

## Obituaries

### Ben F. Behrens

Ben F. Behrens, resident of Leander and San Saba, Texas, passed away Tuesday, April 29, at the VA Hospital in Temple.

Ben was born October 9, 1939 in La Grange, the son of Almond (Al) and Pauline (Schneider) Behrens.

Ben attended school through the 8th grade in Yoakum. The family moved to Eagle Lake in 1953, where he graduated from Eagle Lake High School in 1957.

Ben excelled throughout his high school years as Student Council President, National Honor Society, Science, Spanish and Debate Team, Class Plays, active in sports (2-year letterman in football), Boy and Explorer Scouts, and served as a lifeguard during some of the summer months. He was also an active member in Grace Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake and was a deeply religious person.

After graduation from high school, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for a period of two years, where he made PFC in boot camp as Right Guide and was honorably discharged with the rank of Lance Corporal. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and studied Physics. He lived at Campus Guild Co-Op, 2804 Whittis Street, becoming its Vice-President in his second semester at UT. In 1960 he was one of the prime initiators in making Campus Guild Co-Op the only fully integrated University of Texas approved housing at the time. After two years at UT he attended Texas Lutheran College to study Theology but did not complete his studies. He then re-enlisted in the Marine Corps but only to be medically discharged after being diagnosed with schizophrenia. Shortly after, he was diagnosed with cancer and given an even chance of survival. He beat the cancer but spent a lifetime struggling with neurological disorders and depression. In 2006 the cancer returned and he succumbed to parotid gland cancer. Ben was a born leader struck down early in life.

After his devoted parents



passed on he was in the private care of Ms. Sierra Mayfield of San Saba, for whom the family is deeply grateful. The family is also deeply grateful to Dr. Shirley Richards and her nursing staff, Ms. Carla Sims (Social Worker for Ben) and her staff, and all service personnel of Ward 5J at the VA Hospital in Temple. They are the angels of Ward 5J "Hero Haven". Their devotion to duty, service, care and love for Ben cannot be exceeded by anyone.

He is survived by his brothers, John A. Behrens of Leander, Texas; James E. Behrens of Warren, Virginia; his sister, Mary Lyn Behrens Casebier Snyder and brother-in-law Bryan "Chan" Snyder of Austin; nieces, Amanda Casebier of Boulder, CO; KariAn Behrens Troyler and husband, Darren Treys of Leonardtown, MD; Terra Behrens of Melbourne, FL; his nephew, Eric Behrens of Warrenton, VA; and his grandnephew's, Liem and Devin Behrens of Schenectady, NY.

He was dearly loved and cared for and will live forever in the hearts of friends and family who knew and loved him.

Private services will be held and his ashes will be interred at the Masonic Cemetery in Eagle Lake near the gravesite of his father and mother.

Memorials may be given in Ben's name to the American Cancer Society or charity of your choice.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

## Watch For Eye Problems In Kids

Physical problems can play a significant role in how well a child learns. One of the more common hurdles a child can face is vision problems, as 1 in 4 school-age children experiences some form of vision problem.

Amblyopia: More commonly known as "Lazy Eye," amblyopia is a loss of vision in one eye that can be caused by crossed eyes, superior focus in one eye, or eyes that don't line up. When a child has amblyopia, one eye becomes stronger than the other, suppressing the image in the weaker eye. When diagnosed and treated early, the weaker or "lazy" eye can be restored. If not diagnosed or treated early, however, the weaker eye can become useless. Glasses are often a part of the solution, but treatment involves more than just corrective lenses.

Strabismus: Strabismus refers to eyes that are not straight. This misalignment of the eyes occurs when the eye muscles fail to work together. Eyes can turn in and become crossed or turn out, a condition referred to as "wall eyes." Eyes can also turn up or down, and in some cases more

than one turn is present, wherein one eye might turn in while the other turns out. Half of all children with strabismus are born with the condition, so parents should take special notice of their child's eyes around the age of four months to be sure a child's vision is developing properly.

## School Days

### Rice School Calendar May 12 - May 16

- Mon.-Athletic Banquet
- Tue.-6:30p Band Banquet and Spring Concert  
5th and 8th grade TAKS Math retest  
PTS Meeting 6:00pm
- Wed.-
- Thu.- 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Field Trip  
Trooper Gary Home Alone  
K-5th
- Fri.- Splashway K-5th



## Shirley Compton For Eagle Lake City Council

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Cup Scout Leader.  
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**I Appreciate Your Vote!**

Political ad paid for by Shirley Compton.

## Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare..."

---William Henry Davies

It is a fact that most of us have little time - at any given moment - to merely "stand and stare." It's a nice concept, but not easily found in this busy era of multi-tasking and high-stress commuting.

Williams H. Davies was a Welsh author and poet writing in the late 1800's and early 1900's - perhaps people had more time to "stand and stare" in those days.

But not all moments of "standing and staring" are positive ones.

Today, we see the "stare" in Houston area traffic as we sit transfixed with other commuters, eyes straight ahead, our minds on the many things that need to be done when we get released from the highway bondage.

We see the bored male companions standing and staring outside mall shops or at mall rest areas waiting for their female counterparts to return, shopping bags in hand, so they may get a quick word in, "...are we through shopping yet?" We all sit and stare at our computer screens. Adults tend to be concerned when teenagers in particular stare for hours at their video games or the very necessary cell phones as they text message. Most TV viewers sit and stare, but I tend to stand and stare as I exercise in front of my TV, asking the video exercise instructor before me, "You want me to do WHAT?"

Some habits or attitudes are passed from generation to generation. My mother never allowed my sister or me to get too motionless unless we were reading a book or doing homework. I learned at an early age to never allow my mother to see me either too relaxed in front of a TV set ("you can feed the cat or take out the garbage since you're not doing anything") or just standing/sitting staring in a moment of quiet repose ("you can feed the cat or take out the garbage since you're not doing anything").

This was passed on to my children. They love to remind me of phrases used religiously by me when they were young, which still hover in the back regions of their childhood memories to this day. When seeing them idle - standing/sitting staring - the motto was "If you're bored, you can (fold clothes, feed the dog, take out the garbage)." Their frequent complaint about childhood is that they were never allowed to get bored.

Should we take more time in our lives to just "stand and stare"?

Forms of nature and animals follow this course of inaction, so perhaps it is good or correct for humans too.

Of course, when I was a deer hunter some years back, a deer that would come out of the woods to stand/stare for any brief amount of time would become venison steaks or deer sausage within a matter of days.

We tend to see the value of time and "stopping to smell the roses" and "standing and staring" as we age. I might have that pile of clothes to fold or the garbage to take out, but if my visiting grand-

daughter pats the couch beside her with her plump little fingers and tells me to "sit, ga-ga, sit" so we can stare together at her favorite cartoon character, well I'll go and do just that. Perhaps in this busy world we need to actually

share and enjoy those brief inactive moments more often.

"Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone."  
---Lin Yutang

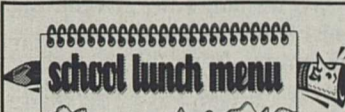
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### Rice Schools

May 12-May 16

#### Breakfast

- Mon.-Breakfast pocket or cereal, juice, milk
- Tue.-Donut, Sausage Patty or cereal, Juice, Milk
- Wed.-Waffle Sticks, Sausage Link or Cereal, Juice, Milk
- Thu.-Sausage Roll or Cereal, Juice, Milk
- Fri.-Cereal, Yogurt, Juice, Milk

#### Lunch

- Mon.-Pepperoni Hot Pocket, Winter Blend Veggie, Squash, Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Burrito
- Tue.-Corndogs, Pork and Bean Cheddarog corn fruit, Milk HS Alt: Hot pocket
- Wed.-Cheeseburger, Burger Salad, Pickles, Fries Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Ham/Cheese sandwich
- Thu.-Chili Dog, Pinto Beans, Pickle spear, fruit Milk HS Alt: Sausage on a bun
- Fri.-Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Baked BBQ chips, salad, Pickle spear, Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: tuna salad sandwich

## Pharmacy & Your Health

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### Drugs that Provide Relief for Hay Fever

Many people are affected by seasonal allergies. In the springtime, various outdoor allergens such as flower buds and pollen cause an immune reaction in susceptible people. Reactions such as sneezing, congestion, and runny nose are characteristic of seasonal allergies. Sensitization is the process that occurs in individuals affected by hay fever, in which the immune system identifies the allergen as a foreign substance, and therefore produces an antibody, known as immunoglobulin E (IgE), against that allergen. These antibodies cause the release of substances such as histamine, which causes the characteristic signs and symptoms of hay fever.

Pseudoephedrine (*Sudafed*) is an oral decongestant available over-the-counter (OTC). Phenylephrine (*Neo-Synephrine*) and oxymetazoline (*Afrin*) are available OTC nasal decongestants. Decongestant nasal sprays should not be used for longer than 2 or 3 days at a time. Antihistamines work to alleviate sneezing, runny nose, and itching. Diphenhydramine (*Benadryl*) and chlorpheniramine (*Chlor-Trimeton*) are available OTC antihistamines. Loratadine (*Claritin, Alavert*) is a newer type of antihistamine that is less likely to cause sleepiness. Cromolyn sodium (*NasalCrom*) is an available OTC nasal spray, which works by preventing the release of histamine.

## Make the Right Choice

Saturday May 10, 2008

re-elect

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Rice CISD Position 7

## Dedicated Board Member

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