

## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)  
P.O. Box 67 - 220 East Main  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067  
979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522  
Published Weekly-Every Thursday

## Produced and Distributed 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 & Egypt)	\$12.00
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties	\$13.50
Other Texas Residents	\$15.00
Outside of Texas; Inside U.S.	\$16.50

Foreign Rates Available By Request

## Single Copy Price : 35¢

Second class postage paid  
at Eagle Lake, Texas

## Address Corrections

should be sent to P.O. Box 67  
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0068

## To The Editor &amp; You

## My first taste of consolidation politics

I have lived in or near Eagle Lake for over ten years and I've had my first taste of the politics surrounding the consolidation issue. All I know is that I want to make sure my children are afforded the best education possible.

I think most of us would sacrifice quite a bit to insure that our children's educational needs are met.

If you were to look at this from a purely financial stand point, supporting three campuses through the eighth grade must be an expensive proposition. If we could eliminate some of the financial redundancy by establishing a consolidated junior high (seventh and eighth grades only), shouldn't we at least explore the possibility?

If consolidation meant there would be more money to hire experienced

teachers, would you be interested?

If it meant the teachers would have a support system in place that guarantees continuity between the schools and within subjects, could we count you in?

If your child had more choices for elective courses and was better prepared to join the work-force or attend college, would you support it?

I do think, however, that the crux of the matter is each community's fear of losing the elementary schools altogether. I can understand that fear,

but closing the schools was not part of the proposal. Consolidation would allow each campus room for growth without adding on to the three separate campuses.

Valid points were made at the meeting held April 8, 2002, supporting the junior high consolidation, and they are deserving of the District's attention and should not be discounted.

Laura Myres  
Eagle Lake

## College credits available

Dear Parents,

College credits are available at Rice High School by taking advanced courses and then passing the exam.

Parents can save big bucks on their children's college education. Great teachers are in place now for students. Apply for these opportunities. The Board is supportive.

Parents, wise up and get your kids to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.  
Jim Clispson Jr.

WCJC Sr. Program  
sends thanks

Dear Editor:

The special fundraiser held by the Columbus Opry recently for the WCJC Colorado County Senior Citizen Program was a huge success. Monies will go to buy meals and services for seniors on the program.

There were several hundred in attendance; many gave rave reviews of the performance. We did not hear a negative remark.

It's great to have community support for this worthwhile project.

Thanks to all who sold tickets, entertained, donated cash and door prizes and/or attended.

A special thanks to LCRA for upfront monies which enabled the program to make a 100% profit.

A big thanks goes to John and Brenda Buehler for donating their time, profits and facility to the Senior Program.

(See Thanks, Page 5)

## Russell Disparti for Mayor

Let me thank everyone who stopped by the house this Saturday with their questions and support.

With this type of interaction between individuals, so much can be accomplished. Your involvement in city government brings voters' needs to light.

Your vote for me for mayor will be a vote carefully thought out; a vote for Leadership and Accountability in City Government.

Your mayor needs to have first hand knowledge of the things done in city government and be available to the city's citizens. Attending City Council meetings as an individual as well as the airport meetings, and being active in the community, has given me the insight to know what is currently happening in Eagle Lake. It is with this knowledge I can see the possibilities of new jobs for Eagle Lake and how these will stimulate the economy in our area.

During this campaign, I have not issued many statements declaring

what I absolutely will do when elected Mayor. So much of what the Mayor does is in conjunction with the City Council and it's not exclusively in his power to control. The Mayor must work well with others easily while putting his or her ego to the side working for a better Eagle Lake. It has always been my intention to represent the constituents within the city and work for what is determined to be the will of the people. The way to determine the will of all the silent voices is to be accessible and to that end, you may reach me by telephone at 234-2777 or 234-2355.

The one promise I can make to Eagle Lake and its voters is that I will do a good job because my needs, hopes and dreams for Eagle Lake are just like yours.

For this reason, I ask for your vote on May 4.

Political advertisement paid for by Doreen Disparti, Treasurer, 500 W. Prairie, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

## Remember to vote

First, I'd like to thank all the candidates who took the time to file for public office. Win or lose, I hope your interest does not end there. I hope you will continue to show interest in your local government.

We've got work to do and it involves the entire community.

One thing that has to be developed and implemented is a city-wide emergency terrorist disaster plan. This will be done with the assistance of the hos-

pital administrator and director of nursing service.

We're living in times where we must be as prepared as we possibly can.

I look forward to a continued working relationship with the community at large. We can make this happen.

Remember to vote this Saturday, May 4, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,  
Councilwoman  
Rene Cooper-Scott  
Candidate for Mayor  
Pol. Ad. Paid for by Rene Cooper-Scott, P.O. Box 121, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

No money for state  
employees' raise

For Texas' 200,000 or so state employees, the old adage cautioning against counting one's chickens before the eggs hatch has come true with Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander's assertion that there is no money available to fund a pay hike.

The last session of the Legislature approved a 4% pay increase for state workers for 2002, and a 3% pay raise for 2003 if money was available.

Rylander said last week that the money just isn't there. The pay raise would have cost \$191 million.

Rylander blamed "very, very slow" economic growth, which impacts state sale tax revenue and motor vehicle taxes.

State workers won't be the only ones feeling the money pinch next year.

Rylander said the next session will be facing a budget shortfall as high as \$5 billion.

## Veteran lawman dies

Col. Wilson E. (Pat) Speir, who spent 12 years as director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, died in Austin April 22.

Speir, 84, headed the state law enforcement agency from 1968 until his retirement in 1980.

He was the agency's fourth director, second only in tenure to the late Homer Garrison Jr., who served as the state's top cop from 1938 to 1968.

After starting with the DPS on Nov. 1, 1941, Speir took military leave after the start of World War II and served in the Army until 1945.

Returning to the DPS, he rose steadily through the ranks. He was assistant director prior to taking over as colonel following the death of Garrison.

"Col. Speir was an outstanding

## Matula is candidate

My name is Len Matula and I am a candidate for Eagle Lake City Council. I was born in Eagle Lake and attended school here until 1959, graduating from Garwood High School.

I served four years in the United States Marine Corps; two in Vietnam.

I am married to Pat and we have two daughters: Shannan, who is married to Stephen Taylor, and Lennie, who is married to Ronnie Estrada.

I have a beautiful granddaughter, Addie Taylor.

I moved back to Eagle Lake in 1978 and have lived here since. I am currently retired.

If elected, I will do my utmost to be a fair and hard-working councilman. Eagle Lake is a city with a future.

Your vote Saturday, May 4, will be appreciated.

Len Matula

State Capitol  
Highlights

By Mike Cox

Texas Press Association

individual and a credit to law enforcement," Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., the department's current director, said after learning of Speir's death. "He was a national leader in the police community during some very traumatic times in our history."

## Texas gets a lot of visitors daily

Every day, an estimated 1.29 million people cross into Texas. At least that was the figure for 2001 prior to the events of Sept. 11.

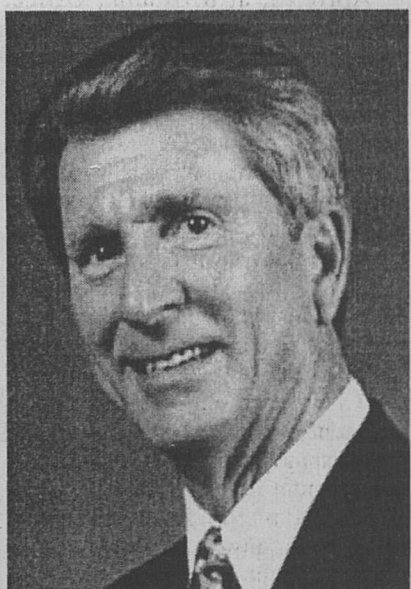
A survey done by the Texas Transportation Institute, a research component of Texas A&M University, showed that the Lone Star state is a popular destination.

Not surprisingly, 43% of the daily visitors to Texas come from Mexico - 550,000 people. The next largest number of people entering Texas come across from Louisiana, followed by Oklahoma and New Mexico.

The study also showed that 746,000 vehicles cross the state's borders every 24 hours, 83% of the traffic being non-commercial. Again, 43% of those vehicles come from Mexico.

One surprise: The highest percentages of commercial traffic comes into the state from Louisiana and Oklahoma, not Mexico.

Thirty-six percent of all commercial traffic enters Texas on its eastern border, followed by 32% coming to Texas from Oklahoma. The share of commercial vehicle traffic from Mexico is 11%.



Pol. ad. paid for by Len Matula Campaign, Pat Matula, Treasurer, 125 W. Main, Eagle Lake, TX 77434.

## Lippman sends thanks

First, and above all, I wish to sincerely thank the over-whelming number of you who have taken the time and effort in this campaign to advise me, express your desires and demonstrate your sincere concerns about the present condition and direction of our City. Over the last six weeks, together we have expressed these many issues in a campaign platform of togetherness and openness. When re-directed and implemented, we, without question, will be successful.

At the heart of this election is a difference in philosophy as to how best to implement the Office of Mayor. The City Manager form of Government evolved in the early 1900s as a response to the problem

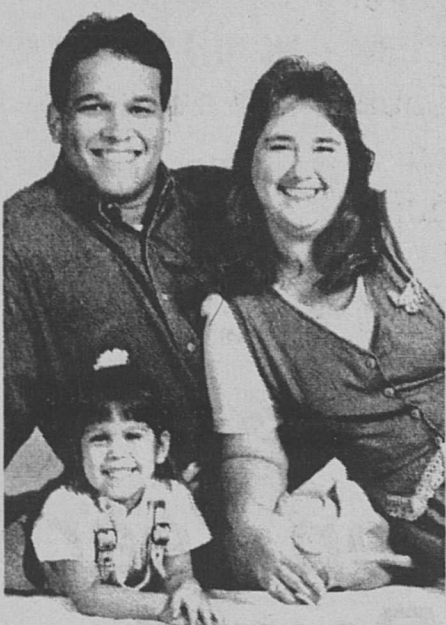
of having mayors at that time not doing much of anything - City services suffered. The concept that evolved was to hire a professional administrator to insure that these services were performed as required. The present format of the council manager form of government separates legislative and executive responsibilities in a manner similar to state and federal governments. This system provides "checks and balances" of both policy and administrative branches of government by limiting the power of each. Having reviewed this concept of Government in some 60 different cities from all over the country, some very large and some very small, I have concluded the following:

A. The City Council is composed of elected individuals whose responsibility is to establish City policies, ordinances, land uses, approves the annual budget, contracts and agreements, hear appeals of decisions made by City staff or citizen advisory groups and appoint the City Manager... they are the voice of the people.

B. The Office of Mayor has a wide range of emphasis. On the least active side is the Mayor presiding as the official head of the City for legislative and ceremonial purposes. On the other side is the Mayor acting as the chief executive officer, leading the coordination of all City organizations (Chamber of Commerce, etc.), proactive involvement with the City Manager and Attorney, and insuring all proposed legislation, contracts, the annual budget, ordinances, or any other issues are thoroughly reviewed prior to submission to the City Council for consideration.

While our City, in fact, operates under this form of government, it appears to me, and without exception from any of you, what is presently occurring in its' operation is unacceptable. It is not important, nor would it serve any purpose, to determine why this has occurred, but more importantly to reverse this immediately, and with the help of the new City Council, that is exactly what I propose to do. It is not my desire, nor intent, to work outside of this concept of government, but to make it more effective.

(See Lippman, Page 3)

RE-ELECT  
Joe Lee Perez

Rice CISD  
School Board  
Position #7

Saturday,  
May 4

Vote For Perez To Continue Making  
Rice the Best School District in the County!

Polling Places (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) Eagle Lake Primary School, Garwood School, Sheridan School  
Political advertisement paid by Joe Lee Perez, 709 S. Mc Carthy, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

KUCHERKA  
The Right Choice for  
the Good of the  
Community!

Pol. ad. paid for by Misti Dronen, Treasurer, 105 W. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake, TX 77434.