

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Water Study Clears Austin Supply

AUSTIN — With the U.S. population at 303 million and growing, whatever finds its way into the water supply is increasing.

Say you take a prescription medication, the part of it that your body does not use passes naturally. This residue continues through a sewer line or septic system, eventually ending up in the city water supply.

The Associated Press did a five-month study to learn the pharmaceutical content in the water supplies of selected cities across the nation. The AP reported the results, and those results were widely published.

Surprisingly, the tapwater here in your capital city came up negative when tested for pharmaceuticals. The city tapwater in Albuquerque, N.M., also tested negative, and so did the tapwater in Virginia Beach, Va.

The rest of the cities tested did not fare as well. Think San Francisco, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and others. Sixty-three substances found included such things as antidepressants, cholesterol inhibitors and sex hormones.

Now, changing the subject from water to air: Austin, of course, is the Travis County seat, and it

turns out the air in Travis County does not meet the Environmental Protection Agency's new air quality standards for ozone.

Travis isn't alone; other counties the EPA identified as not meeting air standards include Bexar, Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Galveston, Gregg, Harris, Harrison, Hood, Hunt, Jefferson, Johnson, Montgomery, Orange, Parker, Rockwall, Smith and Tarrant.

Gov. Rick Perry on March 12 called the EPA standards a "moving target" that in effect restrict commerce.

But Perry lauded a March 3 editorial in the Wall Street Journal hailing the Lone Star State's economic strength despite the national economic slowdown.

Continuing on the subject of commerce, your capital city was consumed March 7 through 16 with the annual South By Southwest music, film and interactive festivals.

Tens of thousands of people came to hear bands ranging from the famous to the barely known from across America and around the world. They purchased "SXSW" wristbands that worked like a passport to all the clubs they could squeeze into.

Austin's welcome guests bunched at hotels, ate heartily at cafes and bistros and shopped euphorically, even with the cost of gasoline, milk, wheat and corn inching skyward.

Employers to receive tax break

The Texas Workforce Commission announced a plan to give about 370,000 employers a break from paying unemployment insurance tax.

Employers who had a payroll in 2007 and paid all taxes on time will qualify to receive the break, which will come in the form of a surplus tax credit.

Qualified employers will receive the surplus tax credit after their first quarter 2008 tax returns are filed and taxes are paid.

The tax credit is expected to total about \$90 million. That would average about \$243 per employer.

"Thanks to our healthy economy and low unemployment rate last year, the state collected more money for the unemployment trust fund than we need, which is why I'm directing the state to bring that tax to a screeching halt for this year," Gov. Perry explained in a March 10 news release.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Pauken named commission chair

Gov. Perry appointed Dallas attorney Tom Pauken as chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2013.

Pauken served as chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, 1994 to 1997.

President declares disaster

David Paulson, head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that the president has declared an emergency exists in the state of Texas and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on March 14, and continuing.

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

March 1, 1984

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald New of Houston proudly announce the arrival of a son born Wednesday, February 15 in the Clear Lake Hospital in Webster. Daniel Philip weighed six pounds, 15 ounces...

Renee Lynn Hunt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale V. Hunt of Garwood, is one of 673 undergraduate students named to the dean's honor roll for the fall semester at Abilene Christian University...

David Matthews closed his eyes to a peaceful rest at 2:20 a.m. February 21 in Southwest Memorial Hospital in Houston after fighting a battle with cancer. Funeral services were conducted at Union Baptist Church at 1 p.m. February 26 with Rev. L. Terry officiating at the services. Interment followed in Union Hill Cemetery...

Mrs. Emma Mae Critendon, 68, passed away Saturday, February 25 at her son's Eagle Lake residence following a lengthy illness. The body was taken to

the Earthman-Baytown Funeral Home in Baytown for funeral services at 10 a.m. February 28 from the funeral home chapel. Interment was in Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Baytown...

John and Jeannine Fearing, publishers of *The Eagle Lake Headlight*, are celebrating the birth of their second daughter, Sarah Catherine "Cathy" Fearing, born at 11:35 p.m. on February 15 in Eagle Lake Community Hospital. She weighed five pounds, five ounces at birth, and was 19 inches long.

March 31, 1960

Miss Barbara Krenek is the sweetheart of the Garwood FFA chapter for 1950-60. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Krenek of Nada...

Last rites were held for Judge Lester Holt in Weimar Monday. He was the judge of the 25th Judicial District of Texas for over 37 years...

Gerald Birdwell, Eagle Lake High School senior, will leave for Waco Friday to enter his outstanding science exhibit on "Ion Propulsion" in the Regional Fair at Baylor University...

Roland J. Campbell manager of the Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. of Eagle Lake, was one of five Dr. Pepper Bottlers named to serve on the 1960 Dr. Pepper Bottlers Marketing Advisory Board...

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Scott are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Russell Allen, born March 26 in Laughlin Hospital...

Bennie Brasher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton C. Brasher of Eagle Lake, is participating with other personnel from the 10th Airborne Division in Exercise Puerto Pine in Puerto Rico...

R.L. Clipson took over duties

as president of the Eagle Lake Recreation Center Tuesday night during an election of 12 new directors. Others elected into office were: Charles D. Stephens, vice president; and Dan Thornton, secretary-treasurer.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Twenty-six individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, March 12. They included:

Anthony Demetric Banks, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250, ordered to attend drug classes.

Sage Neil Brandt, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350, city to dismiss Class C tickets.

Guillermo E. Castellanos, assault causing bodily injury-family member. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150, ordered to attend anger management classes.

Jesus Humberto Davila, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 41, fined \$500.

Rovin Denley, assault causing bodily injury-date/family/household and interference with emergency call. Sentenced to 50 days in jail (both counts).

Debra May Early, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350, ordered to attend drug classes.

Arnold O. French, III, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to 15 days in jail, credit for 18, fined \$100.

Francisco Javier Garay, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, fined \$500.

Paul David Graham, bail jumping and failure to appear. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 14, fined \$100.

Paul David Graham, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 14, fined \$100.

Julio A. Gutierrez, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150, ordered to attend anger management classes.

Sandria Hartman, cruelty to livestock animal. Sentenced to two years deferred adjudication, fined \$500.

Rudolph Hernandez, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500, \$600 donation to the food bank in lieu of community service hours.

Iva Lee Johnson, theft of stolen property. Sentenced to one year deferred, fined \$100, restitution.

Dimitric A. Knight, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30

days in jail. Keith Alan Nance, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined \$2,000, plea to deadly conduct.

Robert Lee Parker, Jr., assault causing bodily injury-family member. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Robert Lee Parker, Jr., assault causing bodily injury-family member. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Rocky Joe Ramirez, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 18 months probation, fined \$750.

Michalle R. Richard, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 14.

James Lee Roy, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to 15 days in jail.

Jose Arnoldo Sanchez, driving while license invalid and driving while intoxicated. Conditions of probation modified, three days in jail as condition of probation, 25 hours community service and pay past due fees fines and court costs.

Brittany E. Venghaus, theft. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350.

Jimmy Amamilla, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500.

Jimmy Amamilla, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$250, restitution, ordered to attend anger management classes.

Christopher David Cabaniss, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined \$2,000, plea to deadly conduct.

Francisco Chavarria, III, JP Appeal. Fined \$100.

Jeffrey A. Freeman, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to three days in jail, credit for two, fined \$1,500.

David Michael Rule, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250.

Three Lawsuits In District Court

Three lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the past week.

On March 14, Lawrence L. Shimek filed suit against Raymond R. LaBay involving a dispute over injuries in a motor vehicle accident.

The suit states the accident occurred on March 9, 2007 in Colorado County.

Continued on page 14

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