

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:

Jeannine Fearing
Carol Cardenas
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

U.S. Senate adds to Texas highway funds

The U.S. Senate agreed last week to add \$104 million more to Texas' portion of a federal highway construction fund.

The added amount is intended to make up for years of overpayments to the federal highway trust fund, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

"Texas has long sent much more gasoline (tax) money to Washington than they ever got back for highway construction funds," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who has pushed for more money for Texas highway projects under a six-year, \$208 billion transportation spending package.

Also last week, the Senate voted to add \$5 billion to a six-year, \$40 billion fund designated for spending nationally on rail systems, buses and other kinds of public transportation.

"Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio and El Paso are all creating rail transit systems because they have come to realize that congestion costs money and pollutes the environment," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, whose support was key to the approval of the extra spending.

The Senate's version of the transportation spending proposals must be combined with legislation passed by the House.

Under the Senate version, Texas' cut of the national fund is now \$10.86 billion, about \$2 billion more than the Senate first planned.

Contention Over Shipwreck

State Officials and leaders from coastal counties met at the Capitol last week and moved toward resolving a dispute over 300-year-old artifacts from wrecked ships belonging to French explorer La Salle.

The meeting was called after Matagorda Bay-area officials complained

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

that they had been left out of the decision-making process on preservation and display of artifacts from La Belle, a La Salle ship discovered three years ago.

The officials said they did not want the same thing to happen with a newly discovered shipwreck thought to be the *Aimable*, La Salle's flagship that ran aground and sank in Matagorda Bay in 1685. They said they want the artifacts on permanent display near the area where they were found.

State Rep. Bob Hunter, chairman of the House committee that oversees the state historical commission, said the artifacts could become a boon to tourism in Matagorda and Calhoun counties, which adjoin the wreck sites, the *American-Statesman* reported.

"This is travel and tourism at its best," said Hunter, R-Abilene. "The suggestion of a museum right there in that area to house these artifacts is a good idea."

Border Patrol Beefs Up

In response to increased immigration, the Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service announced last week that 600 more Border Patrol agents will be assigned this year to the area between Brownsville and Del Rio.

Texas will receive the majority of the 1,000 new agents hired this year. "This will allow us to take care of the shifts (in immigration) that we

knew were coming," Luis Barker, chief of the Laredo Border Patrol Sector, said.

The INS originally planned to hire only 500 agents this year - only half of what Congress authorized. Sen. Hutchison, R-Texas, led the charge for a larger contingent of agents.

Name Can't Be Kept Secret

State District Judge Paul Davis ruled last week that the name of a Texas Lottery winner can't be kept secret, affirming an attorney general's opinion.

The lead partner in Houston-based AMR Partnership Ltd. filed the lawsuit to protect the identity of the jackpot winner after Attorney General Dan Morales said the winner's name, age and home town must be released.

Other Capital Highlights

Only 11.5% of the state's 11 million registered voters turned out for the March 10 primary. The turnout was the lowest percentage of the last 15 gubernatorial and presidential elections, according to the Secretary of State's office.

Jerry Lee Hogue, 47, became the third convicted killer to be executed in Texas this year. He was put to death for setting a fire 19 years ago that killed an Arlington woman.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals last week reversed previous rulings regarding the statute of limitations, by ruling that criminal defendants must challenge the timing of charges against them before or during trial. Before the ruling, prosecutors had to prove that criminal cases they filed were not prohibited by the statute of limitations.

Attorney General Morales has turned over to Gov. George W. Bush billing records of private lawyers representing the state in its lawsuit against the tobacco industry. Bush said he wants to know how much time and money the lawyers spent on the case to help him prove that the \$2.3 billion they are to receive for their services is unreasonable.

Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner Mike McKinney resigned last week to pursue a career as a private consultant. He headed the agency for three years.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

April 13, 1973

Three members of the Eagle Lake City Council received the oath of office officially beginning new two year terms. Mayor Elmer Struss administered the oath to Alvin W. Kohleffel, Bennie Miller and Glen Locklier. Kohleffel was also named Mayor Pro-Tem...

Four Rice sophomores captured all four places in the high school category of Colorado Soil Water Conservation essay contest. Rena Popp placed first, Sarah Mathis, second, Daryl Hunt, third and Cindy Wegenhoft, fourth.

Jesus Gonzales, Rice High School Spanish instructor, addressed a special class of conversational Spanish being conducted at Rice High School for Rice teachers and other interested persons. Forty-five persons are participating in the session held on Monday and Wednesday nights...

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Henske attended the 9th District Spring Convention of the American Legion and

Auxiliary in Alvin on April 7-8...

Mrs. Edna Mae Krivacka, who served as a city councilwoman for the past two years, received a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Elmer Struss after the new members of the council were sworn into office Tuesday evening.

Feb. 17, 1950

The home of Mr. & Mrs. C.N. Duddleston Jr. was almost totally destroyed by fire Wednesday morning just before noon...

Deane D. Fletcher, who accepted the superintendency of the Eagle Lake schools by wire Thursday night of last week, will come here from the Sharyland Public Schools, Mission, Texas, where he has been superintendent for the past two years...

F.W. "Jack" Stewart of Seguin was selected from the group of applicants for the position of manager of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce last Friday...

Mrs. Ethel Stubenvoll gave a dinner last Sunday honoring her mother, Mrs. Mary Davis, whose 85th birthday was Tuesday, Feb. 14th...

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Canaris announced the engagement of their daughter, Helen, to Victor Bill Wilson, son of Mr. & Mrs. J.T. Wilson of Ringgold, Louisiana...

Miss Elizabeth Hutchins, bride-elect of August Schmidt, was honoree at a miscellaneous shower Monday evening given by Mrs. G.D. Gertsensberg and Mrs. W.R. Thornton...

Miss Janice Davis was recently elected into the National Honor Society, named most representative senior girl and is listed among "Who's Who in the Electa High School". She was a nominee for Queen of Sports and is active in the Choral Club, Student Council and Band...

Among the 39 students on the fall semester honor roll at Wharton County Junior College were Lee Roy Lundquist of Garwood and Rhonda Rabb of Sheridan...

Allen Smith celebrated his 8th birthday, which was Feb. 7 at a party last Saturday afternoon...

Coaches Arnold Payne and Tom Kirksey and the Eagle Lake Eagles will play host to six teams of District 63-B for an invitational tournament in the Eagle Lake Hi Gym tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 18th.

To THE EDITOR & YOU

Out-of-towner expresses view on 8-liners

Dear Editor:

What happened to the individual constitutional rights for small business owners? Can a small influential "Big Business" group decide to put, little business into bankruptcy at the drop of a hat?

In 1997 the Texas Legislature gave small business the right to continue in business for at least the next two years. Now a small (and influential) group decides Texas small businesses need no warning that the law which was upheld by the Texas Legislature is being ignored... tossed out... by those who didn't like the Texas Legislature's democratic decision.

This small group went behind closed doors (following their carefully orchestrated campaign to get people and the associated press thinking that the video amusement games are "slot machines" or "gambling devices") and decided to launch a sneak attack on small businesses.

These video amusement games look similar enough to those not familiar with slot machines, but the inner workings are entirely different.

Skill is involved. Maybe some of those who back this move think that they will be getting rid of those terrible gambling machines... NOT TRUE!

Wake up folks, once small business goes down the drain, a large corrupt conglomerate will take over - Big Business for the State, as the Lottery is now run. If they want to get rid of gambling they should attack the real gambling, the Lottery, and see how far they get against Big Business!

I expect all of the businesses which are "wiped out" or just severely financially damaged will file a class action suit to recover some of the loss. Does Texas really need to spend our tax dollars defending these hasty communistic actions by one man (and his followers) against free enterprise?

The Attorney General gave a different opinion about these games earlier, and will have to defend saying that we now have a need law... obey it immediately. The Legislature should not be reversed by one man's "opinion". Do we really want this type of governmental aggression in Texas? What will come next?

The courts have upheld the right of video amusement redemption game

players to accumulate their points for bigger prizes. Dave and Busters give away large screen TV's for accumulated points. The "8-liner" players usually accumulate some, and purchase merchandise in the store, such as lottery tickets. The Lottery Commission gains from the games, and while some would try to convince you otherwise, the only items shown in anyone's law ad illegal to give, are cash and alcohol. The games stay within the law as passed by the legislature in 1995 and upheld by the next session in 1997. This gave honest business owners the green light until 1999, and their plans were made on that basis.

Now those that didn't get their way are making bogus ghost laws, like dictators. What happened to "by the people for the people"? Are they really trying to protect people from the games they enjoy playing. Get Real! Bush wanted, Sibley didn't get it, so Morales changed the law concerning it. I hope those who agree that we do not want dictatorship and trampled constitutional rights will vote accordingly at their next opportunity.

W. Wayne Cassidy
Lorena, Texas

Another is concerned

To Whom it May Concern:

The Associated Press report on Thursday, Feb. 12, 1998, reported as follows:

"In a move to protect its revenues, the Texas Lottery on Wednesday ordered security officials to begin forcing lottery sellers to get rid of their eight-liner gambling machines."

In reply to the above, the "eight-liner gambling machines" they refer to are Video Amusement Games.

These games actually increase lottery sales.

If you were to ask any store owner what the players most buy with their coupons, you would be told 90% lottery.

The real reason behind the decline in lottery sales is the lottery commission has continued to reduce the pay-off percentages.

Another reason is we were told the revenue from the lottery would go to the schools, etc. - but it has not - our school taxes are higher than ever - so please, lottery commission, explain where the money goes!

It appears that too much time and taxpayers money is being spent on a few Video Amusement Games, and not on what is important. Does Texas no longer have a crime/drug problem? Do we no longer have "drunk drivers" or "child molesters"?

Please can someone tell me, what is the real issue here?

It seems the Video Amusement Games have gotten more negative press than the President "with his pants down".

We fought a war in Vietnam for another country's freedom. How many young Texans died in that war?

Now some 20 plus years later, we don't even have the freedom in Texas, to decide if we want to play a VIDEO AMUSEMENT GAME!

Come on guys, wake up - what kind of a state are we leaving for our

children and grandchildren?
America is about CHOICE — NOT DICTATORSHIP!

Maribeth Kramer
Crawford, Texas

Bible Verse of the Week

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak".

— Matthew 26:41

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

Colorado County Chambers discuss tourism

Thursday, Feb. 26, representatives from the Chambers of Commerce from Weimar and Eagle Lake and the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau met at the Colorado County Courthouse to discuss the possibility of county-wide tourism efforts.

County Judge Vince Slominski, who facilitated the meeting, said the goal of the meeting was to encourage the organizations to work together as a county to promote tourism in the area.

"Rich in history, culture and beautiful sights, Colorado County has so much to see and do," Slominski said. "By working as a team, we can encourage visitors to explore other areas of our diverse county," he said.

Slominski added that by providing one- and two-day tours, visitors will stay in Colorado County longer and ultimately spend more dollars.

The chambers set a 60-day goal to gather information on existing historical districts and markers, annual fair and festivities, museums, local hotspots for fishing or birding, scenic drives and walking or biking tours.

Slominski said the next step will be exploring the idea of setting up county-wide day tours and possibly even designing a brochure.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel," Slominski said. "The representatives just decided to work together for a common goal, enhancing

tourism in Colorado County," he said.

In addition to Judge Slominski, others present for the meeting were: Cynthia Keefer and Betty Seifert of the Weimar Chamber, Eagle Lake Chamber President Sam Thomson; Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau, Buddy Rau; and Colorado County Economic Development Organization, DeNae Brassard Park.

Letters to Editor Policy

The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will accept reasonable length letters for publication in the Letters to the Editor column under the following guidelines:

1. Letters should not be more than 1,500 characters.

2. All letters must include the writer's name printed as well as the writer's signature, and include the writer's address and home and work telephone numbers. The Headlight must be able to reach the writer in person before the letter can be published.

3. The writer may request their name be withheld from publication, but the information mentioned in Paragraph No. 2 must be included for our files.

4. Letters about political activity will be published but those which mention candidates will be considered advertising and charged at the regular advertising rate.

5. Letters from political candidates espousing a political view, will be considered for publication but the writer's name will not be printed unless the writer pays the retail advertising rate.

6. The newspaper reserves the right to apply fairness standards in withholding any letter from publication, and to edit letters for libel protection.

Spend A Weekend In The Country



Attend The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival

In Eagle Lake

March 27 & 28, 1998

Friday: 3 to 11 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

FEATURING:

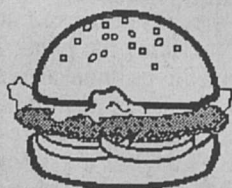
- * Free Tours of the National Wildlife Refuge
- * Spring Migration Viewing on Eagle Lake
- * Fly Fishing Demonstrations * Fun Run
- * Noted Speakers * Talent Show * Antiques
- * Arts & Crafts * Kids Booths and Rides
- * Volleyball & Horseshoe Tournaments
- * Food Booths * Wagon Rides/Homes Tour



Friday Night
Street Dance
7 to 11 p.m.
With music by...
"Colorado"



Saturday
Night
Social & Silent
Auction
5 to 8 p.m.



For more information, contact:
Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce
408 E. Main Street, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434
409-234-2780

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards