



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)
P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main
(979) 234-5521
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,
TEXAS 77434-0067
Published Weekly
Every Thursday

Produced By:
Carol Nelson
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

School districts to split \$120 million surplus

Two hundred and forty-five of Texas' 1,046 public school districts will get a cut of a \$120 million budget surplus, the chairman of the House Education Committee said last week.

State Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, said those 245 districts will share in the surplus because they approved

homestead exemptions larger than the minimum \$15,000 per home the state requires.

The larger the homestead exemption, the less a homeowner pays in school property taxes.

Debbie Graves Ratcliffe, communications director for the Texas Edu-

cation Agency, said there are two reasons for the surplus:

•Students enrollment did not increase as much last year and property values went up.

When the legislature passed the state budget last year, it was anticipated that enrollment would grow by 70,000 students, but it only grew by 50,000.

State Education Commissioner Jim Nelson said, however, "There is no certainty that a surplus of appropriations will exist in future years and even less likelihood in the first year of a state fiscal biennium."

Future Budget Surplus Unlikely

After major media outlets reported that the Senate finance Committee anticipated a \$750 million budget deficit, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry said there actually is enough money in state coffers to meet current obligations.

"Over and above those obligations, I don't expect much of a budget surplus. We are going to be fiscally conservative," Perry said last week.

Higher-than-expected tax revenues from this year will be used to cover about \$610 million in cost overruns in the current 2000-2001 budget.

Perry, who presides over the state Senate, and other lawmakers say they don't expect to have much extra money left to roll into the 2002-2003 budget, which begins Sept. 1, 2001.

Looking forward to the next legislative session, when they will adopt the 2002-2003 budget, lawmakers said the state will be able to pay for school, social service and criminal justice programs even as Texas' population grows, but it will not be able to expand those programs.

In the 1999 legislative session, lawmakers raised pay for classroom teachers and approved a health insurance program for uninsured children. Such increases won't be possible in the near future, they speculated.

Pipeline Firm to Pay Fine

Koch Pipeline Industries has agreed to pay a \$171,570 fine to the state for environmental violations at crude oil storage facilities it operates across Texas.

The company self-reported most of the violations listed in the agreed order. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)



State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

and the company documented various air quality violations at facilities operated by Koch.

Violations included failure to install seals and vapor recovery equipment on tanks; failure to notify the TNRCC of shutdowns, construction startups or malfunctions of stations; failure to pay air emissions fees; and failure to conduct proper record-keeping and inspections at many facilities.

To date, the company has either replaced or repaired the tanks in full compliance with state law, taken tanks out of service, or sold tanks to buyers with full notification about necessary corrective action, the TNRCC said.

Other Highlights

•Lower-sulfur and thus cleaner-burning gasoline will be supplied to the Austin area in May 2001. The TNRCC said using low-sulfur fuel would be about like taking 60,000 vehicles off the streets. The downside: consumers will be paying higher prices at the pump for less-polluting gasoline.

•Lt. Gov. Perry expressed regret over a June 28 traffic stop in Dripping Springs, in which he informed a Department of Public Safety (DPS) trooper, "If you would just let us go, we'd be better." The DPS released a videotape of the incident to the media. Perry's aide, who was driving, received a warning for speeding.

•Hundreds of Texas college students illegally obtained state agency long-distance access codes, shared them via e-mail and word of mouth, and ran up thousands of dollars in long-distance bills, the DPS said. The Capitol Police, a division of DPS, is consulting with prosecutors on what charges to file.

(See Highlights, Page 10)

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1976

Honor graduates at Rice High School are D'Ann Davison, Bob Morgan, Carmen Stallman, Debra Parker, Chris Klekar, Ellana Johnson, Mary Jo Spanihel, Mary Ann Seifert and Janice Kallina. Valedictorian is Cynthia Berger; Salutatorian is Phyllis Korenek...

One of the community's most beloved citizens, Mrs. W.E. (Kate) McRee, closed her eyes to a peaceful rest in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital on April 25...

These four students won UIL

awards recently: Mike Armstrong, Daryl Beheler, Clark Peterson and Bob Morgan...

Tony Black, of the Raider track team, qualified for Regional competition with a second place in the 120 yard hurdles...

Attending the State Meeting of the Texas Association of Future Homemakers of America from Rice High School are Terese Gold, Jo Ann Shimek, Jeanie Gold and Janice Bittner...

Rice High School will have an (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

Taylor to run for JP

Steve Taylor is announcing his candidacy for the position of Colorado County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace, Republican party nominee.

Steve is well known in Eagle Lake and Colorado County, having grown up here; he brings integrity, commitment and compassion to the office.

After graduation from Sam Houston State University, he immediately began a 25-year career in banking, holding various offices from department head to senior vice-president and security officer where he worked regularly with local law enforcement officers.

He was owner of Steve Taylor Ford-Mercury and continues in sales now.

He attended Texas Tech School of banking and took numerous business courses and seminars through the years, the latest in computer skills. Working with the public on a daily basis in Eagle Lake has proven rewarding and has provided him with a knowledge and understanding of many areas and circumstances of life.

He served as president of both the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club,



American Rice Growers Association treasurer and trustee of the United Methodist Church and other volunteer organizations.

He has been married to Beverly for 32 years and they have a daughter, Tess, and a son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Shannon and a baby granddaughter, Addie Alyse.

Generations of both families have lived in Colorado County and they share a lifetime of commitment to Eagle Lake and its future.

Steve is ready to devote his time and energy to the office of Justice of the Peace, conducting each day's business with integrity and professionalism.

If your child suffered **HEART DAMAGE** or **DEATH** due to **HEART ATTACK** (or **SIDS**) while taking:

PROPULSID

CALL
(713) 847-8934
1 (800) 752-2716

Law Offices of Donald W. Puryear
8121 Broadway, Suite 130 Houston, TX 77061
Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Views On Dental Health

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S. 234-3525
Located on 90-A at Laughlin Road

LAUGHING GAS

Want a good laugh? Visit your dentist and have a little "laughing gas". Seriously, folks, I'm referring to a relaxant — nitrous oxide.

A dentist named Horace Wells first used this odorless, colorless gas and realized its value to the dental profession back in the 1840's. Because of its effects, it was soon tagged, "laughing gas".

Today, many dental offices offer, if you desire, a soft nose-piece breathing unit that mixes this gas with pure oxygen. This mixture provides an emphatically safe, relaxing, good feeling (analgesia). You are awake, aware, respon-

sive and not unconscious or asleep as with hospital anesthesia. Its effects reduce apprehension and awareness toward dental procedures. It works, as the circus announcer says, "For children from age 8 to 80."

By simply breathing pure oxygen before you depart the dental office, it immediately removes the nitrous oxide from your system with a return to normal with no after effects — except better teeth.

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

Affordable Dental Care for the Whole Family
•Gentle Family Dentistry •Nitrous Oxide Sedation
Available •All Phases of General Dentistry Including
Cosmetic •Extractions •Wisdom Teeth, Root Canals,
Crowns, Bridges, Dentures & Partials and
Orthodontics •Insurance & New Patients Welcome
Open 8-5, Monday through Friday Saturday: 8-2
MasterCard and Visa Accepted After Hours Call: 409-234-5172

GIVE THE UNITED WAY GIVE THE UNITED WAY GIVE THE UNITED WAY GIVE THE UNITED WAY

Please Join Us

for the Annual United Way

Bridge & Domino

Fun Day & Bake Sale!

This Saturday

July 22; 11 a.m. until ?

Prairie Edge Museum

Corner of Lake & Main, Eagle Lake

A \$10 donation per person gets you lunch, coffee and dessert, plus conversation and all the bridge and dominos you can stand!

...and plenty of homemade baked goods to purchase for your family!

Please Support the Eagle Lake United Way in its many worthwhile projects, and join us for a day of fun!

P.S. Ask a friend to come along!

Charity Does Begin at Home. Please Give Today!

GIVE THE UNITED WAY GIVE THE UNITED WAY GIVE THE UNITED WAY GIVE THE UNITED WAY

To THE EDITOR & You

Thanks from Booster Club

The Rice Raider Booster Club started the year off with a garage sale as a fundraiser.

Thanks to all who supported it. Special thanks to Jim and Bryan Wiese and partners for the use of their building and Kinsey Hoffman and Dale and Matt Hentzell for their help.

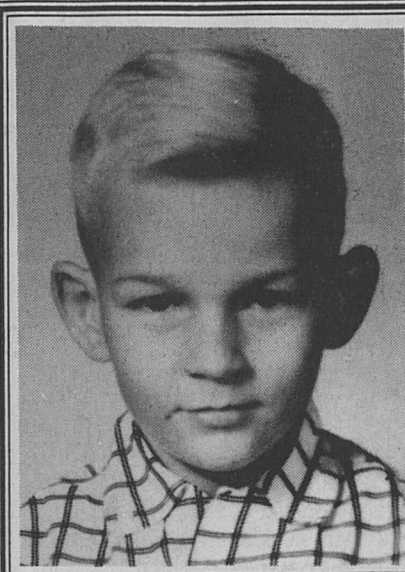
As time for school to start gets closer, it's time for the Booster Club to get going again.

Our athletes have been working out through the summer, so look for a great year of competition.

Watch for Booster Club membership drives and "Meet the Raider" night information.

Please continue to support our athletes.

Denis Hentzell, President
Rice Athletic Booster Club



Happy 50th Birthday

Love, Maggie, Kelli & Henry

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.

OPEN!

Blue Goose RESTAURANT

SPECIALS... WOW!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY SPECIAL!

Frolegs, Catfish & Fried Shrimp

For ONLY \$9.95

A Combination of Any Two... Any Night!

Served with French Fries, Salad & Dinner Rolls. Add \$1.00 for Baked Potato.

OPEN Fri. & Sat. 6:00 P.M.

At the Junction of US 90A & US 71
7 Miles West of Eagle Lake;
10 Miles South of Columbus off I-10
409-234-3597
John & Elaine Fields, Owners

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards