

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

### CVTV's responds to letter

CVTV Inc. is the local provider of DIRECTV® for persons in Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca and Lee counties.

DIRECTV® has made programming changes effective April 10, 1997, that involved adding 15 new channels to various programming

packages.

These channels were requested by DIRECTV® customers.

In order to keep the Total Choice programming package basically the same, DIRECTV® elected to remove the Encore channels and add the requested channels.

DIRECTV® at the same time lowered the price of the Encore a la carte package from \$5.95 to \$4.00 to make them more affordable to those who want it.

The new channels include Channel Earth, Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN), Animal Planet, TV Food Network, WGN, QVC, America's Health Network, Encore Hits West, Romance Classics, STARZ!2, STARZ!2 West, FOX Sports Arizona, FOX Sports Midwest, FOX Sports West 2 and Sports-channel Florida.

The first seven channels are included in the Total Choice package.

It is unfortunate that not every subscriber is pleased with the programming changes.

It is CVTV's understanding that DIRECTV® is always looking for ways to improve its programming lineup and continues to keep the best interests of its subscribers in mind.

Any subscriber who pre-paid for programming or signed a one-year contract for Total Choice is entitled to receive the Encore channels through the end of that term if they are not happy with the new channels.

Subscribers can call 1-800-242-5919 for more details on Encore reimbursement.

Mr. Kelley (the person who wrote the letter CVTV is responding to) continues to receive the Encore channels and did receive reimbursement a few days after the changes took place.

CVTV offers a lease program for those not interested in purchasing equipment.

Good customer service and customer satisfaction are priorities for CVTV.

**Mark Rutherford, Vice President-Project Manager, CVTV, Inc.**

## Joint committee continues working on tax cut plan

A committee of five House and five Senate conferees last week continued to search for common ground on a tax plan that would give property tax relief to Texans.

About \$800 million in new taxes would be raised and school property taxes would be cut by an average of 17¢ per \$100 valuation under the Senate committee's plan, while the House would raise \$3.8 billion in new taxes to pay for 60¢ per \$100 valuation.

The House plan would cut local school taxes by about \$5 billion every two years, while the less-ambitious Senate plan would bring cuts of about \$2.5 billion over the period.

Each plan has a mix of business franchise, sales and service tax increases.

Gov. George W. Bush, who called for tax relief last year, offered a plan of his own that would cut school property taxes and raise business and sales

## State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling  
Texas Press Association

taxes to pay for the cuts. Bush's plan was opposed by most Republicans and many business groups.

"Some people thought the process would never get this far. Now that it's here in committee, it's an historic opportunity," Bush was quoted in the *Dallas Morning News*.

A legislative analysis says that under either plan, once tax increases are subtracted from property tax savings, the average Texan would see a cut of about 2% in local and state taxes.

Tax reform appears to be a do-or-die issue before the regular legislative session ends on June 2. Bush and state legislators have agreed they do not want to go into special session.

### Lottery Profits to Schools

All profits from the Texas Lottery would go to education and a new scratch-off game would pay for college scholarships and adult literacy programs under a bill passed by the Senate, 23-6.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, would dedicate lottery profits - about \$1.3 billion a year - to education, although sponsors admit the shift will not mean any extra dollars for public schools.

"It is clearly the will of the people that these funds be dedicated to our public schools," Nelson said.

"Texans want to know where their lottery dollars are going. This bill answers that question."

### Trade Secrets Amendment Passes

On a vote of 65-63, the House passed a trade secret amendment to a bill that would have required cigarette makers to report all product ingredients to the Texas Dept. of Health.

Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, who sponsored the amendment, said, "We shouldn't require anybody to reveal trade secrets to us under statute."

But Rep. John Hirschi, D-Wichita Falls, who sponsored the tobacco bill onto which the amendment was attached, said, "Under this amendment, they can declare anything a trade secret."

Hirschi's bill said disclosure would be required for all added ingredients by brand, including flavors, fragrances, herbs and colors, in descending order according to the amounts. And, the Texas Department of Health would maintain the list and release it to the public.

But with Chisum's amendment, legally protected trade secrets would be exempted from disclosure.

The bill awaits approval of the full House before moving to the Senate for consideration.

### Other Capital Highlights

A proposal to prohibit same-sex marriages in Texas has died along with dozens of other bills in the House, because they were not heard before the May 14 deadline. A group of conservative legislators tried to force a voice vote on the measure in a last-ditch effort to put it ahead of many other bills awaiting consideration.

Federal officials last week rejected Texas' request to privatize its welfare offices, but left open the possibility of letting private firms run offices in part of the state, as an experiment. Erskine Bowles, President Clinton's chief of staff, said Clinton did not believe needy people should depend on profit-minded corporations for their welfare benefits.

The Texas Senate gave Prairie View A&M University approval to create the state's first center dedicated to the study of juvenile crime and prevention. The senators, however, didn't provide the \$1.2 million Prairie View officials said would be needed to start the center. "We wanted to make sure we got this bill done this session," said Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas. "Now we will try to find the funding."

Citizen volunteers could be authorized to issue citations to people who violate laws against illegal dumping of trash under a bill passed by the Senate and sent to the House. Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, said the bill is necessary because despite criminal penalties for illegal dumping, people still are tossing household trash at rest stops and along highways.

## Commissioners' Court... Part II

Several weeks ago, I wrote a "Letter to the Editor" that described recent activities of Commissioners' Court which I felt were disturbing, such as: When a citizen asked a simple question about taxes, during a tax abatement discussion, it was necessary to call in the Chief Appraiser to get an answer.

I also called attention to the fact that the Public Defender isn't allowed to use money from her own budget to buy business cards for use of conducting the County's business and I expressed my shock over the open admissions by several officials on the Court that they were aware that under the previous administration, the Sheriff's Dept. knowingly violated stated

policy.

However, none of these items are as upsetting to me as what occurred at the most recent meeting on May 12.

On April 28, the Commissioners adopted the following:

### Public Comment Rules

1. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person.
2. Citizens wishing to speak must sign in prior to the start of each meeting.
3. Further participation from the floor will come from invitation of the Commissioners' Court.
4. A request may be made by the Commissioners' Court to request special information on an "as need" basis from the floor.
5. Public hearings stand separate from the "Rules of Public Comment".

The result of these rules means citizens are required to speak at the beginning of the meeting. If citizens don't have access to the agenda in advance, how can one possibly be prepared to speak before an item is even discussed.

At the most recent meeting, sev-

eral citizens wanted to speak on a variety of items, but they were all required to speak at the beginning of the meeting.

The Judge commented several times "only invited speakers" would be allowed to speak when a specific item came up in the agenda. There was considerable confusion and dissatisfaction over this awkward arrangement.

In my naivety, I thought perhaps enough consideration hadn't been given to drawing up these rules. First, I thanked the Court for attempting to put in writing some rules concerning public comments, but that there appeared to be a need to address "Agenda Items" and "Non-Agenda Items" separately.

To that suggestion the Judge informed me that they had worked very hard on drawing up their rules; that they felt comfortable with the rules as they were; and that the rules were accomplishing just what they intended.

No Commissioner disagreed, so that would indicate the entire Court agreed with the Judge.

(See Letter, Page 3)

## WHARTON COUNTY NETWORK

is proud to announce EXTENDED Coverage

### LOCAL INTERNET ACCESS

available for  
Altair, Columbus & Eagle Lake

\$20.00 Signup\*  
\$25.00 Unlimited Monthly Access Fee  
\$ 5.50 E-Mail Account Only

For More Details Call:

(409)543-1949 or (800)569-3464

\*Signup fee waived if currently subscribed to internet provider

## Pharmacy & Your Health

### EAGLE LAKE DRUGSTORE

Steve K. Balas, RPh

702 South McCarty • Eagle Lake • 234-2502

• Patient Counseling • We Accept Master Card, VISA, Discover & American Express • Insurance Plans: Blue Cross, NPA, PCS, Pro-Serve, Sanus, PAID, Texas Medicaid  
**24 Hour Emergency Phone: 234-3834**

### Antihistamine Nose Spray Approved

This past November, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a new nasal spray for the treatment of symptoms of seasonal allergy and nasal itching in adults and children. The new medicine is *azelastine* (Astelin). It is classified as an antihistamine, but it blocks the release of histamine and other chemicals such as leukotrienes that are associated with an allergic response. Reports indicate that azelastine is at least 100 times more potent than *cromolyn*, *astemizole* and other medicines used to block the release of allergy associated chemicals in the body. In clinical studies, this new medicine was comparable in its effect to the oral antihistamines. The manufacturer recommends two sprays in each nostril twice daily. Although more studies need to be conducted, azelastine may offer an alternative to nasal steroids and other medicines used to treat allergic rhinitis.

Adverse effects from the use of azelastine include drowsiness, headache, itching or burning of the nasal mucosa, and a bitter or metallic taste in the mouth. Some reports indicated that cold drinks may enhance the bitter taste. The spray should be used with caution in persons participating in activities that require mental alertness. It can be used during pregnancy. However, this is advised only if potential advantages outweigh risk to the fetus.

# SPECIALTY MEDICAL CLINIC

(Located on the West End of Eagle Lake Medical Clinic)

Is Now

## Making Appointments

and will begin seeing patients

## Wednesday, May 28

# Ribbon Cutting & Reception

## Tuesday, May 27

10 a.m. to Noon

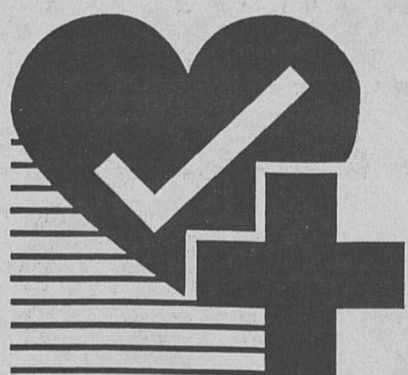
700 S. McCarty • Eagle Lake

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call

**409-234-2066**

**1-800-926-7954**

*"Our Family Caring For Yours"*



RICE MEDICAL CENTER

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