



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 Lueddecke • 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

The Eagle Lake Headlight reserves the right to reject, edit or omit editorial content and/or advertisement for any reason to conform to the paper's policy.

To THE EDITOR & YOU

We may be facing a water shortage

To the Editor:

As we look forward 20 to 30 years, our region faces the possibility of a water shortage. This possibility is especially serious because cities like San Antonio are leasing up groundwater rights in our area to pump more water than our aquifer can spare.

Fortunately, there are local groups now doing something about it, thanks to leadership from our State Legislators.

One is the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (called "Region K"), created by the State Legislature in 1997. I am the chairman of that group, which represents 14 counties along the Lower Colorado River. Its sole purpose is to plan for our water future so that we have enough water for future generations. (This group is NOT the LCRA.)

Your readers may have seen reports of a good solution recommended by this group. Suggested by the rice farmers, this plan would solve their projected irrigation water shortages during times of drought. Small, off-channel reservoirs would be constructed to capture excess water during floods, which could be used by neighboring areas willing to pay for it. This is new water (downstream of Austin), not water that can be captured by the Highland Lakes. The benefits would extend to small towns in the semi-arid region upstream from the Highland Lakes, and the level of the Highland Lakes will be higher during times of drought.

Second, local groundwater conservation districts are taking a leadership role in protecting the water supply for their areas. Under state law, a groundwater district is the only tool available to protect our aquifer from overpumping under the Rule of Capture. These local districts, too, are taking a positive, far-sighted approach to meeting our future water needs.

I applaud the many local elected officials who have had the vision to support the local water planning efforts.

John E. Burke, Chairman
Lower Colorado Regional
Water Planning Group (Reg. K)

Because I've heard some misinformation and confusion, I want to clear this up for your readers. Under state law, the two groups - water planning groups and groundwater districts - are the best hope, and indeed the only local tools, we have for protecting our water supply.

I applaud the many local elected officials who have had the vision to support the local water planning efforts.

Christmas Parade is Dec. 2

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is just around the corner and the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce invites you to join in the first event of the holiday season the "Spirit of Christmas 2000 Parade" on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 6:45 p.m.

Trophies and rosettes will be awarded.

Bands, marching units, dance and drill teams are invited to perform a four-minute demonstration at the judging stand. If your entry will have sound or music, please advise on your entry form so the entires can be moved apart.

Participants are asked NOT to include "live" Santas on their entry because parents tell us it is difficult to explain to small children why there are so many Santas.

Absolutely nothing may be thrown into the crowd by parade participants. We feel sure that you

or your organization would not want to be held accountable for injury to anyone.

Judging will be prior to the beginning of the parade. The trophies and rosettes will be presented during the parade.

For more information or an entry form, call the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce at 979-234-2780.

We appreciate your participation in this annual event celebrating the holiday season.

(For More Letters, See Page 4)

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.

Texas commissioner of health resigns

Texas Commissioner of Health William R. Archer III, M.D., resigned Oct. 23 amid allegations that he used racial slurs toward a high-ranking African-American female employee.

The Health and Human Services Commission suspended Archer with pay Oct. 19 while investigating his job performance, but after the weekend he resigned.

The suspension followed the release of a tape Dr. Demetria Montgomery secretly made last Feb., six months before she lost her job. According to widely publicized reports on the content of the tape, Archer makes reference to lynchings and said Montgomery's fair skin put her in an "elite" among her race.

Archer, the son of U.S. Rep. Bill Archer, R-Houston, became Texas health commissioner and chief executive officer of the Texas Health Department (TDH) in Sept. 1997.

"Reyn Archer has served as an energetic and dedicated public health official and I thank him for his years of service to the State of Texas," Health and Human Services Commissioner Don Gilbert said. "Notwithstanding today's resignation, a review of outstanding civil rights issues involving the TDH will continue."

Researchers question TAAS gains
A respected Washington, D.C., think tank last week released a report challenging the validity of gains



State Capitol Highlights

By Pauline Word
Texas Press Association

Texas students made on the math and reading portions of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test.

Researchers from the nonprofit RAND Corp. examined Texas students' performance on the TAAS and compared the gains to scores on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), a nationwide test that also measures student performance.

The report "What Do Test Scores in Texas Tell Us?" found slight increases on the NAEP while TAAS scores gained significantly. The report also showed that the gap between Texas' white students and students of color on NAEP is very large and increasing slightly while the gap on TAAS is much smaller.

The report noted that "many schools are devoting a great deal of time to highly specific TAAS preparation" and may not be helping students develop necessary reading and math skills.

Texas Education Agency officials discounted the study and pointed to (See Highlights, Page 3)

NOW OPEN!

BETTER BYTE COMPUTERS 2

1131 Fannin
Columbus, TX 78934
979-733-0087

Software
Games
Printers
Scanners
Upgrades



REPAIRS
HARDWARE
ACCESSORIES
CUSTOM SYSTEMS

Visit our other location at the
SEALY OUTLET CENTER #90
979-877-0087

20 acres. 4 bedrooms. 3 happy kids.



One bank.

Thinking about a home in the country? Be sure you stop by our place first: Capital Farm Credit.

For more than 80 years, we've helped families like yours spread out on a spread of their own. With affordable financing. Down-home service. And an understanding of what a piece of land can do for your peace of mind.

If a place in the country has a place in your heart, Capital Farm Credit can help — whether you want 20 acres for your family's dream home or a little piece of heaven for that weekend retreat. Call us today for more information.



Strength • Dependability • Service
www.capitalfarmcredit.com

Edna Credit Office
808 North Wells - PO Box 580
Edna, Texas 77957-0580
877-782-3530 — 361-782-3539

El Campo Credit Office
201 South Mechanic - PO Box 1634
El Campo, Texas 77437-1634
877-576-8700 — 979-578-8700

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards



Ron Paul ad (Oct. 22, 2000)

Ron Paul says CQ Magazine named him 'One of 50 Most Effective Congressmen.'

CQ says it didn't.

"We didn't feel like it was accurate to say 'most effective.'"

David Rapp
CQ Executive Editor
(quote in *Victoria Advocate*,
October 14, 2000)

These 50 members exemplify a number of different strategies that lawmakers employ to do their work. There is no attempt here to identify the 50 most effective — or for that matter, the most important or most influential — members of Congress.

The Oct. 30, 1999 issue of CQ carried the CQ50 list. This prominent box made it plain that the CQ50 was a list of different approaches, not the most effective members.

Here's what that CQ did say:

"'Dr. No' has cast the lone 'nay' vote on the House floor 42 times in the 105th and 106th Congresses (through Oct. 1). The tally for the other 434 members: 22."

"Paul in 1997 was one of only three House members to vote against a bill to reauthorize an educational program for disabled children.... He was one of only five 'no' votes on a bill to speed adoptions of children in foster care."

"...Paul's rhetoric gets overheated enough to mark him as a fringe character."

We deserve better.



Loy
SNEARY
for U.S. CONGRESS

P.O. Box 187 • Bay City TX 77404 • (979) 245-1327
Pol. adv. pd. by Loy Sneary for Congress Campaign.