



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
email: headlight@elc.net
Published Weekly-Every Thursday

Produced and Distributed By:
Carol Cardenas • Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Lueddecke
Katherine Smith • Cathy Fearing

Advertising and News Deadline: 5 P.M. Monday
Subscription Rates

Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt)	\$13.50
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties	\$15.00
Other Texas Residents	\$16.50
Outside of Texas; Inside U.S.	\$18.00

Foreign Rates Available By Request

Single Copy Price : 50¢

Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas

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

Hunters urged to watch for whooping cranes

Turkeys (the edible variety, no political joke intended) are the bird on most folks' mind these days, but one other member of the avian species has been getting some attention. The endangered whooping crane

has begun showing up at its winter home on the coast and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is urging waterfowl hunters to be careful not to get that bird confused with its legal-to-hunt cousin, the sandhill crane.

Whooping cranes are protected and can't be shot. They are white with black wingtips. The smaller sandhill cranes are gray. (If you're a hunter, make sure you get this right: A mistake is illegal and expensive.)

Biologists in Canada have reported somewhere between 180 and 190 of the big birds (they stand more than 4 feet tall and are the tallest in North America) left their breeding grounds for their annual migration to the Lone Star State in late Sept. and early Oct. That's an increase from the 176 whooping cranes that wintered in Texas last year.

If you spot a whooping crane, call the Parks and Wildlife Department at 1-800-792-1112 or e-mail a report to lalinam@wimberley-tx.com.

State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

West Nile update

Unfortunately, there's no shot to prevent West Nile virus. The virus has now been identified in 195 of Texas' 254 counties, up from 176 in the previous survey.

Of the cases reported in Texas, 165 have been in humans, the Department of Health reports. Of the 165 human cases, 23 became ill in July, 76 in Aug., 50 in Sept. and 16 in Oct.

There have been eight deaths: four from Harris County and one each from Tarrant; Randall, Hood and Dallas Counties.

Looking ahead to college

The Comptroller's office has opened a new enrollment period for the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

Under the plan, parents can fix their children's future college tuition costs and other required fees at current prices, and pay the amount in monthly installments to lessen the shock many parents experience when their kids graduate from high school and head to the proverbial ivy-covered halls.

The enrollment period continues to May 23.

For more information on the plan, check www.texasomorrowfunds.org or call 1-800-445-4723.

To THE EDITOR & You

Boot Camp sends thanks

The Colorado County Juvenile Facility would like to thank the following donors for their generous door prizes to our Employee Appreciation Day held Nov. 30.

Leopold Grain Co., American Rice Growers-Garwood, Garwood Farmers Co-op, Nada Garage, Aero-Ag Flying Service, Larry's Super Service, Little

Bit Oil Company, Smith Cattle Connection, Garwood Implement & Supply Co., Vic's TV, Bernice Bornstein and Danette Cantu.

Thank you so much for taking the time to help make our employee appreciation a great success.

Employees of the Colorado County Juvenile Facility

Seasons Greetings!

Just a reminder that the Family and Friends God's Helping Hands benefit date is Saturday, Dec. 7. As you can see, the time is quickly approaching. Many of you have asked, "What do you need?" "Is there anything I can do?"

I thank you so very much for your generosity, we all know that is what Eagle Lake is known so well for.

I have already spoken with many of you, but if I haven't yet and you'd like to donate an item(s) to the live or silent auction PLEASE call me as soon as possible!

We have also been informed that many of you would like to buy or donate your turkeys or hams while they are on sale. So we have placed a freezer at B&S Taxidermy for those of you who may want to purchase them but have no room for them.

Call me at 234-7582 if you are going to donate a turkey or ham, but want to bring it directly to the First Baptist Church on Friday, Dec. 20. We will dis-

tribute to our families from the church between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Family and Friends, God's Helping Hands, has chosen 58 families to assist for the holiday season. With help of several churches, hospital employees, school student councils, and others like you, we will provide a turkey or ham, canned foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, and a gift to each family member.

There are many individuals that we hope to touch with your kindness and compassion. With all of us pulling together, I have no doubt that our benefit will be a total success!

We hope to see you after the parade Saturday, Dec. 7.

Thank you again for your offerings and may God bless your family and health.

Lynn Ellis
President of Family and Friends

Store-Wide Sale!

Buster Brown & Health-Tex 25-50% OFF
Girls (Sizes 7-16) 50-75% OFF
Holiday Dresses & Suits 25% OFF

Sign up for up to \$200 in prizes and gift certificates.
Drawing to be held Dec. 23, 2002.

LITTLE HOUSE

121 N. Washington • El Campo • 979-543-1511
Open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric Tepper, Podiatrist
TYPES OF HAMMERTOES

A hammertoe, triggered by a muscle imbalance, looks like an upside-down letter V. This condition, more common in females, typically affects the second through fifth toes. Flexible hammertoes are more treatable because the joint still maintains some mobility. Rigid hammertoes, however, occur when people delay seeking treatment or in people suffering from arthritis. This more serious condition involves tight tendons and misaligned, immobile joints. Symptoms of hammertoes include pain with pressure, redness, swelling, impaired mobility, and the formation of corns. Patients may also experience pain in the ball of the foot or base of the affected toe. Genetics, injury, tight shoes, and systemic conditions like arthritis may also contribute to the formation of hammertoes.

Are you plagued by hammertoes or any other foot condition? One of the best things you can do to take good care of your feet is to treat them to regular podiatric care. With all they do for you, your feet deserve it. We'll do all we can to teach you how, together as a team, we can keep the smile on your face and the swing in your step. State of the art facilities to treat all manner of foot problems are available to you at Rice Medical Center. You can reach us at 234-5571 to make an appointment. Office hours are on Tuesdays.

P. S. Padding, icing, and wearing comfortable shoes are conservative treatments for hammertoes.

One thing to be thankful for

A lot of Texans don't seem to have much trouble coming up with a reason not to get a flu shot: "don't have the time," "it'll give you the flu," "I never get sick" and on and on.

Here's a new idea: Remember the last time you had the flu and how badly you felt.

As Texas Health Commissioner Eduardo Sanchez put it recently, "Millions of people get a flu shot every year. Millions more need to."

The vaccination is particularly recommended for persons over 50 (an increasingly large percentage of the population), nursing home residents, people with diabetes, people with asthma or other chronic respiratory conditions and those with heart or kidney troubles. And for the first time this year, public health officials also recommend the shot for infants six months to 23 months.

To put the importance of the shots into perspective, every year about 8,000 Texans end up in the hospital with a bad case of the flu. In addition, flu or its complications kills 1,500 in Texas annually.

Finally, something to look forward to if you have not had your shot yet: The peak season for flu is during Jan. and Feb.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

"In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me."
— Psalm 120:1
Submitted by Neddy Phillips

School Board holds regular meeting

By Heidi Beasley
President Joe Lee Perez called the regular meeting of the Rice CISD Board of Trustees to order at 7:04 p.m. All members except Betty Shuirring were present.

Visitors in attendance were Heidi Beasley, Barbara Silva, Don Montier and John Saul.

Montier, representing the Colorado County Retired Teacher's Association, addressed the Board on the issue of the fiscal impact of allowing normal age retirees to return to work without loss

of annuity benefits. He said the rehiring of retired teachers fills vacant positions with employees who will not be depositing into the TRS Fund. This is a concern for the future of young teachers. Saul, former Columbus ISD superintendent, also spoke on the subject.

Dr. Richard Gott and President Perez presented plaques from TEA to the following campuses for their TAAS results: Garwood School, Exemplary; Sheridan School, Exemplary; Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS), Recognized; and Rice High School (RHS),

Recognized.

The Board then reviewed and approved the minutes of both the Oct. 14 and 21 meetings. Also reviewed and approved was the Revenue and Expenses Report given by Bill Hefner.

Board members then heard reports from the various campus administrators.

Sue Weller from ELPS informed the Board that Johnson Control had finished extending the fire alarm system to the modular building outside. They are in the process of purchasing five new cafeteria tables to replace the broken ones.

The Compass Computer system is up and running in the lab. Fiber optic cable has been laid to the Head Start building. She also reported the fourth (See Board, Page 4)

DRY CLEAN LAUNDRY!

5 PCS. FOR \$10
Regular Garments

Sunshine
Eagle Lake Cleaner & Washateria
Next to Dairy Queen
102 Boothe Drive • Eagle Lake 979-234-3737

JOE C. FLING

LAWYER

Criminal Defense	Family Law	Real Estate
Wills & Probate	Corporations	Contracts

305 Burns Avenue, Eagle Lake
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
Phone 979-234-5536

HEAVENLY HELPERS

GIFTS THAT TOUCH THE HEART

WRAP UNIQUE GIFTS THAT
INSPIRE & ENCOURAGE
SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE
COMFORT WITH GOD'S PEACE
SPREAD OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

BIBLES, BOOKS, MUSIC, GIFTS, JEWELRY, CARDS, CHRISTMAS ITEMS & MUCH MORE

1406-B N. MECHANIC NEXT TO SUBWAY
EL CAMPO, TX 77437 979-543-2850

HOLIDAY HOURS: MON. - SAT. 9:30 - 6:00

NEW ROOF!!

From Storm Damage! Your Home May Qualify for Roof Replacement!

FREE INSPECTION/CONSULTATION
281-375-7713
STORM PRO BUILDERS
Pattison, Texas
Buddy Scherff Licensed Adjuster