



## IT'S ALL IN THE *Aging*

*Dave Eagle, an attorney in Granbury, makes cheese with his family through Eagle Mountain Farmhouse Cheese. His artisan cheese won an award last year from the American Cheese Society.*

When people think of Texas, they think of cowboys. Boots. Horses and cattle.

Cheese? Not so much. But, according to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas is the sixth largest milk-producing state. “A majority of people do not think of Texas as a cheese state,” Granbury attorney **Dave Eagle** says. “That is one of the biggest misconceptions I am trying to change.”

It may seem odd that a Granbury attorney would be so interested in changing this misconception, but as an artisan cheesemaker, Eagle wants people to know that great cheese comes from Texas too.

After attending an artisan cheese school in Vermont (and after much research and “practice”), Eagle and his son, Matt, started making cheese through Eagle Mountain Farmhouse Cheese, located on five acres of land he owns between Granbury and Weatherford, where he welcomes guests interested in cheesemaking. “We’re really having fun,” Eagle says. “The first few times you make your own cheese, it seems to be magic.”

The company offers Gouda- and Trappist-style cheeses, and other types, including natural and washed rind cheeses. While he contemplated starting a small dairy to produce milk for his cheese, Eagle soon realized he’d be in over his head and opted for milk from Sandy Creek Farm in Bridge-

port. Eagle Mountain Farmhouse Cheese is available so far at several Austin locations and Flat Creek Estate Winery outside of Austin, as well as the Cedar Park Farmer’s Market.

Last year, Eagle entered the company’s Birdville Reserve, a Trappist-style cheese, into the American Cheese Society’s annual competition. It received first place in the Open Category — Made from Cow’s Milk. A second entered cheese missed placing third by just one point. “I was quite pleased with our first outing,” Eagle says, explaining that he didn’t expect the cheese to place at all. A friend had urged him to enter the contest as a way to gain critical feedback from the society’s judges. “(Winning) was one of those moments in your life that you’ll never forget.”

Eagle has always loved cheese. As he traveled to Europe through his work as a defense litigator, he came across cheeses he’d never seen in the United States. This led to an appreciation of obscure cheeses, or rather, cheeses not-so-appreciated in the United States. “Most people in this country only eat cheddar or mozzarella,” Eagle explains. “But there are so many excellent cheeses out there to learn about. The beauty about cheese is that the more it ages, the better it gets.”

So what is this cheesemaker’s favorite cheese? Eagle says it’s difficult to choose just one, but “I haven’t met a cheese I didn’t like.” — P.G.



## PEDAL PUSHERS

Attorneys at Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, L.L.P are keeping track of more than billable hours. So far this year, Gardere lawyers — along with family members, clients, and friends — have biked more than 335 miles and raised \$291,000 to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis.

On April 21–22, more than 100 riders from Team Gardere biked 183 miles from Houston to Austin as part of the annual BP MS 150 that benefits the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. On May 5–6, nearly 140 “Gardere Gearheads” rode a 153-mile route from Frisco to Fort Worth in the Bike MS: Sam’s Club ride.

Gardere’s participation in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s bike fundraisers began 12 years ago when **John Pearson**, a litigator in Gardere’s Houston office, was diagnosed with the disease. Pearson has ridden with the team each year and inspired many of his colleagues to do the same. The cumulative amount Gardere has raised for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society during its years of participation is more than \$2.1 million.

“The BP MS 150 is an inspiring and unique event. It is very satisfying to achieve a personal goal while, at the same time, raising money that will help to find a cure for this relentless disease,” says **Peter Scaff**, a partner in the firm’s Houston office. “When your legs ache and the wind is at your nose, it is the cause that keeps you pedaling.” Scaff is captain of the Houston office’s team, Team Gardere, which raised more than \$165,000, surpassing their goal by \$20,000 and last year’s mark by \$40,000.

**Keith Novick**, a partner in Gardere’s Dallas office, is captain of the Dallas-based team dubbed the Gardere Gear-



*Peter Scaff, captain of Team Gardere and a partner in the firm’s Houston office, rides to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.*

heads. “I, and each of the Gearheads, had the blessing of being able to do something that many with multiple sclerosis can only dream of — riding a bike 150 miles,” he says. “From this perspective, it was our privilege to participate in Bike MS.” — *E.C.*

## TEXAS PEOPLE



**Anna C. Dragsbaek**

*President and CEO, Immunization Partnership, Houston*

Named the 2012 Texas Childhood Immunization Champion by the Centers for Disease Control. She was recognized for her efforts to increase knowledge about childhood immunizations.



**Machree Garrett Gibson**

*Graydon Group, L.L.C., Austin*

Received this year’s Heman Sweatt Legacy Award from the University of Texas at Austin’s Division of Diversity and Community Engagement for her support of and service to the university.



**Dorene Philpot**

*Philpot Law Office, P.C., Galveston*

Received the 2012 Diane Lip-ton Award for Outstanding Educational Advocacy from the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, a national advocacy organization for students with disabilities.



**Harold K. “Hal” Watson**

*Partner, Chaffe McCall, L.L.P., Houston*

Elected second vice president of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. An active member since 1978, Watson served as the organization’s secretary before being elected second vice president.