



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Family & Friends gearing up for the season

The Family & Friends benefit of Dec. 7 is quickly approaching and many of you have asked what we need or what you could do.

Thank you so much for your generosity! That is what Eagle Lake is known for.

I have talked to many of you al-

ready, but if I haven't yet, and you would like to donate an item(s) to the live or silent auction, PLEASE call me at 234-7582 as soon as possible.

Those of you who like to donate a turkey or ham may bring it to B&S Taxidermy or, if you would like to bring it directly to the church, we will be distributing them on Dec. 19 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Just let me know so we can order the remaining amount needed.

Family & Friends- "God's Helping Hands" has chosen 59 families to assist this holiday season. With the help of several churches, hospital employees, school student councils and others like you, we will provide a turkey or ham, canned foods, fresh fruits and vegetables and a gift for each family member.

There are many individuals we hope to touch with your kindness. Actually, there are 204 individuals!!

With all of us pulling together, I have no doubt the benefit will be a to-

tal success!!

We hope to see each of you after church on Sunday, (take note of the day and time change... Sunday, Dec. 7, at noon).

Thank you again for your offerings and may God bless your family and health.

Lynn Ellis, President
Family & Friends

P.S.

Due to the Rice Raiders having a winning season, we have had to change the menu.

Instead of the stew luncheon which was planned, we will be serving grilled hamburgers with chips, a dessert and tea. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused, but we would have had a shortage on preparation helpers and cooks.

Personally, I could eat a hamburger any day if it would keep our Raiders winning! Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Nov. 15, 1979

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Klodtke assumed ownership of Schindler LPG Inc. on Oct. 31 after purchasing the

business from Edmund, Elmer and Lester Schindler...

Congratulations are extended to the Rice High School Raider Band and director Floyd Spenrath for the Division 1 rating in the Region XIII marching contest held in Victoria...

Miss Tracy Marie Gertson and Kelly Ray Jobe exchanged vows Nov. 2 at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

Chosen as Powder Puff cheerleaders were Dwayne Pagel, Phillip Leopold, Randy Epps, Troy Corman, Andy Gertson, Robby Cook, Troy Hagendorf, David Rucka, Ricky Miller, Chris Gold, John Schneider and Robert Barrios...

Mr. & Mrs. G.B. New of Sheridan announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Patti Nell, to Jimmie Waldrop, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Waldrop also of Sheridan. The two will be united in marriage Dec. 1, 1979 at the First Baptist Church in Sheridan...

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Otradosky of Garwood announced the arrival of a son born Nov. 1 at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He has been named Chad Allen...

Dr. Jose M. Ugarte has been named a diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP) as a result of passing a certification examination offered by the ABFP...

Candidates for Powder Puff King are Arnold Rodriguez, Robert Moss, Phillip Leopold, Jeff Darden and Robby Cook...

Hoy DeShazo was honored on the occasion of his birthday anniversary Nov. 8 at his home.

Nov. 17, 1955

Melvin F. Campbell and son, M.F. Campbell Jr., are new owners of the Texaco Service Station on E. Main St. Hans N. German was the former operator...

Miss Nelda Guidry was crowned Eagle Lake High School Homecoming Queen. Named as runner-ups was Miss Gail Beyette, majorette, and Miss

Government grows fourth arm

If it's been a while since you studied government (they used to call it civics), there's been a slight change in how things work.

Used to be, there were three branches of government at both the federal and state level — the executive, the legislative and the judicial.

Those who framed our Constitution envisioned a governmental system of checks and balances. If a judge or judges ruled an action taken by either of the other two branches to be unconstitutional, that was that.

Now, in a figurative sense, the fourth branch of government is litigation. One example is redistricting, a constitutional requirement of the legislative branch. But in Texas, a federal lawsuit will be the final arbiter.

The same thing is happening with the complicated issue of school finance. Gov. Rick Perry has said he will call a special session some time next spring to come up with a new way to finance public school districts in Texas. But a large number of both poor and wealthy school districts have joined forces in a lawsuit aimed at equalizing



By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

The only thing students of Texas politics can write down in their notebook right now is that in 2005, somehow, the way we support public schools likely will change.

TPEA asks for help...

The next regular session of the Legislature is more than a year away, but the Texas Public Employees Association already is gearing up to fight for more pay for state workers.

During the last session, a state budget shortfall resulted in a mini-budget shortfall for the state's then-200,000 or so person work force. Several thousand employees lost their jobs through layoffs and reorganizations.

Lawmakers offered no pay raise and reduced benefits. That reduction,

the Employees Retirement System estimates, amounts to about a \$900 annual cut in pay.

One manifestation of TPEA's focus on 2005 is a slick re-do of its magazine, *Texas Public Employee*. The association has hired a public relations firm to do all it can to show the people of Texas that they get their money's worth from state employees.

In the most recent issue of that magazine, Homer, TPEA's director of government relations, said the association has sent letters to Perry and the 10 members of the Legislative Budget Board asking that they consider a process called budget execution to shift funds and give state workers their first pay raise in years. That would enable state employees to get some relief prior to Sept. 1, 2005.

Rest In Peace...

In one of the first programs of its kind in the nation, the Texas Historical Commission has staff traveling the state to record and investigate historic cemeteries.

Funded by a grant from another state agency, the Department of Transportation, THC employees are expanding the Texas Historic Sites Atlas by adding information on historic cemeteries. They're calling it the R.I.P. program.

The agency currently is focusing on cemeteries in the state's fastest-growing counties, where historic sites in general are the most vulnerable.

The program is expected to continue into 2005.

The atlas of historic sites can be viewed by going to the THC Web site, www.thc.state.tx.us.

Insurance costs compared...

When you write that check for auto insurance, especially if you have a teenage driver living under your roof, (See Highlights, Page 3)

State officials recognize Jamison

The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) honored Colorado County Judge Al Jamison Nov. 14 at Angelina College in Lufkin for having secured a \$350,000 Texas Community Development Program grant from the agency for First Time Sewer Service for 43 households in the New Town area.

Colorado County was one of 84 grant recipients honored at the event, which recognized awardees who received over \$14,647,850 in total grants from ORCA since Feb. 2003.

"We applaud and commend the efforts of every recipient for their commitment and dedication to Texas," said Robert J. "Sam" Tessen, MS, ORCA's Executive Director. "ORCA was created to assist rural Texans with building their own communities, and I am pleased to commend the leaders of every community who applied for funding to support and address the needs of their community."

ORCA is governed by a nine-member executive committee consisting of David Alders of Carolodoches, Nicki Harle, Baird; Carol Harrell, Jefferson; William Jeter, Bryan; Wallace Klussman, Fredericksburg; Jim Roberts, Lubbock; Lydia Saenz, Carrizo Springs; Patrick Wallace, Athens; and Michael Waters, Abilene.

ORCA's door is always open for your comments and suggestions regarding the agency, and any rural issues of concern. Contact ORCA at P.O. Box 12877, Austin, TX 78711; or call 1-512-936-6701; toll free at 1-800-544-2042; or fax, 512-936-6776; e-

mail, orca@orca.state.tx.us or on the web at www.orca.state.tx.us.

ORCA was created by the 77th Legislature to facilitate and focus the State's health, economic development and community development programs targeting rural communities in Texas. ORCA's programs and services support health care delivery in rural Texas, and

address rural community planning activities, and housing and public facility needs such as sewer, water systems, road, drainage improvements, and disaster relief funds. ORCA also administers programs designed to improve the leadership capacity of rural community leaders. ORCA is the door to Texas government for rural citizens.

CenterPoint Energy offers tips to help customers

CenterPoint Energy (NYSE:CNP) is forecasting higher natural gas bills for its customers this winter. The company does not expect supply shortages this winter, but growing demand and a tight supply forecast are contributing to higher wholesale gas prices.

"The demand for natural gas continues to grow because of its positive qualities like efficiency and cleanliness, and electric companies are using more natural gas-powered plants to generate electricity and to supplement electric generation," explained Betsy Glaeser, area administrative representative. "However, natural gas continues to be the best energy value for your home even though price fluctuations will continue."

So, how much will high prices impact customers? The effect on customer bills is really determined by weather during the winter heating season. An increase in the actual cost of natural gas coupled with higher gas use due to colder weather intensifies the impact on customer bills.

While CenterPoint Energy cannot control the current natural gas price fluctuations or the weather, the company offers tips to help customers manage energy costs.

One of the most convenient services that helps customers manage natural gas bills is Average Billing. By spreading your payments evenly throughout the year with Average Billing, customers avoid winter gas bill peaks.

Customers can weatherize their home to help save energy including:

Have a heating professional check your heating equipment before winter to ensure it is running safely and efficiently.

Change air filters often. Dirty air filters can increase costs by about 10%.

Check duct work in your attic to ensure it has not become disconnected.

Purchase an easy-to-install programmable thermostat so you can save money by adjusting the temperature automatically when you are not home.

Be conservative with thermostat settings during the heating season-set at 68°, or even lower, when no one is home.

Increase the amount of insulation you have in the attic.

Caulk or weather-strip all your windows and doors to prevent heat loss.

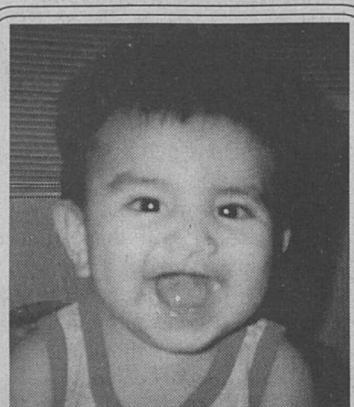
When heating, flip the switch on all ceiling fans to reverse the airflow direction, pushing hot air back down.

Keep window blinds open during the day to let the natural sunlight heat your rooms.

Do not block heating outlets or return air vents with furniture or other objects.

Consider an energy-efficient showerhead. It can save between one and two gallons of hot water each minute, and 30 to 50% of water consumption.

CenterPoint Energy also offers low-income energy assistance programs. If a customer is having difficulty paying their bill, they should contact their local office immediately to discuss payment arrangements. CenterPoint Energy (See Tips, Page 9)

Happy 2nd Birthday
Marco Alan Ramirez

Dec. 2
Love,
Mom, Dad, Kassy & Martin Jr.

The Cooked Goose Saloon

at The Farris Hotel

HUNTING SEASON HOURS:
Monday-Saturday

4 p.m. to Close
Join Us For...

Happy Hour: 4 to 6 p.m.



Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric Tepper, Podiatrist
BONE SPURS

Osteophytes, commonly called bone spurs, are small, abnormal bony protrusions that grow along joints. Arthritis patients may develop bone spurs when their bodies try to compensate for damaged joints by expanding the joint's surface area to enhance weight distribution. Symptoms of bone spurs include localized pain and impaired mobility. Bone spurs on the heel are a common cause of heel pain, one of the most prevalent forms of foot trouble. They often develop when foot muscles and ligaments are strained, the plantar fascia (fibrous band of tissue spanning the sole of the foot) is stretched, or the membrane covering the heel bone repeatedly pulls away from the bone. If treatment fails to relieve symptoms, spur removal surgery may be recommended.

There is no reason to suffer and continue to experience foot discomfort from bone spurs, bunions, heel pain, toenail problems, skin disorders, and the other myriad conditions that can affect your feet. At Rice Medical Center, you'll receive the highest quality medical foot care coupled with the personal attention you expect and deserve. Our approach is gentle, caring, and conservative, and we welcome your call for foot care for the family at 234-5571. Office hours are on Tuesdays.

P.S. Factors that contribute to heel spur formation include biomechanical imbalances, stressful activities like running, obesity, and improperly fitting shoes.

Merry Christmas!

EAGLE LAKE GENERAL STORE

201 FM 3013 East • 979-234-2191

Holiday Open House

Dec. 11 • 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Holiday Merchandise
20-30% OFF!

•Christmas Items •Home Décor •Yard & Garden Gifts •Candles
FREE Gift Wrapping

Santa will arrive at 4 p.m. Bring your child or family pet to visit Santa and have their picture taken for only \$3.00!

Join us for some wonderful refreshments and let us assist you with your holiday shopping.

Don't Forget to Sign Up for Door Prizes!

Matters of the Heart

Christian Music • Books
Gifts • Cards

234-5536

305 Burns Ave., Eagle Lake

For Your... *DRY CLEANING *LAUNDRY

*ALTERATIONS *BOOT & SHOE REPAIR *LEATHER JACKETS
*WEDDING GOWN & HEIRLOOM *HEAVY STARCH JEANS
*COMFORTER *WASH & FOLD

Visit... EAGLE LAKE CLEANERS

102 Boothe Drive
(Next to Dairy Queen)
Eagle Lake

Cleaning Professionally Done at:
Sunshine Cleaners
914 Atchison, Sealy

979-234-3737
979-885-6994
Cell: 713-516-1331

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