



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Cut in Lottery payout percentage not working

Lawmakers cut the amount of winnings the Texas Lottery paid last year in hopes of increasing the state's share of the revenue, but it hasn't worked.

Lotto ticket sales have slowed since Sept. 1, when prize money was cut to 52.5% of every dollar in tickets sold, and because of slow sales, the state expects a \$328 million shortfall in proceeds.

Sen. Ken Armbrister last week said the Legislature should consider returning prizes to the previous level - 57% of every dollar in sales - or let the Texas Lottery Commission find a better way to increase profits.

"It was a bet trying to get us to the same place," said Armbrister, D-Victoria, regarding the Legislature's decision to cut the prizes. "We didn't have that expertise and now it is costing us, it seems."

Lawmakers can't make any changes on the lottery prize structure until they convene in 1999. Until then, the lottery commission will offer new games, keep players informed and wait, said commission chairwoman Harriet Miers.

Panel Examines Education Costs

In examining the soaring costs of higher education, a House subcommittee last week learned the cost of an education at a public university in Texas nearly tripled from 1986 to 1996; and

•The cost has been shifting from the state to the student; and



State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

•The average cost of an education at a public university in Texas is \$10,481 a year.

"Money is always going to be tight, but I think we can do some things to make sure the money we are spending is spent wisely and that a college education is looked at more as an investment than a cost," said Rep. Jim Solis, D-Harlingen, chairman of the subcommittee.

Bennat Mullen, a professor at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, told the subcommittee he has conducted studies that show Texas is doing a poor job of accounting for how universities are spending students' tuition and fees.

The Legislature should require colleges and universities to disclose in detail how much of the student fees and tuition are being spent on a student's education, Mullen recommended.

Mullen pointed out that some universities may be using student fees for athletics and other purposes. "If we are going to meet the needs of tomorrow, there needs to be a greater emphasis on academics," he said.

Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville,

chairwoman of the House Higher Education Committee, said that getting an education loan is a tough obstacle for many students, particularly minorities.

"It's hard for someone to get a loan to start a new business when they have \$40,000 to \$50,000 in college loans to pay off. No bank would help them in that case," she said.

Pollution Report Released

More than 40% of Texas' industrial plants illegally bypass pollution rules, according to a report released last week by the Sierra Club and the Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention.

Of Texas' 2,500 plants, 1,070 that existed prior to (or were under construction during) 1971 operate under a "grandfather clause" exempting them from air quality standards in the Texas Clean Air Act imposed that year.

Those plants emit air pollution equaling the exhaust output of 18 million cars, or 37% of the state's total industrial air pollution, the report said.

The days of unregulated emissions are numbered. Officials for companies that emit industrial pollution said that by 2000, grandfathered plants will be under federal standards because of changes made in 1990 to the federal Clean Air Act.

Presently, a voluntary state program is helping to reduce emissions. Gary Rasp, a spokesman for the Center for Energy and Economic Development, told the *Austin American-Statesman*, "The ball is already rolling. There are serious reduction efforts in place."

Four areas of Texas presently do not meet federal and state air quality standards: Houston-Galveston, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Dallas-Fort Worth and El Paso. Austin, Corpus Christi and San Antonio are not far behind, the *American-Statesman* reported.

Other Capital Highlights

•Birdwatching is becoming big business in Texas. The Texas Depart-

ment of Parks and Wildlife reports, for example, that birders spend \$20 million each year visiting the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in the Rio Grande Valley, and 70% of the birdwatchers visiting the Texas coast are from out of state.

•Cecile Richards, daughter of former Gov. Ann Richards, decided last week not to seek election as chairman of the Texas Democratic Party. Cecile Richards serves as executive director of the Texas Freedom Network, a group she founded in 1995 to counter the political power of religious conservatives.

•Personal income in Texas grew 6% to \$23,656 last year, while the rest of the nation's personal income averaged to a gain of 4.8%. Connecticut was the state with the largest gain: 6.1%.

•Attorney General Dan Morales said last week he will not represent the University of Texas in its effort to appeal the "Hopwood" case which prohibited the use of race as a criterion in college admissions.

•An April 28 earthquake with a magnitude of 4.2 - centered near Lawton, Okla. - was felt as far away as Dallas.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1973

City employees Harry Supak and Bob Glenn installed 60 new street markers at various intersections in the city...

Headquarters for the new Western Division of Texas A&M Agricultural Research and Extension Center are located on FM 102 west of the city...

Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Meitzen have re-opened the former Chicken Little on Boothe Drive across from Johnny's 66, and they will operate the business as the Chicken Shack...

Outgoing Eagle Lake Jaycees President Ronnie Miller presented a plaque to Jerry Henske for Outstanding First Year Jaycee. Gus Seaholm received a plaque for Outstanding Jaycee for 1972-73...

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Miller of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Debra Lynn, to Jerry Wayne Krenke, son of Mr. & Mrs. Troy Krenke of Garwood. The wedding date has been set for Friday, June 8, at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake at 7 p.m. ...

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Stern of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Judy Ann, to William "Butch" Estlinbaum, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Estlinbaum of Rock Island. The wedding is set for Saturday, June 2...

Patty Ann Stephens, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Draper Stephens Jr., celebrated her third birthday May 5th at her home on Willow Lane...

Michael Arnell Davis, a seven year old first grader, won a special award in the Hollywood Spotlight magazine picture contest in Hollywood, Calif. His picture has been sent to advertising agencies and magazine publishers throughout the country. He is the son of Mrs. Mazel McTear and Willie Davis and grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cleveland of Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Birdwell were hosts for a backyard barbecue at their home Sunday evening, May 6, honoring Mr. & Mrs. Terry Jones...

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gold of Nada announced the arrival of a baby boy Friday, May 4, at Nightingale Hospital in El Campo, weighing nine pounds, 14 ounces. He was named Thomas Adams...

Lynn B. Wheelless of Eagle Lake was one of 36 cadets in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Texas who was recognized Tuesday, May 8, for military and scholastic achievements.

April 14, 1950

"Last-Mile-Charlie" McLellan, who announced his candidacy last week for the office of State Commissioner of Agriculture, said Monday that Eagle Lake will be his campaign headquarters and Mrs. McLellan and 14-year-old daughter Jennie Sue will be his campaign managers...

Today is the *Headlight's* birthday; get your presents ready! Forty-seven years ago, the first issue of the *Eagle Lake Headlight* was published...

Girls Scout leaders Mesdames Fred. G. Frnka, O.S. Campbell, Maurice Goodson, Frank Pidgeon, W.F. Meitzen Jr. and Miss Nell Young attended the South Texas Area Council Assoc. meeting held Tuesday night, April 11, in Alvin...

The first Eagle Lake High School Homecoming since 1937 is being planned for Saturday, May 13. All ex-students of Eagle Lake High School (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

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MICHAEL COOPER

May 3, 1998

To the Citizens of Eagle Lake:

Thank you for your vote of confidence last Saturday. I am proud to be your mayor. I will work hard to merit your trust.

I really believe that the work so many people have done to make the dream of a broader economic base for Eagle Lake is becoming a reality.

We have every reason to think that the construction of a "big" prison will begin by this fall. It seems that a detention center for young females is in the works. The boot camp has begun taking in cadets. New businesses are beginning to pop up around town. People are able to find affordable housing.

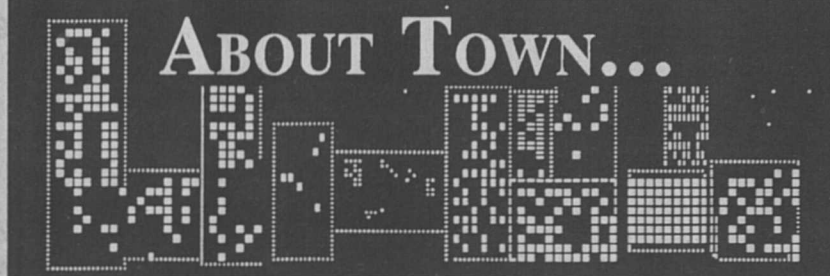
More and more jobs are going to open up in the coming months. Although no employer is going to guarantee that a certain number of jobs will go to Eagle Lake citizens, common sense tells us that our folks will get serious consideration.

Volunteerism is alive and growing in our town. Members of local churches are already beginning to make plans to minister to the spiritual needs of inmates. A senior official of CSC, the corporation that runs the boot camp, has told me that they believe in being good neighbors. I expect that they will pitch in wherever they can to help make Eagle Lake a better place for everyone.

Eagle Lake is becoming known as a "can-do" kind of town. Nice, isn't it?

Yours truly,

Michael Cooper



•The Eagle Lake Middle School advised this publication of some revisions to their recent honor and merit rolls.

Left off the honor roll were Robert Salinas, 4th grade; and Ashley Pavlicek, 8th grade.

Fatima Hernandez, an 8th grader, was left out of the merit roll.

•Even though they had their grand opening last Saturday, Eagle Lake General Store will have a ribbon cutting Thursday, May 7, at 10 a.m.

You really should go out and see what Bunge and Tara have accomplished in the past few weeks. If you ever saw the building before they installed their store, you won't recognize it! It's really looking good!

•In addition to the General Store, their neighbor (the building that has recently been painted a **bright blue**)

will be opening May 7.

A&G Auto Parts will be Eagle Lake's NAPA dealer and is owned by Glen Wesselski and his wife.

Go by and introduce yourself and have a look around. They have also done a lot of work in a short time!

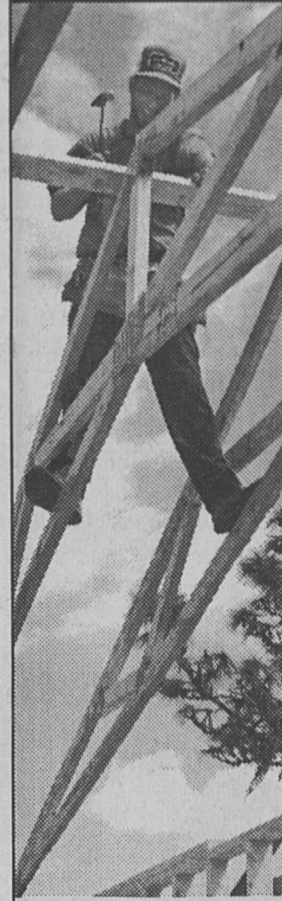
Both businesses are located on FM 3013 East (like you're going to Sealy). If you're coming from town on 90-A, they are the first two buildings on the left after you cross the first set of railroad tracks.

Bible Verse of the Week

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." — Colossians 3:2

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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