



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Something needs to be done!

Citizens of Colorado County:

I wish to address all people who have pets or small livestock that are being endangered, injured or killed by dogs allowed to run loose. There is a leash law within the city limits, but nothing at all in the county. There is a serious problem with these dogs that are not chained, fenced or restrained in any way. They kill, maim and hurt other animals.

There are no laws governing the ir-

responsible owners of these dogs. There is no recourse for the owners of animals killed or hurt by roving dogs. The answer I hear over and over is to shoot the dogs if they come on my property. Well, why should I become a dog killer when their owners have absolutely no liability at all??

Over the last six years, I have had various pets and poultry killed or injured by roving dogs. I was personally threatened by three dogs that had

formed a pack, snarling and snapping, and wouldn't let me out my own front door!! This prompted me to spend my entire savings account to build a fence around my house.

Once again - MY responsibility to spend money to protect myself.

Last week, my neighbor was walking his dog in front of his house and two roving dogs attacked and killed his little 13-year-old Chihuahua. He kicked and tried to fight off the dogs, fell down, and was hurt. This injury of a person and death of a pet does NOT count with the law. The owner is STILL NOT responsible for any of this. How can this be?

I find this outrageous and a crime in itself. Is this acceptable to the responsible pet owners of Colorado County??

The owners of these roving dogs need to be held accountable!!!

There is no recourse for the victims of these vicious dogs except to spend a lot of money or become dog killers themselves!!

Isn't it time we put a stop to this? Is there someone out there as angry and fed up as I am? Is there anyone willing to join me in addressing our County Officials to try to change this? If so, contact Linda Schmoker, email- eldergirl7@elc.net. I would like to hear from you.

Linda Schmoker
Eagle Lake

Bible Verse of the Week

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

— 1 John 4:8

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

\$295 Million earmarked for Fund

Economic development sounds like just another pair of political buzz words unless you don't have a job.

With the beginning of the state's new fiscal year, Texas' economic development functions were folded into the governor's office. That was a matter of legislative fiat, as well creation of the \$295 million Enterprise Fund, a financial pot designed to allow Texas to respond fast in attracting new employers to the state.

Luring Toyota to San Antonio, an effort mounted well before creation of this fund, stands as the top accomplishment in recent years. The idea behind the new fund is to make something such as landing Toyota happen more often in Texas.

With private money, the governor's office has launched a marketing campaign called Texas One. The job-generation program is headed by Massey Villareal, chair of the Texas Economic Development Board.

Texas One has one big job ahead of it, but the employee picture in Texas has already gotten a little better. In August, Texas gained 28,500 jobs. That was the first monthly increase since May 2000.

Gator 'aid' to Texas...

Sure, everyone knows Texas produces a lot of cotton, cattle and oil (to



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

keep the list of famous Texas products in chronological order), but alligators as a cash crop?

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the state has 29 licensed alligator farms with 44,000 alligators.

This is a lot smaller than the alligator industry in Louisiana, which has 122 licensed farms, but even so, it's a \$10 million business in Texas. That's the estimated income derived from the sale of alligator hides and products made from hides, including boots, belts, purses and other items.

The first Texas alligator farm was licensed in Rockport in 1986. TPWD got \$5,200 in license fees in 2001.

Seen any geckos lately?

Another Texas reptile has been showing up in strange places — on highway ramps and overpasses. Michael Ford, a graphic designer in the Texas Department of Transportation's bridge division, is the artist who designs the decorative features that grace

many new highway projects in the state.

If you look at Ford's work close up, you'll see that each design element features a hidden gecko, Texas' lovable, bug-eating lizard.

Ford's work can be seen in the Harlingen area at Palm Cord Dr. and U.S. 83, at Dixieland and U.S. 83 and at Spur 54 and U.S. 77. The designer also created a concrete prickly pear pad in a retaining wall near SeaWorld in San Antonio and a gargoyle for Lubbock's new East-West Freeway.

Lawmakers with megaphones...

The Capitol had only been in use for a little more than 30 years when lawmakers began to chafe at a design problem.

Acoustics in the House of Representatives were terrible. No matter how much air some legislator put into his rhetoric, voice just did not carry well in the large chamber.

During the regular session in early 1919, someone suggested a solution: Buy some megaphones for members.

No action seems to have been taken on the proposal, however. In time, of course, the state installed an electronic amplification system. Modern lawmakers learned to turn away from their microphone if they want to say something to a colleague in private.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Sept. 20, 1979

Rice High School FFA members **Robby & Ronny Cook** were met with the cold, cruel facts Sept. 11 when the hogs they had purchased for the shows in Houston and locally were killed by wild dogs...

Friends in the community learned with great sadness of the sudden death of **Jerald Walter Obenhaus**, 56, of Bonus who passed away at his residence of an apparent heart attack...

New Rice High School OEA officers are **Marie Carter, Linda Labay, Julie Criswell, Sharon Schneider, Lupe Morales, Luann Brown** and

Debbie Thompson...

Charles Lewis Kincheloe Sr. of Sheridan passed away in Houston Sept. 18 following several years of illness...

Among the cast of "The Street Car Named Desire" at WCJC is **Brenda Argo** of Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. Hoy DeShazo celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on Sept. 17...

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Gertson of Eagle Lake proudly announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Tracy Marie**, to **Kelly Ray Jobe**, son of Mr. & Mrs. **Walter Hastings** of Bridgeport and James

(Cowboy) **Jobe** of Garwood. The wedding is calendared for Nov. 2 in the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

Funeral services were held Sept. 19 for **William (Bill) Henry Lange**, 82, the father of **Willard T. Lange** of Eagle Lake...

Willie Marsalia closed his eyes to a peaceful sleep Sept. 17 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gold of Nada announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Terese Alene**, to **Steven Aaron Faas**, son of Mr. & Mrs. **Walter Faas** of (See 24 & 48, Page 5)

Coach arrested

Yes, it's true. Rice Head Coach and Athletic Director **Rusty Roark** was arrested by the Colorado County Sheriff's Department on charges filed by the Wharton Police Department alleging Roark assaulted a police officer.

The charges stemmed from an incident last Friday night in Wharton, where Roark and three other coaches had gone to scout the Tiger football team.

According to the Wharton Police, they acted on a complaint that the coaches were drinking (beer) on school property. Reportedly, when asked by a Wharton officer to step out of the car, Roark rolled up the window and drove away with the officer standing on the running board.

It was reported that the officer suffered abrasions when he jumped off the vehicle.

Rice CISD Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott confirmed that Roark has been suspended. "Acting on what we know at this time, he (Roark) has been suspended for two weeks while I investigate the matter for the district and gather as much information as possible. When that's done, we'll take it on all."

"I look for better days to come. We'll get this behind us and move on," Gott added. "Rusty Roark is a good man. He just made a bad mistake. And you have to put everything in perspective (good and bad) and make your judgment based on it all."

Not only has Roark taken the football team from the one everyone wanted to play for their homecoming (because it was an almost sure win), to the LAST team they want to play that special night, but, according to Gott, he's helped a lot of students in athletics as well as numerous other students when others couldn't or wouldn't.

Coach Roark had no comment.

Publisher's Comments

It's amazing to me that, over the years, our high school wasn't important enough to the Houston television stations to even list the football scores. But now, give them a "bone to chew on" and they're swarming all over the place, wanting this and that.

I agree with a fellow publisher who said the reason they (the television news) are making such a big deal out of this is because it's negative. Just like murder stories and car wreck pictures sell papers, sensationalizing this kind of story boosts the stations' ratings.

I'm not saying what Rusty didn't do was wrong. He'll be the first to admit he made a mistake. What I'm saying is, if our school district is important enough to the Houston television news people now, why weren't the good things our district and its athletic department have done (and are still doing) important before?

Your voices in office...

U.S. Representative: District 14, Congressman Ron Paul; address: 203 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Phone: 202-225-2831.

State Senator: District 18, Senator Kenneth (Ken) L. Armbrister; Capitol office, CAP 1E.14, phone, 512-463-0118; District office: 3205 E. Mockingbird, Victoria, TX 77904, phone 361-572-8061.

State Rep.: District 17, Robby Cook; Capitol office, EXT E2.204, 512-463-0682; District office, PO Box 217, Eagle Lake, TX 77434, phone, 979-234-2493.

Honor _____ Continued from Page 1

A great honor for Chad, who is a senior at Rice this year, it was the first time he has shown at the State Fair of Texas. Even though he's shown at other major shows for the past five years, he's never made a "big sale". This wasn't the case this time! Not only did his animal make the sale, but it was the third steer to sell, following the overall Grand and Reserve.

The First State Bank of Mesquite bought his 1,204-pound steer for a whopping \$12,500. Chad will receive the "cap" price with the balance going to the State Fair scholarship fund.

Chad commented, "I was just happy to make the sale; anything after that was just icing on the cake. You always hope that maybe this will be the big one, but the odds of actually having a breed champion are pretty slim. These were a great couple of days!"

Way to go Chad! We are so proud of you.

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WALK FOR THE CURE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

5K WALK

Registration: 7 to 8 a.m.
In Front of Eagle Lake City Hall
Walk Starts at City Hall at 8 a.m.

Sponsored by:
City of Eagle Lake
and
Rice Medical Center

Pledges will be accepted from participants in
SUPPORT OF or MEMORY OF a friend or loved one.

All proceeds will be donated to the Rice Medical Center Breast
Cancer Awareness Fund. Pledges of \$15 or more will receive a T-shirt.

For more information, please contact Susan Hernandez at 979-234-5571.

MISSION: To provide specialized care and treatment and supportive educational material to the women and men in our community who suffer from breast cancer.

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