



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Please... slow down

The following was submitted by Tom Kelley to remind people in the area to SLOW DOWN, especially when children are in the area.

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone. Fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often?

When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. "Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror." The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand. Bob? Bob from church? Jack sunk farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket. A cop catching a guy from his own church. A guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after a long day at the office. A guy he was about to play golf with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached a man he saw every Sunday, a man he'd never seen in uniform. "Hi,

Bob. Fancy meeting you like this." "Hello, Jack." No smile. "Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids."

"Yeah, I guess," Bob seemed uncertain. Good. "I've had some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit just this once." Jack toed at a pebble on the pavement. "Diane said something about roast Beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?"

"I know what you mean. I also know you have a reputation in our precinct." Ouch. This was not going in the right direction. Time to change tactics. "What'd you clock me at?" "Seventy. Would you sit back in your car please?" "Now wait a minute here, Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65."

The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket. "Please, Jack, in the car."

Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window. The minutes ticked by. Bob scribbled away on the pad. Why hadn't he asked for a driver's license? Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat near this cop again. A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand.

Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip.

"Thanks." Jack could not quite keep the sneer out of his voice.

Bob returned to the police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the mirror. Jack unfolded the sheet of paper. How much was this one going to cost? Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of joke? Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack,

Once upon a time I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it—a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters all three of them, I only had one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again. A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again. Even now. Pray for me. And be careful, Jack, my son is all I have left."

"Bob"

Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. He watched until it disappeared. A full 15 minutes later, he too, pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.

Life is precious. Handle with care. This is an important message; please pass it along to your friends. Drive safely and carefully. Remember, cars are not the only things recalled by their maker. Pass this on, you may save a life. Maybe not, but we'll never know if we don't try.

Save Head Start!

Nine out of ten-Americans support Head Start the way it is, in spite of the House of Representatives' and a few

others' attempts to dismantle it.

Recently, papers ran an article by Michael Tanner and Jennifer Zeigler of the Cato Institute which stressed that Head Start, a federal, early education program for pre-school age children from low-income families needed to be "reformed." The article strongly stressed that Head Start wasn't doing what it was created over 40 years ago to do, to provide children with the educational and social tools to allow them to compete with their non-disadvantaged peers. They wanted readers to believe that Head Start had failed and was a waste of our money. Their accusations were false.

Authors Tanner and Zeigler failed to mention any of the extensive research that says Head Start does indeed work. A sample: Head Start Children are "ready to learn," as by the spring of their kindergarten year they showed substantial increases in word knowledge, letter recognition, math skills and (See Save, Page 3).

Prematurity Awareness Day

Dear Editor,

Nov. 18th has been designated by the March of Dimes as National Prematurity Awareness Day. Premature births have been escalating in the past 20 years nationally and in Texas.

Although nearly half of all premature births have no known cause, some risk factors increase the likelihood of preterm birth. Women who receive prenatal care are more likely to have access to services that identify problems early and may help improve the health of mothers and infants.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 2002, more than 1 million Texas women of childbearing age were without health insurance. One step towards addressing this problem is to restore Medicaid funding for pregnant women that has been eliminated in the most recent round of state budget cuts.

Restoring health insurance coverage for this population will go a long way toward assuring that their babies have a healthy start in life.

Sincerely,
Megan Walsh, M.D.
Chair, State Public Affairs Committee
March of Dimes Texas Chapter

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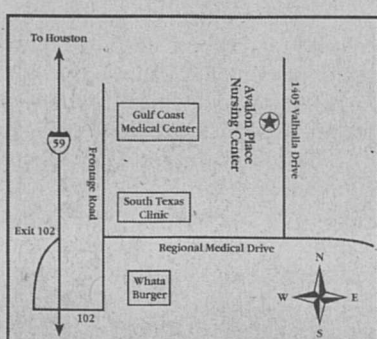
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Hunters add \$1.3 billion to economy

As political activities in Austin begin a slow slide toward the holidays, thousands of armed men and women in camouflage are moving into the rural areas of Texas.

The two actions are not necessarily related, but some of those people in camouflage are legislators, state officials and state employees taking a little time off to go deer or turkey hunting.

Deer season in all parts of the state except the Panhandle (where hunting can begin Nov. 22) opened on Nov. 1, but since that weekend was unseasonably warm, for all practical purposes the hunt began the second weekend of Nov. with the arrival of a strong cool front.

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the state has upward of 900,000 hunters. The latest survey data the agency has on its Web site reflects that those hunters contributed \$1.3 billion to the Texas economy in 1996. Given that ammunition, deer corn, hunting leases and other necessary items have not suffered any deflation since then, the amount of money hunters are pouring into Texas is probably much more - even with the super sluggish economy.

Texas ranks second nationally, TPW says, in the number of people who hunt. However, when the number of hunters gets divided by category, statistics from one private Web site indicate Texas is behind Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and New York - in that order - in the number of deer hunters.

But, Texas leads the nation in the estimated number of whitetail deer with a population of 3.7 million.

In spite of the fact Texans have the most deer to shoot at, they only come in second in the annual harvest. Texas hunters bagged 442,000 deer in 1998, with hunters in Wisconsin taking 469,555.

Some deer fight back...

A buck is not likely to attack a hunter, but deer can be dangerous in another way. The Department of Public Safety says 15 people were killed in 2000 when their vehicle struck a deer

State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

on the roadway. Another 1,500 motorists were injured in vehicle-deer crashes.

And even a non-injury collision with a deer can be expensive. One body shop owner in Llano told a writer for Insurance Journal that the average repair bill stemming from hitting a deer is \$1,500.

"It's just harder for motorists to see deer at night, thus the greater chance of hitting a deer that may dart onto the roadway," said TPW wildlife enforcement director L. David Sinclair.

Bottom line: Be aware that deer are on the move this time of the year. If you see a deer in the roadway, hit the brakes and hold the wheel steady. Above all, don't swerve dramatically to miss it. That's far more likely to cause a serious crash.

Another warning from the DPS...

The DPS also is warning hunters to keep an eye on their all-terrain vehicles, ATVs.

Theft of these vehicles, used by many hunters, is running way ahead of last year's numbers. Through the first half of this year, a time period which includes only a small portion of last hunting season, 153 ATVs were reported stolen each month.

Deer season, according to the state law enforcement agency, usually means an upswing in the theft of these recreational four-wheelers.

"Awareness is important this time of year, both for ATV owners and law enforcement," said David Griffith, commander of the DPS Motor Vehicle Theft Service.

The DPS recommends keeping ATVs chained to a secure object when they are not in use, removing the key, locking the steering wheel, and making sure you have the vehicle's serial number and description to aid in its recovery if it is stolen.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Oct. 25, 1979

Workmen were busy putting the finishing touches converting a building into a modern clinic for Dr. Jose M. Ugarte...

Named Sweethearts of the Rice FFA Chapter were Susan Drlik, freshmen, chapter; and Kelly Kallina, senior chapter...

Senior chapter...

Members of the Stapleton family gathered at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. H.H. Rowe in Eagle Lake on Oct. 14 for a family reunion...

Miss Harriet M. Engstrom became the bride of Paul Shooter on Oct. 13 in a lawn ceremony at the home of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Engstrom of Garwood...

Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Korenek proudly announced the birth of a son on Oct. 9. He has been named Kyle Henry. Welcoming him home was a sister, Kimberly, 2-1/2...

Carol Crabb, a junior at Rice High School, was elected Miss Rice FFA. Runner-up was Gaye Lynn Thomas...

Homecoming queen candidates were Carolyn Pavlu, Kelly Kallina, Brenda Rucka, Lori Mahalite and Gwen Black...

Eagle Lake joined the space age through cable television...

Mrs. Linda Waddell and Mrs. Marilyn Mueller were honored with a baby shower Oct. 21 at Episcopal Parish Hall...

Sandra Dittmar of Columbus was named Garwood's Fairest of the Fair. Janice Waligura was named "Miss Congeniality" while Debbie Thompson of Garwood, was named first runner-up, Michaelanne Hefner, of Garwood, second runner-up; Mary Ann Miller of Garwood, third runner-up; and Luann Brown of Eagle Lake fourth runner-up.

Oct. 27, 1955

Services were held for Mrs. Mary Montgomery Davis, lifelong resident of this community, at the Christ Episcopal Church. Interment was in Masonic Cemetery...

Thomas Food Market of Lissie, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Thomas, was robbed Sunday morning and as estimated \$1,500 in merchandise was stolen...

Last rites were held for Mrs. W.M. Thomas Sr. at the Colly Memorial Methodist Church and interment at Masonic Cemetery...

Miss Hendricks of Jennings, La., was named Rice Queen at the Crowley Rice Festival. Miss Pidgeon and her (See 24 & 48, Page 8)