



# THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067  
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## To The Editor & You

### Eagle Lake Chamber sends thanks

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all the local businesses in Eagle Lake who helped by making donations for the 2001 Santa Bags.

Contributors were: Austin's Barbecue and Catering, B&B Foods, The Baumgart Agencies, Canaris Nursery, Dairy Delite, Dulany Funeral Home, Eagle Lake Insurance Agency, Eagle Stop, The Furniture Shoppe, J&K Corner, Tim Kelley's Waterfowl Outfitters and Lodge, Laker Printing, Wallis State Bank and John & Jeanne Young.

Acting as Santa's helpers were Melvin & Debbie Schmitt; Jeremy, Veronica & J.J. Gonzales; Beverly Mason; Mary Ann Kaluza; Lana Dulany; and Joyce Stancik.

Also a big "thank you" goes to

AEP/CPL for donating the trophies and rosettes; Thurston Webb of Laker Trophies for a job well done in making the trophies; Ellison Chevrolet for providing the car and driver for Parade Marshall Elizabeth Waddell and sons, Davis and John, to ride in; Gary Tise and Eric Guthrie for the sound system; Ryan Services of El Campo for the lights; Dwayne Pagel and Family for the use of the trailer; Lynda Evans for being the emcee; Chamber President Mary Ann Kaluza, Russell, Doreen and Sarah Dispart, Eagle Lake Reunion Organization for the patriotic pleated fans; and Justice of the Peace Larry Dulany;

Also, City Manager Ron Holland and city workers, County Commissioner Darrell Gertson and workers and Chief Webb and officers for security efforts, Eagle Lake Lions Club

and Eagle Lake Fire Department, Eagle Lake Rice Dryer for the two-way radios, *Eagle Lake Headlight* for publicity, Catholic Daughters of Americas Court of Our Lady of The Fields #2465, Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance and Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary for providing food and refreshment by manning the booths, Julian Flores and Union Pacific Railroad, judges: Doreen Dispart, Dr. Ramon Cantu, Vivian Metzger and Wanda Webb.

We apologize if we omitted anyone. Without the help of these fine individuals this parade would not be the success that it is every year.

Thanks again,  
Eagle Lake Chamber  
of Commerce

## Redistricting over for a decade

Unless the matter is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Texas redistricting process is over for another decade.

Even if the high court takes it up, any ruling it made likely would not affect the 2002 elections in Texas.

Most maps chart existing geography, but the maps approved Nov. 28 by an appointed panel of three federal judges will redefine Texas' political landscape.

The effort began during the 77th Legislature, when lawmakers armed with 2000 Census data tried to handle the redistricting process themselves.

When that effort died of partisan politics, the issue went to the Legislative Redistricting Board. When lawsuits were filed after the board released its maps, the issue went to the



### State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox  
Texas Press Association

three-judge panel for resolution.

This is how it sorts out: Made up of two Democratic-appointed judges and one Republican, the panel left the proposed Senate map untouched. Of the 31 Senate seats, 19 could go Republican based on the redrawing.

As it stands now, the Senate has 15 Democrats, 15 Republicans and one vacancy.

The judicial panel did tinker a bit with the House redistricting map. Of

the 150 seats, 88 could end up in the hands of the GOP.

Presently, the House is the only body still controlled by Democrats. Seventy-eight of its members represent the party that once controlled the state, with 72 members being Republicans.

The plan approved by the three judges pits 37 incumbents against a fellow House member. Even more significantly, the plan threatens the political future of House Speaker Pete Laney of Hale Center, the state's highest-ranking Democrat.

When the legislature meets again in Jan. 2003, three Republicans will be running against Laney: Tom Craddick of Midland, Edmund Kuempel of Seguin and Brian McCall of Plano.

Laney has said he still intends to seek re-election.

### Mold ruling made

After sitting through public hearings and reviewing staff recommendations, Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor has reached a decision on the contentious issue of mold coverage.

Bottom line is that Texans will continue to be able to buy basic insurance for mold damage, but policyholders might have to start picking up the high cost of testing and clean up.

### Barrientos enters DWI plea

State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos has pled no contest to driving while intoxicated and has been assessed one year's probation.

Austin police arrested the Austin Democrat Nov. 21. He refused to take a breath test.

The senator paid a \$500 fine and must do 40 hours of community service. In addition, he cannot consume alcohol for one year and must receive alcohol counseling. The breath test refusal netted him a 180-day driver license suspension as well.

### Indian casino update

The Speaking Rock Casino in El Paso County can stay open while the Tigua tribe and the state continue their legal dispute over whether the gambling operation is lawful. That ruling, made Nov. 27 by a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, will keep the dice rolling and roulette wheels spinning until the tribe's appeal of a federal shutdown order has run its course.

The Tiguas say the casino brings in some \$60 million annually. The facility, located at Ysleta down the Rio Grande from El Paso, employs 850 persons, only 50 of them Tiguas.

**Happy 23<sup>rd</sup> Birthday**  
**Martha Ann Evelyn Holloway**  
Dec. 7, 2001  
Love, Your Daughter, Son,  
Sisters, Brothers, Mom & Dad  
We All Love You

### Thanks for the memories

Like the school song goes:

*This school is my school.  
This school is your school.  
It is the best school.  
That's Rice High School.  
We are the Raiders, Blue and Silver Raiders.  
Raiders charge on to victory.  
Now R-I-C-E stands out in glory.  
We do try our best to make her proud.*

*There are no others, like the Mighty Raiders.  
Raiders charge on to victory!*

Boy, did we make her proud with all our accomplishments to date with the Cross Country Team, Lady Raider Volleyball Team and the Mighty RICE RAIDERS Football Team.

I am so glad that you have experienced so many wonderful memories. We appreciate all the determination and hard work you've given. A big Thank You goes to the coaches, faculty, parents/guardians and teachers.

Raider fans, just remember that basketball season is here and there are many nights to go watch a game. Powerlifting meets are around the corner; FFA will be getting ready for their shows; drama is also getting ready for their meets; cosmetology has their shows; UIL academics, band, baseball season and track meets and whoever else that I can't think of. Let's keep that Raider spirit going. Support the youth of Rice.

Thanks for the memories!  
Lisa Mahalitic Hoffman

### Let's Look Back...

## 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Dec. 8, 1977

Bill Appelt was elevated from vice-president to president of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce in an election Monday. He will succeed Gail Bradshaw in the position...

A tragic head-on crash on FM 3013 Dec. 3 claimed the lives of Benny Lopez Jr. of Eagle Lake and Mark Luedecke of Sealy...

City Patrolman James H. Brooks Jr. tendered his resignation with the Eagle Lake Police Department after eight months to return to the Colorado County Sheriff's Department as a deputy...

Navy Seaman Apprentice Thomas J. Carter, son of Mrs. Ruth L. Carter of Eagle Lake, completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center in San Diego...

Eight-year-old Brian Balas, son of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Balas, had the hunt of his young life on Thanksgiving Day when he bagged two turkeys and an eight-point buck while hunting in the Mason area...

A tragic accident claimed the life of Casamiro Fuentes Dec. 2. His car

ran into a parked gravel truck two miles east of Lissie...

Navy Seaman Recruit Kirk Schneider, son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Schneider of Garwood, completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Florida...

It was with great sadness that friends and relatives learned of the sudden death of Mrs. Lucille Peters Schindler Dec. 6 at her residence...

Eighteen members of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department are now certified firemen under a program instituted by the State of Texas Jan. 1, 1975 to up-grade fire fighting in Texas. Those receiving certificates were Mickey Kochwelp, Edward Harborth, Roland Harbers, Bennie Miller, Fire Chief L.J. (Sonny) Spaniel, Monroe Briscoe, Bobby Joe Marsalia, T.J. Smith, Ronald Miller, Edwin Scheunemann, Leo H. Leopold Jr., Melvin Stancik, Ervin Rucka, Chuck Stephens, Johnny Prazak, Edward Sunderman, Wilfred Wick and Charles M. Briscoe.

Dec. 3, 1953

W.C. Elkins died suddenly from a stroke suffered while working at Lakeside Irrigation Company Monday, Nov. 30th...

Colorado County's cotton acreage for 1954 has been cut approximately one-third from last year to 10,361...

Mrs. Lottie Heffley showed an improvement after she suffered a critical illness Nov. 23...

Roy A. Van Nort killed a 10-point buck Friday on the T.W. Scott lease near Sublime...

The engagement of Miss Austin Bell Hoffman and Rueben Muench was announced...

Judge John A. Hancher sentenced three men, convicted of writing worthless checks, to spend one day in jail per dollar...

Downtown Eagle Lake began taking on all the appearance of Christmas this week.

"America is like a large, friendly dog in a very small room. Every time it wags its tail, it knocks over a chair."  
— Arnold Toynbee

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**SHOPPA'S FARM SUPPLY**

## Christmas Coloring Contest

Pick up picture to be colored at your nearest Shoppa's Farm Supply.

**Deadline to enter is Thursday, Dec. 13th.**  
**Ages 2-5 years old & 6-10 years old**

**PRIZES**

**2-5 years old**

1st Place - Electric Gator  
2nd Place - \$100.00 Gift Certificate  
3rd Place - \$75.00 Gift Certificate

**6-10 years old**

1st Place - 10-Speed Bicycle  
2nd Place - \$125.00 Gift Certificate  
3rd Place - \$75.00 Gift Certificate

**Winners to be announced Saturday, December 15, 2001.**

For everyone on your Christmas List... We Carry...

- John Deere Tools • Jackets & T-Shirts • Boots • Generators
- Pressure Washers • Space Heaters • Line Trimmers
- Chain Saws • Pedal Tractors • Tricycles • Train Sets
- Children's Books • Ornaments

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**Buzzin'... ABOUT TOWN**

- Lifeline, Personal Response and Support Services, based out of Framingham, Massachusetts, sponsored a trivia contest recently. Among the winners, and the only one from Texas, was Dorothy Kohleffel. Winners received a \$50 gift certificate to the eatery of their choice. Congratulations, Dorothy!
- Rumor has it that Atilano Cardenas Sr. celebrated a birthday this week and family and friends are to gather to celebrate this momentous occasion. Atilano is in the 90 or older range. He won't tell family members his age but thank God for him. He has been an inspiration to all his children and their spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.
- Carol Nelson, Rachael Navarro and Stacy and James Cardenas traveled to Leesville, Louisiana, to visit family member, Carol McDonald. The trip was said to have gone okay, except for the giant bridge to cross to Lake Charles.
- On the way back, the group traveled a different route so there were no (giant) bridges to cross.
- Mr. Elmer, a near-resident of Eagle Lake and a fixture at Sportsman's Restaurant, has been heard to say, "I'm so old, I was a waiter at the Last Supper."

## Free Dish!! Free Installation!!

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**Happy 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Raymond**

We Love You,  
Mother, Dad, Brother,  
Grandmother, Grandfather  
& All Your Family

Darrell Gertson of Eagle Lake has announced he will be seeking re-election as County Commissioner of Pct. 4 in the March 2002 Primary.