



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 Nelson • Lynda Appelt
Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Luedecke • Katherine Smith

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

Gov. Bush is 'against gay adoptions'

Gov. George W. Bush last week made public his preference for traditional families when it comes to raising children.

"I'm against gay adoptions," Bush said, regarding legislation that would bar the state from designating gays and lesbians as foster parents or permitting them to adopt children.

State Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, has filed legislation to prevent homosexuals from adopting children in the custody of Child Protective Services, the agency that takes custody of abused or neglected children.

"I believe children ought to be adopted in families with a woman and a man who are married," Bush said.

On a similar theme, the governor also said he opposes including sexual orientation in a bill to clarify the state's hate-crimes law that increases penalties in cases in which a victim is targeted for a specific reason such as race or gender.

"I've always said all crime is hate crime," Bush was quoted by *The Dallas Morning News*.

"People, when they commit a crime, have hate in their heart. And it's hard to distinguish between one degree of hate and another," Bush said.

On March 21, more than 6,000 people marched in Austin to protest Chisum's proposed legislation.

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Handgun Licensee Arrests Tallied

Texas concealed-handgun license holders have been arrested 2,080 times since the law authorizing the permits took effect in 1996, according to a study by the Washington, D.C.-based Violence Policy Center.

The Violence Policy Center's statistics included 103 charges of aggravated assault, 442 cases involving drunken driving and 15 charges of murder or attempted murder.

However, Dec. 1998 statistics from the Department of Public Safety show only 515 of the charges cited in the center's report resulted in convictions, though some were still pending, DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange said.

DPS statistics showed that the bulk of the convictions against licensed concealed-handgun holders were misdemeanors, including 185 for drunken driving and 21 for prostitution.

Felonies included 31 convictions of aggravated assault, six of assault causing bodily injury and five of aggravated sexual assault.

Out of the 192,160 licenses issued

in Texas from Jan. 1996 to Dec. 1998, 614 were revoked. A total of 2,341 license applications were denied, Mange said.

Economy May Slow Down

State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander on March 22 predicted growth in the Texas economy during the next four to six months, basing her forecast on the Index of Leading Texas Economic Indicators.

Showing gains were the Texas 100 Stock Index, new home construction, retail sales and new jobs. Texas gained 278,000 new jobs during the last 12 months, with 269,000 in the service sector.

Slowing down were new business corporations and the number of jobs in want ads. Unemployment claims have increased.

Workers' Comp Rates Drop

Texas workers' compensation carriers have responded to lower base rates set by the Texas Department of Insurance by cutting their rates by an average of 10.5%.

"Given the wide range of rate changes filed by the companies and the intense competition we see in the marketplace, this is a good time for employers to shop around for the best deal," said Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor.

It is only fair to give employers a break on their workers' compensation costs when claims drop, Montemayor added.

Other Highlights

•The Texas Senate last week approved proposed legislation that would make it a crime not to have children between the ages of four and 15 in a seat belt even if they're sitting in a back seat. The legislation also would make sports utility vehicles and pickup trucks subject to the seat belt law.

•The Texas Senate last week voted (See Highlights, Page 4)

To The Editor & You

Responses received on standardized dress

In response to Mr. Hosman's letter on standardized dress, I would like to say a few things.

First of all, it seemed to be more an attack on the school and the teachers than an opposition to standardized dress. As a teacher, who is in a classroom everyday, I can tell you that my classroom is not run like a prison camp. I do allow kids to be kids. But, there comes a time when students need to be quiet and listen so that they can learn. That is a part of being in school.

You say nothing is being done to improve Eagle Lake. Well, our children are the future of Eagle Lake. If we want them to have the knowledge and ability to make a difference, we need

to teach them how. Learning cannot take place when children are not listening or are talking to friends during instruction.

As for taking away individuality, free will, or thinking, I encourage all of these in my classroom. It is impossible to have these qualities and still follow rules. Standardized dress will not take away individuality. A student's personality will still be evident, even with standard dress.

Think about it. There are office jobs that require a suit and tie as standard dress. This is seen as professional, not as a way to take away individuality. A suit and tie are work clothes and jeans are home clothes. The same will be true for standard

ing, I do not see how what you wear affects thinking at all.

While it may be true that some students will still find reasons to pick on others, at least we are helping to eliminate one of the biggest reasons. I do know what it feels like to be the child who does not have the newest, most expensive, most "in" clothing. It feels terrible. If you were not one of those children, you cannot possibly imagine how bad it makes you feel. If you were, then you most likely understand and realize that standard dress will not eliminate the problem, but it will definitely help.

Dawn Elmore
6th grade teacher
Eagle Lake Middle School

These children need to learn to read well, calculate well, and have an understanding of the world, not to learn to dress to impress their friends.

Sincerely,
Christine Feehery

our job.

As for the issue of individuality, I believe a person's individuality comes from who they are, not what they have on. Besides, the school is not requiring every student to wear exactly the same outfit, as private and military schools do. Students will be given a wide variety of options in how they combine the approved items of clothing.

Mr. Hosman also compares the wearing of school colors and insignias to wearing gang colors. Many students who participate in athletics already wear these colors at least part of the time. By restricting our students to these colors, we are hoping to promote a sense of school pride and unity. I do not see how this opens the doorway to violent, gang-related behavior. I also doubt that students in other communities would harass our students any more than they do now. Kids know who belongs in their community and who doesn't, and if they are going to harass an outsider, it will not matter what that person is wearing.

I agree with Mr. Hosman that most people think of cowboys when they think of Texas. What I don't understand is what this has to do with our schools. Students are not riding horses, herding cattle, or busting broncs while they are in school. Why should they be dressed as though they are? Why should our students have to live up to an out-dated stereotype? Are they any less "Texan" because they are wearing a nice pair of khaki pants? What about the current fashion trend of wearing blue jeans with huge baggy legs? I personally don't see those as being very "Texan". When students

are tripping over their own pant legs, I see them as being dangerous, and therefore I would prefer that students not wear them to school.

Before the standardized dress code was voted on by the school board, there were at least two meetings in which parents and community leaders were invited to the middle school to obtain information about the dress code, and to voice their opinions on the matter. Every parent who came to the meeting was in favor of the dress code. Parents who returned surveys pertaining to the dress code also voted overwhelmingly in favor of it.

Many of them sympathize with their children who are being teased because they can't afford to wear the latest in brand name fashions. They understand that while their child is thinking about how much they'd like to have a new pair of jeans, like the student next to them is wearing, they are not thinking about what their teacher is saying, and they are not learning as much as they could be.

The teachers at the middle school do not see the implementation of a standardized dress code as a cure-all, but as a small step in the direction of improving the quality of education our students receive. With support from parents and community members, we can make this a success, and can focus more of our attention on the business of teaching.

Sincerely,
Christi Henderson

As a teacher who has taught in schools with and without standardized dress, I must wholeheartedly endorse standardized dress. It will eliminate distractions in class and save teachers and administrators time enforcing dress code. In addition, field trips are much safer with standardized dress, in that, it is much easier to monitor students that are easier to find in a setting away from school.

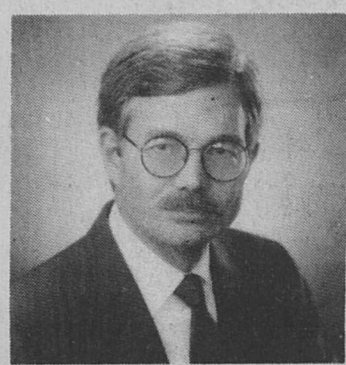
At one time, I was a parent of a student in a school that required standardized dress. It was wonderful! There were no more arguments about "what to wear" in the mornings, and it saved me a bundle of money. My children "individualized" their attire with accessories.

To address Mr. Hosman's comments about discipline in our schools, I feel that all discipline begins at home. Unfortunately, not all children receive that initial discipline in the home, and it creates real problems in the classroom. There are many children who are home-disciplined, and it is quite easy to identify them in the classroom. So, please do not be so quick to criticize unless you have first-hand knowledge of the situation.

Sincerely,
Barbara Magruder
8th grade math teacher, ELMS

The process of deciding on standard dress at ELMS began two years ago when parents approached me to consider it for the school. We surveyed parents of 4th-7th grade students in 1998 and Feb. 1999. The response to the survey increased from a 25% return in 1998 to 60% return in surveys in 1999. Eighty-four percent of the parents who returned surveys supported a standard school dress at ELMS for next year.

Following the written survey, volunteer parents conducted a phone survey to try to reach more parents. The phone survey reached approximately 70% of the families and 84% of (See Letters, Page 7)

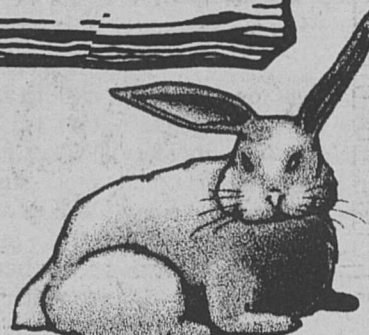


BOARD CERTIFIED — CRIMINAL LAW
BOARD CERTIFIED — PERSONAL INJURY
TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

KEN SPARKS
ATTORNEY

211 N. CENTER, WEIMAR, TX 78962
409-725-6024

EAGLE LAKE
GENERAL STORE
201 FM 3013 East Eagle Lake
Bunge & Tara Halla 409-234-2191



EASTER SPECIALS

Baby Bunnies\$8.00 each

Colored Chicks\$1.75 each

Check Out the Values in Our...
HOME GARDEN SECTION
Easter Hanging Baskets

•Starter Plants

•Bedding

•Seed & More!

ON SALE NOW!

**CLEARANCE
PRICES
ON
All
Western
Clothes**

GOING OUT OF
BUSINESS Sale

**INCREDIBLE SAVINGS!
SELLING TO THE BARE WALLS**

NOW...
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 15% OFF ALL SALE TICKETED ITEMS
Including Red Wing Boots, Levis, Wranglers, Lee, and Rocky Mountain
Jeans plus additional discounts on all Clearance Merchandise.
**THESE ITEMS WILL NOT BE REPLACED SO HURRY FOR
YOUR SHARE OF THE SAVINGS**

Store
Fixtures
For Sale!

**SAVE
UP TO 80%**

All
Sales
Final!

Brand Names in Apparel for Women, Men, and Kids
Lingerie • Hosiery • Jewelry • Shoes • Gifts
Accessories • Linens • Luggage • and Much, Much More!!
INCLUDES NEW ARRIVALS FOR SPRING 1999!!!

GINOLERS
Stores located: Weimar, Columbus, Gonzales,
La Grange, Hallettsville, Smithville

After More than 85 Years in South Central Texas
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS!

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards