

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

State could have lost \$10.5 million during sales tax 'holiday'

The Texas Legislative Board recently predicted a loss of about \$10.5 million in revenue from the state sales tax holiday running from 12:01 a.m., Friday, Aug. 6, to midnight Sunday, Aug. 8.

During the Legislative session that ended in May, lawmakers approved

the sales tax holiday as part of a \$2 billion tax cut. Cities, counties and other entities that charge a sales tax were expected to lose about \$7.6 million, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported last week.

On the list of non-taxable items over the sales tax holiday were school clothes and shoes with price tags under \$100. Among items not in-

cluded were protective sportswear, backpacks and purses.

In the next state budget, which covers 2000 and 2001, the state expects to lose about \$60 million as public awareness of the annual sales tax holiday increases, the *American-Statesman* reported.

Florida and New York initiated sales tax holidays before Texas.

Because of the sales tax holiday,

Texas merchants were expected to enjoy an influx of across-the-border shoppers from Oklahoma, southeastern Colorado, southwestern Kansas, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Oversight of Executions A Duty

Lt. Gov. Rick Perry serves as acting governor when Gov. George W. Bush is out of state, and recently, the governor has been on the presidential campaign trail.

When Bush is away, it is Perry's job to decide - if the Texas Board of Pardon and Paroles recommends clemency - whether to grant a 3-day reprieve or commute a death sentence to life in prison.

Six Texas inmates have been scheduled for execution in the first half of August.

"I look at the technicalities of the case, making sure that due process was served. In (upcoming) executions, it appears that due process was served—certainly more than the victims of these horrible crimes received, he told the *Associated Press*.

"The message is clear in Texas. The vast majority of Texans support the death penalty. If you're going to commit a heinous crime that fits the death penalty, you're going to be given the ultimate penalty."

The governor has overseen 14 of the 16 executions carried out in Texas

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

this year. Perry has overseen one and Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, president pro-tem of the state Senate, oversaw the other.

An Aug. 4 execution was the 181st execution since executions resumed in Texas in Dec. 1982.

Other Highlights

•Last week, Austin's fifth Ozone Action Day in 1999 was declared. An Ozone Action Day is declared when ozone gas is expected to exceed 84 parts per billion—safety standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Internal combustion engines in cars, trucks and lawnmowers are the primary emitter of lung-irritating ozone gas in Austin.

•Austin city leaders proclaimed Monday, Aug. 9, to be "Yellow Shirt Day" in honor of 1999 Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong of Austin. Bicyclists were invited to join Armstrong for a ride up Congress Avenue, and a parade and festivities were planned.

•The U.S. Justice Department last (See Highlights, Page 4)

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Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Jan. 17, 1974
A happy holiday from school turned into sadness Monday afternoon when nine-year-old **Henry Morgan Jr.** was killed instantly when his bicycle was struck by a car on Austin Road in front of the construction site for the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. No charges were filed against the driver of the vehicle as Morgan was found to be at fault...

Seven hundred forty-one Texas A&I University students attained the Dean's List of Honor Roll for grades earned during the fall semester. Among those were **Billy Joe Briscoe** of Eagle Lake and **Miss Kathleen**

Rees of Garwood...
Mrs. **Elizabeth Nau** was complimented on her 90th birthday anniversary Dec. 27th with a party that afternoon in the home of Mr. & Mrs. **W.J. Brunner**. Mrs. **John Adkins** assisted Mrs. Brunner with hostess duties...

Our Lady of Perpetual Help was the setting for the marriage of Miss **Theresa Frances Theuman** and **Joseph Connally Laughlin** on Saturday, Dec. 22, at five o'clock in the afternoon. Miss Theuman is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. **Miles Theuman**, and Mr. Laughlin is the son of Dr. & Mrs. **Jones Connally Laughlin**... (See 24 & 48, Page 3)

To THE EDITOR & YOU Proud of my hometown

Dear Headlight Staff:
I received a wonderful birthday present today... the July 15 *Headlight* with its account of the action by the citizens of Eagle Lake following the Sunset Limited crash. Having lived and worked in the Washington, D.C., area for most of the past years, engaged in a job that almost demands cynicism and distrust, I was moved by the unaffected kindness of the people of my hometown. Eagle Lake's citizens turned what might have been a horrible memory for many of those passengers into a pleasant one.

With both my father, Mac Jones, and my mother, Agnes, having passed away, I've wondered how I could sustain my ties to Eagle Lake. I found my answer in the *Headlight*. No matter where I reside, Eagle Lake is my home. I'm proud to have grown up in a town where kindness and generosity are given to strangers, for no other reason than that it's the right thing to do. God bless all of you. You make me want to come home.

Sincerely,
Walter M. Jones

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Views On Dental Health

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