

 <p>THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT</p> <p>(USPS 163-760) P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main (409) 234-5521 CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067 Published Weekly Every Thursday</p>	<p>Produced By: Carol Nelson Jeannine Fearing Shirley Luedecke • Katherine Smith</p>	<p>Subscription Rates</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Single Copy Price: 35-Cents Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas</p> <p>Address Corrections should be sent to P.O. Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067</p>
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Tobacco suit lawyers withdraw claim on fees

Private attorneys who fought for and won a \$17.3 billion settlement against tobacco companies have withdrawn their claim for about \$2.3 billion in legal fees from the state.

The lawyers still will collect about \$3.3 billion over the next 25 years from a national fund paid into by the cigarette industry.

Michael Tigar, a former University of Texas law professor representing the private attorneys, told the *Austin American-Statesman* his clients chose between accepting the 25-year payout or collecting \$2.3 billion in legal fees from the state.

Rylander Touts Improvements

Almost 11 months into her four-year term as Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Carole Keeton Rylander gave a status report on her pledge to improve service to Texas

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

"When I was sworn into office, I said that innovation would be our daily companion and that treating Texas taxpayers as second-class citizens must come to a screeching halt," she said Nov. 18.

Her four-point program, the "Taxpayer Fairness and Accessibility Plan," reshapes the relationship between taxpayers and state government, she said.

Point 1: Interest must be paid. Effective Jan. 1, a new law will require the state to pay interest (1% over the

prime rate) to Texans who overpay their taxes.

Point 2: Settlement authority. A new law gives the comptroller authority to close tax cases more quickly and avoid litigation, saving a projected \$44 million over two years.

Point 3: Self-audits. A new law allows taxpayers with a good track record to perform "managed self-audits," with state oversight, freeing up more time for the comptroller's office to do more audits.

Point 4: Before Rylander took office, taxpayers had to travel to Austin to resolve tax matters with the comptroller. Now, the comptroller's office uses its 52 audit and enforcement bureaus across Texas to conduct administrative hearings, making them more convenient for taxpayers.

Top Teachers Singled Out

Forty outstanding teachers from across Texas were honored by the Texas Education Agency at the annual Teacher of the Year awards luncheon in Austin.

Garnering the highest honors were Mary Beth Castillo Tierce, a teacher at Kostoryz Elementary School in Corpus Christi, and Jack Cody, an English teacher from Graham High School.

Tierce was named Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year and Cody was named Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Cody will be Texas' representative in the National Teacher of the Year Program in which one U.S. teacher will be named National Teacher of the Year next spring.

TNRCC Cites Chevron

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has announced it will take action against the Chevron Chemical facility in Baytown.

Enforcement action relates to unreported emissions on Oct. 7 that may

have contributed to the highest ozone reading in the Houston area in the past 10 years, the agency reported.

According to the TNRCC, the facility violated Texas law by releasing and failing to report excessive emissions of ethylene and propylene, two types of volatile organic compounds.

The violations could be resolved through a fine and/or corrective action.

Other Highlights

•An estimated 10,000 people from UT and Texas A&M gathered on the University of Texas campus Nov. 22 to set aside the schools' 106-year old football rivalry and honor the 12 students killed when the Aggies' four-story bonfire collapsed. Twenty bus loads of A&M students and faculty traveled from College Station for the gathering, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

•Most Texans support student led prayers at athletic events, according to the latest Texas Poll, taken earlier this month, after the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide whether such prayers violate the Constitution.

•The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) challenged drivers to avoid aggressive driving and road rage over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

•DPS and Laredo police officers seized approximately \$3.6 million in cash and 2,795 pounds of cocaine with a street value believed to be \$78 million. Three suspects, all from Nuevo Laredo, were arrested.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Sept. 5, 1974

Members of the **United Methodist Church** in Eagle Lake will kick off their financial campaign to raise funds for the construction of a beautiful new church on a block of property in Eagle Lake featuring an address by **Dr. Charles Allen** of Houston...

J.B. Wesson, an employee of the U.S. Postal Service for 25 years, retired last Friday, Aug. 30, at the close of his working hours and is now enjoying his retirement...

Miss Sophia Morales was named Miss MAYC 1974 at the Beauty Pageant held Saturday at the Eagle Lake Community Center. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Morris Morales. **Susan Olvera** was the first runner up. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. Mike Flores. **Janie Rodriguez**, second runner up, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ignacio Rodriguez; and **Sylvia Barala**, named third runner up, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Barala...

St. Anthony Catholic Church was the setting for a candlelight ceremony uniting **Miss Kim Marie Githero** of Columbus and **Kenneth Wayne Crane** of Garwood on Aug. 23...

Mr. & Mrs. Aulton Kingsley announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Janet Lynn**, to **Walter James Jochech**, son of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred F. Jochech of Houston. A Nov. 2 wedding is planned at First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

St. Mary's Catholic Church of

Nada was the setting for the marriage of **Miss Susan Lyn Waligura** and **Chris F. Dettling** on Aug. 24...

Local students enrolled in the WCJC nurses program are **Linda Shorter** of Eagle Lake, **Mary Wade** and **Patsy Pilcik** of East Bernard and from Garwood, **Janice Korenek**, **Janice Popp** and **Kay Von Heeder**...

Members of the RHS varsity football team are **Everett Moore**, **Kenneth Witte**, **Osbor Cunningham**, **Gregory Clark**, **Donald Perry**, **Paul Wolfe**, **Darrell Gertson**, **Bobby Turner**, **Frederick Jones**, **Arthur Yanez**, **Ricky Heindol**, **Riley Henderson**, **Charles Powell**, **Carl Jones**, **George Moreno**, **James Frazer**, **Ronald Glover**, **James Parker**, **Tony Black**, **Kenneth Wicks**, **Donald Austin**, **Larry Thomas** and **Rufus Tillman**. Managers are **Darrell Dancy** and **Jesse Luna** and trainer is **Daryl Hunt**...

Members of the JV football team are **Milton Anderson**, **Thomas Glover**, **Frankie Rodriguez**, **Dale Thompson**, **Mike Thompson**, **Richard Lujan**, **Kirk Schneider**, **Dwight Rhodes**, **Alvin Brown**, **Charles Cotton**, **Jeff Wagner**, **Jerry Beheler**, **Danny Henderson**, **James Salinas**, **Gale Thompson**, **Mario Yanez**, **Nathaniel Pellerin**, **Clarence Kuykendall**, **Robert Frazer**, **Charles Hatton**, **Jesse Hudson**, **Leroy Johnson** and **Don Johnson**...

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Cook seeking re-election to House

Robert E. "Robby" Cook has announced his intention to seek re-election in the four-county House District 28, including Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Wharton Counties. Cook was first elected to the Legislature in 1996, taking office in 1997.

In his first term in office, Cook focused on important issues that affected rural Texas. At the end of his first legislative session, he was voted "Freshman of the Year" by his colleagues in the Texas House. He also served on the House Agriculture &

Livestock Committee, the House Local & Consent Calendars Committee, and the House Natural Resources Committee during this session. During the interim between sessions, Cook was appointed by House Speaker Laney to serve on the important Interim Committee on Water Resources Development & Management.

During Cook's second term, he continued to work hard to preserve the quality of life that his constituents now enjoy, and ensure a bright future for their children and grandchildren. "I see education, water, and economic development as three of the most critical issues facing all of us who make our livings and raise our families here in rural Texas," Cook commented. During his second legislative session,

he was named Vice-Chairman of the House State Recreational Resources Committee, as well as serving on the House Local & Consent Calendars Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee.

Cook believes that next to being a husband and father, serving in the Texas Legislature has been the most fulfilling experience of his life. "Trying to run a farm, raise a family and serve in the Legislature has been a very time-consuming, but very rewarding experience," said Cook. "I want to continue working for the people of rural Texas to help find solutions to the challenges we face. There is nothing we can't accomplish if we all work together."

Cook is married to the former **Mary Kay Dornak** of El Campo, who works in the healthcare industry. They have two children, **Taylor** and **Jenna**, and the family attends the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church in Eagle Lake.

In addition to his legislative duties, Cook is a full-time rice farmer, and has also served as a councilman and mayor of Eagle Lake. "I have truly enjoyed serving the people of Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Wharton Counties as their State Representative. I hope that I have earned their trust and confidence, and that they will support me as I continue to serve them into the next century," Cook concluded.

Letter to Editor Policy

The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will accept reasonable length letters for publication in the "Letter to the Editor" column under the following guidelines:

1. Letter 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 that their name be withheld from publication, but the information mentioned in 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.

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