



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 Evans
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

Number of students taking SAT exam increases

The number of Texas students from the class of 1999 who took the SAT college entrance exam reached an all-time high of 104,144, an increase of 3,727 over 1998, the Texas Education Agency reported.

Fifty percent of the estimated 208,288 seniors in Texas public and private schools in 1999 took the SAT.

"We are pleased that the number of Texas students who take college-entrance exams is increasing," said Education Commissioner Mike Moses,

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

who left office Sept. 3 to become vice deputy chancellor of Texas Tech University System in Lubbock.

Average scores posted by Texas students were similar to national results. The average verbal score for Texas students held steady at 494 for the third year in a row, while nationally the verbal score remained stable at 505 for the fourth straight year. The average math score for Texas students fell from 501 in 1998 to 499 in 1999.

Moses said he was troubled by Texas' decline in the average math score. Nationally, math scores dropped one point from 512 in 1998 to 511 this year.

"I hope local district officials will study their own SAT scores and deter-

mine whether any action should be taken in their schools. I am pleased but not satisfied that the average verbal scores held steady despite the large increase in test takers," he said.

Texas seniors who reported that they ranked in the top 10% of their graduating class scored an average 573 on the verbal section of the test and an average 588 on the math section, well above the national average on the exam.

The number of Texans who took the American College Testing (ACT) exam also rose from 64,064 in 1998 to 65,094 this year.

Redistricting Changes Eyed

In 2001, the Texas Senate will have to redraw the boundaries of state and federal legislative districts.

Based on projections by the Texas Legislative Council, the number of people in each Senate district will be 659,800; in each House district, 136,360; and in each congressional district, 639,200.

Over the last 10 years, Republican majority districts have grown faster than Democratic districts, the legislative council said, and 7 of the 10 fastest-growing Senate districts are Republican.

Texas' population is expected to swell to more than 20 million by the time the next U.S. Census is taken in April 2000. Redistricting will be based on the new census.

Protestors Sue Governor

The environmental groups Texans United and Downwinders At Risk and three demonstrators have filed a lawsuit in Travis County against Gov. George W. Bush, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the three DPS commissioners, seeking judgment that would force the state to acknowledge the demonstrators' right to protest in front of the Governor's Mansion.

The protestors were arrested at the mansion four times last spring. In each case the Travis County District Attorney's Office dropped charges of blocking an entry way.

Welfare Caseloads Decrease

The Texas Workforce Commissioners reported at the end of its fiscal year last week that welfare caseloads in Texas have fallen for 43 consecutive months.

Over 130,000 cases and 359,387 Texans moved off welfare rolls since the state Welfare to Work program was launched in Sept. 1995.

The agency's employment services assisted more than 1.4 million (See Highlights, Page 3)

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

March 14, 1974

Janet Ruth Kersh, 14, has been chosen as local winner of the Chronicle Spelling Bee from Sheridan Elementary School. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Cecil E. Kane of Sheridan...

University of Texas arts students or recent graduates received 21 awards in judgments in the new created student division of the Austin Advertising Club. Among them was Elizabeth (Liz) Burke, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George Burke of Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Floyd Wiese of Eagle Lake, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Deborah Jean, to Ricky Wayne Christ, son of Mr. & Mrs. Herman B. Christ of Richmond. The wedding will be July 6th at the Colly Memorial Methodist Church in Eagle Lake...

Albert Arnold received a certificate bestowing upon him the honor of being a "Privileged Member" in the Garwood Lions Club for many years of outstanding service to the club and community...

Friends in the community will be sorry to learn that Mrs. Ivey Beals Christian suffered a stroke on Jan. 12. A speedy recovery is wished for her...

The University of Texas has named 339 students to the College of Pharmacy honor roll for the 1973 fall semester. Among them is David W. Euers, son of Mr. & Mrs. Les Euers of Eagle Lake...

The College of Humanities at The University of Texas has named 586 student to the honor roll for the fall semester. They include Cum Laude: Jan Noble Pendergrass, son of Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Pendergrass of Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Dromgoole are pleased parents of a daughter born in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital, March 3 at 6:06 a.m. The young lady's name is Lisa Lynn. At birth she weighed seven pounds, eight ounces. The Dromgooles have another daughter, Jacqueline Lynn, 15 months...

Herman Adolph Brast of Sealy, father of Mrs. Henry Schmidt of Eagle Lake, passed away in the Sealy Hospital on Friday, March 8...

Jim Jochetz, a senior at Huntsville High School and grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Jochetz Sr. of Eagle Lake, has been selected to participate in the Bell System's High School Science Program in New Jersey...

March 21, 1974

Clarence A. Weise, local supervising resident engineer for the Texas Highway Department, recently completed 25 years of meritorious service with the Department and was presented a service pin and certificate by Carl V. Ramert, District Engineer...

Friends will be happy to hear that Mrs. Willard Shuart and daughters, Sarah and Nora, are recuperating nicely from injuries received when their car was hit by another car near Fulshear on FM 1093 late Saturday afternoon...

Sunday, March 24, at 6 p.m. the Johnny Bush Orchestra from San Antonio is coming to the Heritage House to play for the residents and visiting family members...

Mr. & Mrs. Ewald H. Breithaupt of Eagle Lake announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Connie Jane, to Mr. Ralph Gertson Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Gertson Sr. of Eagle Lake. The couple plans to be united in marriage on Saturday, June 8, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake at 5:30 p.m....

Victor C.G. Jimenez, a long-time resident of the Eagle Lake and Ramsey community, passed away in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital on Tuesday, March 12th, following an illness of several months after a heart attack...

Mr. & Mrs. George Birdwell are proud parent of a boy born in Matagorda General Hospital in Bay City at 8:15 a.m., Thursday, March 14. The little gentleman was named Ryman Lee and weighed at birth six pounds and 11 ounces. The Birdwells have another son, Frank Newel, who is two...

Miss Denise Milner and Bob Griffin were honored at a "mystery" dinner party Friday, March 15, at the lovely Eagle Lake Recreation Center Clubhouse at seven in the evening...

Miss Barbara Smith, bride-elect of Joe Ardis of Odessa, was honored at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Engstrom Saturday, March 16, from 3 to 5 p.m....

Mrs. Stallman Stallman and Mrs. Neal Stallman honored Miss Barbara Smith, bride-elect of Joe Ardis of Odessa, with an Oriental Luncheon at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Neal Stallman last Saturday...

Jerry Lee Henske, employee with Tenneco Oil Co., has been promoted by a transfer to the Ward Plant in McAllen. He and his wife, Linda, and their son, Kevin Michael, will be residing in McAllen. Linda is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Breithaupt and Jerry is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Henske, all of this city...

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Hoffman of Nada announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Phyllis Ann, to Ronald Michael Meitzen, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Meitzen Sr. of Eagle Lake. The wedding is calendared for Saturday, June 29, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church...

Miss Nancy J. James, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J.H. James, has completed a one-year course of Anatomical Pathology and one year training of Histology Technician...

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church was the setting for the beautiful and impressive ceremony uniting in marriage Miss Linda Kay Rucka and Dennis Polach at five o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, March 16th. The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Rucka. Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Polach of Sheridan (See 24 & 48, Page 10)

VonDerAu FORD LINCOLN MERCURY
•VonDerAu MARINE
•VonDerAu Kawasaki
STEVE TAYLOR
1912 N. Mechanic
El Campo, Texas 77437

Phone: 409-543-2753
Fax: 409-543-4302
800-441-5554

KAWASAKI - ATV - MULES - GENERATORS
HONDA - EVINRUDE - JOHNSON - MARINER
OUTBOARDS / BOATS

CHARLIE MARTIN TREE SERVICE
All Types of Tree Service
16 Years Experience
FREE Estimates
Senior Citizens Discounts
409-732-9135
1-888-732-9135
Columbus

PUBLIC NOTICE
BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Special Election
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

PROPOSITION NO. 1
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 44 - HJR 44 proposes a constitutional amendment that would ensure a clear succession in event of vacancies in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Specifically, the amendment would provide that if after qualifying for the office, the Governor is temporarily unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor shall act as Governor until the Governor is able to serve; but if the Governor is permanently unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor shall become the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. The amendment would require a Lieutenant Governor who becomes Governor to forfeit the office of Lieutenant Governor. The amendment would also provide similar succession procedures when a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor before the newly elected Governor qualifies for office, and when the newly elected Governor is temporarily unable to take office. The amendment also would provide that if there is a temporary vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate will fill the position; but if there is a permanent vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall serve as Lieutenant Governor only until such time as the whole senate can convene to elect one of its members to perform the duties of Lieutenant Governor. Finally, the amendment would provide that if the Lieutenant Governor, while temporarily exercising the powers of the Governor, becomes temporarily disabled or unable to serve, the President pro tempore of the senate shall exercise the powers and authority of the office of the Governor until such time as the Governor or Lieutenant Governor resumes those powers and duties.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to revise the provisions for the filling of a vacancy in the office of governor or lieutenant governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 2
ON THE BALLOT

SJR 12 - SJR 12 proposes a constitutional amendment that would resolve conflicts between the Texas Constitution and federal law relating to the definition, rules, and procedures of reverse mortgages. The amendment would define "reverse mortgage" in part as an extension of credit made against the homestead of a person who is 62 years or older, or whose spouse is 62 years or older. It would expand the list of circumstances under which payment of principal and interest become due and the procedures involved in foreclosure, and would require certain advances to be made according to specific terms in loan documents, including advances by the lender, on behalf of the borrower for payments necessary to protect the lender's interest. Finally, the amendment would require the Texas Supreme Court to promulgate rules of civil procedure expediting court-ordered foreclosures of reverse mortgage liens.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the making of advances under a reverse mortgage and payment of a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION NO. 3
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 62 - HJR 62 proposes a constitutional

amendment that would simplify and clarify the language of the Texas Constitution. The amendment would make no substantive changes, but would eliminate duplicative, expired, out-of-date, and ineffective terms.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to eliminate duplicative, executed, obsolete, archaic, and ineffective provisions of the Texas Constitution."

PROPOSITION NO. 4
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 4 - HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment that would broaden the definition of charitable organizations. The amendment would exempt from ad valorem taxation the property of any organization engaged primarily in public charitable functions, and it would allow such an organization to conduct additional activities to support its charitable functions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt property owned by institutions engaged primarily in public charitable functions from ad valorem taxation."

PROPOSITION NO. 5
ON THE BALLOT

SJR 26 - SJR 26 proposes an amendment that would remove the restriction prohibiting state employees who receive all or part of their compensation from the state from serving as members of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district unless the state employee receives no salary for such service. The amendment would allow state employees to receive compensation from the governing bodies of which they are members.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment allowing state employees to receive compensation for serving as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district."

PROPOSITION NO. 6
ON THE BALLOT

SJR 22 - SJR 22 proposes a constitutional amendment that would increase the maximum size of an urban homestead, which is a homestead in a city, town, or village, from one acre to ten acres and require the urban homestead to be composed of either a single lot or several lots that are adjacent to one another. The amendment also would provide that the urban homestead must be used as a home or as both a home and place of business, whereas current law does not require that an urban homestead that is used as a place of business be used also as a home.

Current law further allows a person to secure a home equity loan on their homestead, provided that the loan does not overburden the homestead. That is, the principal amount of the home equity loan, when added to the total of the outstanding principal balances of all other indebtedness secured against the homestead, does not exceed 80 percent of the fair market value of the homestead on the date the extension of credit is made. The

proposed amendment would clarify current law by specifically allowing home equity loans on all or part of urban homesteads of up to ten acres and subject such loans to the same requirement that the refinanced or new loan not overburden the homestead.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the maximum size of an urban homestead to 10 acres, prescribing permissible uses of urban homesteads, and preventing the overburdening of a homestead."

PROPOSITION NO. 7
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 16 - HJR 16 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that if an employee is delinquent in paying court-ordered spousal maintenance, a portion of that employee's wages may be withheld to pay the spousal maintenance. Current law allows such withholding, or garnishment, only for payment of delinquent court-ordered child support.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing garnishment of wages for the enforcement of court-ordered spousal maintenance."

PROPOSITION NO. 8
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 95 - HJR 95 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that the adjutant general, who is appointed by the Governor and who serves as the governing officer of the state military forces, serves as long as the Governor wishes the appointed person to serve in that capacity rather than serving a specific two-year term set by the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the adjutant general serves at the pleasure of the governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 9
ON THE BALLOT

SJR 10 - SJR 10 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to create a judicial compensation committee to make recommendations for salaries for the justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Courts of Appeals, and the District Courts. The amendment would mandate that the recommendations become law if neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives rejects them by majority vote.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to create a judicial compensation commission."

PROPOSITION NO. 10
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 74 - HJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that the commissioner of health and human services, who is appointed by the Governor, serves as long as the Governor wishes the appointed person to serve in that capacity rather than serving a specific two-year term set by the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the commissioner of health and human services serves at the pleasure of the governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 11
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 69 - HJR 69 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize a county, city, town, or other political subdivision to

spend public funds or extend credit to purchase nonassessable property or casualty insurance from a mutual insurance company authorized to do business in Texas. Under current law, a political subdivision is generally prohibited from spending public funds or extending credit to become a stockholder in a corporation but is permitted to purchase nonassessable life, health or accident insurance policies from a mutual insurance company authorized to do business in Texas. This amendment would authorize a political subdivision to also obtain non-assessable property and casualty insurance from such a company.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting a political subdivision to purchase nonassessable property and casualty insurance from an authorized mutual insurance company in the same manner that the political subdivision purchases life, health, and accident insurance."

PROPOSITION NO. 12
ON THE BALLOT

SJR 21 - SJR 21 proposes a constitutional amendment that would exempt from ad valorem taxation a leased motor vehicle that is not used by the lessee primarily to produce income. The amendment would provide that the legislature also may limit the ability of a political subdivision to subject such a vehicle to taxation.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation leased motor vehicles not held by the lessee primarily to produce income."

PROPOSITION NO. 13
ON THE BALLOT

SJR 16 - SJR 16 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to allow the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue and sell general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$400 million in order to finance educational loans to students. The amendment also would authorize the Legislature to limit the amount of interest the bonds can bear and establish procedures for the investment of the bond proceeds. The proposed amendment would specify the method of repaying the bonds.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$400 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students."

PROPOSITION NO. 14
ON THE BALLOT

HJR 29 - HJR 29 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the Legislature to require the board of regents of the state university and boards of trustees or managers of the educational, charitable, and penal institutions of the state, whose members serve six year terms, to be composed of an odd number of three or more board members (for example, 5, 7, or 9 members). The proposed amendment would allow approximately one-third of members of boards whose membership is not evenly divisible by three to be elected or appointed every two years. The amendment also would allow the Legislature to set the composition of constitutionally required boards, whose members serve for a term of six years, to a number divisible by three so that exactly one-third of the board members may be elected or appointed every two years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that a state board, commission, or other agency shall be governed by a board composed of an odd number of three or more