

Wants Ads Really Work!! Call Us Today

Happy Belated Birthday Valarie!
October 19

Some people give the gift of peace and tranquility to every life they touch. They are always who they really are. They are blessedly reliable, dependably good, predictably pleasant, loved and treasured by all who know them. You are one of those people. You are a gift of peace and tranquility in our lives. Love, Your Family

Thank You!

To all who supported our yearly fundraiser for our church and also including:

**Eagle Lake Super Stop
Eagle Lake Supermarket
Town and Country Store
J&K Korner Store**

**And the ever popular Eagle Stop!
Everyone looked good for the community...**

**Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church
and Knights of Columbus 4843**

THANK YOU

The family of Elsa would like to express our gratitude to everyone for their love and support during our time of mourning. Words alone cannot express how grateful we are to everyone. Whether you shared words of prayer or kept us in your thoughts, called or visited us, sent flowers or cards, or dropped off food and helped serve, we appreciate your kindness.

A special thank you to Dr. Ramon Cantu and Rice Medical Center for their great care they provided to Elsa while she was a patient with them. Also, want to thank Father Robert Guerra and Pastors Joe and Mercy Fling for the beautiful services they provided.

Rodríguez and Ramírez Family

Rice Medical Forms Partnership With Dallas Company

Like many small and rural hospitals, Rice Medical Center (RMC) as a free-standing organization has faced staffing, financial, and other operational challenges for many years.

On September 28, 2009, RMC's Board of Directors took an important step toward solidifying the hospital's future by entering a lease agreement with Critical Access Healthcare, LLC (CAH), a company based in Dallas, Texas.

Under the terms of the new lease agreement, CAH will form a partnership Board to manage the hospital operations.

The new partnership Board will consist of three (3) hospital district Board members (yet to be designated), Charlie Slaton, the President of CAH, and Richard Hoeth, FACHE, the current CEO at RMC.

The hospital district Board will continue to own the hospital and property and will work with the partnership Board to set priorities for programs and services provided at RMC, now and in the future.

CAH was formed in 2007 to bring unique solutions to Hospital Districts and governmental entities related to rural community healthcare needs.

Bringing significant experience in hospital operations, proven reimbursement expertise, and significant capital resources, CAH develops creative approaches that allow rural communities to access new hospital facilities, new services, and other operational improvements.

The company was founded by Charlie Slaton, a seasoned healthcare Executive with over 20 years of for profit and not for profit hospital operations experience.

Mr. Slaton served previously as the CEO/President of Med-Cath, Inc., a specialty Heart Hospital company, and prior to that was a Sr. Vice President of Tenet Texas, a 15 hospital division of Tenet HealthCare.

Slaton has had operational responsibilities for over 45 hospitals in 17 states, ranging in size from 25 beds to 1,000 beds.

He received his BBA and MBA from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 2001.

Mr. Slaton has served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Hospital Association in Austin and the Board of Governors of the Federation of American Hospitals.

Jim Gjerset and Shauna Lorenz, Gjerset & Lorenz also serve as partners of CAH.

Gjerset & Lorenz represents over 120 Texas hospitals in the area of reimbursement, upper payment limit programs, and Medicaid Dispro fund management. The latter two programs referenced are supplemental

assistance programs which are vitally important to Rice Medical Center and provide additional funds to the hospital for the purpose of serving patients with Medicaid and/or uninsured patients. Gjerset & Lorenz managed over 1.5 billion dollars of reimbursement from government programs for Texas hospitals last year.

The firm is also called upon to represent the Texas Health and Human Services Department in cases involving these programs and CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the federal agency which handles payments for both of those programs).

Use of special supplemental funding programs is especially important to rural Texas hospi-

tals, which serve large numbers of Medicare, Medicaid, and uninsured patients.

Rice Medical Center's patient mix is about 53% Medicare, 8-10% Medicaid, 10% uncompensated care, and the balance consists of insured and managed care patients.

It will take several weeks for Rice Medical Center and CAH to transition into this new operational model, but the benefits to the community and the patients we serve will be considerable.

Essentially, through this new partnership Rice Medical Center will no longer be dependent upon itself and members of the community for its sole support, but will be able to utilize CAH's experience,

resources, and contacts to address several operational areas all at once and within quicker time frames.

This will enable us to provide enhanced patient care and services, staffing, updated technology, and new medical equipment and facilities for the patients we serve.

In addition, the new partnership will enable the hospital to position itself better to adapt to the many new changes anticipated when the federal government passes a healthcare reform bill.

And, finally, the new partnership will ensure that RMC continues to provide its patients with the personal and high quality care they have come to expect when they seek our services.

Garden Club Homes Tour Dec. 5

Do thoughts of the holidays bring to mind the warmth of home, family and friends? After all, one of our favorite Christmas carols tells us "...there's no place like home for the holidays..."

The Civic Garden Club of Eagle Lake invites you to start your holiday season in that spirit by enjoying their Holiday Tour of Homes scheduled for Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

The tour will include four beautifully-decorated local homes in addition to the fascinating Santa Fe Railroad Depot and the inviting Tea Room at the First Baptist Church.

All six locations will be featured in forthcoming articles to acquaint readers with this exciting holiday tour.

The Civic Garden Club has been active for many years in Eagle Lake, stimulating and maintaining interest and pride in the upkeep of designated areas in the community as well as the grounds of the City of Eagle Lake itself.

Notice and enjoy the oak trees bordering either side of 90A toward Main Street and you will realize that these community treasures, planted many years ago by the garden club and maintained faithfully by them, are a testament to the work of this organization.

All proceeds from the home tour go directly toward the beautification of Eagle Lake.

WCJC Announces Registration

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) is currently registering for the *Fall & Winter Mini-Terms* and the *Spring 2010 semester*. Register through Oct. 23 for fall mini-term. Walk-in registration only is required for the fall mini-term. Students may register on campus or on the web Nov. 1 through Dec. 17 for the *Winter Mini-Term*. Students may register November 1 through Jan. 16 online for the spring semester and should visit the college's website for on-campus registration dates.

Web registration will be held Nov. 1, 2009 through Jan. 18, 2010.

Fall Mini-Term classes begin Oct. 26, Winter Mini-Term classes begin Dec. 21, 2009 and Spring classes begin January 19, 2010.

WCJC offers an associate in arts degree for those intending to transfer to a 4-year institution, associate of arts in Teaching degree, associate in applied science degrees, and certificate programs. Distance education courses are available through the web, interactive television, and videocassettes.

For more information about-call 800.561.9252 or 979.532.4560 for the Wharton campus, 281.243.8447 for the Sugar Land campus, or 281.239.1500 for the WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center. The college also offers classes at the Bay City campus.

The four continuous designated projects by the club are maintenance and care of Municipal Park (at the Gazebo area), Harrison Park (near Dairy Queen), The Pointe (across from Buc-ee's) and the beautiful potted shrubs and flowers located at downtown businesses.

A current project is the completion of a watering system at Harrison Park. Proud of our city square? The club has worked to furnish and maintain the beds around City Hall and the Post Office.

At Christmas, the club decorates the large sidewalk pots and old parking meter posts downtown, decorates the city signs and hangs wreaths on downtown business doors.

Year round, the garden club

recognizes community effort by proudly naming a "Yard of the Month."

The Civic Garden Club meets quarterly with a luncheon followed by a meeting. "Anyone interested in the beautification of Eagle Lake is invited to attend a luncheon and share ideas with us," invites club president Becky Anderson.

Tickets for the home tour are available at the Prairie Edge Museum.

You can also check out www.visiteaglelake.com for more information.

Tickets may still be purchased on the tour day, December 5, from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., at the museum.

Go "home for the holidays" by visiting and supporting the Civic Garden Club Tour of Homes.

San Jacinto Monument To Honor Veterans

The San Jacinto Monument, rising 570 feet above the battleground, stands as a memorial to the men who fought for Texas independence.

As such, it is fitting for San Jacinto to honor all military personnel on the federal and state holiday of Veterans Day.

The San Jacinto Museum of History, located at the base of the Monument, will admit military personnel and their families to all its venues free of charge in celebration of Veterans Day.

This includes FREE ADMISSION to:

-Ride the 489-foot elevator to the top of the Monument and view the land where the Battle of San Jacinto was fought, the Houston Ship Channel and much more.

-View the digital presentation Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto - which describes life from the earliest Spanish colonies to the day the West was won.

-Tour Developing Houston: Photographic Treasures from the Cecil Thomson Collection. In addition to photographs, period artifacts in this exhibit depict Houston neighborhoods, businesses and events during the years 1865-1950. Contemporary photographs are paired with their historic counterparts to help tell the story of the growth of Houston and the surrounding region.

-Visit the San Jacinto Museum of History. From books to bayonets, swords to sketches, there's something here for everyone.

Both former and current military personnel and their family members will be guests of the San Jacinto Museum on Veterans Day - Wednesday, November 11, 2009. Guests are asked to show their military ID.

Non-military visitors may purchase a Super Combo ticket (\$12 adults and \$8 children) for admission to the elevator ride, Texas Forever!! and Developing Houston.

Tickets for individual activities and discounts for seniors and tour

groups are available. Call 281-479-2421 for information on group sales and school field trips.

The men who fought at San Jacinto were citizens of Texas as well as immigrant soldiers ranging in age from 16 to 64.

They were born in different nations but were called together to fight for the ideal of a government that would provide representation to its citizens.

Irrespective of race, nationality or creed, the soldiers fought to establish a free country whose government would obey the rule of law.

As the San Jacinto Monument is dedicated to those who fought for Texas' independence, Veterans Day honors military personnel, past and present, for serving our country to preserve its freedom.

The San Jacinto Monument is located on the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, just minutes away from downtown Houston.

Take Highway 225 east to Independence Parkway north, approximately 3 miles from the freeway.

Farm Bureau Field Day

Continued from page 5 horticulture; L.P. Voskamp with Southwest Dairy Farmers-dairy; and Rice FFA-farm safety.

Colorado County Farm Bureau wants to thank all the workers who helped these students "make the connection."

This is a program designed for third grade students. It's a program that helps school districts fulfill state mandates for community involvement.

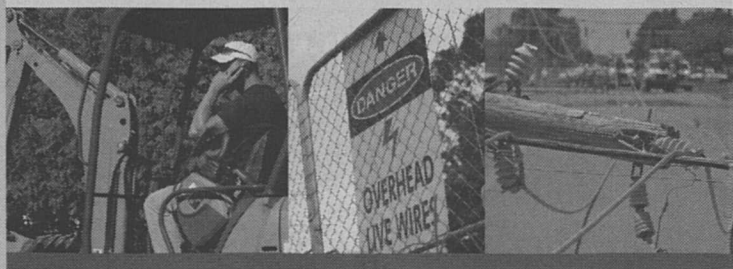
Local resource people were on hand to explain local farming and ranching to students and providing animals, crops or other samples for hands-on demonstrations.



Connected to
customers

Steer clear of overhead power lines. Stay away from fallen wires.

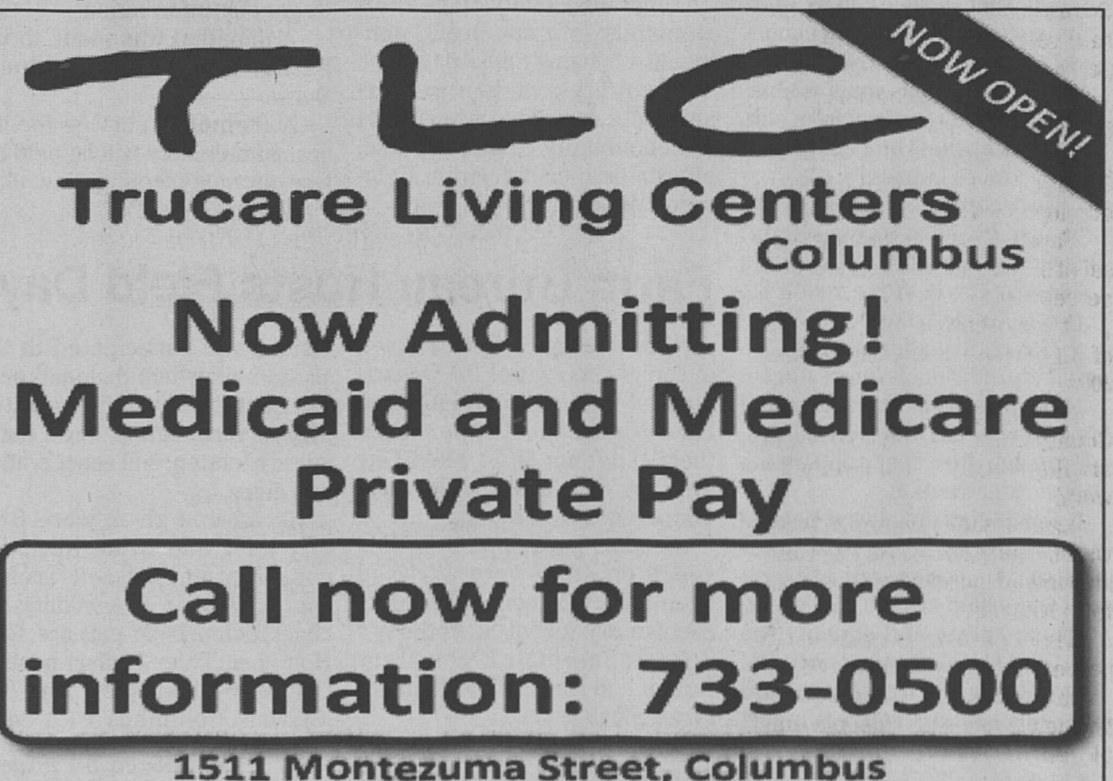
To report a downed power line, call AEP Texas at 1-866-223-8508.



At AEP Texas, we never forget the value electricity brings to our lives. That's why we work each day to deliver affordable, reliable electric service and help you stay safe while using it. We're more than electricity. We're AEP Texas, connected to your life.

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