



## 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

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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 &amp; YOU

Attention!! Classes of '45, '47  
and football squad of '45...

The Class of 1946 has extended an invitation to each of you to eat, visit and help us celebrate our 52nd anniversary of our graduation from Eagle Lake High School.

Please call your classmates and/or team members who may not have this information and plan to meet them there Friday, June 12, at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 10 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m.

We need a head count to prepare for the barbecue buffet (\$10 each to be paid at the buffet table).

Please call this Eagle Lake number, 409-234-2068 (Harold Lloyd Williams) and give your name and the number planning to attend.

Also, any friends of the Class of 1946 may do the same.

**Please Come!**

Sincerely,

**Volunteer committee members:** Betty Wood  
Chambles, Robbie Beals  
Beane, Oleo German Franke,  
Melvin Selph and Simon  
White

## Tobacco settlement lawyers may reduce fees

Attorney General Dan Morales met with tobacco industry attorneys in New York and emerged saying that Texas could receive \$2 billion more than the \$15.3 billion settlement it already has with cigarette makers.

Morales said last week a deal for more money could be reached within two weeks, and that the extra money should put an end to the issue of how much private lawyers will be paid by the state for their role in the settlement.

The renegotiations are made possible by a clause in the previous settlement that allows Texas to claim better benefits based on subsequent settlements by other states.

"We believe that a minimum of \$2 billion is what is called for in the application of the Minnesota agree-



**State Capitol Highlights**  
By Lyndell Williams  
and Ed Sterling  
Texas Press Association

ment to the Texas agreement," Morales said. Minnesota's settlement of \$6.1 billion is more on a per capita basis than the Texas settlement.

Unlike Texas, Minnesota left its private lawyers to deal directly with the tobacco industry on their fees. Texas' private lawyers were to receive 15% of the original settlement, or \$2.3 billion. But Gov. George W. Bush called the fees excessive and sued to

reduce them.

## Texas Joins Missing Kids Network

Texas last week became the second state to join Missing Kids 100,000 - a national database that carries pictures of missing children on the Internet.

The program allows local law enforcement personnel to "upload" pictures of the missing children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children site on the Internet, helping to speed search efforts.

Gov. Bush called the system a "real-time, all-point bulletin that can be accessed by anyone with a (personal computer) anywhere in the world."

The site's address is:

<http://www.missingkids.com>

Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said he hopes to add 20 more states to the database by the end of the year. Nevada was the first state to join.

Court Opens Records  
Policy Drafted

The Texas Judicial Council's committee on court records met in Dallas last week to present a draft of a new policy that would increase public access to court records.

Last fall, Tom Phillips, chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court, ordered the committee to draft an open-records policy. Phillips' action came after he was criticized for overruling an opinion by Attorney General Morales that state judge's telephone records should not be closed to the public.

The draft defines "public record," tells how much courts can charge for copies of public records and explains how citizens can appeal if a court rejects a request for information.

According to the draft, judicial notes, personnel information and complaints against judges would still be privileged and unavailable to the public.

A final draft of the proposed policy must be approved by the Texas Supreme Court and voted on by the Texas Legislature.

## Other Capital Highlights

•State District Judge John Dietz

Dear Editor,

I have always been proud to be a native Texan but recently I have had second thoughts.

My husband and I have four adopted children. All of these children were considered "special needs" chil-

dren due to their biological backgrounds. We were informed that Texas has Post Adoptive Services (PAS) to help with resources for any future needs of these children. What we were not told is that PAS is almost a "Name Only" entity. Their funding to help

these children is extremely limited.

Our eldest son is now in a residential treatment center. We have exhausted our own resources and insurance with other hospitalization and counselors. Now PAS states "the money is running out" and we have to find other resources for our son.

Children's Protective Services (CPS) has stated that our son cannot come home due to the danger to the other children. CPS and the counselors at the treatment center both agree that our son is not ready to leave this placement and that changing programs at this time could be detrimental to his recovery. He is making some progress at this time.

At a recent Community Resource Coordination Group (CRGG) meeting I was told that the only way to continue with this treatment for our son is to give CPS custody of him by refusing to accept responsibility for his care. This could precipitate CPS filing charge against us for abandonment and result in fines and/or jail for my husband and I or, at the very least, termination of our parental rights and child support paid to the state of

Texas.

I was also told that we should have pressed charges against our son and let the State Judicial System deal with him. This also could have resulted in the same charges being levied against us and would probably not have gotten our son any psychological help.

Our other three children also have problems and are working hard to resolve them. What is going to happen when and if they need more help than we can provide? Will they also become a "judiciary problem" with no hope for reprieve?

Why are we being punished for trying to help these children we struggled so hard to get in the first place? Why are our children being punished for a background they had no control over? Why should they have to give up a family that loves them so that they can get the help they need? Why should their family have to give them up?

Texas, I don't understand and I am very hurt. After all the struggle and heartache, after hours, days, weeks, months and years of fighting for these children, we stand to lose them because the state laws don't take into account the kinds of problems these "Special Needs Children" really have. The laws, written to prevent abuse and abandonment of adopted children, are

(See Special, Page 4)

## State funding not there for couple's 'special' children

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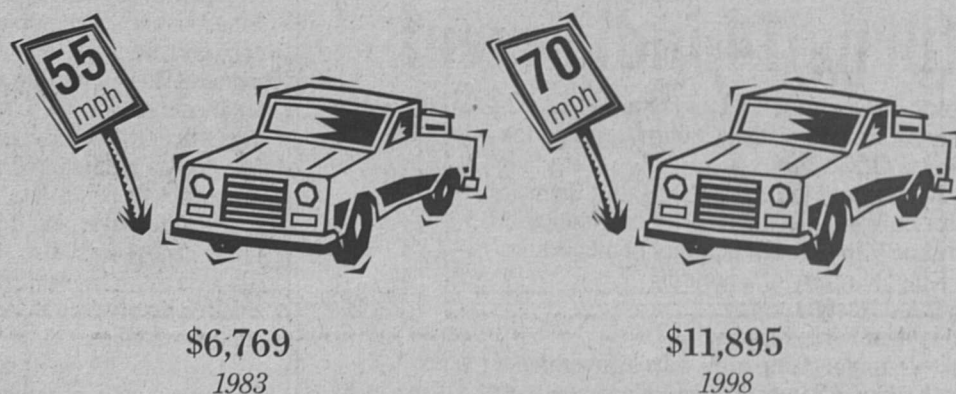
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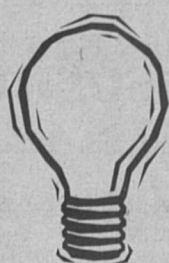
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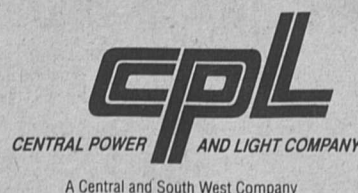


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\*Based on residential rates of investor-owned utilities for 1000 kilowatt-hours, 1998 Public Utility Commission of Texas' Electric Utility Bill Comparison, available on the PUCT website - <http://www.puct.state.tx.us>

\*\*Based on Cambridge Reports/Research International, CPL Residential Customer Satisfaction Survey Results, December 1997.

Information on 1983 truck price based on Consumer Reports issued September 1982, Ford Ranger base price, MSRP. Information on 1998 truck price based on Edmund's Car Guides 1998, Ford Ranger base price, MSRP.

Let's Look Back...

## 24 &amp; 48 YEARS AGO

May 22, 1973

Seventeen men and four women, representing 15 states, including David Wintermann of Eagle Lake, have been named to receive American Motors Conservation Awards for 1973...

Leon J. "Sonny" Spanihel of Eagle Lake, who has been serving as State Treasurer of the Texas Knights of Council organization, was elected to the position of State Secretary, the second highest post in the 34,000 man fraternal organization...

Honorary F.C. and Mrs. Albert Arnold were presented with gifts as a tribute of the 23 years of dedicated service rendered to the department as active fire chief by Mr. Arnold...

The Rice High School Raider Band selected its sweetheart and beau for 1972-73 and announced them at

the Spring Concert held in the Rice gym Thursday night of last week. Band director is Floyd Spennath. Debra Frenzel is the sweetheart while Danny Munoz was named the band beau...

Rice High School named the top athletes for the 1972-73 year at an annual All-Sports Banquet sponsored by the Raider Boosters Club Friday night. Awarding the trophies was Shelby Metcalf, Texas A&M basketball coach and principal speaker for the gathering. Debra Frenzel was named top girl athlete; Roger Stienke, the top boy athlete. Athletic Director is Bill Appelt...

Cheerleaders for Eagle Lake Middle School for the 1973-74 school year were elected by popular vote last week. They are Soyla Lopez, Sharon

Sims, Monica Barela, Susan Kell, Sherry Barfield and Head Cheerleader, Evelyn Fry.

Candidates for drum major and twirlers went before the judges on Wednesday, May 16, for tryouts. Chosen to lead the Raider band and represent Rice High School for the 1973-74 school year were Dina Kohleffel, Dana Wiese, drum major, Donna Danklefs, Rhonda Kochwelp and Janelle Bauer...

The top four members of the Rice Raider Band were named at the Spring Concert held in the Rice gymnasium last Thursday evening. They include freshman, Kathy Frybert; senior, Case Hollub; junior, Theresa Spanihel; and sophomore, Janie Rodriguez.

May 5, 1950

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Pumper Racing Team went to Sweeny Sunday and brought home first prize of \$15 and a racing trophy given to the Tri-Rivers Firemen's Association by Olin Culbertson, Texas Railroad Commissioner. The trophy must be won three consecutive times for permanent possession. Members of Sunday's racing team were L.J. Spanihel and Henry Dostal, hard suction men; Fritz Gold and Reuben Muench, coupling men; and Johnnie Burns and John William Brasher, running with hose...

Miss Nellie DeShazo of Eagle Lake was one of the duchesses at the first annual May Fete, sponsored by the civic committee of the Wallis Chamber of Commerce, held at Legion Hall there last night...

A Yellow Page "buyer guide" will be incorporated into Eagle Lake's July telephone directory. Floyd Reed, manager for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company said, "The growth of Eagle Lake makes it desirable to add a Yellow Page section. The number of telephones here has more than doubled in five years. We've got almost 1,000 telephones here today in comparison with about 425 in 1945"...

(See 24 & 48, Page 8)

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