

OBITUARY

John Reagan Laughlin III

September 30, 1962 - May 9, 2004

John Reagan Laughlin, III, passed away Sunday, May 9, 2004, in an auto accident in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Born in Eagle Lake on September 30, 1962, he was the son of John R. Laughlin Jr. and Kathryn Sue Billings Laughlin.

For 12 years, John lived in Pensacola, Florida, employed as an auto technician before joining his brother, Boyd, in a successful general contracting business in Bluffton.

John loved his family and friends dearly and lived his life to its fullness.

Survivors include his father, John R. Laughlin Jr. of Houston; brothers, Don Laughlin and wife, Sara, of Orlando, Boyd Laughlin, Bluffton; wife, Tammy Laughlin; daughters, Schooner and Kelley; other relatives and loved ones.

The family returned his remains to Eagle Lake where committal services were held graveside Saturday, May 15, in Lakeside Cemetery.

Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake, officiated.

Local arrangements were under the direction of Dulany Funeral Home, Eagle Lake.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

LIBRARY LINES

For those of you who asked about books on photography, the library has two new books to offer... "A Simple Guide to Digital Photography" by Bill Carbett, a professional photographer and writer living in Australia.

Read the introduction in this book and you will see that the author has given simple, easy-to-understand answers to the many questions you may have about this new technology. He discusses the advantages and disadvantages of digital photography in an uncomplicated manner. Of course there are many photographs, good and bad to be used as examples. At the end of the book, you will find a good glossary.

"Step-By-Step Digital Photograph, A Guide For Beginners" by Jack and Sue Drafalh uses more of a visual approach rather than a technical approach to help you master your digital camera.

Both of these books will help you

decide if you want to go digital or stick with the traditional film camera.

If you are planning a cookout over the Memorial weekend, you may want to come to the library first and check out a Texas cookbook. "The Only Texas Cookbook" by Linda West Eckhardt is a wonderful collection of recipes most of which began with an amusing anecdote. Malcolm DeShield's Barbecued Brisket is a good one with which to start. It may take you longer to locate a recipe because you'll want to read all the anecdotes.

This is an interesting book to read plus it is full of tempting recipes such

as Bad Hombre Eggs, Tres Sisters Ice Cream and Deaf Smith County Whole Wheat Bread. There's also a recipe for a sourdough starter.

"The Texas Cookbook" by Mary Faulk Koock and "The Wide World of Texas Cooking" by Morton Gill Clark are also unique cookbooks that acquaint you with colorful Texans and their towns and ranches.

The Wintermann Library is pleased to have two new displays you will want to come by and see. Bill Harrison Sr. has loaned us a large scrapbook of "The Eagle Lake Centennial Celebration" (1888-1988). This large, very interest-

By Patty Holloway

ing scrapbook is on display just as you come into the library.

The other display is loaned to us by Mercy and Joe Fling. This display consists of photographs of the young men who lost their lives during World War II. Please stop by the library soon and see these displays. We will only have them a short time.

The Wintermann Library summer reading program begins June 2 and ends July 14. We will have a magician, and a live dairy cow and exhibit along with prizes, prizes and prizes. Bring your children or grandchildren and enjoy the fun.

By Velma Kutzer

The annual awards ceremonies will begin Wednesday, May 26, at 1:30 p.m. in the school gym. Kindergarten graduation will follow with these students: Debra Arredondo, Stormie Baca, Connor Benton, Adam Brecht, Jonathan Chavez, Veronica Chavez, Miken-na Gabler, Candance Griffith, Haley Hilt, Destinee Hyde, Grant Janak, Jamie Kay Kutzer, Ashlin Linnemier, Issac Mendez, Kaylen Neubauer, Ross Owers, Zachary Perrin, Autumn Quam-Canales, Aaron Rondeau-LaBarge, Alyssa Taylor, Carlee Vandermark and Lenora Williamson. The teacher for this class is Stephanie Foe.

Graduation exercises for the eighth grade will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 27, also in the gym. The students are Debra Knott, Kaci Kazmir, Courtney Andrejczak, Austin Moore, Angela Spencer, Nayali Diaz, Roger Rodriguez, Cameron Kaley, Brittany Wilson, Melissa Smith, Meagan Lloyd and Payton Arrison. Their sponsor this year is Don Hamel.

Jim and I visited with his parents this past weekend as they observed their 70th wedding anniversary. Rex Kutzer and Ida Mae Bausch were married in Bandera County May 23, 1934. They have four children, 17 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. Both are still fairly active and have retained their wonderful senses of humor. They share a strong faith in God and we are blessed to be a part of their lives.

2004 RHS seniors honored with Baccalaureate service

By Joe Fling

The Catholic Parish of the Nativity's Perpetual Help Sanctuary in Eagle Lake was the setting for a special service for Worship and Blessing of the Rice High School (RHS) Senior Class of 2004 Sunday afternoon, May 23, at 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance and hosted by the Parish of the Nativity, the Baccalaureate is the traditional spiritual and Christian commencement service for graduating seniors.

The service opened with a processional, with the pastors of area churches leading the way up the aisle, followed by senior class in attendance. Seniors and guests were welcomed to the service by Father Eddie Winkler of Parish of the Nativity followed by introduction of participating ministers. Michael Lanier of RHS introduced Leroy Stavino of RHS and School Board Member Vivian Spanihel.

Lee Politsch introduced the seniors,

and Rev. Dave Curry, of South Point Baptist Church, delivered the invocation to the service.

Rev. Joe Fling of Living Hope Church delivered the Baccalaureate message. It was a stirring challenge to the senior class that they are where they are by the grace of God and they can face the serious decisions of adulthood if they put their faith in Christ. Rev. Mercy Fling sang a song of encouragement for the seniors of 2004 to be dedicated to the Lord.

Members of the senior class read prayers and scriptures, including I John 4:11-16 and the Lord's Prayer. The service concluded with a Benediction and Prayer of Blessing for the graduates by Rev. Bill Ramsey of Lissie United Methodist Church.

As Ramsey prayed, the other ministers gathered around the seniors and laid hands upon them to impact the Lord's blessing through the ministry.

Other ministers in attendance were Rev. Kenneth Wicks of New Home

Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Steve Whitfield of Christ Episcopal and Rev. Obie Rhodes of White Cloud Baptist Church.

The service was well attended by family and friends of the graduates.

Electrician "grandfather" period ends June 1

Time is short for electricians who want to receive a state electrician's license without having to pass an examination. The statutory grandfathering period ends June 1.

Until June 1, electricians who hold a local license may be eligible to receive a new state license without testing if they meet experience requirements. Also, electricians who work in areas where licensing is neither available nor required also may qualify to receive a license if they can satisfy certain experience requirements.

After the grandfathering period ends, all electricians who wish to ob-

tain a state license will need to demonstrate sufficient experience and pass an examination approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) that evaluates occupational knowledge.

Special thanks is extended to all those who participated and whose attendance made this day and service

special to the senior class of 2004. We again extend our blessing and know that the hopes and best wishes and blessings of the whole Christian community of the Rice School District are with you, Class of 2004.

not applied for a state license should do so within the next few days," said William Kuntz, TDLR's executive director. "Time is running out. After June 1, everyone who wants a state license will have to pass a test to get one."

(See License, Page 8)

Legion to place flags for Memorial Day

The W. Cherry-M. Perry American Legion Post # 108 of Eagle Lake will honor all deceased veterans buried in the local cemeteries for Memorial Day, May 31, by placing American flags by their gravesites.

The flags will be placed in the designated holders by the gravesites on the morning of Saturday, May 29. The flag holders are white with red, white and blue stripes at the top and are placed, where possible, to the immediate left of the gravesite or marker.

If we have missed a veteran's grave in the past, please contact Robert Griffith at 234-2058 or Hugh Sheridan at 234-5464 as it is our intention to honor ALL veterans of ALL services.

Bible Verse of the Week

"I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications."
— Psalm 116:1

Submitted by Carol Cardenas

Cook

every education group in the state and would not have been fully funded.

The bill did contain some property tax relief, placing the cap on property taxes at \$1.20 per \$100 valuation (down from the current \$1.50 cap). The average taxpayer would have saved about \$185 a year under this proposal. A \$1.20 cap would have saved the average taxpayer in Dime Box, Flatonia, Weimar, or Somerville, \$55 to \$3 a year. Bastrop and Bryan would have saved slightly more due to higher property values.

Rep. Cook voted against the house bill because it did not provide any new money for education or offer significant property tax savings to the constituents of District 17. Two major potential revenue sources were stripped from the bill, about \$3.1 billion a year, therefore the property tax rate was increased and the 2% funding increase for all school districts was abandoned. Additionally, the stripped down bill

still contained the teacher incentive package and only restored the health care stipend to some school employees. (The stipend is scheduled to be fully restored in 2005 to all employees and this legislation would have changed that requirement to restore it in 2005 to only some employees.)

Additionally, Republican leaders acknowledged that the strategy was to send a shell bill to the Senate to "keep the process moving", but if the bill proposed actually passed it would be "disastrous for Texas schools".

Rep. Cook, in explaining his "no" vote, said, "I was elected to represent the people of District 17 and I take that job very seriously. I am not in the habit of voting for legislation simply to allow someone else to fix it or make it better."

"When the House of Representatives passes a bill, it should be our best work, not a plan that does not adequately fund education.

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"Additionally, the constituents of this district would have seen no real property tax relief under the proposal. I think the 73-70 vote illustrates that a lot of other members felt the same way."

The Senate then began meeting as an entire body rather than in committee on the issue and laid out various proposals. But, after more than a week of negotiations, the Senate announced they could not reach a consensus on taxes, gambling, new money for education and other controversial issues.

At the post-session press conference, Dewhurst and Craddick both supported waiting for another special session until a consensus had been reached. Two joint committees will be appointed, one focusing on revenue issues, the other on school reforms, so that lawmakers can continue to work towards consensus on these issues. They still remain divided over sales tax increases, reform of the business franchise tax, legalization of video lottery terminals, a payroll tax, and increasing state aid to schools.

Governor Perry defended his decision to call lawmakers to Austin without consensus on the issue by saying the, "session was productive because it clarified the challenge and focused the debate on the finer details of education reform."

A special session of the legislature costs approximately \$57,000 a day and lasts for up to 30 days meaning that each special session costs taxpayers approximately \$1.7 million.

A NEW ARRIVAL

Dylan Lanier Cook

Wes and Kelli Cook of El Campo are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a son, born at 12:20 p.m. May 4, 2004 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton.

Dylan Lanier weighed eight pounds, eight ounces and was 20-1/2 inches at birth.

He was welcomed home by his brother, Jared Burton Cook, age 4-1/2.

Maternal grandparents are M.G. and Lorene Lanier of Garwood. Paternal grandparents are David and Myrna Cook of Oxford, Mississippi.

DPS

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stated Pflughaupt, "Driving responsible and buckling everyone up is the smart thing to be safe."

DPS wants Memorial Day drivers to slow down, use seatbelts

Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding drivers to obey the speed limit, drive sober and always make sure all passengers and drivers are properly secured, especially during the Memorial Day weekend.

"Remember to designate a sober driver, and make sure that everyone in the vehicle is wearing a seat belt or buckled into the appropriate child safety seat," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. "Taking these simple steps will help ensure everyone's safety."

DPS troopers and many other police agencies are increasing patrols over the weekend to stop drunk drivers, speeders and seat belt violators. Other police agencies in Texas are also focusing their efforts on enforcing the state's occupant protection laws for adults and children.

Statistically, the deadliest time on the road during Memorial Day weekend is between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., a time frame when alcohol and fatigue are often cited as factors.

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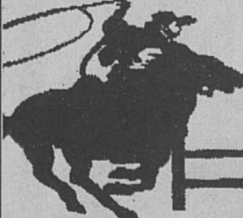
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EQUIPPERS OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL: 200 N. College, Weimar, Texas 78962; 979-725-8233; Pastor Jerry Adkins.

GREATER RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH: 580 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Truman Scott Sr., Pastor; 234-2423 or 758-3745.

GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community, Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.

MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; 234-5813.

LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.

BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.

ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.

LATIN-AMERICAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD (Bethlehem of Judea Church): 1000 East E, Eagle Lake; Ruth Olivera, Pastor.

CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.

GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guyler, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spens, Pastor; 979-478-2169.

EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. T.L. Baines Sr., Pastor; 234-5795.

IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.

GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Thomas Kuykendall; 705 Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.

WRIGHT GROVE BAPTIST: Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr.; Altair.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., Pastor; 234-3735.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake, 234-3437.

ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.

SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: FM 2437; Rev. Mack Helms, Pastor; 234-3136.

SOUTH POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 71 North, Vox Populi; Rev. Dave Curry; 758-3039.

WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Español), 10 a.m. (English), Rev. Eddie Winkler, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Rev. Joseph Koebel; 758-3218.

GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.

LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.

LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: Bill Ramsey, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.

ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sells Jr. Lay-Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.

VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.

CrossROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.