



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)
P.O. Box 67 - 220 East Main
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067
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Published Weekly-Every Thursday

The Eagle Lake Headlight reserves the right to reject, edit or omit editorial content and/or advertisement for any reason in order to conform to the paper's policy.

Produced and Distributed By:

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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

To The Editor & You

'I was on a mission'

I was on a mission for my nephew/godson Christopher Todd Brown who lives in Columbus, Georgia. He needed to sell popcorn for the Boy Scouts and he asked me to help.

Being my best friend at a bad time in my life, I said yes.

Being chased by dogs and walking far and near, I made myself a goal to sell \$500 and went over. I thank God who gave me the strength and courage to do it.

And nearly everyone I asked said yes. I would like to thank those who helped: David & Jeanette Haas, Bryan & Tanya Wiese, Jim & Jean Wiese, Loreca Thomas, Kevin Earls, Henry

Thomas, Leticia Vasquez, Billy Cook, Bill Mitchell, Lois Quenneville, Rickey Toliver, Wanda Henry, Glenn Sunderman, Earnest Morris, Amy Adkins and Lewis Epps.

Also, Debbie Christ, Maria Arellano, Mary Cantu, Colleen, Eric Toliver, Eron Toliver, Kurt Sunderman, Imelda Hernandez, Dee Hargrove, Sherry Stovall, Bridgette Belman, Cynthia Luna, Yvonne Sandoval, Rita Hannes, Linda Tillman and Belinda Belman.

Your help is greatly appreciated. May God bless you and yours.

Happy Holidays.

Lisa

The 5th Annual New Year's Eve fireworks display will be held Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 p.m. and, as the crewmembers continue preparations for the show, we would like to thank all of the loyal supporters who have contributed to the success of this popular and festive occasion.

We appreciate the *Headlight* helping promote the project and the many businesses and individuals who provide us with the items and resources needed to produce the display.

But, a special thanks goes to the large number of individuals who every July 4th and New Year's Eve donate the dollars necessary to provide

New Year's Eve fireworks 'in the works'

the best show possible.

Cash donations are already coming in and we expect to kick-off 2004 with one of our best shows ever.

Anyone wishing to donate can contact us at the Eagle Lake Post Office 979-234-2627 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or drop by for more information.

This year's display will offer some beautiful aerial bursts choreographed to popular and festive music.

During the 40-minute program there will be a special tribute honoring the USA and the Rice Raiders.

We are continually trying to improve the performance and that includes the music. We have a great crew

working the sound, but our crowds continue to out-grow our system, so we are open to any suggestions that might improve that situation. Got some big speakers that we could borrow? Give us a call at the Post Office.

Thanks again for your continued support and plan to kick-off the New

Year at the fireworks display Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m. on Calhoun Rd.

Sincerely,
John Young
Robert McClelland
Jeff Frnka
Melvin Schmitt
Darrell Stancik

Chamber sends thanks to all

Dear Editor:

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank all of the individuals that turned out to watch the 2003 City of Eagle Lake Christmas Parade of Light, the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church Choir, those that entered floats and other items in the parade, our city government; the Eagle Lake Police and Volunteer Fire Departments; the Colorado County Officials and workers; the parade judges; Brandy Meitzen, Kayla Meitzen, and Tara Schott for serving as the Colour Guard; Ellison Chevrolet for providing the Parade Marshal's car; Roger Meinecke and Pegasus Sound for the P.A.; Lake Lumber for the stage; the *Banner Press Newspaper* and the *Citizen* as well as, KULM and KNRG radio stations for promoting the parade; the *Eagle Lake Headlight* for their help with promotion, publicity and coverage of the parade.

The Chamber wishes to express its great appreciation to Mr. Joe L. McCreary for serving as Parade Marshal and the entire McCreary Clan for turning out to support him; Mrs. Sue

Weller for serving as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Parade; and Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elf for making a special appearance Saturday night.

The Chamber further wishes to thank B&B Foods, Buc-ee's, Class Concrete, the Eagle Lake Dairy Delite, J&K's Corner, John B. Myres, D.D.S (thanks for the tooth brushes), Tee-Up Pro Shop and Wallis State Bank for their contribution to the goodie bags handed out by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Chamber's gratitude is also extended to the Eagle Lake Pageantry for their work in supporting the Deputy Santa Program and also for their caroling on Sunday Evening.

The Chamber Directors extend their great appreciation to all the individuals, especially those working behind the scenes, which helped make the 2003 Christmas Parade possible, without their efforts our community's parade would not have been a success.

We wish you Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING...

We extend our very best wishes to you and yours for a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and good cheer.

We're proud to be part of this community and are grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Merry Christmas!

**Join us Wednesday through Friday,
December 17 through 19, from 9 a.m.
to 3 p.m. for Hot Cider and
Christmas Confections.**

We invite you to view the exquisite ceramic manger scene figures created by Debbie (Mrs. Bill) Ramsey and the life-size Woodland Santa by Bobbe & Art Guerra.



We also hope you will consider purchasing an ornament to hang on our Hospice Tree.



The First National Bank

Member F.D.I.C.

Texas Tech health center to become medical school

What parents haven't fantasized about their child becoming a doctor when they grow up?

The federal Council on Graduate Medical Education estimates that the U.S. will need between 1.09 million and 1.17 million physicians by 2020. Unfortunately for anyone who may need medical care then, current projections are that only 971,000 to 1.08 million doctors will write prescriptions that year.

Texas certainly will be doing its part to overcome that anticipated shortage of MDs.

The state currently has eight medical schools, but during the special session in Oct., lawmakers approved a ninth school.

House Bill 28, which received little fanfare except in and around El Paso, authorizes Texas Tech University to sell \$45 million in tuition revenue bonds to fund construction of a four-year medical school for Tech's Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Currently, the El Paso center trains only third- and fourth-year medical students.

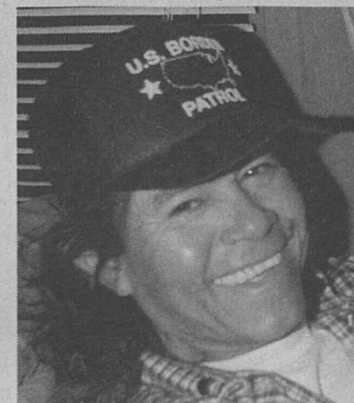
Though Texas Tech must still come up with funds to service the bonds, with \$2.6 billion in seed money for the next biennium, construction could begin late next year or early in 2005.

When Perry signed HB 28 into law, El Paso leaders said it was the most significant legislation affecting that city in a half century. The new school will nearly double the number of medical students, and with additional faculty and staff, it will amount to a needed economic shot in the arm for the biggest city on the left side of Texas.

Public Safety official leaves...

James B. Francis Jr., a member of the Public Safety Commission, the policy body that oversees the Department of Public Safety, has stepped

He's So Cute, He's So Fine. He's No Longer 39??



Happy Birthday

Alfredo

Dec. 15

*Love You Always,
Your Wife & Kids
Tereza, Belinda, Julia, Sylvia,
Laura, Ray & Carlos*



By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

down from the panel after eight years.

No word yet on who the governor will appoint to replace him on the three-member commission.

The Transportation Commission, which oversees the Texas Department of Transportation, also still has three members but legislators in the last session passed a bill expanding that commission to five members.

The two new members have yet to be appointed, though there has been some buzz that at least one of the appointments is coming soon.

Remember, Santa wears one...

Everyone in law enforcement or other safety-related fields says it all the time, as if they were reading from a script: Wear your safety belt.

The DPS says that if someone is thrown from their vehicle during a crash, the likelihood of death or injury increases 70%. The place to be when metal meets metal is snugly behind the wheel, and an air bag.

Though some Texans still resist using seat belts, surveys continue to show more and more are wearing up. A decade ago, seat belt usage was estimated at 69.1%. In 2002, the level was 81.1% and still inching upward.

More startling news: Extensive research also shows you are far less likely to need a safety belt if you abide by the speed limit and don't drink and drive.

State sales tax up again

State sales tax revenue is up for the third month in a row.

"The last time state sales tax revenue increased three months in a row was July-Sept. 2001, before 9-11," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said. "Nov. sales tax revenue is up 4.3% compared to Nov. 2002. This is the largest growth since Aug. 2001."

The state received \$1.36 billion in sales tax revenue in Nov.

Bible Verse of the Week

*"Depart from evil,
and do good; seek
peace, and pursue it."*

— Psalm 34:14

Submitted by
Neddy Phillips