



## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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CAPITAL  
COMMENTS

## Texans talk Homeland Security

By Senator Kay Hutchison

Since the terror attacks of 9/11, protecting and defending our homeland has been priority number one for our government. One could hardly escape the images of destruction in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania as they replayed again and again for days on television sets worldwide. The media saturation forced many parents to talk to their children about terrorists and the evil that exists in the world. Since that time we have become a more vigilant society, aware of the potential for terrorism, even with chemical or biological weapons. We are aggressively working to protect against and respond to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose.

Your response to the following question provided interesting insight into Texans' state of preparedness. "The threat of biological, nuclear or chemical weapons is a concern Americans must consider. The Department of Homeland Security has issued guidelines and life-saving tips to deal with potential attacks, but many people remain uninformed of what to do in case of an attack. In what ways have you prepared for an incident?"

Thirty percent of respondents had discussed potential attacks with their family and prepared them to react to a threat. More than half of all surveyed acknowledged they look for unusual behavior in public places, and 10% of your workplaces have established emergency evacuation procedures. Still there were a number of Texans who checked "yes" when asked if they were unprepared and did not know how to respond to a threat. Below are some of your thoughts:

As a truck driver, I am constantly on the alert and ready to report or defend. *Robert, Santa Fe*

Having lived abroad I don't have the normal American feeling of apathy on the subject of terrorism and feel that I am very aware of my surroundings. *Carter, Irving*

Water treatment plants, malls, nuclear facilities and downtown areas are all areas of concern. *Brandon, McKinney*

We have hurricane guidelines ... why not terrorism guidelines? *Anonymous*

Our best defense is a good offense — bring the war to the terrorists in their land. *D.H., Austin*

I'm constantly mindful of what is going on around me. *Marcos, San Antonio*

I don't know anything about the issued guidelines. Where are they posted? *Tran, Houston*

There were many who expressed concern that they were unaware of the guidelines or any plans their community had in place in the event of a chemical, biological or nuclear threat. In response to these questions, I've devoted the remainder of this column to helpful resources on how to prepare your workplace, your family and yourself for a potential terrorist attack or emergency situation.

## Ready.gov

Under the recently formed Department of Homeland Security, the federal government has created simple, easy-to-follow procedures for all Americans. At [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) <<http://www.ready.gov>>, Texans can link to a variety of helpful state and local resources. They've posted the following basic guidelines:

1. Make a kit of emergency supplies
2. Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency
3. Be informed about what might happen

At the website, you can find descriptions of how best to follow these suggestions and sit down with your loved ones to create a plan of action for your family.

## Citizen Corps

In addition to being prepared on an individual level, many Americans, like those of you who responded to this survey, have wondered what more they can do to protect their communities from terrorist attacks and to prepare for unforeseen emergency situations. Citizen Corps, which was created in response to this desire to participate, brings homeland security efforts to the local level through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service. Citizen Corps programs build on efforts of established community safety and emergency preparedness programs like Neighborhood Watch, which has worked successfully for more than 30 years, and enables ordinary people to play an active role in

(See Comments, Page 4)

## Super Bowl brings \$165 million to Houston

The National Football League play-off cycle is just starting, but a state bill that didn't get much of any attention during the legislative session last spring has generated some interesting numbers.

Senate Bill 275 tasks the comptroller's office with devising a forecast of expected tax gains associated with hosting a major sporting event in Texas. Such an event, Super Bowl XXXVIII, will be played at Reliant Stadium in Houston on Feb. 1.

What the comptroller's office found, as Carole Keeton Strayhorn said in the Dec. issue of her agency's "Fiscal Notes," is that Texas will be the big winner, no matter which team has the highest score at the end of the game.

The estimate is that visitors will spend \$165.5 million in the Houston area. To break it down, that includes

State Capitol  
Highlights

By Mike Cox  
Texas Press Association

\$68.8 million for lodging, \$26.8 million at bars and restaurants, \$15.3 million on entertainment, \$13.7 million on transportation and \$41 million in general retail sales.

State and local governments, of course, nets \$8.25 million of that.

## "God Bless Texas" plates on sale...

The new specialty license plates proclaiming "God Bless Texas" already were available before word spread on Christmas Eve that a case of Mad Cow disease had been confirmed

in Washington state, but for Texas ranchers, the plates might seem particularly appealing now.

A set of the plates costs \$40 annually, with \$32 of that going toward the Texas Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to Schools program. (The \$8 defrays administrative costs.)

"The responsibility to provide safe walkways and bicycle crossings for our school children is every bit as important as a quality education," Transportation Commission chairman John W. Johnson said when the new plate was unveiled on Dec. 17 at Timmerman Elementary School in Pflugerville.

Students at that school will benefit from a sidewalk construction project set to begin in the first quarter and the new revenue source will make more projects possible elsewhere in the state, Johnson said.

Also available is a specialty "God Bless America" plate. It, too, helps to fund the school safety program TxDOT administers.

## Texas is in tall cotton...

Cotton continues to be Texas' leading cash crop, though when the final 2003 numbers are in, production is expected to be down somewhat from the previous year.

But cotton still earns Texas growers some \$1.6 billion a year, with a statewide economic impact of \$5.2 billion.

The Texas A&M University Cotton Program says just one 500-lb. bale of cotton can produce 215 pairs of jeans or 21,960 handkerchiefs, take your pick.

## Rivers no longer "navigable"...

Some Texans may wake up on New Year's Day with throbbing temples, but collectively, as of the first day of the year, the Texas environment has one less headache.

Effective Thursday, it is against the law to operate motor vehicles in most Texas river beds, the Canadian and Prairie Dog Fork of the Red River excepted.

Passed during the 78th Legislature, the new law is expected to reduce damage caused to stream beds by All-Terrain Vehicle enthusiasts.

The law still allows public access, and has a provision for local government to develop local access plans to allow vehicles in certain areas where they would not be harmful to the environment.

For detailed information on the new law, check the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Web site at [www.pwd.state.tx.us](http://www.pwd.state.tx.us).

## Let's Look Back...

## 24 &amp; 48 YEARS AGO

Dec. 13, 1979

Eagle Lake Police Chief Bufford Ashley unexpectedly announced his resignation...

R.E. (Bob) McInteer was elected president of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce...

Theresa Torres was elected top FTA'er...

Graveside services were held for Mrs. Floyd (Claire) McClain of Houston, a former resident of Eagle Lake, on Dec. 5...

Former Raider Michael Cotton received his second letter as a running back for the Stephen F. Austin State University Lumberjacks during their successful 1979-football season...

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Abel hosted a delightful Christmas party at their home Dec. 7...

Friends and relatives gathered Dec. 9 to celebrate the first birthday of Kris Gertson...

Members of the Rice Raider Band who earned a position in the District Band were Kevin Pellerin, Luann Brown, Kitty Thomas, Ierma Yanez, Philip Leopold, Julie Clipson, Lulu Yanez, Michele Sibley, Cindy Rodriguez, Judy Bunge, Gilbert Corella, Patsy Gutierrez, Carol Crabb, Becky Anderson, Janie Clipson, Lisa Frazar, Rich Farris, Arnold Rodriguez, Lana Mahalic, Paula Rohwer, Robert Moss, Sam Pirtle, John Stephens, Bobby Williamson, Michaelanne Hefner and Mary Young...

John S. Konvicka, 91, a longtime resident of Hallettsville and a former resident and businessman in Eagle Lake for a number of years, passed away Dec. 4...

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Korenek Sr. of Garwood announced the engage-

ment and forthcoming union of their daughter, Madeline Rose, to Michael Lee Doubt, son of Mr. & Mrs. Alvin L. Doubt of El Campo. The couple will be united in marriage Jan. 12, 1980...

Funeral services were held Dec. 12 for Mrs. Rudolph (Minnie) Lopez who passed away in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Dec. 9.

Dec. 15, 1955

Parking meters in downtown "sacked up" for week-long free parking...

H.J. (Hall) Fentress is the new manager at Alamo Lumber Co. He and his wife will occupy the former W.M. Thomas Sr. home. Fentress will succeed R.B. (Bob) Powell who will devote his full time in the Oil Field Division of the company...

The Community Center is the Winter Wonderland in Christmas holiday décor. Chairman of the decorations was Mrs. Gardner Seaholm...

Garwood Lions enjoyed the wit of Cayce Moore, Hearne barber and humorist, at their annual Christmas Party and ladies night...

Sue Matthews was complimented on her tenth birthday at a party in the Community Center given by her mother, Mrs. V.T. Matthews...

Leonard Stech of New Bielau was elected the new County Farm Bureau president with Bruce Waddell of Eagle Lake named first vice-president. W.A. Hefner Jr. of Garwood will serve as secretary treasurer and John Nelson of Columbus as 2nd vice-president...

The Eagle Lake Garden Club rated a blue ribbon at 20th anniversary flower show held Dec. 6. Awarded tri-color ribbons were Mrs. V.T. Matthews, Mrs. Arnold Klockman, Mrs.

C.E. Evoritt, Mrs. Oscar Miller, Mrs. Herbert Loessin, Mrs. W.A. Dealy and Mrs. E.E. Hansen. Educational exhibits of Mrs. I.V. Duncan and Mrs. C.E. Evoritt were awarded golden-merit awards...

The Couples Class of Lissie Church held an open house in the new home of Ed Causeys...

Jo Ann Sens was high scorer with 23 points in EL girls cagers 5th straight win at Orchard...

Walter Meitzen sparked the EL attack with 14 points in bow to Needville.

## Wied files for re-election to sheriff post

Colorado County Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied has filed for re-election in the upcoming March Democratic Primary.

"I have been honored to serve the citizens of Colorado County for the past 22 years, seven as your sheriff. I am looking forward to serving you in the future.

"I want to continue to serve and protect the citizens of Colorado County to the best of my ability. With the help of the dedicated professional men and women of the Colorado County Sheriff's Office, many goals have been reached and many are to be met.

"The county's crime rate has fallen due to the visibility of increased patrols and the hard work of the investigative staff. With the increase of identity theft and computer crimes, law enforcement, as a whole, faces a new frontier in hi-tech crime solving.



"Many criminals have been taken off the streets due to good, thorough police work. The quality of the department's equipment has greatly improved, adding up-to-date crime solving equipment and resources. The majority of this equipment was bought, in part, from forfeited assets from criminals... not at taxpayers expense.

"The detention center has passed each and every state inspection, keeping in compliance with the rules and regulations as set forth by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Again, this could not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the correctional personnel. We have been housing out-of-county inmates since 1997, receiving thousands of dollars in revenue. This year alone, the County received approximately \$480,000 for housing out-of-county inmates.

"Personnel continuously train to meet licensing requirements and keep abreast of the ever-changing laws and mandates.

"The communications division has been vastly improved with the 911 upgraded addressing system, added computers and additional training for the staff.

"Drugs continue to be a problem in our communities and throughout the state. As I have said before, 'there is no quick fix to eradicating drugs.' Currently, we are in the process of reorganizing the narcotics task force to better address the local drug problem. I continue to maintain my Zero Tolerance stance for drug dealers and users.

"In closing I ask you, the citizens of Colorado County, for your continued support. Please vote and re-elect R.H. "Curly" Wied, your sheriff... honest, fair and dedicated."

## Crime

Continued From Page 1

Colorado County Crime Stoppers, citizens, law enforcement and the media are working together to make our community a safer place to live. Together, we can make a difference.

## JOE C. FLING

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HAPPY NEW YEAR Celebrate! 2004

New Year's  
GREETINGS  
From All Of Us

From all of us to all of thee,  
Go our thanks for your business in 2003  
Of customers like you, we couldn't ask more  
Except to see you again in 2004!

Jeannine  
Carol  
Shirley  
Katherine  
Cathy

Eagle Lake Headlight

Happy New Year 2004

CALL CRIME STOPPERS • 866-522-TIPS • IT PAYS REWARDS