



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-750)
P.O. Box 67—220 East Main
(409) 234-5521
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,
TEXAS 77434-0067
Published Weekly
Every Thursday

Produced By:
Jeannine Fearing • Carol Cardenas
Shirley Lueddecke • Betty Drymalla

ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MONDAY

Subscription Rates
Colorado County (including Lissie and Egypt) — \$12.00
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton, Austin counties — \$13.50
Other Texas Residents — \$15.00
Outside of Texas — \$16.50

Single Copy Price: 35-Cents
Second class postage paid
at Eagle Lake, Texas
Address Corrections
should be sent to P.O. Box 67,
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

To The Editor & You

Cook updates progress on prison acquisition

To the Citizens of Eagle Lake and Colorado County, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the recent progress on one of the economic development projects the City has been working on.

The 74th Texas legislature has appropriated \$37.5 million in bond funding for construction of juvenile

detention centers to be located regionally throughout the state. With the cooperation of County Judge Vince Slominski; Linda Smith, Chief Probation Officer of the 2nd 25th Judicial District Probation Department; the Tri-County Juvenile Board; and TMS Group (the consulting firm hired by Eagle Lake to pursue the award of a correctional facility), a letter of intent was sent to the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

The purpose of this letter was to inform the commission of our interest in receiving the funding for one of these facilities to be constructed in Eagle Lake. This letter of intent does not obligate any of the interested participants to any type of agreement, but simply serves notice that we are interested. The maximum amount of bond funding available will be \$4 million for construction, 25% of which must be borne by the county or regional authority.

Several options are being reviewed as to what authority will oversee the construction and operations of this facility. One that seems most promising was presented to the Tri-County Juvenile Board at their meeting Tuesday, Aug. 15, by Billy Don Everitt with TMS Group and James Jonas with Wakenhut Corrections Corporation.

Mr. Jonas stated that in the event that Colorado County entered into an agreement with Wakenhut, Wakenhut would contribute the 25% match toward construction of the facility, which could amount to \$1 million. The matching funds could come in the form of in-kind work, land acquisition, direct costs associated with construction, etc. Wakenhut would also staff and operate the facility under a contractual agreement with the county probation department at no cost to the County.

The juvenile probation department would continue to pay the normal expenses incurred in housing juvenile offenders. There should be a significant savings realized in housing local offenders closer to home instead of various places across the state. The probation department would set the guidelines as to the type of offenders to be admitted to the facility, length of stay and how the facility will be operated.

As to the role Eagle Lake would play in all this, it would be the part of "host" city. The only expense the City other than our obligation to TMS Group, may be the rent on which ever building we decide to hold the public hearings. In the near future, there will be public meetings and hearing to give you, the citizens, the chance to hear in greater detail the specifics of the project

and to voice any concerns you might have.

I want to emphasize that this is merely in the early discussion phase. There are still many questions to be asked and answered. As of the date of this letter, Judge Slominski has not had the chance to bring the project up for discussion before Commissioners' Court, so this may even be new to some of them.

I am very excited about this project and the positive consequences it will have on Eagle Lake and Colorado County, not only from an economic development standpoint, but also the added advantage it will give our area with the juvenile problems we are experiencing.

I hope you will join me in support of this project and we can all work together to see it become a reality.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Cook III
Mayor, City of Eagle Lake

District judge okays school tax rate increases

School districts can now raise their property taxes to pay for enrollment increases and make up for losses in state aid before they are subject to an 8¢ limit on tax rate hike - without requiring a tax rollback election - under a ruling last week by Senate District Judge Scott McCown.

In revising the education reform law passed by the state Legislature in May, McCown said, "The notion that anything I am doing today is going to make it easier to raise taxes under the new statute is wrong."

McCown's ruling untangles confusing language in the law making it appear that school districts could raise taxes after a rollback election, said Buck Woods, an Austin lawyer who challenged the law on behalf of Round Rock Independent School District.

Woods to the Dallas Morning News that without McCown's ruling, this would have created havoc across the state in hundreds of school districts.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

But Greg Hartman, a spokesman for state Comptroller John Sharp, told the Morning News McCown's ruling could result in higher taxes.

"We are concerned with anything that raises the bar on what it takes for taxpayers to have a rollback election of dramatically increases tax rates." "We will look at the final judgment on this, but it appears school districts can raise their rates a lot higher than they did before," Hartman said.

McCown's ruling will benefit 200 to 300 school districts that were concerned about facing rollback elections.

(See Highlights, Page 5)

LOSE UP TO 10 LBS IN 3 DAY!

Using Tri-Slim™ The Naturally Formulated Dietary Food Supplement and Behavior Modification Weight Loss Program Available Without Prescription At: Eagle Lake Drugstore 702 S. McCarty, Eagle Lake

A Reminder

We can take care of all your...

- Ring sizing & repairs
- Chain & bracelet repairs
- Diamond & gemstone replacements, reprogramming & retipping
- Watch batteries, bands & repairs

K-D JEWELRY

704-B S. McCarty 234-5717 Eagle Lake

Local political candidates

Wied to run for Colorado County sheriff

R.H. "Curly" Wied has announced his candidacy in the March Democratic Primary Election for sheriff of Colorado County.

"I am a native of Nada and a lifelong resident of Colorado County. I attended St. Mary's School and graduated from Garwood High School in 1970. From 1970 to 1971, I attended Wharton County Jr. College, then served my country in the U.S. Air Force from 1972 to 1976.

"I am a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Nada Knights of Columbus, Sheriff's Association of Texas, American Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Colorado County Law Enforcement Association.

"In 1981, I graduated from the Wharton County Junior College Law Enforcement Academy, receiving my law enforcement certification. I have attended numerous training hours at various schools and seminars.

"I began my career with the Colorado County Sheriff's Department in 1981, and over the years, have several positions with the department. During my 14 year tenure, I have held several patrol deputy, correctional officer, civil process, supervisor and investigator.

"I presently hold the rank of lieutenant investigator. As an investigator, I have worked crimes ranging from homicides to robberies, sexual assaults and felony thefts.

"I am designated liaison to the 25th Judicial District Attorney's Narcotics Task Force, assisting in drug investigation. I have a good working relationship with the local police departments and agencies throughout the county and plan to build on those relationships.

"I have, and will continue to, work in conjunction with several outside investigative agencies, such as: the Texas Rangers, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs and the



R.H. "Curly" Wied

Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"I helped organize the Neighborhood Watch Program in the Frelsburg community and have plans to begin others in the county for those who are

interested. Working with the citizens of Colorado County through the years has proven the adage to be true: citizens working in unity with law enforcement, a team in fighting crime.

"I have intentions of designating an officer to coordinate with the school administrations in the development of programs which will prioritize for our youth preventive strategies related to various hidden dangers and temptations. Our future society depends on the knowledge we give our youth today versus what they may learn tomorrow. Therefore, it is up to us to stress the importance of getting an education and saying NO to drugs, alcohol and gangs.

"I think I have the experience and qualifications needed to be an honest and hardworking sheriff for all the citizens of Colorado County. I hope to meet with as many of you as possible throughout my campaign. Your support will be greatly appreciated."

Morris to oppose Laughlin

Charles E. Morris, a resident of Travis County, announced he will run as a Democrat in the March Primary for the position of U.S. Congress, currently held by Greg Laughlin.

Laughlin recently switched to the Republican Party, giving Texas Democrats the ability to nominate a candidate to oppose him in the general election.

Morris, born in Midland 55 years ago, grew up in Big Spring. After high school, he attended Howard County Junior College for two years. Transferring to Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, he completed his studies for a bachelor of arts in 1963.

In 1967, Morris obtained his law degree from the University of Texas. Since then, he has maintained a private law practice.

The Farris 1912 Hotel
Eagle Lake, Texas

Acquisition Financing Provided By

WALLIS STATE BANK
A SBA Certified Lender

With Offices In Wallis, Fulshear, Houston
And Soon In Eagle Lake

Member FDIC An Equal Housing Lender



Charles E. Morris



Wallis State Bank

Wallis State Bank is moving to Eagle Lake.

Wallis State Bank has purchased the Eagle Lake location of Prime Bank and will begin operating it as a branch on August 25, 1995.

We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you and your community.

Wallis State Bank has been meeting the financial needs of Wallis and Austin County since 1906. We want to meet those needs of the community of Eagle Lake. Debra and Donna will help us continue providing you with the kind of service you deserve.

111 NORTH McCARTY
EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434
409-234-7303
FAX 409-234-2524

4100 WESTHEIMER, SUITE 100
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027
713-840-7585
FAX 713-840-7588

6510 RAILROAD
WALLIS, TEXAS 77485
409-478-6151 713-342-6721
FAX 409-478-6502

30506 FIRST STREET
FULSHEAR, TEXAS 77441
713-346-2043
FAX 713-346-2136

Member
FDIC



Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards