

# Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us." --William O. Douglas, Supreme Court Justice.

September 23-30, 2006 is Banned Books Week, the 25th annual event sponsored by the American Library Association, American Booksellers Association and others in the publishing community.

The American Library Association (ALA) has been monitoring banned and challenged books since the early 1980's, when this official week to "celebrate the freedom to read" was first designated.

The ALA defines challenges as "formal, written complaints filed with a library or school request-

ing that materials be removed because of content appropriateness."

Banned books are those actually pulled from the shelves, an action that has decreased over the past 25-year period.

A banned book is actually banned someplace, somewhere, but not everywhere, though it is placed on the official list for that year.

In considering the sad tale of book banning, a much happier thought crossed my mind in realizing the number of libraries of which the Eagle Lake area can boast.

In addition to the Wintermann Library for the general public, each elementary, middle school and the consolidated Rice High School proudly offers great books and reading materials through its

library system.

I was also happy to learn that the Rice High School library recognizes and celebrates this special week. Virginia Grafe, high school librarian, gladly shared information on a special display and announcements "guarding an individual's right to read."

ALA's list of the 100 most frequently challenged books is available, and many of us would be surprised at the list and some of the reasons behind the challenges:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein (When my daughter was young, we enjoyed reading selections from this book together.)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (racist language)

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (racist language)

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (offensive language)

Little Red Riding Hood (bottle of wine in basket for Grandma). Personally, I can only hope that when my granddaughter is old enough to skip her way to Grandma's house - NOT via the wolf-infested forest - that her get-well basket for me will contain a classic banned book and a good bottle of wine.

In addition to Ms. Grafe's display, Glenda Beall, Rice English teacher, proposed a project to her students for extra credit.

To create awareness and appreciation of books, students have selected books to read and will then create a designed T-shirt based on the inspiration from their particular book.

This serves, among other things, as an introduction to her advanced English class reading of Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, the classic novel based on book burning in a futuristic society.

Ms. Beall states that the objective of reading books such as Fahrenheit 451 or Of Mice and Men is not to read the novel because it is banned somewhere, but to create an awareness that when

groups control what people read, they control what people think.

It's a compliment to our school district that these two teachers are among those who promote values such as "guarding an individual's right to read."

Ms. Grafe further rightly emphasized how such awareness could come at no better time than now with the current political discussions of government censorship and proposed measures to expand government surveillance powers - all topical issues regarding civil liberties of which students and young people should become more aware in today's

world.

The ALA states that, "often challenges (to books) are motivated by desire to protect children from inappropriate sexual content or offensive language." Although commendable, challenges or attempts to ban books are a personal expression or point of view of a singular person or group.

Book banning denies or restricts each individual's right to choose and think for himself - a right protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

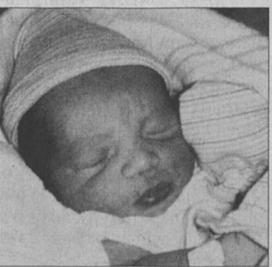
The ALA encourages everyone to observe this week by taking the time to read a classic book. I'm

starting with a book I've wanted to read for many years but never took the time or initiative to actually begin. A frequently listed banned book, I'll be reading J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. I'll be enjoying that with a glass of good white wine.

"Celebrate the freedom to read. Build a library, not a bonfire. Side effects of reading banned books may include...laughing, crying, anger, gratitude...questioning...and learning."

...questioning...and learning. When it's age appropriate material...isn't that what we all want?

## New Arrivals



Paul Antonio Valles Jr.

Paul Valles, Sr. and Pamela Hernandez are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a son, born September 20 at Memorial Herman Katy Hospital in Katy.

Paul Antonio weighed seven pounds, two ounces and measured 19-1/2 inches at birth.

He is welcomed home by cousins, Abby Gasca, Christina and

Beany Lopez and Victor Martinez.

Paternal grandparents are Antonio and Mary Valles of Eagle Lake.

Maternal grandparents are Lety Garcia of Katy and the late Gilbert Hernandez.

Daniel San Miguel Jr.

Ana Acosta and Daniel San Miguel Sr. are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a son, born September 22 at 9:54 p.m. at Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake.

Daniel Jr. weighed eight pounds, four ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.

Maternal grandparents are Janie and Jose Acosta.

Paternal grandparents are Matilda and Joe San Miguel.

Great-grandparents are Angelina Garcia and Mary Arrelano.

Benjamin William Stephens, Sophia Renee Stephens and Jack Taylor Stephens

Joe and Tess Stephens of Houston are pleased to announce the births of their triplets, Benjamin William, Sophia Renee, and Jack Taylor Stephens.

They were born August 31, at Texas Women's Hospital in Houston.

Grandparents are Steve and Beverly Taylor of Eagle Lake, and great grandmother Irene Roberts of Harper, Texas and the late William and Leta Stephens of Lindsay, Oklahoma and Roy Roberts of Harper, Texas.

Great-grandparents are the late Addie and Stafford Taylor of Eagle Lake.

Special first cousin, Miss Addie Taylor, also welcomed the triplets home.

## Older Worker Week This Week

Recognizing that working Texans now live longer, healthier and more productive lives and contribute expertise to the state's workforce system, Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed the week of September 24 through 30 "Employ Older Workers Week."

With the number of Texans age 55 and older expected to triple between 2000 and 2040, the Texas economy is expected to join the rest of the nation to rely significantly on the contributions of mature workers.

"To highlight the immense contributions that older workers make to our economy, and the continuing need to recruit workers from this excellent labor pool, an awareness campaign will be conducted during the month of October," Perry said.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is administering the state's portion of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) to provide employment and training opportunities for older Texans. The national program currently services more than 100,000 senior Americans, including more than 3,000 in Texas.

Participants train in a variety of fields while they prepare to transition into full- or part-time employment in the public and private sectors. Federal grants are issued to a broad network of organizations at the national, state and local levels.

By 2008, approximately 40 percent of the labor force will be age 45 and older, and eight million more Americans age 55 and older are expected to have joined the workforce compared to 10 years

earlier.

The mature worker awareness campaign will be conducted during the month of October, and encourages the recruitment and hiring of older workers from an often untapped labor pool. The special week emphasizes the immense contributions that older workers continue to make to the

state's economy.

"All Texans are encouraged to recognize older workers with appreciation," Governor Perry explained. "Highlighting the best of the Lone Star State, they make a difference, continuing to build a legacy of advancement and achievement, a legacy that will keep us strong for generations to come."

† HOLY CROSS PARISH †

## BAZAAR

Riverside Hall, East Bernard  
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Dujka Brothers (3:30 PM-6:00 PM)  
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### Back-to-School Asthma

Asthma is a common chronic condition which affects more than six million children under the age of 18. As students return for another school year, the *American Lung Association* recommends that parents take steps to ensure that asthma is managed properly while their children are at school. This may be accomplished by talking to the teacher and school administrators about the child's asthma, ensuring that medical supervision is available, and making sure that adequate medication is available while the child is at school. Parents can also monitor their child's asthma by watching for coughing at night and increased difficulty participating in physical activity, which could be signs of uncontrolled asthma.

Providing a fast-acting inhaler to be readily available at school for use during an asthma attack is essential in preventing a medical emergency from occurring. With the back-to-school months also comes the cold and virus season. Children returning to school are more likely to encounter asthma triggers, such as viruses and seasonal allergens. Taking steps to ensure that asthma is well-controlled and having a plan of action in the event of an asthma attack are important issues for families and schools to act on as the new school year gets under way. Consult with a physician if your child's asthma is not well controlled.

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## Stafford Opera Set To Open Season

The Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street in Columbus, is proud to present The Violet Crown Players and OnStage Theatre Company in the 2006-07 dinner theatre season opening performance of *Tintypes: A Nostalgic Musical Revue*.

The dinner theatre season begins with this must-see production on Saturday, October 14 and what better venue than the historic 1886 opera house to showcase this story of changing times blazing to life in a tuneful, high-spirited, fast stepping brew of popular songs from 1890 to 1917.

The show's main focus is on five archetypes of the period: the outrageous Teddy Roosevelt; Anna Held, the beautiful music hall star; Emma Goldman, the notorious socialist; an African-American domestic worker; and a Chaplin-esque Russian immigrant. All of their stories are portrayed through music, dance, vaudeville, and comedic silent movie skits.

Tintypes will both charm you and give you a fresh perspective on what it means to be an Ameri-

can as you listen to golden oldies such as *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Ta Ra Ra Boom De Ay*, *A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight*, *Meet Me in St. Louis, Kentucky Babe*, *I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen*, *I Don't Care*, *Hello Ma Baby*, *America the Beautiful*, *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *Toyland*, *Ragtime Nightingale* and many more.

Enjoy social hour at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then the curtain opens at 7:30 p.m. Attire is casual, the dinner is crowd pleasing good, and the entertainment will be delightful.

Get your tickets now for this season's opening show and remember it is not too late to become a season ticket holder. Season ticket holders get one production free, get preferred seating and are treated to a Sip Champagne With The Stars reception. This year the reception will be with Jeryl Hoover and the cast of *Dracula: The Musical?* on Saturday, November 11.

For tickets or information call 979-732-5135 or 1-877-444-7339.

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### Attend the Church of Your Choice...

**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; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 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.

**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 Guylar, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, 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; 234-5795.

**IGLESIA BAUTISTIA 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 CHURCH:** 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr.; 234-3735.

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

**ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST:** Bob Allison, Pastor.

**SHERIDAN BAPTIST CHURCH:** FM 2437; Rev. Jim Dunn, Pastor; 234-3136.

**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) 6 p.m. Saturday (English), Rev. Robert F. Guerra, 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 Sella 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.

**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

"Judge not, that you be not judged, for with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get."

- Matthew 7:1, 2  
Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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