times higher than a typical August weekend. Some reported more shoppers than the day after Thanksgiving, the traditional start of the Christmas shopping season.

DNA Testing Confirms Verdict

Gov. George W. Bush last week said the results of new DNA tests confirm a jury's verdict that Ricky Nolen McGinn is guilty of raping and murdering his step-daughter in 1993.

Bush said he recommended a reprieve of execution for McGinn because it was important that biological evidence be tested to help determine the defendant's guilt or innocence of the rape charge.

"The district court action [Aug. 15] also demonstrates the safeguards present in our system," Bush said.

McGinn's June 1 execution date was postponed and has been re-scheduled to Sept. 27.

Other Highlights

• Texas public schools set a performance record last week when 167 school districts earned an "exemplary" rating from the state, the highest accountability rating possible from the Texas Education Agency. Also, 435 districts earned "recognized," 434 earned "acceptable" and five earned academically "unacceptable" ratings.

(See Highlights, Page 3)

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Views On Dental Health

BRACES NOT JUST KID STUFF

It wasn't too long ago that everyone thought braces were only for children. However, today, there are more than 1 million people over 18 getting their teeth straightened.

Why would an adult get braces? Many adults are simply interested in improving their appearance. But, many people are starting orthodontic treatment for health reasons, too. Crooked, crowded teeth are harder to keep clean, so they're more susceptible to decay. Also, a bad bite can cause uneven stress on the teeth and jaws leading to pain in the jaw joints, headaches, and tooth loss. The problems won't get better by themselves. If anything, they'll tend to get worse. So, it makes sense to correct them orthodontically.

As a matter of fact, the teeth and their supporting tissues are physiologically the same for both children and adults. Also, since patient cooperation is so important in orthodontics, treatment of adults can be remarkably successful.

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Letter to the 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.

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