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What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a virus that infects the respiratory tract. Almost all children are infected with this virus by 2 or 3 years of age. Adults are also susceptible to infection with RSV. The virus typically affects the lower part of the lungs of infants and young children, and the upper respiratory tract of older children and adults. The elderly and persons with a compromised immune system also may experience infection of the lower respiratory tract. The virus can be spread from person to person, or from contact with the surface of a contaminated object, such as a toy. Signs and symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing, cough, and runny nose. The sinuses and ears also may be affected. The fall and winter seasons are typically the time of year with the highest rates of infection with RSV, especially in infants born prematurely.

Due to the increased risk for severe complications in certain persons, several preventative measures are recommended. Frequent hand-washing is recommended to help prevent infection. Avoidance of exposure to tobacco smoke is also recommended for prevention of RSV. Beta-agonist bronchodilator medications, such as *albuterol*, may be used to alleviate wheezing. Palivizumab (*Synagis*) is a monoclonal antibody that is used for RSV prevention in children with increased risk for severe infection.



**Vernell Elizabeth
Nelson Kucherka**
1929 - 2009

Vernell Elizabeth Nelson was born to a family of farmers, Willie H and Teckla Annie Nelson on October 27, 1929.

The 6th of 6 children, they all lived in the rural Mentz area at the time.

Vernell attended Bernardo area schools in her youth. While attending Columbus High School, she had aspirations to learn the piano.

However, her band teacher would find the call of duty for WWII with no replacement. She graduated class of 1947.

Her job after graduation was a telephone operator and then bank teller at Columbus State Bank. Then, Wilbert David Kucherka Sr. would change her life forever.

They met at the Mentz Church Picnic held at Hillcrest at the time. They were wed on November 14, 1949 at St. Roch Catholic Church in Mentz. So started her life; of a farmer's wife, loving mother and farm manager.

They took up residence, affectionately known to the family as "The Middle Place", approximately ½ way between Highway 90 Alt and FM 102 on Calhoun Road till they moved in 1964 to their current residence 1 mile out of Eagle Lake on Calhoun Road.

Her selfless devotion to the Catholic faith was notable. Attending the aforementioned St. Roch Catholic Church, then moving to Parish of the Nativity (formerly known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help), she was a member of the Altar Society and Christian Mothers and currently a Catholic Daughters member of Court Our Lady of the Fields. She was also a vital link within the Parish's Prayer Chain.

And, if you got the chance, you may have sampled her delicious sweet tea, chocolate sheet cake or cream cheese rolls she served at all church functions. She was also very active in her grandchildren's

and great-grandchildren's lives by attending their extracurricular activities.

Vernell was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, William and Joseph Dean "JD"; and sisters, Wilfern and Rubylean.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Wilbert David Kucherka Sr.; children, Wilbert David "Dave" Kucherka, Jr. and wife, Melinda, Diane Spanihel and husband, Joe Mike, Susan Poenitzsch and husband, Gary, Paul and wife, Kim, Mark and wife, Gracie.

She is also survived by her 15 grandchildren: Wilbert David "Trey" Kucherka III and wife, Melonie, Amalie Phillips and husband, Ryan, Trent Kucherka; Stacey Leopold and husband, Dusty, Michelle Primrose and husband, Jody, Lauren Spanihel; Kyle Poenitzsch and wife, Lindsey, Kevin Poenitzsch and wife, Nicole, Kayley Poenitzsch; Joshua Kucherka, Johnathan Kucherka, Haleigh Kucherka and one on the way; Karina Llanos, Lance Kucherka and Aaron Kucherka.

As well as, nine great-grandchildren: Wilbert David "Will" Kucherka IV; Luke and Kate Phillips; Colton and Dakotah Leopold; Jakelyn Primrose; Dean Poenitzsch and one on the way; Ava Poenitzsch; and Hailey Llanos; and her only surviving brother, Milton Oscar Nelson.

Services took place at Parish of the Nativity Friday, October 16, at 10 a.m. Burial followed at St. Roch Catholic Cemetery in Mentz.

Services were under the direction of Eagle Lake Funeral Home.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Elsa Rodriguez Ramirez
1971-2009

Elsa Rodriguez Ramirez, 38, of Eagle Lake, passed away Sunday, October 4 at Rice Medical Center.

She was born on May 19, 1971, in Mexico to Melchor Rodriguez and Marina Martinez Rodriguez. She was a graduate of Rice High School Class of 1989.

She was employed by Rice CISD for the past eight years where she worked as a teacher's aide.

Elsa married Martin Thomas Ramirez on December 1, 1990. Elsa enjoyed being outdoors and doing just about everything she could.

She was very active in participating with any activities that concerned her kids. She will always be remembered for her big smile and laughter. She was such a caring, loving person that will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Martin Thomas Ramirez of Eagle Lake; daughter, Cassidy; sons, Martin Jr. and Marco; parents, Melchor and Marina Rodriguez of Eagle Lake; grandmother, Virginia Marquez Macias of Mexico; mother-in-law, Carmen Ramirez of Eagle Lake; sisters and spouses, Elva Castro and Samuel, Lina Ferguson and Chris of Eagle Lake, Sandra Rodriguez

of Austin; brother, Lupe Rodriguez and Patricia of Columbus; sister-in-laws and spouses, Nelda Martinez and Martin, Martha Yanez and Jesse, Maria Diaz and Noe, all of Eagle Lake.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Lorenzo Martinez and father-in-law, Pedro Ramirez Becerra.

A prayer service celebrating the life of Elsa was held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 7, at Eagle Lake Funeral Home with Pastors Joe and Mercy Fling officiating.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m., Thursday, October 8, at the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church with Father Robert Guerra officiating.

Interment followed at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake. Arrangements were under the direction of Eagle Lake Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Lupe Rodriguez, Samuel Castro, Chris Ferguson, Jesse Yanez Sr., Noe Diaz Sr., Noe Diaz Jr., Cesilio D. Reyes Jr. and Pete Martinez.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Cherry Lynn Weaver

1955-2009

Cherry Lynn Weaver, 54, of Columbus passed away October 15 at her residence.

She was born April 29, 1955 in San Antonio the daughter of Kerry and Margie (Carmack) Barnett, Sr.

Cherry married Gary R. Weaver on July 5, 1986.

She was a kindergarten teacher.

Duran LaMacon Amos, Jr.

Brittany Ruiz and Duran Amos of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the birth of their son, born on October 13 at 1:52 p.m. at Rice Medical Center.

Duran LaMacon weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 20 ½ inches.

He is welcomed home by siblings Darian Johnson, 3, Draeden Amos, 1, and Daje Amos, 2.

Maternal grandparents are Cynthia and Gilbert Ruiz of Eagle Lake. Paternal grandparents are Terry McCowan and James Amos of Houston.

Great-grandparents are Hannah and Joe Ruiz, Mary Ann Soliz of Eagle Lake and Evelyn and Willis Wilson.



Jackson Dennis Mortensen

Denice Mortensen of Mankato, MN, (daughter of the late Dennis Mortensen), is pleased to announce the birth of her beautiful baby boy, born October 12, at 2:52 p.m.

Jackson Dennis weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20-1/2 inches at birth.

Proud grandparent is Julie Mortensen of Mankato.

Welcoming Jackson into the family are proud uncles and aunts, Scott of Eagle Lake, Jayme of San Antonio, and Bryan and Dera of Mankato.

Alexis Yasmen Rolon

Mariana Molina and Jorge Rolon of Atlanta, Georgia are pleased to announce the birth of

Cherry enjoyed teaching and her boys were the love of her life.

Cherry was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and had been a resident of Columbus since 1985.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and father-in-law, William H. Weaver.

Survivors include her husband, Gary of Columbus; sons, David Weaver and wife, Emily, of Seattle, Washington, Casey Weaver of Waco and Kevin Weaver of Columbus; brothers, Kerry Barnett and wife, Sonia, of Tyler and Toby Barnett and wife, Linda, of Palestine; mother-in-law, Thelma Weaver; brother-in-laws and sister-in laws, Walter and Judy Weaver, Nettie and Frankie Joe Cernosek; nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, October 19 from Henneke Funeral Home in Columbus with Pastor J. Paul Bruhn officiating.

Interment followed in Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery in Columbus.

Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were members of the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department Honor Guard: Dwight Mazac, Ford Stein, Richard LaCourse, Mike Booker, Sidney Chollet, Dodie Dungen and David Meisel.

Honorary pallbearers were all other members of the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

New Arrivals

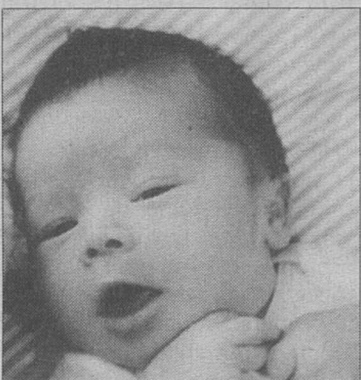
their daughter, born on August 9 at 12:41 p.m. at the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton.

Alexis Yasmen weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Santa Torres of Eagle Lake and Ernesto Molina of Denver, Colorado. Paternal grandparents are Julia and Jorge Rolon of Atlanta, Georgia.



Alexis Yasmen Rolon



Phoenix Jack Teague

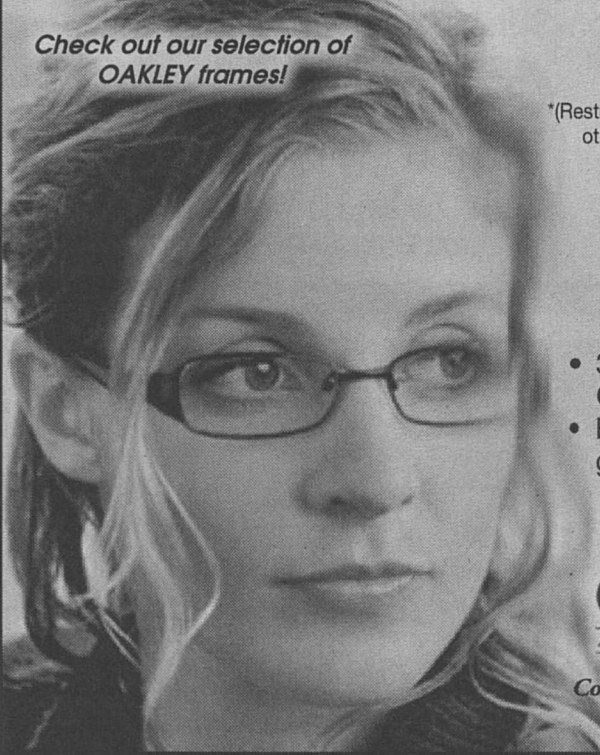
Nina Salazar-Teague and Timothy Teague of Katy formerly of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the birth of their son, born on August 26.

Phoenix Jack weighed 7 pounds, 1.4 ounces and measured 20 ½ inches long.

Grandparents are Abel Billy and Ortensia Salazar of Eagle Lake and Clarence and Donna Coldewey of Eagle Lake and Glenda Teague.

Great-grandparent is Felipa Salazar of Eagle Lake.

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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.
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 Guyler, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.
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FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5795.
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GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Dave Curry; 709 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.
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JESUS IS MY REFUGE: 115 N. McCarty, Eagle Lake; Rev. Diana Aguilera.

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; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.

GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 11 a.m.; Rev. Bill Mosley, Pastor; 234-3381.

LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.

LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: Rev. Janice Kerlee, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.

ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sells 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.

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MT. SINAI EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES: 510 Prairie St., Eagle Lake, Rev. Thomas E. Kuykendall, pastor/founder. 979-234-3259

Bible Verse of The Week

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

John 8:11

Submitted by Donna Samora

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