



## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 103-760)  
P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main  
979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067  
Published Weekly Every Thursday

## Produced By:

Carol Nelson • Cathy Fearing  
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

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 &amp; YOU

## Textbooks teach Christian values are responsible for environmental crisis

Having just returned from testifying before the State Board of Education, I am so upset that this may not be a good time to be writing to the newspaper, but I fear, if I don't write now while my emotions are frayed, that when I calm down, I will decide like many others, "There is just nothing we can do!"

Now I cannot guarantee you that we can stop this but, I want to at least give you the option to make that decision for yourself.

I appeared with about 40 other citizens, (NASA scientist, engineers, physicist, teachers and just ordinary citizens), to testify concerning the information contained in textbooks that are up for adoption by the Board. I had reviewed three textbooks personally and I was horrified with what I found. However, when I heard the testimonies from all these others and grasp the magnitude of the problem, it

was overwhelming.

I will just quote two passages from a textbook I reviewed, *Environmental Science*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers. On page 31 it states, "Some scholars think the early Christian teachings shaped many people's attitudes toward nature, which fostered the creation of exploitive systems of science and technology that are largely responsible for the destruction of the environment..."

To these world planners just to control population growth is not longer adequate, on page 170 they state, "Many others, however, argue that in order to live sustainable on the Earth, we must eventually reduce human numbers through humane, socially acceptable means."

I hope this is as alarming to you, as it was to me! I do not find such language acceptable in casual conversation, let alone being promoted in the classrooms of Texas.

I am pleased to report that Columbus ISD does not offer an Environmental Science curriculum. However, those who reviewed the 6-8 Science books that are up for adoption did not paint a much better picture. The books are rampant with fear mongering that the planet is about to collapse. They espouse Evolution as factual truth with no recognition of the credible field of Creation Science. They encourage students to participate in environmental activism rather than teaching the basics of sound science. Instead of critical thinking skills the books seem motivated to bring the students to a predetermined conclusion that our only hope is a one world government.

(See Textbooks, Page 4)

## Gramm will run, then he won't run

Last week, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm's spokesman said there was no truth to the rumor that the three-term lawmaker would not seek re-election.

A few days later, on Tuesday, Sept. 4, Gramm announced he would not be running.

Gramm's emotional announcement proved again that in Austin, Washington and elsewhere, the old saying that "where there's smoke, there's fire" is as useful a rumor assessment tool as there is.

The announcement by the College Station economics professor that he was out of the Senate race was big news in Texas and nationally.

From the national perspective, it means that three Republican Senators will be out of the picture in the next election. With the current 50-49 Democratic lead in the Senate (there's one independent), the stakes in the next election are enormous to both parties.

Here in Texas, Gramm's absence from the ballot will take some of the luster off the Republican ticket. Political analysts say it will be particularly harmful to Gov. Rick Perry's campaign.



## State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox  
Texas Press Association

Since Gramm's announcement, there's been more calculating going on in Austin among potential candidates and their potential supporters than in all the state's mainframe computers combined.

With some potential candidates likely to readjust their electoral scope to focus on the Senate race they may have contemplated, there are so many trial balloons floating in the air over Austin it looks like someone decided to have an international lighter-than-air competition here.

By party, these are some of the possible Senatorial candidate names making the rounds:

**Democrats:**  
•Former Attorney General Dan Morales

•Current Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk  
•U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen of Houston

**Republicans:**  
•Rep. Henry Bonilla of San Antonio

•Attorney General John Cornyn  
•Land Commissioner David Dewhurst

•Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander  
•Railroad Commissioner Tony Garza

•Harris County Judge Robert Eckels

Obviously, if some of these folks decide to seek Gramm's Senate slot, room will be made for other candidates.

Democratic State Rep. Tom Ramsay of Mt. Vernon, for instance, is said to be pondering a race for agriculture commissioner.

This is the thinking behind that: If Dewhurst decides to change his electoral priorities, Republican Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs may enter the lieutenant governor's race. So might former state Supreme Court Justice Greg Abbott.

And while Tony Sanchez and Marty Akin will be duking it out for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, Democrat John Sharp looks as if he has a lock on the nomination for lieutenant governor.

If Cornyn decides to seek Gramm's seat, announced Democratic challenger Kirk Watson's odds go up. Watson is currently mayor of Austin.

No matter how the ballots shape up, thanks to Gramm's announcement, 2002 is going to be a memorable year in Texas political history.

From the office of  
State Rep. Robby Cook...

## How to pay for schools

State Rep. Robby Cook announced a joint select committee of State Senators and Representatives and members of the public has been appointed to conduct a comprehensive review of the public school financing system in Texas.

Cook applauded both Speaker Pete Laney and Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff for placing an important emphasis on Texas' public schools and how they are financed, emphasizing that it is an important issue the legislature will need to address during the 2003 session.

"Education is a top priority of lawmakers. It is vital that public schools in Texas receive proper funding," stated Cook. The committee has been assigned the task of completing a thorough study of the structure of the Texas public school finance system, including facilities and transportation issues, the funding method for public schools, and the criteria used to determine state payments to school districts.

The select committee will also consider all of the equity issues affecting local school districts and the school finance system, in addition to conducting a complete analysis of the revenue sources for funding public schools and Texas' property tax system. The committee will compile its report, including recommendations for changes in school finance laws, and submit their findings by Nov. 15, (See Schools, Page 3)

## 'Judge me or not'

## To the community of Eagle Lake:

Recently, there was an accident involving myself, Jo Fuentes, and a little girl.

The little girl was being chased by a dog and ran out in front of my car. It was an accident and the people of Eagle Lake made it seem as if I meant to hit the little girl.

I was very concerned about the child's welfare and I am glad she's fine, but I am very upset and hurt over everything that was said about me.

First of all, I was not drunk, and yes, I do drink but, who doesn't? Second of all, people always want

to make everything racial and it shouldn't be like that because this world is bad enough. Yes, I am Hispanic and proud to be a Hispanic.

I was also upset because a lot of older people, so called Christians, lied and were also being very ugly and didn't even know the real story.

I am what I am but, I love the Lord and I'm not ashamed to say that.

And in the end, God takes care of the wrong-doers. The only one I answer to is God.

So Eagle Lake, judge me not. I'm only keeping it real. Psalms 18:39.  
Jo Fuentes

## PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
Special Election  
NOVEMBER 6, 2001PROPOSITION 1  
(HJR 52)

Proposition 1 would amend the constitution to relinquish the state's claim to certain disputed land in Bastrop County. The amendment would confirm legal title to that land, excluding any mineral interests, to the individuals who hold a disputed title to the land. The amendment would prevent a loss of title by people who bought and paid for property that was never transferred by the state because of faulty surveys.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the clearing of land titles by the release of a state claim of its interest to the owners of certain land in Bastrop County."

PROPOSITION 2  
(SJR 37)

Proposition 2 would amend the constitution to establish the process for issuing up to \$175 million of state general obligation bonds and notes to provide aid to counties for access road projects to serve border colonias. Generally, a colonia is an economically distressed geographic area with inadequate public services (such as water supplies, sewer services, or paved roads) in a county without adequate resources to provide such services. These projects could include the construction of access roads, the acquisition of materials used in maintaining those roads, and projects related to the construction of those roads, such as road drainage. The Texas Transportation Commission, in consultation with the Governor, would be authorized to determine what constitutes a border colonia for purposes of selecting the counties and projects that would receive assistance.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of state general obligation bonds and notes to provide financial assistance to counties for roadway projects to serve border colonias."

PROPOSITION 3  
(SJR 47)

Proposition 3 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to exempt green coffee and raw cocoa held in Harris County from property taxes in order to qualify Harris County as an exchange port for coffee by the New York Board of Trade. The authorization of exemption would not apply to any other county.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation raw cocoa and green coffee that is held in Harris County."

PROPOSITION 4  
(HJR 1)

Proposition 4 would amend the constitution by setting the term of the fire fighters' pension commissioner at four years. The constitution currently provides that the duration of all offices not otherwise fixed by the constitution may not exceed two years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for a four-year term of office for the fire fighters' pension commissioner."

PROPOSITION 5  
(SJR 32)

Proposition 5 would amend the constitution to allow a municipality to donate outdated or surplus equipment, supplies, or other materials used in fighting fires to an underdeveloped country. Current state law does not allow anything of value belonging to the state or its political subdivisions to be donated to another nation.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate outdated or surplus firefighting equipment or supplies to underdeveloped countries."

PROPOSITION 6  
(HJR 45)

Proposition 6 would amend the constitution to require the governor to call a special session of the legislature so that the legislature can appoint presidential electors when the governor determines that it is reasonably likely that the outcome of the election for a presidential candidate's electors will not be clearly determined in time before the federal deadline to cast their votes. Under current law, when the people vote for a particular candidate for president, in reality they are voting for that candidate's electors who will meet to cast their votes for president. If the electors are not determined by the certification date, no electoral votes may be cast for the state. The proposed amendment ensures that the state's electoral votes will be cast.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment requiring the governor to call a special session for the appointment of presidential electors under certain circumstances."

PROPOSITION 7  
(HJR 82)

Proposition 7 would amend the constitution to authorize the Veterans' Land Board to issue and sell up to \$500 million of additional general obligation bonds to finance additional home mortgage loans to veterans. Additionally, the proposed amendment would authorize the Veterans' Land Board to use assets from the land and housing assistance funds to create, operate, and improve veterans' cemeteries.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to issue up to \$500 million in general obligation bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for veterans' housing assistance and to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide for veterans cemeteries."

PROPOSITION 8  
(HJR 97)

Proposition 8 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to authorize the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue and sell up to \$850 million of general obligation bonds. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds would pay for construction and repair projects or for the purchase of needed equipment by the General Services Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the

Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Parks and Wildlife Department, the adjutant general's department, the Texas School for the Deaf, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Safety, the State Preservation Board, the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Historical Commission, or the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of up to \$850 million in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for construction and repair projects and for the purchase of needed equipment."

PROPOSITION 9  
(HJR 47)

Proposition 9 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to provide for filling vacancies in the legislature without an election if only one person is a qualified candidate in the election to fill the vacancy. Under current law, a special election must be held to fill a vacancy in the legislature even if there is only one qualified candidate.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the filling of a vacancy in the legislature without an election if a candidate is running unopposed in an election to fill a vacancy."

PROPOSITION 10  
(SJR 6)

Proposition 10 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to exempt certain items of personal property from property taxation by political subdivisions of the state if the property is warehoused temporarily in a location in Texas to be assembled, stored, manufactured, processed, fabricated, or repaired and then forwarded to another location inside or outside Texas. The proposed amendment would authorize a political subdivision that imposes ad valorem taxes, at its option, to tax this type of property after a local public hearing on the matter.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to promote equal tax treatment for products produced, acquired, and distributed in the State of Texas by authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property held at certain locations only temporarily for assembling, manufacturing, processing, or other commercial purposes."

PROPOSITION 11  
(HJR 85)

Proposition 11 would amend the constitution to allow a schoolteacher, a retired schoolteacher, or a retired school administrator who serves as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district, including a water district, to receive compensation for serving on such a governing body. Currently, state employees or other individuals who are compensated directly or indirectly from state funds are barred from receiving a salary for such service.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to allow current and retired public school teachers and retired public school administrators to receive compensation for serving on the governing bodies of school districts, cities, towns, or other local governmental districts, including water districts."

PROPOSITION 12  
(HJR 75)

Proposition 12 would amend, repeal, or relocate several sections of the current

constitution to improve the clarity, organization, and consistency of the constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to eliminate obsolete, archaic, redundant, and unnecessary provisions and to clarify, update, and harmonize certain provisions of the Texas Constitution."

PROPOSITION 13  
(SJR 2)

Proposition 13 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to authorize a board of trustees of an independent school district to donate real property and improvements formerly used as a school campus in order to preserve that property. The board may make the donation if the board determines that the property has historical significance, that the donation will help to preserve the property, and that the school district no longer needs the property for educational purposes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize the board of trustees of an independent school district to donate certain surplus district property of historical significance in order to preserve the property."

PROPOSITION 14  
(HJR 44)

Proposition 14 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to authorize a taxing unit, other than a school district, to exempt travel trailers from property taxation as long as the travel trailers are lawfully registered with the state and are not held or used for the production of income.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to authorize taxing units other than school districts to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers that are not held or used for the production of income."

PROPOSITION 15  
(SJR 16)

Proposition 15 would amend the constitution to create the Texas Mobility Fund, which would be administered by the Texas Transportation Commission. The Fund would finance the construction, acquisition, and expansion of state highways and would pay a portion of the costs of public toll roads and other public transportation projects. The legislature may reserve specific sources of state revenue for the Fund and may authorize the Commission to guarantee the payment of any obligations or credit agreements with the full faith and credit of the state. The attorney general shall determine the legality of any such obligations or credit agreements.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas Mobility Fund and authorizing grants and loans of money and issuance of obligations for financing the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, operation, and expansion of state highways, turnpikes, toll roads, toll bridges, and other mobility projects."

PROPOSITION 16  
(HJR 5)

Proposition 16 would amend the constitution to reduce the waiting period required for a valid home improvement lien on a homestead from 12 days to 5 days. Currently, a lien may not attach to a homestead for a home improvement loan if the homeowner executed a contract for the improvements less than 12 days after applying for the loan. In addition, the proposed amendment would

authorize the conversion and refinancing of a personal property lien secured by a manufactured home to a lien on a homestead.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment prescribing requirements for imposing a lien for work and material used in the construction, repair, or renovation of improvements on residential homestead property and including the conversion and refinancing of a personal property lien secured by a manufactured home to a lien on real property as a debt on homestead property protected from a forced sale."

PROPOSITION 17  
(HJR 53)

Proposition 17 would amend the constitution to allow the state to relinquish claim to certain state land and to clear title defects for persons who claim title to those lands. The proposed amendment would apply to land whose owners have disputed title to the land, but for which no patent from the state, giving clear title to the land, was ever issued. Among other requirements, all of the taxes due on the land must have been paid. Under current law, there is no procedure allowing the state to settle title disputes without a constitutional amendment for each piece of land in dispute.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to settle land title disputes between the state and a private party."

PROPOSITION 18  
(SJR 49)

Proposition 18 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to create a program to consolidate and standardize the collection, deposit, reporting, and payment of criminal and civil court fees. If the legislature creates such a program, any new fees imposed by the legislature may not take effect before January 1 of the following year, unless an earlier effective date is approved by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to promote uniformity in the collection, deposit, reporting, and remitting of civil and criminal fees."

PROPOSITION 19  
(HJR 81)

Proposition 19 would amend the constitution to allow the Texas Water Development Board to issue up to \$2 billion of additional general obligation bonds. The Board issues bonds to pay for water supply projects, water quality enhancement projects, flood control projects, state participation in water and wastewater facilities, and projects for economically distressed areas. Current law limits the amount of bonds that the Board can issue.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$2 billion."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el 6 de noviembre de 2001. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis por llama al 1/800/252/8683 o por escribir al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.

PUBLISHED BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY CUELLAR, Ph.D.

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards