



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

It has been interesting

As a former Eagle Lakian/Rice High School (RHS) graduate, it has been interesting to read, from afar, the commentary over allegations of misbehavior by a RHS coach. Given the gravity of the charges and the pithy response by administration, I asked myself, "Where's the community outcry?"

Thank goodness Mr. Meismer had the mettle to craft an appropriate response. Had the individual in question been an academic teacher, I have little doubt the teacher would have been

forced to resign before having his/her day in court.

Of course, none of this is surprising, coming from a school district that typically values athletics before academics.

Regarding the casting of the first stone, an oft quoted biblical passage used to rationalize the exclusion of oneself from social criticism and public discourse, perhaps we should remember the passage, same book, about being our brother's keeper.

My gripe is not with sports, as I

have positive memories of my athletic tutelage under Coach Jack Grammer.

Instead, it is with a system that aims to develop the intellectual faculties of students and cultivate them to be law-abiding citizens, only to undermine that mission by placing the quest for football glory above its, dare I say, moral responsibility for its students.

Robert Klekar
Central Texas

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Nov. 1, 1979

Father Tom Hanus, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Churches, offered a solemn blessing to the new Ugarte Clinic on the site of a portion of the former Eagle Lake Hospital...

Cathy Lanyon, eight grader at Sheridan School, was crowned Queen of the Sheridan PTS Halloween Carnival...

Herbert Burns, an employee of J.F. Miller Ford, was hospitalized when he was struck by a car on S. McCarty St. near Wilcox Minimax...

Friends in the community learned with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Ada Finney Oct. 26. She passed away in the Heritage House where she had been a resident for several months...

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Berger have decided to retire from running the Mobil Station after 10 years of service to the community. Mr. Berger will begin a new business known as Berger's Bowes Automotive Supply...

Mrs. Leslie Wilkerson was the honoree of a baby shower Oct. 25 in the home of the Floyd Tolivers...

Jim Bodenheimer, grandson of Mr. & Mrs. O.J. Peroni, celebrated his 7th birthday at McDonald's in Rosenberg...

In competition at Lamar University, Brenda Argo took top honors for her presentation in Area of Children's Literature Interpretation. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Verlin Argo of Eagle Lake and a WCJC sophomore...

Wilfred & Grace Wick celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a reception at the Eagle Lake Community Center...

Miss Susan Kell, bride-elect of Kirk Engstrom, was honored with a bridal shower at the home of W.F. Jones.

Nov. 3, 1955

New 1956 Chevrolets are on display at A.L. Baring Co. showrooms... The Spanish Club float won first prize at the Halloween carnival with

Redistricting in hands of 3-judge panel

What took four legislative sessions (one regular, three special) for 181 men and women to agree on will be decided by three people - or possibly nine.

On Dec. 11, a federal three-judge panel made up of Patrick Higginbotham of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and federal district judges Lee Rosenthal and T. John Ward will begin hearing in Austin a combined version of the various lawsuits challenging the state's legislative redistricting plan. Higginbotham and Rosenthal are Republicans, Ward a Democrat.

If the panel does not rule the way



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox

Texas Press Association

the state's Democratic Party would like, the matter is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now known as *Session v. Perry* (Walter Session is a city councilman from Rusk), the lawsuit basically seeks a default back to the 2001 redistricting map, a plan drafted by a similar federal panel. Higginbotham and Ward, in fact, were on that panel.

The current panel has three basic options - anoint the '01 plan, require yet another re-mapping or uphold this year's legislative effort. Whatever happens, however, will be soon. The 2004 elections are approaching as fast as the holidays.

Declaring your independence...

So, you're tired of the political status quo? Think you can get things done better than the Republicans or Democrats?

If you, like singer-novelist Kinky Friedman, are contemplating running for state office as an independent, it's not quite as easy as it was in California earlier this fall. In fact, it's just plain hard to do.

Anyone wanting to run as an independent must declare that status by Jan. 2, 2006.

The next step comes after the spring primary, or runoffs if there are any. An independent candidate must apply for a spot on the ballot within 30 days of the runoff.

But simply applying is not enough. A candidate needs the signatures of 1 percent of the votes cast for governor in the previous general election. Oh, and the candidates must not have voted in any of the primaries.

That means Friedman and any other gubernatorial contender opting to run as an independent needs to collect

45,540 names.

Difficult as that process is, Friedman does not have to do it for more than two years. Meanwhile, he's already got bumper stickers out.

\$130 million partnership in schools

The state is partnering with three private foundations in a \$130 million education initiative to increase high school graduation and college attendance rates in school districts statewide.

Gov. Rick Perry said the initiative Texas High School Project (THSP), which includes \$65 million in state funds along with roughly \$65 million in private funds, is one of the largest public-private efforts of its kind to improve Texas schools.

Under THSP, the state will offer grants of up to \$600,000 to approximately 140 school districts to help pay for additional services for at-risk students at low-performing high schools to help them graduate and be academically prepared for college.

Partners include the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Communities Foundation of Texas.

The way we were...

Back in 1895, Texas hunting enthusiasts had a lot longer season. Quail season was Oct. 1 to April 1. Hunting deer was legal from Aug. 1 to Jan. 20.

With two of the first three weekends of this deer season almost summer-like, today's Texas hunters can easily imagine what that early-day season must have been like.

New park guide available...

If camping, hiking or just plain enjoying the outdoors are among your passions, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has a new guide to the state's 120 parks.

The 140-page guide is available free at Texas Department of Transportation Travel Information Centers, chambers of commerce or the TPW Web site, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/guide.

Armbrister to head state's Committee on Water Policy

Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst announced last week the formation of the Senate Select Committee on Water Policy. The committee will study issues regarding Texas' management and policy concerning ground and surface water resources.

Senator Ken Armbrister was named chairman of the committee. Senators Kip Averitt, Bob Deuell, Robert Duncan, Troy Fraser, Jon Lindsay, Eddie Lucio, Frank Madla, Eliot Shapleigh, Todd Staples and Tommy Williams were appointed to the committee.

Dewhurst also announced a Subcommittee on the Lease of State Water Rights. The subcommittee's overriding charge will be to study proposals regarding the lease of permanent school fund and permanent university lands and their water rights for the intent of

developing and marketing water. Senator Madla will serve as chairman of the subcommittee and Senators Duncan, Fraser, Lucio, and Shapleigh were appointed as members.

"Ensuring that we have a plentiful supply of water in Texas, not just today but in the future, is critical to our quality of life, our economy, and our environment, said Dewhurst. "In order to meet our water needs tomorrow, I believe that we must address the way we manage our water resources, and identify solutions for securing and distributing water in the future."

Among the select committee's specific charges as they relate to the management and policy concerning ground and surface water are: the role of federal, state, regional, and local governments in setting consistent water policies; the authority of the Texas Com-

mission on Environmental Quality over water contracts; the role of the Edwards Aquifer Authority; the role of groundwater conservation districts; the regional water planning process; the conjunctive use of both ground and surface water resources; the rule of capture; historic use standards; water infrastructure and financing; interbasin transfers; junior water rights; conservation; water quality standards; drought preparedness and water marketing.

In an effort to ensure an abundant water supply for the future, the select committee will also monitor the ongoing desalination projects by the Texas Water Development Board to determine how desalination can provide for a cost-effective water source for Texas cities.

Cook receives award

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) presented Rep. Robby Cook (D-Eagle Lake) with an award for his authorship and sponsorship of bills supporting the activities and authorities of groundwater districts during the 78th legislative session.

He was honored, along with Sen. Robert L. Duncan (R-Lubbock), for his "dedication and commitment to the conservation, preservation and protection of the natural resources of the State of Texas and the continuation of local control through groundwater conservation districts."

Cook currently serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources. He is the chair of the Rural Caucus and has been appointed to the Texas Water (See Cook, Page 3)



Foot Facts



By Dr. Eric Tepper, Podiatrist

AVOID SELF-TREATMENT FOR KIDS' INGROWN NAILS

Young children and teenagers commonly suffer from ingrown toenails. Ingrown nails, cause swelling and redness in the toes, and wearing shoes can be painful. Ingrown toenails are typically caused by cutting the toenail on a curve, which may lead the nail to grow into the skin. While it can be tempting to try to clip the ingrown section of nail away from the skin, it is best to avoid this procedure. At-home treatment of ingrown nails can aggravate the condition. It can also cause serious complications, including increased pain, infection of the skin or bone, and toe deformities. Podiatrists frequently see children with complications from at-home treatment. To avoid trouble, see the podiatrist before trying to treat the nail yourself.

There are many problems that can affect toenails of all ages, including ingrown nails, fungal nails, black nails, and thickened nails, and a professional diagnosis is imperative in order to begin the correct treatment plan. A complete evaluation awaits you at Rice Medical Center no matter what your foot concerns. We'll also tell you ways to prevent future nail problems from occurring. For an appointment, please call 234-5571. Office hours are on Tuesdays.

P. S. To relieve pain from ingrown nails, have the child wear properly fitted, softer, wider shoes.

70th Anniversary

A.J. STRUSS AUTO SUPPLY

NOVEMBER 21st and 22nd, 2003

All the celebration plans are in place and await our many friends, family, and past and present customers. Sidney and Barbara Struss would like to invite everyone to our party, even if you are like us and didn't buy your ticket. **TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!**

November 22nd: From 6-8 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center, will be music by Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Frank Sinatra, Harry James, Jo Stafford and many others.....Come and say hello to some of the original employees of A. J. Struss such as Henry and Lucille Duddleston Kretschmar and Isidoro Ramirez (still employed from 1941 to the present).

8 p.m.-1 a.m. will be a live band known as the FOSSILS playing rock and roll from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Joining the group on the half hour will be Sidney Struss, formerly chosen the #1 mobile disc jockey in Central Texas, coming out of retirement to perform #1 hits from the Stones, Credence, Elvis, Chubby Checker, Steppenwolf, BJ Thomas, The Traits and many others....

Darrell Struss who performed at Riverside Hall and Swiss Alps in the mid-1960's will be attending and performing a few of Elvis Presley hits...something you don't want to miss...And, Warren Struss will be participating and demonstrating some of the past dances, i.e., The Swim, The Twist and even The Gator!

10 p.m. will be a drawing for a **22 CUBIC FOOT FREEZER FROM GENERAL ELECTRIC!**

For all of you attending the full weekend of festivities, the 2-person scramble golf tournament will be on Friday at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center. Entry fee is only your green fee and cart fees. Call the TeeUp Pro Shop at (979) 234-5981 and make your reservations. From **6 p.m.-10 p.m.** will be a happy hour at the Host Hotel, The Farris. A few rooms are still available. For reservations, call (979) 234-6500.

DRESS IS CASUAL + BRING YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE + SETUPS PROVIDED
There will be Plenty of Food for the First 100 People Through the Door

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