

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Concealed handgun bill moves closer to being law

A bill that would give eligible Texans the right to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun moved a step closer to becoming a law last week.

Sponsored by state Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, Senate Bill 60 was approved 5-1 in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

The measure would allow owners of businesses frequented by the public, such as restaurants, movie theaters, hotels and health clinics, the right to deny entry to persons carrying concealed weapons.

Under the bill, applicants for a concealed handgun permit would be required to undergo 10 hours of handgun training and pay a fee of \$140 for a four-year permit.

An amendment to the bill contains language that would cut the required number of handgun training hours to 10. The original bill specified 15 hours of training.

An opponent to the bill, Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, said enforcing the handgun restriction at private businesses probably would require

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

installing metal detectors.

Lawsuit Liability Bill

The Texas Senate approved legislation last week aimed at limiting liability in civil lawsuits that involve more than one defendant.

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said the action "dispels forever this fallacy that Texas is anti-business."

But consumers said that such legislation would make it difficult for innocent victims to recover full compensation for their injuries.

The bill, which would change the rules of "joint and several liability," would require that a defendant be found at least 51% liable for a civil claim before being required to pay 100% of damages. Current law re-

quires as little as 11% responsibility. A defendant found to be 50% liable or less would pay only his or her share of the damages.

Moses Is TEA Nominee
Gov. George W. Bush last week nominated Lubbock Independent School District Superintendent Mike Moses as Texas education commissioner.

Moses, 43, advocates a "zero tolerance" policy for violent students. He established a boot camp in Lubbock staffed by military-style drill instructors to correct disciplinary problems.

Though Moses supports the no-pass, no-play rule, he says he would prefer to reduce the period of time students with failing grades must wait before allowed to participate in after-school extracurricular activities.

Other Highlights
Standard premiums for homeowners' insurance in Texas would increase an estimated 2.4% under a rate proposal recommended by two administrative law judges. The rate plan, forwarded to state Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer for consideration, is slightly less than what the insurance industry requested.

Allan Polunsky, a member of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice since 1987, was named chairman of the panel last week by Gov. Bush. He replaces Houston lawyer Carol Vance, who will remain on the board.

Bush said Polunsky "will be an important part of the Bush administration's battle against crime."

Gov. Bush nominated Laurie Rich, an assistant to U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, to head the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, D.C.

Brenda Arnett last week was sworn in by Gov. Bush as executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce. The governor praised the Houston woman's career in business.

Worst hit are Texarkana, which faces closure of Defense Distribution Depot Red River (820 civilian jobs), and disestablishment of Red River Army Depot (14 military and 2,887 civilian jobs); Lubbock, closure of Reese Air Force Base (900 military and 1,183 civilian jobs); and San Antonio, closure of Brooks Air Force Base (1,820 military and 1,939 civilian jobs).

Deactivation of the Bergstrom Air Force Base Reserve unit would cost Austin a total of 954 jobs, including

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To The Editor & You

Need public forums, information concerning hospital district

To The Editor:

How disappointing to read that the Board of Directors of Eagle Lake Community Hospital are throwing in the towel and have decided to lay the future of the hospital in the hands of the Rice Independent School District voters.

Before doing this, I hope the Board will hold some open forums where people about to be affected by their decision can learn details of what has brought them to this point. It is my understanding that the hospital had a very strong financial position just

eight years or so ago. Judging from the generalized comments in the article concerning their current position, one has to conclude that the financial decline has not been so gradual, but rather pretty drastic.

District voters have a right to know exactly what they are about to receive so that the decision we make can be based on all facts, not just on emotions.

Yours very truly,
Bill Wilson
Eagle Lake

Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 16, 1970

The Hospital Fund Drive needs \$39,000 more in contributions by the Aug. 15 deadline... Joe S. Reed Jr., owner of Lake Motors in Eagle Lake, has been appointed to the key post of Area Director of the 1,600 member Texas Automotive Dealers Association.

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore H. Clarke of Wilkingsburg, Penn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Lynn Clarke, to Lt. Walter M. Jones, U.S. Navy, son of Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell M. Jones of Eagle Lake... Virginia Clipson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Kopecky Jr. of La Porte welcomed the arrival of a baby son, born at 12:52 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, in Baytown. Grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Kopecky of Eagle Lake.

Mr. & Mrs. M.E. Isenhower honored Mrs. Glen Sunderman and Mrs. R.L. Lange with a brunch at her home on Wednesday morning July 8. Mrs. Sunderman departed for a European tour on Friday following; Mrs. Lange left for a Hawaiian tour on Saturday.

Mr. & Mrs. John Laughlin of Austin are the parents of a baby son born in the Seton Hospital on Tuesday, July 7, at 11:00 a.m. Paternal grandparents are Dr. & Mrs. J.C. Laughlin.

Randy Spalinger, a student at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, recently took a very enjoyable trip to Colorado with some of his college friends. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Spalinger of Eagle Lake.

Obie Rhodes has been appointed Special Education Coordinator for the Rice Consolidated ISD... Miss Sheryl and Beryl Shorter, daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Coby Shorter Jr. of Eagle Lake, will represent Colorado County at the District Dress Revue.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Miss Kaye Lynn Chapman to Earl David Frey, EN3, U.S. Coast Guard, is announced by her parents, Mrs. Don Kuente of Montebello California and Mr. Chapman of Port Orford, Oregon. Mr. Frey is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Frey of Eagle Lake and the Bernardo community.

Nov. 22, 1946
William A. Walker of Altair passed away about ten o'clock Tuesday night at Laughlin Hospital... Mr. & Mrs. Fred G. Frnk announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Josephine, to Sam J. Mathis Jr., son of Sam J. Mathis Sr. The wedding will be an event of Thursday, Dec. 26th.

Dan Gertson, son of P.D. Gertson of Lissie, proved himself one of the communities better hunters by shooting a large wild turkey on the

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

About Town...

"What a mess! Somehow, the information on Amy Obenhaus' winning a calf at the Houston Rodeo got all messed up. We apologize to Amy and her family for this mess. Hope we got it right this time."

"Boy, what a night we all had Monday night (early hours of Tuesday morning). All the weather reports I saw said the bad weather was going to be around Conroe (Montgomery and Grimes Counties). If what blew through Eagle Lake wasn't bad, I'm glad I wasn't northeast of Houston."

The Heritage House had a bad time of it. When a skylight blew off, taking part of the roof with it, the sprinkler system went to work. Unfortunately, no one on duty knew how to turn the sprinklers off. So, on top of the wind-driven rain, the sprinklers were wetting down the building.

Of course there were downed trees, broken limbs and such. One man's trailer was moved off its blocks causing the gas line to rupture. He's okay, though.

"One thing the weather has done is slow down the work on the sewer system. After moving along at a good clip the first week or so, the crew has bogged down in the 500 block of N. Lake. Wouldn't you know it!

They worked Monday, even though it was a little wet. But, after the inch we got last night driven by those ferocious winds on top of last week's rain, it may be several days before it's dry enough for them to continue."

One good thing... those big pieces of equipment they have parked on N. Lake sure do cut down on the traffic going up and down the street all night.

"There were also mistakes in the information we received on the Ward-Poole engagement. The couple are planning a June 24th wedding (not the 14th). John Poole's mother, Mrs. Cantu, is the one from Minnesota."

Lynda Appelt called to let us know that this year's royalty will be chosen during pageants set for Sunday, April 9, at the Prairie Edge Museum. Chosen to represent Eagle Lake will be a Miss, Jr. Miss, Little Mr. and Little Miss.

Lynda said she will have more details at a later date, but wanted everyone to start thinking about participating.

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Bible Verse of the Week

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer." — Psalm 19:14
Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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Garden Club receives 200 trees from IGA

The Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club graciously received 200 trees from the IGA Hometown Trees program through Wilcox Foods.

The Hometown Trees program was founded by IGA Inc., Louisiana-Pacific Corp. and Coca-Cola USA in 1992 with the goal of planting millions of trees in IGA supermarket hometowns throughout the world by the end of the decade.

Hometown Trees is the only privately funded national tree-planting initiative which acquires native seed for the purpose of cultivating tree species ideally suited for the regions in which IGA supermarkets are located.

The trees are small and will require water. They may be grown in a pot for several years and then planted in the yard.

Please join in this beautification project by accepting a tree from a Club member, watering and enjoying it as we seek to beautify our community.

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