



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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

Produced and Distributed By:

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Advertising and News Deadline: 5 P.M. Monday

Subscription Rates	
Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt)	\$13.50
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties	\$15.00
Other Texas Residents	\$16.50
Outside of Texas; Inside U.S.	\$18.00
Foreign Rates Available By Request	

Single Copy Price : 50¢

Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas

Address Corrections should be sent to P.O. Box 67 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0068

To The Editor & You

Kids make mistakes, adults (4) make stupid decisions

This is in no way intended as a personal attack on Ms. Maldonado's opinion published in the Oct. 16 issue of the *Eagle Lake Headlight's* "Letters to the Editor", because I have never met her, but in response to some of her questions I felt compelled to write.

Yes, as a kid I made lots of mistakes, and as an adult I have made some bad decisions. So I am in no way perfect. I have references to support that! This is a big deal! It could also have been a tragedy. Thank God it wasn't worse. The media just brought it to light, instead of sweeping it under the rug like the Rice High School District

Administration would like to do. Deal with it! It happened.

This should bother our students and they will learn from it. They're intelligent kids and it will not scar them for life. It should also bother any responsible adult trying to teach values to our young adults of tomorrow.

Yes, Coach Roark has not been convicted of anything, but the administration should keep him on suspension until the outcome of the trial. Two weeks is an insult to people who care.

The officer involved in this incident is responsible for his own safety. Procedure during questioning of a subject

is between him and his supervisors. Also, he would not have been injured, (thankfully, not seriously), by a law abiding citizen. Instead, an adult making a stupid decision injured him. In 20 years with the fire department and ambulance, I have seen too many instances resulting from people drinking and driving. Hmmm... I wonder if Coach Roark knew it was a violation of District Policy to load beer into a district owned vehicle? Did he also not know that it was a violation of policy as well as a state law to consume alcohol in that vehicle as well as on school property at a school function-in a **DRUG FREE ZONE!** If not, it seems like the other three so called adults that people trust to teach our young people everyday should have! Nothing has been done, much less said about them. They chose to flee from the scene with Coach Roark.

Mr. Gott's decision to reinstate Coach Roark sends a conflicting message to our kids...

Let's see. One way of looking at the situation could be...If you can "get away" maybe it won't be nearly as bad as being arrested on the spot with evidence on you. In leaving the scene Coach Roark was lucky no one else was in his way. Let's not forget it was half time and there could have been other people in that stadium parking lot. This not only endangered the lives of others but also endangered Rice School district. If Coach Roark had been involved in an accident after drinking and then fleeing from an officer, I don't think an "I'm sorry, I won't do this again" would exactly cover it. This would have left the district open to litigation for many years to come.

I, along with others in our community support the Raiders, school activities and fund raisers. We are proud of our students and employees for their dedication to the education of our young adults and their devotion to their jobs. But we will **NOT** tolerate behavior that is detrimental to that goal. Zero Tolerance!!! The Administration should take a long hard look at Coach Roark, consider the serious nature of the charges, both of them which I am told are felonies.

This has embarrassed the students, faculty, some board members and the community; and if he is convicted, there is life and continued school spirit (See Mistakes, Page 3)

Let's work together

I had a long talk with members of various organizations about Chamber of Commerce issues and the availability of City Council when trying to get information. I'm an open-minded person but I don't have to draw a conclusion on the fact that the City Council is purposely neglecting the Chamber because of personal feelings toward certain members.

Council does not have to like anyone in the Chamber in order to work with them for the good of Eagle Lake. I also feel that, to be a true leader, one must put their personal feelings aside and go that extra mile to see that things get done whether it's for City Council, Commerce or any other organization related to Eagle Lake.

Instead of pointing the blame for

Democrats elect attorney as party chair

Garry Mauro, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1998, lost another election when the State Democratic Executive Committee met last week to elect a new chair.

San Marcos attorney Charles Soechting defeated the former land commissioner in the Saturday election. The vote count was 34-23 on the second ballot.

Soechting replaces Molly Beth Malcolm, who resigned after five years as party chair. He will have to run again for a full two-year term at the party's state convention in June.

Until then, with no Democrats in statewide office and Republicans in control of both houses of the Legislature, Soechting has his work cut out for him.

"Right now, we're about as low as you can go," he said in a speech last week.

More truck lanes likely...

When an 18-wheeler and an automobile crash, especially at highway speeds, the outcome usually isn't good.

Two bills passed during the regular session this spring, Senate Bill 514 and House Bill 1208, authorize the Department of Transportation and county governments to restrict travel lanes by class of vehicles. In other words, with TxDOT approval, county governments may designate truck-only lanes for increased safety. (Municipal governments already have that authority.)

Watch for more truck-only lanes as soon as the Texas Transportation Com-



mission approves rules implementing the legislation.

No driving in rivers after Jan. 1...

A prohibition against driving in a river sounds like an oxymoron, but after the first of the year, it will be against the law in Texas to operate a motor vehicle in the riverbed of a navigable stream.

The law was passed during the regular session to deal with the environmental damage being done by all-terrain vehicles and other off-road vehicles in the state's riverbeds.

Violations of this addition to the Parks and Wildlife Code will be Class C misdemeanors punishable by a fine up to \$500. Those convicted of subsequent offenses could face stiffer fines and jail time.

The new law will not totally prevent off-road enthusiasts from bouncing along riverbeds. Cities, counties or river authorities may create local river access plans allowing motor vehicles in certain areas.

The Parks and Wildlife Department also was directed to develop plans to create motor vehicle recreation sites in areas other than riverbeds.

Also, the Canadian River and Prais-

rie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, two Panhandle streams, were not included in the new law.

Cheers, it's flu season...

The Texas Department of Health is reporting above-normal influenza cases in the state, an indication that the flu season is starting early. Peak activity is always in Jan. and Feb.

"Get a flu shot," Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez said. "That's the first line of defense."

Since it takes about two weeks for the vaccine to become effective, the sooner the better in getting a shot. This year's vaccine offers protection against A/Panama, A/New Caledonia and B/Hong Kong flu strains.

More information on flu shots is available at www.tdh.state.tx.us or call 1-800-252-9152.

Teachers of the Year...

Ellen Herbert, a high school art and Advanced Placement art history teacher at Longview High School in Longview Independent School District, and Kynn McMillie, a first-grade teacher at Canutillo Elementary School in the Canutillo Independent School District near El Paso, have been named the Texas Teachers of the Year for 2004.

Herbert was named Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year, while McMillie was named Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year. Herbert also was selected to be Texas' representative in the National Teacher of the Year Program.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Oct. 11, 1979

George Sumer won the Ducks Unlimited Jimmy Reel Award at the Rice Belt Ducks Unlimited Dinner...

The Red Cross Chapter of Colorado County elected Mrs. R.R. Thomas as chairman...

Graveside services were held for infant Kelly Jo Anderson Sept. 23 in Nada...

Miss Lisa Lynn Mahalite and Thierry Wayne Hoffman was united in marriage in a beautiful ceremony at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada Sept. 22...

Friends and loved ones were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of Mrs. M.F. (Frances) Campbell on

Oct. 2 at her home...

The Business Club of Rice High School elected Robby Cook as its president...

Lois Mills, Heritage House Administrator, was honored with the National Living Centers Administrator of the Year award. It is the company's highest recognition of individual achievement...

On Oct. 5, a surprise party was held in the home of Mrs. Jeno Hargrove for Winston Nelson in honor of his Armed Service Training...

Miss Tracy Gertson, bride-elect of Kelly Jobe, was complimented with a Tupperware Shower Sept. 27 in the home of Mrs. Debbie Jobe...

Roger Montemayor, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Montemayor of Eagle Lake, successfully completed the Airborne School of the Texas National Guard...

Eagle Lake Special Officer Bill Chavis and wife, Louvenia, attended the Texas Peace Officers' Association meeting...

Mr. & Mrs. Alton N. Nelsen of Blessing announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Linda Diane, to David Miculka of Garwood...

Mrs. Mary Listvan Hrachovy, former resident of the Garwood area, passed away Oct. 1 in a Waco hospital at the age of 73.

Oct. 6, 1955

Les Zwernemann, owner of Shell Service Station, suffered two gunshot wounds in his leg. He was sweeping the floor when the broom accidentally hit the trigger of the gun laying on the floor...

Young Jeff Frnka, 20-month-old son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Frnka, escaped serious injury when he was struck by a car in front of his parents' home...

Billy Briscoe celebrated his fourth birthday with a party given by his mother, Mrs. Monroe Briscoe, and his aunt, Miss Mary Frybert...

T.W. Scott returned recently from a hunting trip to Alpine where he bagged his limit of one antelope...

Mr. & Mrs. C.E. McNeil have finished moving into their new home lo-

cated on Prairie Street...

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Causey of Karachi, Pakistan, are the proud parents of a son they have named Gordon Temple Causey. Mrs. Chas. W. Causey of Eagle Lake is the grandmother of Gordon Temple...

Mrs. E.W. Estlinbaum, Mrs. Joe Lee McCreary and Mrs. L.C. Zwernemann completed their training as Den Mothers...

Rella Faye Smith of Oklahoma and Vernon Alvin Peterson Jr., son of V.A. Peterson of Tulsa and Mrs. E. Hansen of Eagle Lake, announced their engagement and approaching marriage.

ABOUT TOWN...

Pat and Len Matula were involved in an auto accident last Wednesday, Oct. 22. Their car, in which they were also transporting their daughter and granddaughter (Shannon and Addie), flipped about three times, according to information we received.

Pat had a lot of scrapes and embedded glass fragments, but, thankfully, Shannon and Addie were okay. We were told Len took the brunt of the impact and stayed overnight in the hospital, just in case.

Len and Pat were seen at a local restaurant Saturday and said they were doing fine. That's one lucky group of people!

Listed among the 12 candidates for Homecoming King at Texas A&M-Kingsville is our own Brian Ford, a senior kinesiology major. The news release said he is representing the Residence Hall Association.

Celebration

Continued from Page 1

dition," said Chris Thacker, pastor of FBC.

The event will begin at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Following the program, everyone will be invited to the fellowship hall to view the exhibits and enjoy the refreshments.

For more information, call the FBC office at 234-2571; Sandra Bengt, 234-2795; or Margo Harrison, 234-5054.



VIDEO-2-Go

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New Drugs Slow The Progression of Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis is a condition in which the immune system attacks the joints. It usually starts with joints in the hands and feet. The result is pain, swelling, inflammation, and eventual destruction of the entire joint. Although it typically first occurs between 25 and 50 years of age, rheumatoid arthritis can strike at any age. Treatment usually relieves the symptoms in three out of four people.

Traditionally, pain medications have been the mainstay for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. The problem is that relieving pain may cover up symptoms while the disease slowly progresses. Newer medicines are becoming available that actually slow the disease process, thereby helping resolve symptoms. Etanercept (Enbrel) is a medicine that has been available for a few years. It has recently received approval for slowing the progression of structural damage in arthritic joints in people with certain types of arthritis. A new drug called anakinra (Kineret) was also recently approved to slow the progression of structural damage in those who did not find adequate relief when using one or more other drugs for this condition.

Views On Dental Health

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.

234-3525

Located on 90-A at Laughlin Road Eagle Lake

MAKE FIRST VISIT FUN

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children see a dentist by their first birthday. It may seem young, but we see so many 3 and 4-year-old kids with problems that could have been prevented. Going to the dentist for the first time can be fun and productive - if you prepare your child properly.

Suggestions: Discuss the visit with your child without frightening him, making him or her aware of the significance of the occasion for good dental health. Think and talk about the dentist as a friend. Avoid using words like hurt, drill, pain, needle and shot.

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Happy Birthday

Zacavia Lowe

October 30

To The Sweetest Little Girl in the world!!

Love Always,
Xavier & Katina Pratt