

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Up In Smoke!!

If you read the Headlight three weeks ago, you probably saw where the Middleton's lost everything they owned in that fire. Before you ask, "What does that have to do with me?" Let me remind everyone in Eagle Lake that this could have very easily been your own house catching fire.

Wouldn't you feel elated knowing that help would soon be on its way? This couple needs our help, badly. If we all rally together, and each one of us that can donate something does so, then it will not be so heavy on just a handful.

Just because it was just one house this time does not mean it is not catastrophic, it is to them. They are asking for no more than the basics. So I am asking you if you can look in your hearts first, then look in your closets, cupboards for anything you feel they could use.

Remember to tell your relatives, friends, neighbors, and let's see if we can help bring some relief to the Lloyd and Barbara Middleton family.

These are some of the things mostly needed: cups, glasses, utensils, dish towels, curtains, king and queen size bed linens, sheets, bedspreads, pillows/pillow cases, curtains, lamps, dressers, chest of drawers, TV, curtains, lamps, clothing (Lloyd) pants 44

W, 32 L; shirts, XX-large; (Barbara), shoes 9-1/2 - 10, clothes, 16-18.

Please call 234-6990 to see if they are still in need of these items or in need of something not listed.

The Middletons presently reside at 1408 Seaholm St. in Eagle Lake. Let this be the beginning of Eagle Lake looking out for its own. I will definitely do my part to help anyone in town that experiences this type of a dilemma or loss.

Sincerely, a conscientious friend/neighbor.

Philip Soto, Jr.

## Opinions, Everyone Has One

First let me say that it is not my intent to get involved in a war of words or carry on the he said, she said squabble with anyone.

But, we can agree to disagree on issues. That's the American way.

All I ask is that we get our facts straight and get away from the rumor mill that as we all know can be dangerous.

Kudos to everyone who chose to go into the teaching profession you automatically get a free pass for your bravery, and dedication. Teaching is difficult under ideal circumstances. I can't imagine trying to teach in an over crowded, and loud classroom. I think we're mixing apples, and oranges

when we compare home maintenance to an entire school structure. There is no comparison. On a shrinking population (for now) combining the schools is a cost effective move. (i.e.)

1. Bus Maintenance
2. Gasoline
3. Central location, one stop as compared to many stops in different locations.
4. Back and forth pick up and drop off for athletics; and
5. Shared resources centrally located.

Athletics is much more than playing the actual sports it teaches some of life's lessons such as cooperation, getting along with others, responsibility, good sportsmanship, honesty and respect.

This past year we had a few scholar athletes so math, English, history and science are still being taught. Sometimes athletics is the very thing that

keeps a lot of students in school. Not to toot my own horn but I participated in all sports for girls. Played in the band, was a cheerleader and finished high school as my class valedictorian. I'm sorry but to me there is nothing better than high school football on Friday nights. The band, cheerleaders, student body and fans all there cheering for our team. Let's not look at this project one dimensionally.

I do agree with Mrs. Craig's closing comments regarding accepting each others thought, and not taking it personal while maintaining friendships. As I stated earlier we can agree to disagree. Opinions, everybody has one. But let's do the right thing by our kids.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Cooper-Scott, RN

P.S. In today's economy when you enter a profession it has to be for the passion of the work not the money.



Maryn Maycee Machac

Aaron and Robyn Machac of Sheridan are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, born June 16 at 6:17 a.m. at Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake.

Maryn Maycee weighed six pounds, four ounces and measured 19 inches at birth.

She was welcomed home by her big brother, Morgan.

Maternal grandparents are Michael and Sylvia Rucka of Eagle Lake.

Paternal grandparents are Bennie and Beverly Machac of Sheridan.

Maternal great-grandparents are Ludwig and Julie Zbrank of Garwood, and Barbara and Preston Davis of Nelsonville, and the late "Shorty" Rucka.

Paternal great-grandparents are Otis and Joann Wagner of Swiss Alp, and Henrietta Machac of Schulenburg and the late Ben Machac.

## DPS Operations Planned For July 4 Holiday

The Texas Department of Public Safety will be promoting traffic safety through two special emphasis programs, Operation C.A.R.E. and Operation HOLIDAY during the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday weekend.

Operation C.A.R.E. - Combined Accident Reduction Effort - focuses on strict enforcement of speed limits, alcohol and drug related offenses, and occupant restraint laws. The DPS will join state police agencies across the nation with Operation C.A.R.E.

Operation HOLIDAY allows the assignment of other DPS uniformed personnel to supplement highway patrol traffic enforcement.

The increased presence of law enforcement on the state's highways will begin Friday, June 30 12:01 a.m. to Tuesday, July 4 ending at midnight.

"If you're speeding, driving while intoxicated or not properly restrained, you put your life and the lives of others at risk," said Senior Trooper Gary Pflughaupt. "Don't let a tragedy ruin your life forever."

DPS troopers will target speeders, seat belt violators and drunk drivers.

Here are some driving tips the DPS recommends for travelers during the extended holiday weekend:

- Do not drink and drive; rather, find a designated driver.
- Have everyone in the vehicle buckle his or her seat belt. Remember, "Click It or Ticket."
- For long trips, have the vehicle checked to make sure it is roadworthy.
- Slow down, especially if weather and road conditions do not allow for the designated speed limit.
- Save your phone calls for home or find a safe place to pull over to place or answer mobile calls.
- Be polite and courteous while

driving - - do not practice road rage behavior.

-For vehicle breakdowns, utilize the statewide stranded motorist hot-

line, 1-800-525-5555.

"We realize that not every driver will follow our suggestions for safe driving," said

Pflughaupt, "and that's why DPS troopers will do their best to make the roadways safer this Labor Day weekend."

## LCRA Addresses Questions About Project

By Joe Beal, LCRA General Manager

The news media in this area clearly recognize the importance and significance of the LCRA-SAWS Water Project. Coverage generally has been fair and balanced, addressing a range of issues that demonstrate just how much this complex project could touch lives throughout the region now and well into the future.

During recent open houses in Colorado, Matagorda and Wharton counties, we visited with more than 300 people who were curious about this project and wanted to learn more. We appreciated the opportunity to hear their perspectives and explain the proposed project in more detail. This process is extremely important. We need to ensure that all residents with an interest or stake in this project can share their concerns and get answers to their questions.

Thanks to the high level of participation, we now know more about the concerns people have about the project. One issue we are hearing relates to the effect that land acquisition for off-channel water storage facilities could have on the tax base in affected counties. This is something we are studying carefully so we fully understand the impact when we weigh the overall value of the project to the region.

Other issues that have come up include water quality, environmental impacts if freshwater flows are reduced downstream, and the long-term outlook for agriculture in this region. Additionally, landowners whose properties have been identified as potential sites for off-channel storage facilities have specific concerns about how their land will be valued and what compensation they will receive. These are all good questions.

We do not have the answers yet. But these issues will be part of our evaluation.

This project could provide a good, long-term solution for water demands in the lower Colorado River basin while helping to supplement San Antonio's drinking water supply. But it is not a done deal. We will continue a series of studies to ensure the project makes sense environmentally, financially and technically. It must meet all these criteria, as defined by the Texas Legislature, before it becomes reality.

With that in mind, I am compelled to address an item in the May 31, 2006, edition of The Colorado County Citizen in which biologist Joe Etheridge questioned the envi-

ronmental integrity of this project, including assertions about existing water quality and pollution from farmland in this region. The Lower Colorado River Authority is committed to helping protect water quality along the river, and our routine tests indicate that water quality is good. If Mr. Etheridge or anyone in this region knows of ongoing activities that are polluting this or other area waterways, please notify the Texas Commission

on Environmental Quality so that activity can be stopped.

Meanwhile, we appreciate the opportunity to continue visiting with residents throughout the region to listen to their concerns and to share what we are learning. We continue to be committed to an open, public process on this project and we appreciate the role of the news media and area residents in that effort.

## Ducks Unlimited Announces State Artists

Texas Ducks Unlimited recently announced its selections for the 2006 Texas DU Artist-of-the-Year and the Texas DU Sponsor Artist-of-the-Year.

Houston native Sam Caldwell was named Artist-of-the-Year for his painting "Changing of the Guard." Kyle Polzin was named the Sponsor Artist-of-the-Year for his painting "Hunter's Heritage."

A long-time supporter of Ducks Unlimited, the Coastal Conservation Association and other non-profit, conservation organizations, Caldwell is known primarily for his transparent watercolor images of coastal waterfowl and game fish. Many of his paintings feature youths enjoying the world of hunting and fishing. He was recognized as Texas DU sponsor artist-of-the-year in 2003 for his painting "Young Hunters."

In addition to working with non-profit organizations, he has a close working relationship with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; he designed the TP&W Expo posters for 1993 and 1994 and the Operation Game Thief poster for 1995.

In recent years, he created the fund-raising prints, "Silver King Express," for Sea Center Texas, and "Tradition Continued" for Operation Game Thief.

Notable moments in his professional career came when the American Red Cross selected one of his paintings to help raise funds for 9-11 relief and when the Texas Commission on the Arts named him as Texas State Artist for 2004.

"Changing of the Guard" depicts a grandfather and his grandson at the end of a successful duck hunt. Limited edition prints of "Changing of the Guard" are available only at 2006 Texas DU events and is underwritten by a generous grant from Academy

Sports and Outdoors.

Polzin was born in Cuero, Texas, and grew up in Victoria, where he worked closely with his father to develop his artistic talent. He spent countless days on the Texas coast near Port O'Connor, hunting and fishing with his father and grandfathers.

After graduating from Victoria College, Polzin studied with master painter Dalhart Windberg. This experience convinced him to pursue a career in art. Since then, he has gained increasing recognition for his work and is now published by Windberg Enterprises, Inc.

A still life, "Hunter's Heritage" features an antique redhead decoy and a duck call sitting in front of a wooden shotgun shell box.

Texas DU sponsor members will receive a copy of this print, and a special limited conservation edition print of this painting will be available at 2006 DU events. The First Southwest Company of Dallas has underwritten the costs of the sponsor art program for the 12th consecutive year.

"Texas DU has been fortunate in having the support of a large group of artists for many years," said Texas DU chair Steve Marasovich. "We feel especially fortunate this year, to have artists of the caliber and national reputation of Sam Caldwell and Kyle Polzin."

The Texas DU art program has produced 23 state prints and 22 sponsor prints since the program's inception in 1984.

Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest wetland conservation organization.

Since its inception in 1937, DU has conserved more than 11 million acres of wetland habitat, providing haven for ducks and geese, deer, elk, moose, bear, whooping cranes, bald eagles and more than 600 other documented species of wildlife.

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**Heat Stroke: A Summer Time Hazard**

As more people move outdoors for various activities during the summer months, the threat of illness related to heat increases. Specific threats include heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat cramps. The most threatening is *heat stroke*, a medical emergency that can cause death if not properly managed. Health experts define heat stroke as a body temperature of 106°F or higher that is associated with neurological dysfunction. One form of the condition occurs in young persons who are involved in strenuous physical activity. The other, called nonexertional heat stroke, occurs in older persons who are sedentary and often have one or more chronic health problems. The *National Centers for Health Statistics* indicates that over 300 deaths occur each year from heat stroke.

Prevention includes avoidance of strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day, drinking plenty of liquids, avoiding alcohol, and wearing hats and light colored and loose fitting clothes when outside. Treatment starts with getting the individual into a shady, cool area and applying cool or tepid water to the skin. In the emergency room, physicians may reduce the temperature by various methods. If the person affected is unconscious, supplemental oxygen may be administered along with intravenous fluids.

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 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; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.  
 LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.  
 BEREIA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.  
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 THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter St.  
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 CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake; 234-3437.  
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 WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.

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 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: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.  
 ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sellar 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: Interdenominational Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy; Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.  
 SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039; Pastor Dave Curry.  
 ASEMBLEA DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.  
 BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331.

**Bible Verse of The Week**

"Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."  
 - Mark 14:38  
 Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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