



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To The Editor & You

Thanks for your support

To all the many customers:

To all that came into Dollar General because I worked there, I want to say thank you so very much for your support.

I really appreciate it so very much and enjoyed talking with you all and doing business with all of you.

As you all have heard through the grapevine, so to speak, I no longer am employed with the company.

And, I also know from people out on the street and close friends that I was to have taken funds from the company. Personally, I want to say that is a lie. I never took money from Dollar

General. I was raised and taught that you never steal from the place that you work.

Like I have always heard and read, they talked about Jesus Christ and I know that they will surely talk about me. But I have held my head up high, kept the faith in the Lord and weath-

ered the storm.

So keep me in all of your prayers and again thanks to all of you that believed in me and have missed seeing my smiling face at Dollar General.

Thanks again,
Ollie M. Carter
Ex-Assistant Manager

‘The world fell into place’

One evening, after a hard day’s work, a man was sitting in his recliner, reading his evening paper. After a while, the man’s son came to him saying, “Daddy, Daddy, play with

me!”

The man said, “Later.” After a while the little boy came back, “Daddy, Daddy, play with me!”

“In a minute,” the man said. A few minutes later, the little boy came back, “Daddy, Daddy, play with me!”

The man in frustration, grabbed a picture off the table, tore it into a thousand pieces and threw it on the floor. “When you put that back together, then I’ll play with you.”

A little later, the little boy came back with the picture.

The man asks, in amazement, “How did you do that?”

The little boy said, “The picture you gave me was a picture of the world, on the other side was a picture of a man, when I put the man together, the world fell into place.”

Submitted by the
Evolution Center

My Friend Brian

I will never forget Brian Thomas Balas.

One morning I was trying to locate Brian and found him at Grandpa Jimmy’s. He was helping his grandfather work on a water well.

I began to visit with Brian about his rice crop and Grandpa Jimmy immediately spoke up, “Don’t you come

State employees receive pay raise

It may be the dog days of summer, but for state workers, Aug. 31 is New Year’s Eve.

The pay raise approved by the Legislature last spring goes into effect Sept. 1, giving 200,000-plus state employees either an extra \$100 a month or a 4% hike, whichever is higher.

Many state employees choose the last day of Aug., which precedes the first day of the state’s fiscal year, as their official retirement date.

New hires also tend to take up their new positions on Sept. 1.

One of those taking a new job will be the next director of one of the largest state agencies, the Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Picked by the three-member Transportation Commission on Aug. 15 as the successor of the retiring Wes Heald was Michael Behrens. The 53-year-old engineer previously held the third-ranking job in the agency.

Behrens has been with TxDOT since 1971.

At the Department of Public Safety, the state law enforcement agency that protects the roadways TxDOT builds, the highest-ranking retiree this year is Senior Capt. Bruce Casteel, head of the Texas Rangers.

Casteel has been commander of the Texas Rangers since Sept. 1, 1996 and a Ranger since 1967.

His successor has not yet been selected.

AG’s race shaping up



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

Another personnel change this month does not involve a state agency, but it could in the long run.

Austin Mayor Kirk Watson resigned his office Aug. 14 to run for attorney general.

The 43-year-old Democrat is the first member of his party to announce for the race against Republican incumbent John Cornyn.

Watson was elected as mayor in 1997.

By the mile insurance

Down the road, Texas motorists may be able to save as much as \$300 a year on their car insurance.

Effective Sept. 1, a law will be on the books enabling insurers to offer automobile coverage based on the number of miles driven.

A lot of Texas grandparents may soon be saying, “Where was this when my kids were teen-agers?”

For those who don’t drive much,

the by-the-mile insurance will save some money. The best analogy is comparing this new concept to the way we pay for electricity-based on usage.

People who carpool and families with more than one vehicle will benefit from this new method of coverage.

But don’t rush out looking to buy a mileage-based policy. The Department of Insurance still has to develop rules for such a program, and no timetable for implementation has been announced.

Watch the water

The Department of Health is warning Texans to be careful when swimming in fresh water after two youngsters died from amoebic meningoencephalitis.

The children contracted the amoeba, which enters through the nasal passage and attacks brain tissue, while swimming in Lake Palestine and Lake Hawkins.

The organism is common in fresh water, but it tends to proliferate when temperatures are high and water levels drop.

When swimming in fresh water, especially if doing any diving, a person should wear ear and nose plugs.

Killgore to run for State Rep., District 17

Last week, Jean Killgore, a longtime Burleson County resident, announced she is running for state representative in the newly-formed District 17.

Killgore is traveling the district which includes Bastrop, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Lee and the northwest portion of Brazos Counties to visit with people about their views on important issues. She will seek nomination in the Republican Party on March 12, 2002.

Killgore told reporters, “The people in this new district have a great deal in common including similar heritage, traditional family values, counties with increasing new population, and similar agricultural and small business operations. The Colorado and Brazos rivers, our groundwater resources, and transportation are of vital concern to the future of our district and state.”

Killgore said her background and experience as a mother and grandmother, a legislative assistant in the U.S. Congress and an independent contractor and rancher would serve the people and interests of the district well in the State Legislature. Her 13-year legislative career included work on the staffs of Sen. John Tower of Texas, Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“Supporters are urging me to run for this seat because of my understanding of the legislative system and my concern for our families small business owners and farmers and ranchers. Among the important issues we face are protecting private property rights, groundwater resources, improving rural economic development and agricultural interests throughout our district, and also managing the rapid growth in the Bastrop area. I have also been active as a volunteer to protect our freedom and conservative values and to enhance our lives through limited government.”

“Our newly drawn district with Bastrop at its center is uniquely endowed with what people still think about when they think of the American dream - people with 8



(See Killgore, Page 8)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., Aug. 30, 2001, in the Administration Building in Altair, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$1.40615	\$0.07241	\$1.47856	\$3628.00	\$3191.00
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.30472	\$0.07120	\$1.37592	\$3724.00	\$3082.00
Proposed Rate	\$1.41736	\$0.07120	\$1.48856	\$4029.00	\$3189.00

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay these bonds, were approved by the voters of the district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$39,694	\$41,521
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$19,694	\$21,521
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.47856	\$1.48856
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$291.19	\$320.35
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$29.16

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Roll Back Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.6175. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.6175.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$3,810,915.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$76,351.00

around here messing with Brian Thomas Balas; he’s busy working on his inheritance.”

Brian grinned and we all had a good laugh and enjoyed the moment.

Another time at deer camp we were dove hunting and I killed a six and a half foot rattlesnake. While we were cleaning dove, I started to skin and filet the rattlesnake. Brian was watching me and made a soft spoken hint, “That skin would look good on my wall at home.”

I replied, “Yeah, but it would look a lot better on mine.”

Brian then asked, “Are you going to tan it yourself?” I said, “Yes just as soon as it quits wiggling.”

Brian had another question, “What would you take for that skin?” and I asked, “Are you trying to buy my snakeskin?”

Brian grinned and softly spoke, “It sure would look good on my wall.”

After we finished cleaning dove and the snake, I rolled up the skin and put it in a Ziplock bag. I put the meat in a Ziplock bag. I looked at Brian and said, “I’ve done some thinking and I guess you can have the snake skin but I’m keeping the meat.”

We laughed as did everyone else and I later tanned the skin for Brian to hang in his trophy room.

Deer camp again, Brian was all slithered down in a chair at the campfire Saturday morning about 10:30 napping... yeah, napping! I turned on my video camera and began a commentary, what sweet dreams he was having.

After a few minutes of r-rated material, Brian glanced up with the most innocent grin, didn’t say a word and went right back to his preteen nap.

(See Friend, Page 4)

Let’s Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Aug. 25, 1977

Verlin Argo was unanimously voted to become the full-time me-

chanic for the Rice Consolidated School District...

Mr. & Mrs. L.J. (Sonny) Spanihel were in Indianapolis, Indiana, last week to attend session of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. While there, they won a 10-day trip to Hawaii...

Funeral services were held Aug. 13 for Miss Bessie Lynn Yates, 87, the daughter of former publisher of the Eagle Lake Advertiser newspaper in the late 1800 and early 1900s...

Tommy Balusek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Balusek of Garwood, won \$500 in prizes at the TYRA Rodeo finals held in Houston Aug. 5-7...

Ronald Hayden, son of the late Melvin Hayden, was one of two students to receive his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville...

Funeral services were held for Joe L. Smith Jr., 47, of Ganado, a former resident of Eagle Lake, on Aug. 20 from Mill-Bauer Funeral Home...

Steve & Linda Balas observed their 10th wedding anniversary on Thursday of last week...

Supt. E.A. Krivacka presented 11 service pins at the annual In-Service meeting of the faculties, administrators and staff of the schools of the Rice CISD. There were two recipients of 25 year pins, Miss Omi Kincheloe and Charles W. DeShazo. Mrs. (See 24 & 48, Page 4)



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