



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Produced By:

Carol Nelson
Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Lueddecke • Katherine Smith

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The Eagle Lake Headlight reserves the right to reject, edit or omit editorial content and/or advertisement for any reason to conform to the paper's policy.

To The Editor & You

Sheridan PTS sends thanks

The Sheridan PTS held its Halloween Carnival on Oct. 28. This is our annual fund raiser and the money we make is used to sponsor activities and programs for our school and its students.

Businesses in our community as well as Eagle Lake, Hallettsville, Rock Island, Weimar and Columbus donate year after year. Donations are made to our drawing, country store and food booths. We wouldn't be successful without you! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

I personally want to thank every teacher, parent/guardian, grandparent and student who helped with the carnival. Whether you worked a booth, baked a cake, donated an item, sold or

bought a drawing ticket, you contributed to this carnival's success. Some of you outdid yourselves and I want you to know how much you helped and that it is appreciated.

The cake walk did extremely well this year. We had a record number of cakes. We had cakes brought from people who don't have any children in school in Sheridan. Special thanks to the residents of Rock Island for baking those cakes.

The list of people that we owe a thank you to is too long for this letter. You know who you are. We thank you for your continued support!

Sharla Miller, President
and the Sheridan PTS

State wins cases against 'payday' lenders

The state of Texas won cases against two "payday" lenders in Hidalgo County that made loans without a license and charged interest rates as high as 780%.

A jury found the businesses EZ Cash and Quick Cash and owners George Moreno and Anna Gaytan guilty and ordered them to pay \$250,000 and \$17,500, respectively, to restore interest overpayments by unsuspecting customers. Combined civil penalties were \$12,000 and state's attorneys fees total \$36,000.

The jury also found the defendants used threats or coercion to collect money from customers, including the threat of filing criminal charges when customers had not violated any laws.

"These are clearly illegal acts perpetrated by unscrupulous individuals," said Attorney General John Cornyn. "The people of this state have no tolerance for lenders who prey on those least able to protect themselves against these kinds of practices."

Businesses that engage in payday loan arrangements typically lend small amounts to customers who face short-term financial difficulties and often live paycheck to paycheck, with little access to mainstream forms of credit.

Flu shots supply remains slim

The Texas Department of Health has received only 35,000 of the 366,000 doses of flu vaccine it ordered and the balance should be shipped periodically through Dec.

Most of the shipment will go to public health facilities. The agency is asking doctors to disperse their vaccines to the elderly and other high-risk groups first until an adequate supply is available.

"What we're trying to avoid is a well-protected low-risk population at the expense of an unprotected high-risk population," said Sharilyn Stanley, M.D., the agency's associate commissioner for disease control and

State Capitol Highlights

By Pauline Word
Texas Press Association

prevention.

High-risk groups include people age 65 and older, nursing home residents, asthmatics and people with diabetes, kidney or heart problems. Children on long-term aspirin therapy and pregnant women in the second or third trimester as well as health care workers also are high-risk.

The health department estimates private practitioners and health care providers in Texas have ordered 3 million doses of the flu vaccine.

TNRCC report finds 42 changes

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) would continue to operate for the next 12 years and would gain greater flexibility over its own budget under

changes proposed in the first independent performance review of the 7-year-old agency.

The Sunset Advisory Commission completed a yearlong review of the environmental agency and found that TNRCC's current funding structure does not adequately support its activities and that the agency lacks strategic direction and innovation in its regulatory structure.

The report also found that the public's interest is not represented in environmental issues as well as it is in electric utility and insurance regulation, and that the agency limits the collection and use of public input into its compliance efforts.

The commission turned its report and 42 recommended changes over to the Legislature for consideration.

Other Highlights

•Secretary of State Elton Bomer announced the results of his "Why My Parents Should Vote" essay contest that drew 3,000 entries from schoolchildren statewide. First-place win-

ners are Andrew Cole, Stroman Memorial High School in Victoria, Matthew Cole, Howell Middle School in Victoria, and Morgan Redus, Bremond Elementary in Bremond.

•The first 29 people graduated from the Comptroller's Texas IT Academy, a public-private partnership to help fill high-tech state jobs. Students are college graduates who earn an entry-level salary while in the program and agree to work for the state for at least two years after they graduate.

•Oyster season opened last week but harvesters only will be able to gather oysters in parts of Galveston Bay. All other Texas coastal waters will remain closed to commercial and recreational harvesting due to the effects of red tide, a toxin-producing algae bloom that hit the coast in Aug.

•Texas Parks and Wildlife Department launched the first migratory bird hunting report that will run from the opening of waterfowl season through mid-Feb. Updates will be posted online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.



Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist
THE DIABETIC FOOT

A chronic disease that is on the rise, diabetes is the inability to produce or use insulin efficiently. The condition can affect the foot and cause serious complications - even amputation - if left untreated, so regular podiatric care is essential for the diabetic patient. A person can lose sensation in the foot and not notice scrapes, cuts, or cracks in the skin; ingrown or infected toenails; bleeding corns or calluses; or swelling. These conditions can worsen, and ulcerations may develop from untreated wounds. To avoid complications, diabetics should wash, dry, and inspect their feet daily for any changes or abnormalities. Because poorly fitting shoes can cause serious problems for the diabetic, feet should be properly measured each time shoes are purchased.

If you have diabetes, you probably already know about the special health challenges you face as the result of the disease. Slow healing due to poor circulation may increase the risk of infection, and damaged nerves can impair the sensations of pain that signal an injury. Don't take chances with your health. Seek professional help for treatment as well as prevention. And participate in the American Diabetes Association's National Diabetes Month to help communicate the seriousness of this disease and the importance of its control and treatment. We have office hours on Tuesdays at Rice Medical Center. Phone 234-5571.

P.S. Regular visits to a podiatrist will help diabetics care for their feet and can prevent a serious condition from developing.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Nov. 11, 1976

Officials of the new **Eagle Lake Concrete Products** industry are in the process of building a new plant on Hwy. 90A just west of the city...

Eleven persons, including former Eagle Lake Chief of Police **Roy Chisum**, were sentenced to terms of probation. Chisum, who was indicted on theft of funds from the City of Eagle Lake, was sentenced to eight years probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$4,871.98...

Miss Julia Thomas was crowned Homecoming Queen for 1976... Eagle Lake citizens welcome a new dentist to this community. **Rose Marie Roquemore** opened an office in the Thomas Medical and Surgical Clinic on Austin Road...

Jesse F. Vawter celebrated his 90th birthday at the home of his son, **Archie S. Vawter**, in Sheridan on Nov. 1...

Haywood D. Parker, a long-time resident of the community, passed away Nov. 7 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital at the age of 85...

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Kucherka of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Susan Elaine**, to **Gary Lynn Poenitzsch**. The wedding is planned for Jan. 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Charlie J. Arnett of Houston, uncle of **Mrs. Dale Cassidy** and **Raymond Kohleffel** of this city, passed away Nov. 6...

Miss Janice Marie Korenek, bride-elect of **Harold Kight Jr.**, was feted with a Lingerie Shower on Oct. 30 at the home of her mother, **Mrs. Richard Korenek** of Nada...

Relatives and friends learned with regret of the death of **Mrs. K.E. (Ina)**

Bauer on Nov. 8 at Heritage House in Eagle Lake...

The coveted crown of **Powder Puff King** at Rice High School is being sought by each one of these senior boys: **Steve Epps**, **Al Mahalite**, **Dennis Wilkerson**, **Gerald Popp** and **Terry Krenke**.

Oct. 16, 1952

Cortland Davis resigned as Chamber of Commerce manager. **Lee Briscoe** will fill in until Nov. 1...

Ben McElhinney was elected president of Recreation Center... A daughter was born to the **Ed Causey** Jrs. She has been named **Jill**...

The Catholic Altar Society honored **Mrs. Wilbert Kucherka** with a pink and blue shower...

Dorothy Austin was feted at a surprise birthday party...

Sandra Lee is the new arrival of **Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Gertson**...

Carol Konesheck was honored at birthday party...

The search for Osage resident,

Rudolph Tkac, revealed a body in a tank...

Oct. 23, 1952

A new high of \$11.16 was paid for the rice of **Chas Spalinger**...

Miss Patsy Scott was elected 1952-53 FFA Chapter Sweetheart...

John Walker is in basic training at North Fort Hood...

Fawn hits car, lands in jail, no charge filed. **H.C. Ripple** and sons, **Ronnie** and **Donnie**, were en route to Columbus when a young fawn tried to match wits with the **Ripple's** Ford. Presuming the fawn dead, Mr. Ripple placed the deer in the trunk and took it to the Columbus jail. When the trunk was opened, the deer jumped from the car and hobbled about the lawn. **Mrs. M.H. Butler**, wife of deputy sheriff, had the deer caught and placed in a jail cell until arrangements could be made to return it to the woods...

Lester Paschall was injured in a 20-foot fall while working in Houston...

Jo Ann Sens placed third in the state twirling contest.

Election

Continued from Page 1

posed, 4,457.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 1 Place 2: **Scott Brister-R**, 3,528, 56.16%; **Mary C. Thompson-D**, 2,754, 43.83%.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 1 Place 3: **Adele Hedges-R**, unopposed, 4,443.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 1 Place 4: **Terry Jennings-R**, 3,218, 51.16%; **Eric Andell-D**, 3,072, 48.83%.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 1 Place 5: **Tim Taft-R**, unopposed, 4,456.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 1: **Charles Wesley Seymore-R**,

unopposed, 4,465.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 2: **John S. Anderson-R**, unopposed, 4,487.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 3: **Harvey Hudson-R**, unopposed, 4,533.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 4: **Wanda Fowler-R**, unopposed, 4,489.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 5: **Richard Edelman-R**, unopposed, 4,465.

Appeals Court Justice Dist. 14 Place 6, unexpired: **Kem Thompson Frost-R**, unopposed, 4,415.

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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RSV Infection is More than a Cold

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common cause of respiratory infection in most children by age three years. Infection caused by RSV may cause a slight fever, runny nose, and other cold-like symptoms. In premature babies and some full term infants with lung problems, infection with RSV can cause them to be hospitalized, put on ventilators, and possibly die. Signs that the infection is settling in the lungs and needs medical attention include difficulty in breathing, severe coughing, rapid breathing, and wheezing when air is inhaled. The "RSV season" occurs when levels of the virus are considered epidemic. Except in the southern most parts of the US, this season usually parallels the "flu season."

The best way to prevent infants from getting the virus is to wash hands often, avoid contact with anyone suspected of being sick, not letting people smoke around the child, and keeping children away from crowded places. Infants who are at risk for infection (born prematurely or experience chronic lung disease) may receive a series of injections of an antibody drug *palivizumab* (Synagis), that is very specific for protecting against RSV.