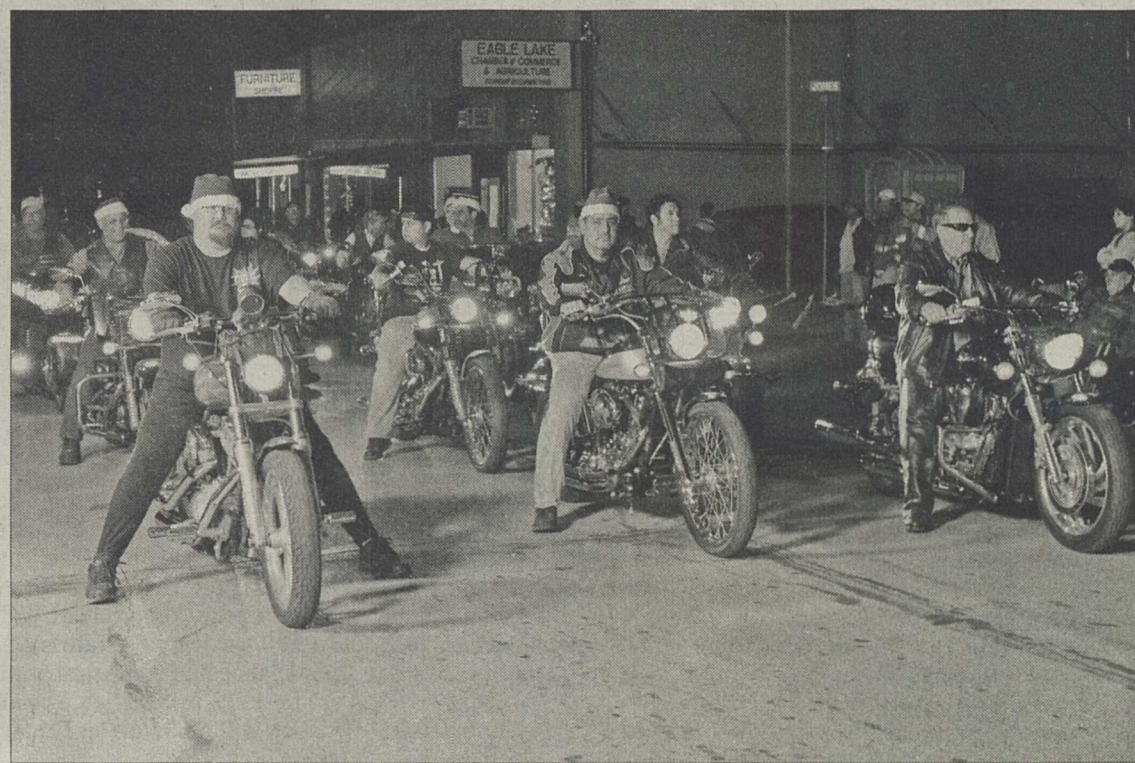
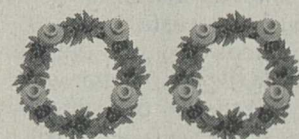




The home of Angie and Morris Howland at 719 Partridge Lane won third place in the Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club's Annual Christmas Lighting Contest.



Tony Tyler's Motorcycle Crew won the Most Unusual category in the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade held last Saturday night.



Garden Club Lighting Awards

By Patty Holloway
Well as usual the Garden Club Christmas Award Committee had a difficult time choosing first, second and third place winners. There were so many beautifully lit yards.

When you drive around town East Post Office, West Main, South Austin Rd., Laughlin Rd., and Prairie Ave. have some really lovely light displays.

Thanks to everyone for sharing Christmas to everyone and remember there is always next year.

Multi-County Fruit Tree Program Slated

Do you have a fruit tree, or desire to plant a fruit tree any time soon? Here is your chance to learn what you need to know to have a successful and enjoyable experience to do so.

On January 9 at 1 p.m., Winedale Historical Complex, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History will be hosting the first of a two-part educational program.

Dr. Larry Stein, an Extension Horticulture Specialist, will be the main speaker, and will cover a wide range of topics, including site and variety selection, planting and pruning of fruit trees.

The agenda will include some visual demonstrations of these practices in Winedale's

orchard.

This program is a multi-county effort that includes Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington counties.

Refreshments and handouts will be provided. Registration is from 1-1:30 pm and the program will run from 1:30 to approximately 5 p.m. If you have any questions, you can contact the Fayette County Extension Office at (979) 968-5831.

Educational programs of the

Texas AgriLife Extension are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Co-operating.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Fayette

County Extension Office at (979) 968-5831 two work days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Winedale Historical Complex is a division of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin. Winedale is located at 3738 FM2714, 4 miles from Round Top, Texas. Take FM 1457 to FM 2714. More information about Winedale and directions are on the Web site: <http://www.winedale.org>.

Support Groups Can Be Helpful

By Michael Warren
UT Medical
Branch, Galveston

Except for expert medical treatment, nothing can help us recover from a variety of medical and social problems like emotional and moral support.

Support groups often substitute for family or close friends.

The results can be amazing. I've witnessed patients who joined such groups as Reach for Recovery (for breast-cancer patients) and the Stroke Club who've made remarkable recoveries.

Buoyed by the support they received, they were able to move ahead with their lives and accept their misfortune.

Most people are familiar with the reputation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There are similar groups to help people with drug and gambling addictions, weight problems and struggles to accept their fate, perhaps as a result of cancer or an accident.

Probably the largest and most powerful support group is the American Association of Retired People, whose concern is for the senior citizens of America.

Indeed, there are support groups for virtually every problem, but the onus is on you to find the one you need.

Support groups do not always seek out "clients," believing an individual's desire to belong must motivate the search for the appropriate group.

But many advertise in the phone book. Your local hospital, health agencies, coworkers and ministers are also excellent sources for referrals.

Support groups ask you to make a commitment to attend meetings and to develop a positive relationship with the group members.

Sometimes, family members are asked to participate also, but the fact that you have made the move to seek help is the primary consideration.

Most people hesitate to share their troubles with "strangers."

With the realization that everyone in the group has a similar problem and can offer help, sympathy and advice, most take a massive step toward resolving their personal conflict.

Several support groups have families in mind.

For instance, Alateen is for the teenage children of alcoholics.

There are support groups for families of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

The Hospice movement offers comfort and aid when there is no hope for recovery.

I'm a good example of the influence of group support.

After joining a group, I lost 40 pounds.

I looked better and felt healthier, but then I made a classic error.

I decided I didn't need the group any more. What a mistake!

Within months, I'd gained back all the weight I'd struggled to lose.

If you suspect that a support group could help you through a crisis, join one.

Let's face it, folks!

Everybody needs somebody.

Why should you be so different?



Rice Schools Dec. 15-Dec. 19

Breakfast

Mon.-Breakfast Pocket or Cereal, Juice Milk

Tue.-Donut, Sausage Link or Cereal Juice Milk

Wed.-Uncrustable or Cereal, Juice, Milk

Thu.-Breakfast Roll or Cereal, Juice, Milk

Fri.-Cereal Yogurt, Juice, Milk

Lunch

Mon.-Salisbury Steak, Buttered noodles, spinach, carrots Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Chicken nuggets

Tue.-Fiesta Bean Burrito, Confetti salad, corn fruit, Milk HS Alt: Sausage link bread

Wed.-Chicken Burger, Burger Salad, Fries, Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Fish Burger

Thu.-Spaghetti w/meat sauce, steamed broccoli, salad, garlic bread Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Hot dog

Fri.-Ham Sandwich, salad, pickle spear, chips, Fruit Milk HS Alt: Pepperoni Hot pocket

Eagle Lake Headlight Want Ads Work Wonders

TAX TIPS from RAY

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 added a real property tax calculation to the standard deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize. The real property deduction is the lessor of the amount allowed as a deduction of property taxes, or \$500 (\$1,000 in the case of a joint return). The provision expires at the end of 2008. The EESA extended the additional standard deduction for real property taxes to the end of 2009.

Until Next Week...

Raymond L. Viktorin, Jr.
Certified Public Accountant

Income Tax Preparation

Individual, Corporation, LLC, Partnership and Trust
E-Filing For Faster Refunds

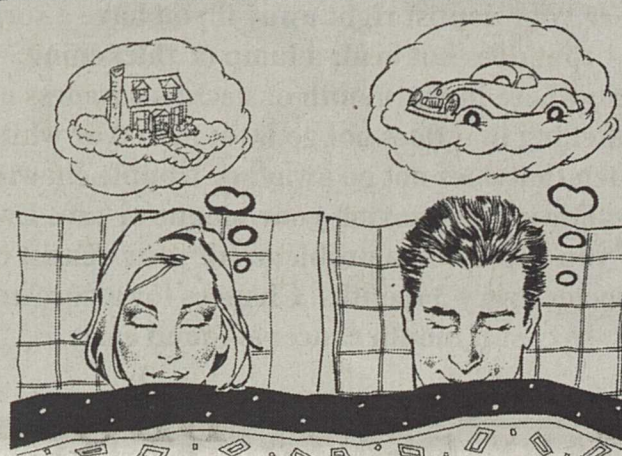
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