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## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)  
P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main  
(979) 234-5521  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,  
TEXAS 77434-0067  
Published Weekly Every Thursday

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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

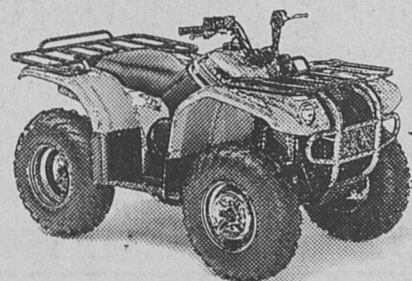
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## To THE EDITOR &amp; YOU

## Cantus send thanks

We would like to express our gratitude for all the warm welcomes and friendly smiles since our arrival in Eagle Lake.

The past two months have been rewarding in ways that only a small town can provide; all the familiar faces everywhere we go and the eagerness to 'bring us in' as a part of its own let us know that the move here was a good one for us.

The Open House held in our honor on Aug. 30 was such a generous out-

reaching to us by all the community. So many of you took time to come by and meet us and extend your good wishes. Thank you for taking the time and giving us the opportunity to get to know you.

We look forward to participation within this community in ways that will continue to build on its greatest asset - all of you, the people who embody the heart of this town.

Thank you, Eagle Lake.  
Dr. Ray Cantu and family

## Hooray! for Municipal Park

Hooray! Hooray! Our million dollar Municipal Park is now complete and is a very valuable addition to our community. Official grand opening was held on June 3, 2000.

Beginning at the two rebuilt tennis courts in the Joe S. Reed Jr. Tennis and Recreation area in the Eagle Lake Recreation Center, there is a paved walkway bordering the creek all the way to the observation deck extending out over the lake.

The walkway is just about one-third of a mile there and one-third back. The walkway trail crosses under Hwy. 90A leading to the pavilion area. Highlighting the pavilion is a beautiful gazebo with picnic tables nearby on both sides of the creek.

The pavilion area was a donation of the First National Bank of Eagle Lake. The gazebo is surrounded by walkways on which are bricks engraved with names of local citizens, donor, memorials, etc.

New restroom facilities are at the rear of the revamped swimming pool. Also beside the pool are two large areas with lots of playground equipment centered on circular areas covered with wood chips. Christ Episcopal Church of Eagle Lake was the major contributor to the Toddler Playground area.

The walkway trail has been designated a part of the Wintermann Wildlife Area. The trail has three bridges crossing the creek, with tables and benches placed at various vantage points along the trail where you can stop to rest and enjoy the wonders and beauties of nature.

At the end of the trail is the observation deck from which visitors can watch for birds of all kinds, turtles, frogs and perhaps even alligators. The observation deck is surrounded by beautiful plants of many descriptions and large and small trees, all of which truly attest to the fact that the area is a "real wilderness."

The park facility continues to the former E.H. Henry school site in the south of the city. At this location are: a large soccer field, a concrete basketball court; a volleyball area; and picnic tables at each end of the soccer field. The E.H. Henry Historical Foundation contributed land for these facilities.

The Municipal Park was financed in part through a \$500,000 grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; a \$200,000 donation from the Lower Colorado River Authority; and

TDH audit reveals  
inflated drug prices

Drug cost information supplied to the state by some pharmaceutical companies and used to set Medicaid drug reimbursement rates in Texas was inflated, according to an internal audit by the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

The information resulted in payouts to pharmacies that were almost 300% as much as the drugs actually costs, auditors found.

In comparing pharmacy invoices with Medicaid reimbursement rates,

State Capitol  
HighlightsBy Ed Sterling  
Texas Press Association

auditors found that the amounts pharmacies paid for some 62 drug items were lower than the Medicaid reimbursement rates. Overall, the comparison indicated that because of inflated price information supplied by manufacturers, the state was paying out almost \$3 for every \$1 the drugs actually cost.

"We paid out \$16.5 million in claims for these 62 drugs in state fiscal year 1999. Our audit indicates we paid out \$11 million too much," said Texas Commissioner of Health William R. Archer III, M.D.

"Is this the tip of an iceberg? We don't know, but we intend to find out," Archer said.

The health department forwarded its audit findings to the Texas attorney general's office.

Medicaid is a combination state-federal program that provides medical care and drugs for the poor.

## AG Sues Drug Companies

Armed with the audit from the TDH, Texas Attorney General John Cornyn last week announced the filing of a lawsuit against three drug companies for civil fraud.

The lawsuit claims that since 1995, Dey Inc., Roxane Laboratories Inc. and Warrick Pharmaceuticals Corp. defrauded the Texas Medicaid program of more than \$20 million as part of a plan to corner the market in respiratory disease medications.

The state seeks to recover the (See Highlights, Page 4)

\$300,000 from the City of Eagle Lake.

You are invited to enjoy this new facility, but be sure to wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. By all means bring binoculars, cameras and perhaps some mosquito repellent.

If you are not able to take a stroll along the park's walking trail, views of the park's highlights have been added to the Historical Driving tour audio tape available from Fred Frnka, Main Street office or the Chamber of Commerce. They are also added to the video tape which will be shown at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, in the Eagle Lake Community Center as part of the Eagle Lake High School Reunion 2000.

Use of the audio tape is free but a \$10 refundable deposit is required. Copies of the 83-minute video tape are available for \$15.

Fred R. Frnka  
ELHS Class of 1939

P.S. If some of our senior citizens need transportation, contact Frnka at 234-2065 for an appointment. A car, driver and tape will be furnished without any charge.

## Thanks for your help, contributions

Dear Editor:

I knew we could count on the wonderful folks of Eagle Lake!

Thank you for helping the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon raise a record \$54,610,289 in pledges and contributions.

Hundreds of celebrities and nearly a million volunteers worked Labor Day weekend to help "my kids".

Yet, all our hats are off to you Eagle Lake residents for phoning in

pledges to the Telethon on KPRC-TV, for supporting fire fighter "Fill-the-Boot" drives and other local MDA events.

Your caring gives tremendous support to children and adults in Texas and to families across the country.

Thanks to you, MDA maintains 230 clinics, including the clinics at the Vicki Appel MDA Neuromuscular Clinic and Texas Institute for Rehabilitation & Research, both in Hous-

ton. These havens of help are staffed by top medical experts dedicated to giving life-enhancing care to people challenged by muscle-wasting diseases.

Thanks to you, MDA will continue to accelerate worldwide research seeking treatments and cures for devastating neuromuscular disorders which affect people of all ages, both sexes and every nationality.

You'll be interested to know that the breakthroughs being pioneered by MDA investigators may also soon lead to therapies for heart disease, cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's and cystic fibrosis.

For more information or to get involved, call your local MDA office at 979-838-4545, MDA national headquarters at 1-800-572-1717, or visit [www.mdausa.org](http://www.mdausa.org).

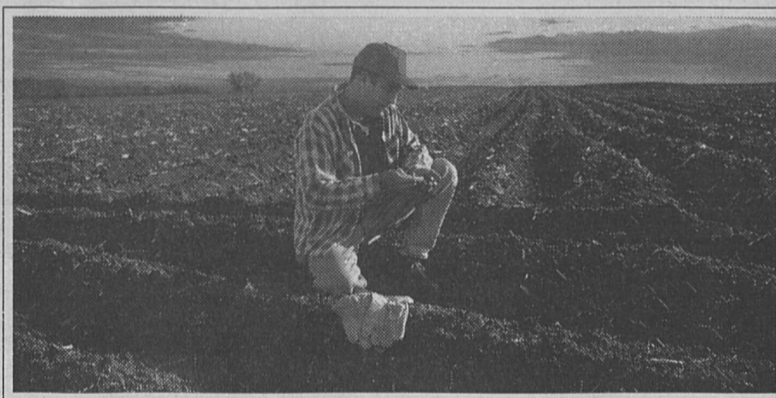
Sincerely,  
Jerry Lewis

Notice  
of Vote on Tax Rate

The Rice Hospital District conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Rice Hospital District from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 30.1 percent on September 7, 2000.

The Rice Hospital District Board of Directors is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 18, 2000 at 7:00 P.M. in the Rice Medical Center Conference Room.

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Congratulations,  
Jennifer Soliz  
Graduate of Baylor  
University

Jenny recently received her  
Bachelor of Arts degree in  
Social work. She is the  
daughter of Minerva Rivera  
of Houston; the grand  
daughter of Ramona C.  
Garcia of Eagle Lake; and  
the niece of Letty and Albert  
Delgado of Eagle Lake.

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