



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)
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

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ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MONDAY

Subscription Rates

| | |
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| 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

Homeowner's insurance is campaign issue

The cost of homeowner's insurance has shown up as a rider on this year's list of gubernatorial campaign issues.

Republican incumbent Rick Perry has asked Attorney General John Cornyn to look into the pricing practices of the larger companies providing home insurance coverage.

And Democratic contender Tony Sanchez has said he would like to see more attention paid to regulating rates.

The real winner in this contest may be the homeowner, since both party candidates seem sympathetic to the problem.

The insurance industry says it is just being used for political purposes. "We're an easy target," said Rick Gentry, head of the Insurance Council of Texas.

The industry has said its premium increases can be attributed to catastrophic losses in Texas last year and the year before, including a sizable blow from Tropical Storm Allison.

Though the Texas Department of Insurance does regulate rates, there is a big loophole. A law designed to enable high-risk and hard-to-insure property coverage allows insurance companies to have unregulated affiliates. That has resulted in about 95% of policies sold in Texas being unregulated.

One possibility being kicked around is legislation that would in effect put the state in the homeowner's



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

insurance business.

TKO for Tyson in Metroplex

The Texas Motor Speedway could have been a contender for the Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis fight, but TMS General Manager Eddie Gossage has said no to hosting the touted heavyweight bout.

"With all the baggage that Tyson carries with him, it's just not worth it for us to be involved," Gossage told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Gossage's decision still does not mean that a Tyson-Lewis fight is down for the count in the Lone Star State.

Tyson manager Shelly Finkel said Tyson is interested in San Antonio's Alamodome as a possible match venue.

Location aside, whether Tyson and Lewis duke it out in Texas depends on the action of a state agency—the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Agency director Bill Kuntz has made no comment on whether he leans toward approving a license for Tyson, who was convicted of rape in Indiana in 1992.

From TNRC to TCEQ

For the acronymically challenged, that's Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The last session of the Legislature mandated the agency name change, effective next Sept. 1. That gave time for department personnel to redo the agency's stationery, signage and other materials bearing the old name.

Don't call us...

Evidently a lot of Texans don't like calls from telephone solicitors.

Under a new law setting up a state don't-call list, the Public Utility Commission began signing up people for the list on Jan. 1.

So far, more than 200,000 folks have said, in effect, "Don't call us, we'll call you."

Though there are some exclusions, companies are barred from calling people who have placed their names on the list.

It costs \$2.25 to get on the list, which is updated quarterly.

The phone bank companies have to pay \$45 for the lists.

Rep. Cook appointed to Select Committee

Last Nov., the voters approved four constitutional amendments allowing state agencies to issue bonds for a variety of important projects. The projects include: development of water supplies, veterans housing, facilities construction and repairs, and road projects in the colonias. The total amount of the bonds authorized is over \$3.5 million.

In order to assure the proper disposition of the bond proceeds, Speaker James R. "Pete" Laney announced the establishment of The Select Committee on State Bond Revenues.

The Committee shall obtain and review all information related to the issuance of bonds and to the disposition of proceeds from bonds issued pursuant to amendments to the Texas Constitution approved by the voters in Nov. 2001.

The review shall be designed to provide assurance that legislative purposes are properly implemented.

Members of the Select Committee are: Rep. Jim Pitts (R-Waxahachie); Chair; Reps. Robby Cook (D-Eagle Lake), David Counts (D-Knox City), Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas), Kino Flores (D-Mission), Pat Haggerty (R-El Paso), Bob Hunter (R-Abilene), Tracy

Bible Verse of the Week

"We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." — 1 Tim. 6:7

Submitted by
Neddy Phillips

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Feb. 2, 1978

Eagle Lake Police Chief **Bufford Ashley**, with the help of fellow officers and Game Warden **Sam Center**, investigated a burglary at G&D Little Grocery. Thirty-four minutes after the robbery, three persons were arrested in a pickup truck two miles north of Rosenberg.

Bill Stiles announced this week his candidacy for re-election to the position of Commissioner of Pct. No. 4 in Colorado County in the Democratic Primary Election coming up May 6.

Citizens in the area are invited to meet with Gov. **Dolph Briscoe** in an informal reception Feb. 7 at the Holiday Inn Jr. in Columbus.

Patti Mathis, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. **James A. Mathis** of Eagle Lake, was on the Dean's List at the University of Texas.

Bill Appelt, manager of **J.R. (Jimmy) Reel Hunting Club**, said the club also has a very successful season. The club also has the first professional

woman goose guide, Mrs. **Darla Ellis**.

Eagle Lake Headlight Editor **Fred R. Frnka** visited with Lt. Governor **William P. "Bill" Hobby** at a reception in the Lt. Governor's honor at the Wharton Country Club.

Mr. & Mrs. David R. Fry Sr. announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Vera Jean**, to **Charles Haynes**, son of Mr. & Mrs. **Richard Haynes** of Sugar Land. The wedding is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 11 at the Greater Union Baptist Church in Eagle Lake.

Frank Sherrer was honored with a reception at the local CP&L Office upon his retirement after 38 years of service.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Higgins and **Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sunderman** returned from a delightful trip to the Valley.

Funeral services were held Jan. 18 for **Robert Lee Spradley**, 89, father of **Alton C. Spradley** of this city.

Friends in the community will regret to learn of the passing of **Calvin Riggins**, prominent businessman, who passed away Jan. 28 at his home in Matthews.

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Wesselski of Nada are the happy parents of a baby boy born Jan. 15 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. He has been named **Chad Anthony**.

Miss Margaret Wilcox, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. **Robert Wilcox**, will be presenting her Junior Piano Recital at Southwest University in Georgetown on Feb. 5 in the Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center.

Feb. 4, 1954

Rumors say an \$8 million synthetic plant is likely here.

An auto collided with an Eagle Lake school bus; no one was hurt.

The Feb. grand jury returned 17 indictments.

Infant son of **W.L. Brumbelows**, **Richard Lee**, died Wednesday morning.

B.H. McElhinney, manager of

Universal Motor Co., accepted 4 letter award for the third straight year.

Last rites were held for Mrs. **Lewis Austin**.

James D. Seymour is the new Red Cross finance chairman.

W.E. Lenhart, president of the First National Bank, announced that **G.H. Crane** of Dallas has been elected as a new vice president of the bank.

Dial phones are a step nearer to reality.

Ralph Payne took basic training in a tank battalion.

Mrs. LaVerne Barnhill is a new teacher at Eagle Lake Elementary. She will replace Mrs. **R.E. Beane**.

Commander **Fred R. Frnka** and fellow Legionnaires were pleasantly surprised to find their project for the day - the construction of a new fence along the south line of the pool - completed. The Legion thanks Mayor **Thomas** for the big contribution to the project.

Gless Farm Equipment added to the Ferguson line.

Michael Jerry Ware was born Feb. 2nd to Mr. & Mrs. **J.H. Ware**.

Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Kreidler and family completed moving from Collyville into the **Bob Thomas** home which they recently purchased on the corner of Clark and Mills Streets.

Mrs. Emily Matcek and son of **Garwood** are new operators of the Gingham Girl Cafe.

Eagle completed the first round undefeated; nosing out Smithville. **Wayne Brasher** was high scorer with 14.

M.L. Briscoe was named Rotary president and **Fred R. Frnka** will assume Mr. Briscoe's position of vice president.

New directors named in the election were **Howard Johnson**, re-elected, **Jack Grieves**, **Ted Brunner** and **P.V. Werner**. **Hargrove Smith**, retiring president, will complete the seven-man board.

Eagle Lake Chorists, led by **Bandmaster O.N. Campbell**, will be on KUHT-TV Feb. 25th.

Lenten Luncheons now underway

The 6th annual Community Lenten Luncheons will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday through March 25 in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church (UMC).

Each week will feature special music and a guest speaker.

A sliced meat and cheese tray, crackers, sandwich bread and hot cornbread will be provided by volunteers of the Eagle Lake UMC.

Volunteers from other churches in the community will provide an array of soups and cookies each Monday.

A love offering will be accepted with at least half of the proceeds going to the Eagle Lake Food Pantry.

The Lenten Luncheon have evolved into a Christian community-wide outreach with the involvement of many local churches.

The luncheons have blossomed

from a total offering of \$385.17 in 1997, the first year, to a total offering of \$1,548 in 2001, \$858 of which went to the Food Pantry.

In 2001, 430 persons were served during the six luncheons.

The luncheons are a wonderful time for food, fellowship, music and meditation.

Please join us... and bring a friend!

NCF gets \$500,000 challenge grant

The McDonald's Corporation announced last month that it will give a \$500,000 challenge grant to the National Cattleman's Foundation (NCF) for continued research of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), more commonly known as Mad Cow Disease. The challenge solicited a positive response from U.S. cattlemen, who invested an additional \$600,000 for research.

"Although there have been no cases of BSE in the U.S., it is crucial that the U.S. stay abreast of new scien-

tific information that will keep our nation free of this disease," said **Leon Hattermann**, president of Colorado County Farm Bureau.

A study released by Harvard University confirmed that U.S. efforts to steer the nation clear of BSE, including bans on the importation of beef from any BSE infected country and

tighter feeding regulations, have been necessary and appropriate.

Thousands of documented BSE cases have been reported worldwide, with most occurring in Europe. "This grant is important for research initiatives that continue to keep America BSE free," said NCF President **Don Butler**.

Time Warner has new GM

Time Warner Cable has appointed **Laura Trowbridge** as the new general manager (GM) of its South Central operation, which serves 10,000 customers in Cuero, Yoakum, Gonzales, Columbus and Eagle Lake.

Trowbridge has worked more than six years in cable system management, financial and budgetary control, sales, marketing and customer service with Charter Communications in Indiana.

"Laura brings both experience and enthusiasm to her position. She is responsible for all aspects of the operation, with a focus on ensuring our customers in the South Central region get the very best customer service," said **Ray McCabe**, Vice President of Operations.

"Time Warner has invested more than \$5 million in the region to upgrade the cable plant. Laura will or-

chestrate the rollout of the new Digital services made possible by that investment."

CAD changes meeting time

The time of Colorado County Appraisal District's (CAD) regular monthly meetings has been changed from 1:30 p.m. to 4.

The meeting will still be held the second Tuesday of each month.

This change was made to enable working taxpayers to be able to make the meetings.

A great part of CAD's business will then be conducted after 5 p.m.

This time change should also create fewer conflicts for working board members, as well as representatives of all taxing authorities.

Night meetings were discussed as a possibility, but a board decision considered a night meeting to be in conflict with other district meetings as well as community functions.

For more information or if you have questions, call 979-732-8222.

To THE EDITOR & YOU

Courage to Change

Daily practice is helping me become more tolerant of other people. For example, when I take my own inventory and examine my motives, I recognize the same shortcomings I once eagerly pointed out in others. It is easier to accept the limitations of others when I acknowledge my own.

I see now that my thinking has often been distorted, by behavior inconsistent. If my perceptions of myself have been so inaccurate, how reliable can my perceptions of others be?

I really don't know what anyone else should think, feel, or do. Therefore, I can no longer justify intolerance.

Submitted by The Evolution Center

We Have CRAWFISH!

Every Friday and Saturday

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