



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Court fights over Texas Senate's 'secret' voting

From the Texas Constitution:
Article 2: THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT
Section 1: DIVISION OF POWERS; THREE SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS; EXERCISE OF POWER PROPERLY ATTACH-

ED TO OTHER DEPARTMENT

The powers of the Government of the State of Texas shall be divided into three distinct departments, each of which shall be confided to a separate body of magistracy, to wit: Those which are Legislative to one; those

which are Executive to another, and those which are Judicial to another; and no person, or collection of persons, being of one of these departments, shall exercise any power properly attached to either of the others, except in the instances herein expressly permitted.

You think putting together something your child got for Christmas is hard, try reading the Texas Constitution.

It is so big no one really knows how many words it contains. Last count on the number of amendments was 370.

But like the sometimes poorly written directions that come with items requiring set up or assembly, the 1876 Texas Constitution is our official rulebook.

Last week's court fight over whether the Senate could vote in secret for its new presiding officer centered on the fundamental concept of the separation of powers, outlined in italic above.

If you're interested in the legislative process, there's no better place to start than taking a look at Texas' organic law. The easiest way to do it is to go to the state's web page at www.capitol.state.tx.us/txconst.toc.html.

This online version of the Constitution is searchable. Bookmark the site for future reference.

Oh peas, say it ain't so

If you're a longtime Texan, chances are you had a small bowl of black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck in 2001.

For generations, we Texans have believed that was an old Southern tradition dating back to what some still



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

refer to as The War of Northern Aggression.

Now, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department seems to have declared open season on this venerable tradition. In the Jan. issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine*, writer

C.F. Eckhardt of Sequin flatly declares the black-eyed pea tradition is a hoax.

According to Eckhardt, the black-eyed-peas-for-good-luck-concept was cooked up in 1947 by one Elmore Torn, head of the Henderson County-Athens Chamber of Commerce.

Torn, father of actor Rip Torn, concocted the tradition to help a food company in Henderson County sell canned black-eyed peas, Eckhardt said. If the tradition is indeed no older than 1947, Torn's scheme succeeded beyond expectations.

Eckhardt, while admitting he likes black-eyed peas, says early Southerners thought them much more suitable for horse feed than human consumption. The notion that good luck can be assured by eating black-eyed peas, he believes, is merely the result of one man's clever public relations gimmick.

With the 77th Legislature about to convene, many more weighty issues lie ahead, but the prediction here is that we have not heard the last of this. Texans don't turn loose of tradition lightly.

To The Editor & You

American Legion and children send thanks

Members of Eagle Lake's American Legion Post 108 and many children in this community are truly grateful for the generous contributions to this year's Toys for Children in Needy Homes program.

Bags of toys, canned soda and candy were presented to over 300 children on Dec. 23.

"You helped make Christmas 2000 a really merry and enjoyable time," stated Fred R. Frnka, Post 108 campaign chairman.

Thanks are extended to all who donated toys, stuffed animals, canned soda, candy and/or cash with which to buy toys, etc. Legionnaires also thank the Prairie Edge Museum for being the distribution point and the Furniture

Shope, Struss Auto Supply and Wallis State Bank for serving as collection sites.

Special mention goes to the *Eagle Lake Headlight* for publicity and a donation; Eagle Lake Middle School students for many bags of toys; service clubs such as the Rotary, Salvation Army and Lions Club for large cash donations; one local family, Johnny and Theresa Galvan, brought over 100 toys; Eagle Lake Drugstore for many donations of soda water and toys; and many, many private citizens and families for their donations.

"You all helped make the Toys for Children in Needy Homes a really successful project," concluded Post Commander Philip Mehner.

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Bible Verse of the Week

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." — Luke 2:14

Submitted by Neddy Phillips



Keeping an Eye on Texas

We're into eating out

According to the National Restaurant Association's 2001 Restaurant Industry Forecast, nationwide, Americans are expected to spend more than \$1 billion per day dining out. The strength of the economy as well as more disposable income are contributing to the rise in restaurant sales across the country.



State	2001 Sales Forecast	Increase from 2000
Texas	\$22.6 billion	6.7%
Louisiana	4.1 billion	6.3
Oklahoma	3.3 billion	5.3
Arkansas	2.1 billion	5.2

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), the National Restaurant Association.



Observando a Texas

Estamos en la onda de comer afuera

De acuerdo con la Asociación Nacional de Restaurantes, el pronóstico de esta industria para el 2001, en toda la nación, dice que se espera que la gente gaste más de \$1 billón de dólares por día en comer afuera. La solidez de la economía y también que haya más dinero circulante son factores que contribuyen al aumento en el negocio de los restaurantes a través de todo el país.



Estado	Pronostico Para El 2001	Aumento Comparado Con El Año 2000
Texas	\$22.6 billones	6.7%
Louisiana	4.1 billones	6.3
Oklahoma	3.3 billones	5.3
Arkansas	2.1 billones	5.2

ORIGENES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Contralora de Cuentas Públicas de Texas (www.window.state.tx.us) y Asociación Nacional de Restaurantes.



They'd squawk if they knew what urbanization means to their survival.

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"Working Together to Get You Back in Action"

Patient: My physician is in Wharton and wants me to have Physical Therapy in Wharton several times a week. Do I have to go to Wharton for treatment?

Physical Therapist: No! YOU have the right to choose where you will receive treatment. Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services offers a variety of services including Speech and Occupational Therapy. Why drive to Wharton, when you have a quality facility in your hometown?

Patient: I recently had a total knee replacement. Would Physical Therapy help my recovery, and is your facility qualified to treat patients with total knee replacements?

Physical Therapist: Yes! Physical Therapy is a vital part of your return to function following total knee replacement. Treatments will help reduce pain/swelling, increase range of motion/strength, and enable you to walk without limping. Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services has provided Physical Therapy treatment to many patients with total knee replacements, and has the necessary equipment to maximize recovery.

Patient: My child just had surgery following an injury during football. Do you perform sports medicine rehab for athletes?

Physical Therapist: Yes! Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services has licensed therapists with experience in sports medicine rehab and has been providing Physical Therapy services to local athletes for many years.

Patient: I have Medicare insurance. Does it cover Physical Therapy Services?

Physical Therapist: Yes! Rice Medical Center also accepts Medicaid, Workman's Compensation, Private Insurance, and Private Payment.

Patient: My husband recently had a total hip replacement and his physician recommended exercise in a swimming pool for the best means of recovery. Does your facility provide aquatic therapy?

Physical Therapist: No! But, one of our satellite clinics located just a short drive away in Columbus, Texas, has provided Aquatic Therapy for over five years.

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