



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

Lawmakers breaking disability access law?

Many Texas lawmakers are operating district offices that aren't fully accessible to people with disabilities, a violation of state and federal law, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported last week.

State inspectors found that 67 district offices for state representatives and 43 district offices for senators were inaccessible buildings.

Offices leased by the state must be in accessible buildings, according to Texas law. In 1997, the Legislature voted to require inspections before the state occupies leased space.

But some lawmakers whose district offices are inaccessible want to exempt themselves from the law before the state can impose \$1,000-a-day fines against the building owners or cancel leases.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation has agreed to consider hardship cases after Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, and Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, chairmen of the Legislature's two budget-writing committees, wrote to the agency.

"We've got to do something or our members are going to be operating out of their kitchens," Ratliff said.

Advocates for access oppose such exemptions. They said that if the Legislature approves waivers for itself, they plan to force district offices to become accessible under the federal law.

"I think it's pretty amazing that lawmakers seem to think they ought to be above the law," Jim Harrington, legal director of the Texas Civil Rights Project, told the newspaper. "If they can pass a law, they ought to comply with the law."

Belinda Carlton, executive direc-

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

tor of the Coalition for Texans with Disabilities, said her group "just doesn't have any sympathy here."

Groups Call for Electronic Filing

State law requires candidates for public office to file campaign finance reports with the Texas Ethics Commission, but the reports need only be furnished on paper.

Last week, two government watchdog groups called on candidates to make it easier for Texans wanting to find out who is giving money to political campaigns, simply by filing campaign finance reports electronically.

Craig McDonald of Texans for Public Justice and Tom Smith of Public Citizen asked candidates to voluntarily file electronically so information seekers can find what they're looking for via the Internet on the Ethics Commission web site, www.ethics.state.tx.us/.

Youth-Crime Entity Is Proposed

Tony Fabelo, executive director of the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council, last week recommended the creation of a single entity to coordinate the efforts of 18 state agencies operating programs aimed at curbing youth crime.

A "Prevention Services Division" under the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services could serve as a one-stop shopping location, helping families find the right place to seek

assistance, Fabelo said.

Presently, there are nearly 70 programs addressing at-risk youth, administered by the various state agencies.

Laser Hair Removal Scrutinized

The Texas Department of Health last week said it is investigating reports of unauthorized use of laser for hair removal by spas, salons and fitness clubs.

Two reports were from people claiming injuries as a result of laser treatments.

State regulations require that hair removal lasers be operated only under the supervision of licensed practitioners with medical training.

Injury to patients may result from unauthorized use of these devices for cosmetic purposes.

Denied Claims to Be Reviewed

State insurance regulators said last week they will review homeowner

claims for cracked foundations that have been denied by insurers since 1993.

Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer ordered property insurers to report denied claims for foundation damage from mid-1993 to mid-1997.

Foundation cracks often are caused by plumbing leaks.

A Texas Department of Insurance study shows that water damage has caused up to 20% of all homeowners' losses.

Lack of Qualified Teachers Noted

Thirty-nine percent of the nearly quarter-million high school students who took the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills exit exam this year failed the algebra portion.

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses attributed the high rate of failure to the fact that so many students have uncertified math teachers.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 10, 1973

Colorado County Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller announces the employment of Ed Wine, formerly with the Smithville police department, as the new resident deputy in the Garwood area...

About 30 family members gathered in the backyard of the W.L. Bauer home on the Fourth of July for a family reunion picnic...

Participants in the crowning of the Virgin Mary at Our Lady of Guadalupe recently were Viola Castillo, Linda Cardenas, Pearl Castillo, Leanne Mota, Becky Munoz and Yvonne Gonzales (who had the honor of crowning the Virgin Mary)...

Clarence Gore of Houston, husband of the former Carol Beth Wells, was assigned to Bahrain, Saudia Arabia, recently where he will be working

as an engineer for Brown and Root Co. of Houston. Mrs. Gore and son Jeffrey will be residing with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. R.R. Wells Jr., for the next two months until arrangements can be made for them to join Mr. Gore...

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Waligura of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Carolyn Lois, to Anthony Alfred Drymalla Jr., son of the late Anthony A. Drymalla and nephew of Mr. & Mrs. Victor F. Eder of Wallis. The wedding is scheduled for Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

Mrs. Luvenia Chavis and Lee Anna Austin have just returned from a 12-day vacation in beautiful Hawaii...

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 9, for Mrs. Mary Louise Gross of Houston, the mother of Mrs. David R. Wintermann of this city...

A 1970 Chevrolet, owned by Jimmy Adkins and stolen from the side of the Eagle Lake Community Center on Sunday, June 30, was recovered in Columbus Wednesday of last week, reported Eagle Lake Chief of Police Roy Chisum. A purse belonging to Mrs. Adkins was still on the car seat...

William Arthur Hefner of Liberty Hill, father of W.A. Hefner Jr. of Garwood, passed away in the Burnett Hospital after several months illness at 1 p.m. June 30, at the age of 87.

Aug. 25, 1950

For the first time in 15 years, the *Eagle Lake Headlight* will come out on Thursday mornings beginning next Thursday, Aug. 31st...

August is the month of birthdays in the H.C. Farris family. Celebrating birthdays at a family dinner and reunion last Sunday at the home of the H.C. Harris' were Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Dunlavy, Don Cochran, Robert Cochran and Johnnie Cochran...

The cheerleaders and majorettes are getting a head start on the football boys. According to the new scholastic rules, the players cannot hold organized practice, at least not with the coach present before Sept. 1st. The cheerleaders have already returned from their training session; the twirlers left Sunday for a week's twirling school. Those leaving for the school were Nellie DeShazo, Patsy Scott, Betty Kay Meitzen, Lois Kopecky, Joe Ann Sens and Jo Ann Meitzen...

Politics in Colorado County have been hotter this summer than in many years due to the activity in the sheriff's race. Large crowds have been reported at "Walker for Sheriff" rallies. At the same time, incumbent Harvey Lee has intensified his campaign with newspaper testimonials from neighboring county sheriffs and distribution of leaflets supporting his candidacy at the Columbus Walker Rally...

When school was out last May, some kids were heard to say, "School don't mention that horrible word to me again!" If those kids could tour their school now, they would be wishing school would start so they could experience those "dear old golden rule days" in such modern, attractive surroundings. It seems the school is undergoing many changes for the better, even getting modernized...

Secretary of State John Ben Shepperd announced last week his approval of a new corporation in Eagle Lake. It is the Texas Rice Promotion Association, a co-operative marketing organization. Incorporators are David Wintermann, J.C. Dishman and R.E. Meek.

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.

Franks opposing Cook for state rep.

Michael Franks of Wharton is running for State Representative for District 28, which includes Wharton, Colorado, Fayette and Bastrop Counties.

In Dec., Franks filed by petition drive collecting 1,000 signatures, double the amount necessary.

Franks has Georgia Krenek, a retired teacher and a chairman of the board of Trustees of Wharton County Junior College as well as head legislative director of the Catholic Daughters of America in Wharton, as his campaign treasurer.

He wants to become the first Republican since reconstruction to represent this district as well as bringing the first Republican majority to the Texas House. The party is short eight seats.

He states, "I want to go to Austin to back up Gov. George W. Bush and help vote to pass his conservative agenda for Texas. I believe this district needs a true conservative representing us in Austin." "I promise the voters of this conservative district that if I ever have below an A+ conservative record, I will voluntarily step down."

Franks wants to become the most outspoken member of the legislature on protecting and fighting for our liberties and freedoms once again. We need to protect our private property from extreme environmental regulation. We need to get the "educrats" out

of education and return power and decision making to the local level. We need to control our spending and cut all the waste in our oversized state budget and give real property tax relief. We need to just limit government's role across the board in our lives and return morality, decency and Godly values back into our society.

Franks is a Boling High School graduate having been raised in Newgulf, Texas in Wharton County. He attended Wharton County Junior College, Texas A&M University, graduated with a BBA in finance from Southwest Texas State University and also attended Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas.

He is a fourth generation Wharton County resident, a seventh generation Texan, whose family was in Stephen



F. Austin's original 300 colony, and a 12th generation American.

Franks is a member of Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Sportsman Association, NRA, Gun Owners of America and is a member of the singing group "His Call" from the Second Baptist Church in Houston.

ABOUT TOWN...

•Cari Lyn Cranek, daughter of Larry and Donna Cranek of Garwood, graduated from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in General Business.

Commencement exercises were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.

Cari is presently working as a proposal specialist for Neodyme Technologies in Bryan, where she plans to pursue her Masters degree.

Cari is the granddaughter of Louis and Leona Cranek of Garwood and Gene and Margaret Bures of El Campo.

•Congratulations to Tracey Lynn Glueck from Cat Spring, a Media Communication and Information Technology major who was recently inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Texas State Technical College.

In order to receive a Phi Theta Kappa invitation, students must have at least a 3.75 cumulative grade point average with at least 12 degree credits. Inductees must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA to retain society membership.

•Pete Canaris came by the *Headlight* and dropped off a set of keys he found this week between the Thomas and Cooper homes on McCarty. If they are yours, please come by the *Headlight* to identify.

Views On Dental Health

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.
234-3525

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DENTAL INSURANCE POPULARITY

In 1970 only 12 million Americans were covered by dental insurance. Today, that number is over 100 million. This has immeasurably elevated the level and scope of the nation's dental care.

Dental insurance usually is offered through employers' and unions' group plans, and it can be a valuable asset to you and your family. Insurance carriers know that it's more economical in the long run to provide regular professional care to head off serious dental problems. For this reason, many dental plans provide greater coverage for examination and preventive care than

for restorative treatment. For example, if a person visits the dentist for routine examinations, his out-of-pocket cost will decrease the next year.

Both employers and beneficiaries benefit from dental insurance. Patients receive dental care they need at a reduced cost and employers find it a worthwhile employment incentive. As one noted, "It's one health benefit people don't have to get sick to use."

Presented as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S., 700 S. McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, 234-3525.

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