



The Eagle Lake Headlight reserves the right to reject, edit, or omit any ad for any reason to conform to the paper policy.

## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)  
P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main  
(409) 234-5521  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,  
TEXAS 77434-0067  
Published Weekly  
Every Thursday

**Produced By:**  
Carol Cardenas • Leslie Risk  
Jeannine Fearing  
Shirley Luedecke • 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

### Misuse of power?

On Monday April 14, I attended the Colorado County Commissioners' Court meeting. I was struck by the extremes and the contrasts I observed. It seems to me that our county officials spend much of their time "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel".

During the public hearing on tax abatement it appeared most of the Commissioners were ready to award the abatements with little or no discussion. Even the Judge sarcastically commented that all of the questions seemed to be coming from the citizens.

When one citizen asked the simple question, "How much taxes will be paid by South West Concrete, if the abatement is granted, as compared to

the taxes previously paid on this property?" no one seemed to know.

The Chief Appraiser was called in to provide this information. These abatements will reduce the County's revenue by thousands of dollars from what might have been received if the abatements had not been awarded.

Yet, later in the meeting when the Public Defender asked to be reimbursed \$26.31 for the cost of printing her business cards used in carrying out her duties for the county, there was much discussion by the Court on the grounds of protecting the taxpayers dollars.

It was indicated that she might use these cards to seek private clients, which seems absurd since "Public De-

fender" is plainly printed on the cards. I think we taxpayers were the suppose to be impressed at how closely the Court is watching out for our tax dollars.

Needless to say, I was unimpressed over such an effort for \$26.31. To me this is certainly "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel".

It was stated that not buying business cards is an "unwritten policy" whatever that is. Unwritten policy sounds like policy that can be changed as needed.

Precinct 3 Commissioner confirmed that he was told the same thing when he tried to be reimbursed for his own business cards.

What seemed really strange to me is if both the Public Defender and the Commissioner have budgets for office expenses, why are they having to ask permission to buy their own business cards?

It was revealed that the Public Defender has already saved the county thousands of dollars since her salary is far less than the amount the county would have owed if they had been assessed \$250 for each indigent client she has represented.

Precinct 3 Commissioner, and all Commissioners, were elected by voters. Each of these people seem mature and professional enough to make a decision concerning \$26.31 without having Commissioners' Court looking over their shoulder enforcing some "unwritten policy".

It certainly seems Commissioners' Court should have more important matters to oversee, like checking to see if businesses that have received tax abatements, in the past, are living up to the terms of their agreements!

Perhaps the most shocking contrast of all was revealed during the discussion on allowing the Sheriff's

Dept. employees to receive pay and or comp. time earned over the past two years. Seemingly these credits had been deliberately denied the employees by the previous administration.

There was open acknowledgement by the Judge, Auditor and some Commissioners that county policy concerning this matter had been violated, even after receiving instructions previously from the Labor Relations Board to correct this matter.

Failure to conduct business properly in the past will now cost the county over \$12,000.

It seems incredible that during this same period of time, when there was a question concerning some \$600 in the county clerk's office, she was neither informed that there was an error, nor instructed to correct it.

Instead, she was indicted and taken to court. Is this not really "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel"?

What was most shocking to me was the readiness of the admissions by our Judge, Auditor and several Commissioners that they did nothing to correct the situation, not so much as even informing the public. Their explanation was, "What can you do to the top law enforcement officer in the county?" I find that a pitiful excuse.

Perhaps some of the officials in our city government had better check to see if they might not have a "beam" in their own eye, before they try to remove the "mote" from their fellow employee's eye!

Citizens, I urge you to start attending Commissioners' Court. I guarantee you will be enlightened about how business is conducted in Colorado County.

If we, as citizens, don't demand integrity and accountability from our government officials, then we will just have to accept, "business as usual"!

**Margie Raborn**  
Columbus

## Benefits of Early, Planned Herbicide Applications in Rice

Rice producers typically wait to make post-flood herbicide applications until weed problems develop and then work to control escapes. However, by this point, yield potential already has been reduced due to weed pressure and competition for essential nutrients.

Research studies show that the earlier weeds are controlled after a permanent flood is established, the greater the yield potential. Barnyardgrass remains one of the most important and difficult weeds to control. This grass causes millions of dollars in lost rice yields annually. Across the Mid-South, barnyardgrass is becoming increasingly resistant to propanil, the active ingredient in many herbicides.

Local growers should consider an early-planned application of ORDRAM® 15-G herbicide for post-flood weed control. OrDRAM 15-G offers consistent control of a wide range of grasses, including dayflower and propanil-resistant barnyardgrass. By planning a post-flood application of OrDRAM, there's no need to worry if pre-flood residuals will provide season-long control.

Additionally, OrDRAM has little or no effect on non-target organisms. The herbicide also has a short half-life. OrDRAM rapidly decomposes in the soil, so there are no recropping restrictions even within the same application year.

Plus, OrDRAM offers growers application flexibility. Not only does it have a wider application window than many other herbicides, but it can be applied in multiple ways such as preplant incorporated, pre-flood or post-flood by ground or air.

Increase your rice yield potential this year by planning an early post-flood application of OrDRAM.

For more information about OrDRAM by Zeneca Ag Products, contact your local ag chem dealer.

© 1997 Zeneca Inc. Zeneca Ag Products is a business unit of Zeneca Inc. ORDRAM is a trademark of a Zeneca Group Company. Farm Safety: Always read and follow label directions.

## Test Drive Your New Or Used Car On The Way To A Fun Filled Vacation...

For a limited time, when you borrow \$15,000.00 or more for that new car, new boat, or whatever, Wallis State Bank will give you a vacation at one of the following:

## 6 Fabulous Resorts, The Choice Is Yours...

Branson, San Antonio, Las Vegas, South Padre, Orlando or Cloudfcroft



SAN ANTONIO **Marriott** RIVERCENTER

OMNI ROSEN HOTEL



### A Typical Vacation Includes:

- Deluxe Accommodations For Two Adults
- Welcome Split of Champagne
- First Morning Continental Breakfast for Two
- Children Occupying the Same Room as Parents Stay Free
- Green Fees Daily

## The Choice Is Yours...

From Swimming to Tennis to Golfing, You Choose the Time and the Place!



## WALLIS STATE BANK

Member FDIC  
Equal Opportunity Lender

**WALLIS**  
6510 Railroad  
Wallis, TX  
409-478-6151  
281-342-6721

**FULSHEAR**  
30509 First Street  
Fulshear, TX  
281-346-2043

**EAGLE LAKE**  
111 N. McCarty  
Eagle Lake, TX  
409-234-7303

**HOUSTON**  
4100 Westheimer  
Houston, TX  
281-840-7585

Vacation offer applies to precomputed consumer loans of \$15,000.00 or more with a minimum maturity of 36 months and does not include refinancing of existing debt with Wallis State Bank, debt or loans secured by savings or CD. Subject to credit approval. Accommodations subject to availability. Offer does not include transportation, meals, peak season surcharges or taxes. Some restrictions apply. Limited offer beginning May 1, 1997, and may end without notice.

## Committee sends tax reform to Texas House

### State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams  
and Ed Sterling  
Texas Press Association

Harris hurried off the floor after the vote, only pausing to say the Senate "worked its will and did what it thought was best."

Though many lawmakers have said they are frustrated with slow collections of overdue child support, Morales, a Democrat, defended his child support collection division's record and indicated the bill was politically motivated.

Last year, Morales' office collected \$619 million in child support. That figure may seem a pittance compared with the \$35 billion the federal government says Texans owe in unpaid child support, but collections have increased 243% in the six years Morales has had the job, he said.

### Official: Morales Was Correct

U.S. Assistant Education Secretary Norma Cantu said Morales is correct in his interpretation of a federal appeals court ruling that struck down a race-based admissions policy formerly used by the University of Texas Law School.

The Hopwood decision was issued last year by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of appeals in New Orleans and later was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Feb., Morales interpreted the circuit court's decision as applicable to any race-based affirmative action policy at any public or private Texas university, the *Dallas Morning News* reported.

Black and Hispanic lawmakers, upset with Morales' interpretation, asked Cantu's opinion. She first said Hopwood applied only to the UT law school's policy, but later said she was advised by the U.S. Justice Department that the decision is not limited as she had believed, but applies to all institutions in the 5th district.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said he was disappointed at the reversal of opinion.

### Commerce Bill Passes Senate

The Texas Department of Commerce would be renamed and face some new requirements under a bill approved by the state Senate last week.

The new Department of Economic Development and Tourism would be required to upgrade the current agency's information and referral program and would privatize some economic development programs and services.

The bill, by Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, also would give the agency's board the authority to hire an executive director. The executive director currently is appointed by the governor.

### Senate Shifts Child Support

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales admonished the Senate for passing a bill that would take away his child support collection division and give the job to a new state agency.

Morales complained that some senators told him they would vote against the bill, sponsored by Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington, in exchange for a softer stand on two hot issues: affirmative action and Senate redistricting. But decisions on those issues, Morales said, "need to be based on the law, the Constitution and what is right for the state."

It took the Senate just minutes to pass the bill 27-2, without debate.

### Let's Look Back...

## 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 6, 1972

Mark Anderson is the new president of the Eagle Lake Lions Club. He received congratulations from R.L. Drake, Deputy District Governor for Lions International, and from outgoing president Travis Wegenhoff...

Rice farmer Henry Sunderman began combining the first rice last Saturday, north of Eagle Lake...

Joe Fling, son of Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Fling of Garwood, was recently named the recipient of the Colorado County Texas Ex-Student Association \$500 scholarship...

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Obenhaus have received word that their son, Gerald Obenhaus, has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding service with the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe recently...

Ernie Rodgers, son of Mr. & Mrs. Earl Rodgers of Eagle Lake, made his first solo flight Thursday, June 29, at the Eagle Lake Airport. He received instruction from Ron Morgan...

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Anderson of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Cynthia Gay, to Dennis Ray DeLaughter, son of Rev. & Mrs. Raymond DeLaughter of

Kingsville. The couple plan an Aug. 25 wedding at Lissie United Methodist Church...

Miss Diane Kucherka, bride-elect of Joe Mike Spanihel, was honored with a tea shower in the home of Mrs. V.J. Kana Thursday, June 29...

Miss Candy Farris, bride-elect of Dale Dixon, was complimented with a coffee-kitchen shower in the Raymond Waddell home on Wednesday, June 28...

Mrs. John Birdwell was the honoree at a tea shower given in the home of Mrs. Carl Austin on Thursday, afternoon, June 29...

Miss Ernie Walton and Richard (Dick) Waddell were complimented with a barbecue at the R.R. Thomas' Lob Lolly Lodge in Mentz.

March 11, 1949

The C.W. Causey home in Lissie burned to the ground yesterday shortly after noon. Mr. & Mrs. Causey were in Houston; there was no one at home when the fire broke out; however, they arrived before the firemen left the scene...

Citizens of Eagle Lake were among the 2500 to 3000 rural road backers filling the House Chamber to the walls Monday night to back pleas (See 24 & 48, Page 8)

**Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards**