



**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**  
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## Texas is first on Internet with auction

Texas is the first state to have conducted an Internet simulcast of an unclaimed property auction, state Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said last week.

Online bidders from the United Kingdom, New York, California, Connecticut and all corners of Texas were among the successful buyers at the July 22 Unclaimed Property Auction.

"The Internet simulcast of Texas' annual traditional-style Unclaimed Property Auction was an unqualified success," Rylander said.

"Seventy-one auction lots were sold to online bidders for a total of \$34,501. Though no state had ever before held an Internet simulcast of an unclaimed property auction, I am delighted to report that Texas pulled it off without a hitch."

Overall, the auction of jewelry, coins and other items found in abandoned safe deposit boxes raised \$365,769 for public education and other state programs.

The auction channel.com, on its interactive Web site, allowed 384 online bidders from at least 25 states and six countries to compete in real time with approximately 300 bidders on the auction floor in San Antonio.

"Government is stuck in the age of Atari and Commodore, while the rest of the world is on fast-forward to web-based management and e-commerce," Rylander said. "The Unclaimed Property Auction demonstrated that state government can use technology in new ways to give the public the level of service they have come to expect."

### AG Announces Settlements

Attorney General John Cornyn announced settlements with Allstate Insurance companies and their collection agency, Credit Control Services Inc., regarding collections practices against motorists that Allstate believed to be at fault in collisions with



### State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling  
Texas Press Association

its policyholders.

Cornyn's office investigated complaints that the companies used misleading and deceptive tactics to collect auto "subrogation" claims against motorists that Allstate believed to be uninsured.

A subrogation claim results when an insurance company has paid a claim to its own policyholder, then seeks to recover money from the party the company believes was at fault, Cornyn said.

As part of the settlement the companies agreed not to characterize any subrogation claim as a debt, credit obligation or other matter that could affect a person's credit or credit rating report or to disclose any subrogation

claim to any credit bureau.

### Other Highlights

•Larry Faulkner, president of the University of Texas at Austin, last week proposed an end to various students per-credit-hour, plus charging itemized fees, and instead roll all assessments together in a lump and call it "tuition." It is up to the Texas Legislature, which convenes in January, to consider the proposal.

•Liberty County last month became Texas' latest- and 121st- county to be quarantined for Africanized honeybees, said Paul Jackson, chief inspector of the Texas Aspiary Inspection Service, a unit of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. State bee inspectors are monitoring bee trap lines across the state. The bee has spread along a line from south of Houston to south of Lubbock, to El Paso.

•Bo Pilgrim, senior chairman of the board of Pilgrim's Pride poultry processing in Pittsburg, Texas, re-

ceived the Distinguished Texan in Agriculture Award from the Texas A&M University System agriculture program.

•Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs is looking for university or college students to work at the Texas Department of Agriculture's Food and Fiber Pavilion at the state fair, Sept. 29-Oct. 22, and serve as paid interns in the agency's regional offices for the fall semester.

•Claudia Martinez, a student at Benjamin Franklin Middle School in Dallas, drew the winning entry in a contest to design the state's "new millennium" specialty license plate. The plate features a waving Texas flag on a black background, surrounded by stars, and the words, "Texas Reads."

•The Texas Dept. of Public Safety reminds motorists to slow down around schools and to watch for children who may be exiting school buses. Texas law forbids motorists from passing a school bus while its flashing red warning lights are activated.

Let's Look Back...

## 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 1, 1976

Willard A. Shuart, co-owner of Eagle Lake Apartments, is now accepting applications in the new apartment complex located on Church Street...

Al Mahalite and Gerald Popp, representing Rice FFA, attended the Leadership Program in Washington...

Obie Rhodes was installed as new president of the Eagle Lake Evening Lions Club...

Miss Sandra Grammer, bride-elect of Harvey Popp, was the honoree of a miscellaneous shower in the home of Mrs. Allen D. Cassidy...

Tommy Balusek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Balusek of Garwood, attended the State Championship Youth Rodeo in Hallettsville. He qualified to compete in the National Championship Youth Rodeo in Sulphur, La., in August...

David Wintermann of Eagle Lake, long-time director

and senior vice president of Ducks Unlimited, was honored upon retirement from his position by officers and members at a meeting held in Galveston...

Mrs. Robert R. Wells Jr. has returned from a five week trip around the world...

The lovely lakeside home of Mr. & Mrs. Charley Braden was the setting for miscellaneous shower June 18 honoring Miss Debra Frenzell, bride-elect of Terrell Lanier. She and her husband-to-be were also honored with a dinner in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Joe S. Reed Jr. and son Tom on June 20...

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Edward Grigar announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Sheila Beth, to Allan Thomas Valigura, son of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Edward Valigura of El Campo. The wedding vows will be exchanged in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on Aug. 21...

An Eagle Lake student, Carol Ann Wick, was named to the spring semester Dean's List at Sam Houston State University. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Wick...

The Eagle Lake All-Stars are the North Zone Tri-County Babe Ruth League Champions. Members of the team are David Ruiz, Wayne Chisum, John Schneider, Paul Ruiz, Keith Matchski, Thomas Kallina, Arnold Rodriguez, Jack Mann, Mike Morales, Ricky Kristynik, John Grammer, Darrel Appelt and Robert Barrios. The team is coached by Butch Watson.

July 8, 1976

These ten young ladies will compete for the title of Colorado County Farm Bureau Queen on July 9. They are Becky Gertson, Patti Mathis, Julia Thomas, Barbara Baker, Sheryl Smith, Tammy Walker, Shirley Kiel, Patti Stallman, Terri Stech and Donna Stech...

County Sheriff George "Doc" Mueller announced that Leroy Dees of Bernardo has been hired as a special deputy to replace L.E. Kansteiner in that office...

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin F. Faltyssek of El Campo announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Katherine Lynn, to Joe Adam Cash, son of Mr. & Mrs. James G. Cash of Eagle Lake. The couple plans an Aug. 21 wedding at St. Philip's Catholic Church in El Campo...

The sanctuary of St. Philip's Catholic Church in El Campo was the setting for the nuptial mass for Miss Robin Engstrom and Russell Thomas on June 26...

Relatives and friends were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. W.C. (Alma) Alley July 3...

Miss Kathryn McRee was the speaker at the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker commemorating the former Lakeside Sugar Refinery on Lakeside Drive...

The Texas Highway Department completed installation of the new red stop light at the intersection of Main Street and Boothe Drive last week and the light was in full use during the Fourth of July holiday weekend...

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

## Letter to the 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 activities 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.

**2000 Property Tax Rates in Rice Hospital District**

This notice concerns 2000 property tax rates for Rice Hospital District. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>Last year's tax rate:</b>	
Last year's operating taxes	\$ 453,533.09
Last year's debt taxes	\$ .00
Last year's total taxes	\$ 453,533.09
Last year's tax base	\$ 323,952,138
Last year's total tax rate	\$ .14000 /\$100
<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted taxes	\$ 469,405
(after subtracting taxes on lost property)	
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 363,522,015
(after subtracting value of new property)	
- This year's effective tax rate	\$ .12912 /\$100
<b>This year's rollback tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes	
(after subtracting taxes on lost property and	
adjusting for transferred function)	\$ 568,446
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 363,522,015
- This year's effective operating rate	\$ .15637 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$ .16887 /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$ .00000 /\$100
- This year's rollback rate	\$ .16887 /\$100

A hospital district or city that collects the additional sales tax to reduce property taxes, including one that collects the tax for the first time this year, must insert the following lines:

- Sales tax adjustment rate	\$ .02697 /\$100
- Rollback tax rate	\$ .14190 /\$100

**Statement of Increase/Decrease**  
If Rice Hospital Dist. adopts a 2000 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$ .12912 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 1999 taxes by \$ 3,740

**Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances**  
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation	-0-

**Schedule B - 2000 Debt Service**  
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
(expand as needed)				
Total required for 2000 debt service	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Excess collections last year	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Total to be paid from taxes in 2000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100 % of its taxes in 2000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Total Debt Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

**Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax**  
(For hospital districts - cities and counties with additional sales tax to reduce property taxes)  
In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$ 99,041 in additional sales and use tax revenues. For County: The county has excluded any amount that is or will be distributed for economic development grants from this amount of expected sales tax revenue.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at Colorado County CAD 106 Cardinal Lane, Columbus, Tx 78934

Name of person preparing this notice: Billy Youens  
Title: Chief Appraiser  
Date prepared: August 1, 2000

### Did You Know...

•The Roman Emperor Augustus, it's said, was so afraid of thunder he would hide in a closet whenever a thunderstorm came up.

**2000 Property Tax Rates in City of Eagle Lake**

This notice concerns 2000 property tax rates for City of Eagle Lake. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>Last year's tax rate:</b>	
Last year's operating taxes	\$ 251,485.53
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 128,896.73
Last year's total taxes	\$ 380,382.26
Last year's tax base	\$ 60,597,462
Last year's total tax rate	\$ .62772 /\$100
<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted taxes	\$ 378,344
(after subtracting taxes on lost property)	
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 61,051,753
(after subtracting value of new property)	
- This year's effective tax rate	\$ .61971 /\$100
<b>This year's rollback tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes	
(after subtracting taxes on lost property and	
adjusting for transferred function)	\$ 250,138
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 61,051,753
- This year's effective operating rate	\$ .40971 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$ .44248 /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$ .20084 /\$100
- This year's rollback rate	\$ .64332 /\$100

**Statement of Increase/Decrease**  
If City of Eagle Lake adopts a 2000 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$ .61971 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 1999 taxes by \$ 399

**Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances**  
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation	\$17,957
Interest & Sinking	\$21,812

**Schedule B - 2000 Debt Service**  
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
(expand as needed)				
G.O. Bonds, Series 1997	\$50,000	\$47,025	\$ 334	\$ 97,359
Anti. Notes, Series 1996	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,900	\$ 315	\$ 24,215
Total required for 2000 debt service	\$120,000	\$50,925	\$ 649	\$171,574
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Excess collections last year	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Total to be paid from taxes in 2000	\$120,000	\$50,925	\$ 649	\$171,574
- Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 99 % of its taxes in 2000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
- Total Debt Levy	\$120,000	\$50,925	\$ 649	\$172,574

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at Colorado County CAD 106 Cardinal Lane, Columbus, Tx 78934

Name of person preparing this notice: Billy Youens  
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Date prepared: August 1, 2000

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