



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To The Editor & You

Irresponsible Reporting

I was shocked, and annoyed at last weeks editorial entitled "Council Approves Deficit Budget (Citizens to Bear Burden through substantial rate increase).

What irresponsible reportings I can't comment to the author of this misleading article because there was no name attached to it.

It appears that our local elected government officials are under attack again, and continue to be undermined with inaccurate reporting of city business. I am surprised, and impressed that we have so many advanced degree people in economics, and finance who feel so free to advise the city on budgeting matters.

In regards to the cities tax rate:

The City of Eagle Lake has always had a higher tax rate than Weimar, and Columbus this is old news and that is because Columbus has a Wal-Mart to help their bottom line. Weimar has Brasher Motors and their own utilities

to add to their tax base. We have nothing that generates that kind of revenue.

The City contracts with a professional accountings group to review our accounts, and budget and the city has always received the highest ratings you can receive for reportings. If there were a financial threat the City would be advised, and necessary steps taken to correct it. Preparation of the cities budget has not changed in the past 15 years despite all the regulatory changes that have occurred and our ongoing need to stay in compliance with them. With limited funds the City has done well and that is due to department heads and the city manager.

The City has not increased its water rates in quite some time. Everyone is aware of the elderly, and those who are on fixed incomes but the city needs to do what's best for the majority, and still be compliant. If you think you can live somewhere else cheaper, then maybe you should move there.

Rene Cooper-Scott, RN

I'm so confused....

I'm trying to get all this political stuff straightened out in my head so I'll know how to vote come November.

Right now, we have one guy saying one thing. Then the other guy says something else. Who to believe? Lemme see. Have I got this straight?

Clinton awards Halliburton no-bid contract in Yugoslavia - good...

Bush awards Halliburton no-bid contract in Iraq - bad...

Clinton spends \$77 billion on war in Serbia - good...

Bush spends \$87 billion in Iraq - bad...

Clinton imposes regime change in Serbia - good...

Bush imposes regime change in Iraq - bad...

Clinton bombs Christian Serbs on behalf of Muslim Albanian terrorists - good...

Bush liberates 25 million from a genocidal dictator - bad...

Clinton bombs Chinese embassy - good...

Bush bombs terrorist's camps - bad...

Clinton commits felonies while in office - good...

Bush lands on aircraft carrier in jumpsuit - bad...

Clinton says mass graves in Serbia - good...

Bush says mass graves in Iraq - bad...

No mass graves found in Serbia - good...

Many mass graves found in Iraq - bad...

Clinton and Kerry say WMD in Iraq - good...

Bush says WMD in Iraq - bad...

Stock market crashes in 2000 under Clinton - good...

Economy on upswing under Bush - bad...

Clinton refuses to take custody of

(See Confused, Page 3)

Councilman Argues Deficit Budget Article

Serving as an elected official is a challenging task, particularly when everything said either within the forum of a public meeting or in a private social situation is subjected to public scrutiny and critique.

Public officials do not have the luxury of cowering in anonymity yet this part of the job is accepted by all who serve.

After reading the recent front-page article in which the anonymous author condemns the actions taken by the Eagle Lake City Council on Sept. 28, 2004, I felt the need to respond. The meeting on Sept. 28 represented the sixth open forum in which the budget, tax rate, and fees were discussed

(8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28).

The article begins by citing Mayor Morales' concern because some items council had voted to eliminate from the budget were back in the next week. This information is wrong. The fact is that the council never voted on any portion of the budget before 9/28. The council simply asked the city manager to put together different scenarios by including some items and cutting others in order to get a good picture of the options available to us.

One citizen spoke about the increasing "payroll burden for city employees" and expressed concerns about how Eagle Lake's tax rate compares with that of Columbus and

Weimar. With regards to payroll costs, anyone versed in business recognizes that payroll costs represent the largest portion of operating expenses, regardless of the type of organization. Council was criticized during the meeting for pay increases for city employees that were approved three years ago (2002-03 budget). Those increases represented the first in five years for city employees and they deserved them.

This same individual seemed to suggest that the City cut insurance for our employees and to layoff staff in order to save money. The fact is that city insurance benefits cover only the employees and the city contributes nothing toward spouse and/or dependent coverage. Further, the primary function of city government is to ensure that health and safety of its citizens. The Public Works Department is still not operating at full strength and it would be difficult to convince the over 100 people that showed up for the drug enforcement awareness meeting last month that the city should cut their police protection. Such moves would cripple the City's ability to hire and/or retain quality personnel at a time when citizen demands and expectations are greater than ever. With regards to the tax rate comparisons among cities in the county, both

Columbus and Weimar have revenue-generating entities that are used to subsidize their operations (Weimar - electric provider; Columbus - natural gas), not to mention an interstate highway, so such comparisons mean very little. As it is, Eagle Lake's tax rate is lower now than in 1998.

Another individual, speaking from a script, which was distributed to each council member, labeled our town as "tawdry looking and unappealing" and called for cuts to the budget yet at the same time called for more beautification projects, more parks, and a more attractive community center. Another suggestion included cutting the Main Street Program (a program designed to develop and beautify the downtown area) and a statement that "every person in the community would be willing to accept a penny or two tax raise per \$100 evaluation [sic] to solve many to solve many of these problems". This individual purports to speak for everyone yet lives outside the city limits and pays no city taxes. Others questions posed by citizens about specific line items, some of which were mentioned in the article, were answered and the responses seemed to satisfy those making the queries, although the author apparently felt that those answers were not relevant and this did not include them.

The article mentions Alderman Young's eliminating \$120,000 from the budget by cutting two positions. Again, the information presented to you is wrong. Alderman Young put together a scenario that cut \$120,000 from the budget by eliminating the retirement contribution to the fire department, the Main Street Program, funds designated for an EMS fire truck facility on the 90A side of the tracks, the city's contribution to a grant to tear down and replace nine dilapidated

(See Councilman, Page 3)

Bad drivers to pay

State Capitol Highlights



By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

Bad drivers are in for their own form of October surprise.

The law's been on the books for more than a year, but Texas drivers with certain violations on their driving record are beginning to find that their actions were more expensive than they thought.

Under the driver responsibility program administered by the Department of Public Safety, motorists convicted of speeding or more serious charges such as driving while intoxicated, are going to have to pay the state fees or surcharges. If they don't pay, their driver licenses will be revoked.

The DPS had to hire an outside vendor to handle the program, but during October and November, roughly 5,000 bad news letters a day will be mailed to drivers with moving violations or DWI offenses on their record.

The costs range from \$100 for someone who accumulates six points for misdemeanor traffic violations during a three-year period to \$1,500 a year for three years (or \$4,500 total) for a second offense DWI conviction.

The only good news from the violator's standpoint is that the vendor, Municipal Service Bureau, will be able to arrange monthly payments. The money will go to fund hospital trauma centers, emergency medical centers and the Texas Mobility Fund.

Early voting starts Oct. 18...

Texas' election law says early voting begins on the 17th day before an election and must end on the fourth day before.

With the general election Nov. 2, early voting begins Oct. 18 and continues through Oct. 29.

You don't have to offer any excuse to vote early, just go to wherever local election officials have set up as the place for early voting. Check your county clerk's office for locations.

To vote by mail, a registered voter still must declare a reason why he or she can't cast a ballot the traditional way on election day.

For more information on early voting, check the Texas Secretary of State's Web site at www.sos.state.tx.us.

Dove hunter continues...

Dove season continues for another couple of weeks (to Nov. 10 in the South Zone), though sunset is coming earlier each evening as fall gets into stride.

South Texas game warden Mike Bradshaw of Carrizo Springs says the season in his part of the state, which began in mid-September, has been OK though birds don't seem to stay in one particular area very long.

There are still more dove than hunters with some 392,000 seasonal shotguns having reported to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that they bagged dove last year.

Lets Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Sept. 18, 1980

Sisters Kathy and Lynn Ishee Rice High School FFA members were top winners in the Swine Show of the County Fair...

Friends and relatives were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. M.C. (Daisy) Fontenot on Sept. 15. She was the mother of Mrs. Bruce Waddell...

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Schindler proudly announced the arrival of their first child, a daughter, born Sept. 12 at Caney Valley Memorial Hospital in Wharton. Her name is Holli Senae...

Deborah Wilburn and David George will be wed Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. Miss Wilburn was complimented with a Miscellaneous Shower on Sept. 7 in the Rock Island Community Center...

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Lyons and Connie Grounds announced the engagement of their daughter, Debra Ann, to McRoy Thompson, son of Mr. & Mrs. James Thompson. The couple plans to exchange vows Oct. 11 at Providence Baptist Church...

New officers of the Rice Office Education Association are Donna Trcka, Barbara Black, Betty Garza,

Dora Jaramillo, Alice Matura, Carol Crabb, DeLeslyn Valenta and Linda Shorter...

Mr. & Mrs. Dale J. Popp announced the arrival of a son born Sept. 6 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Dustin Wayne Popp weighed eight pounds, three ounces...

Mrs. Paul (Mary) Labay passed away Sept. 13. She had been a resident of the Hillje Nursing Home for the past three years...

Sunday, Sept. 7 Rudolph Herman celebrated his 76th birthday at his home with a barbecue and all the trimmings...

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Ray Guthman of Lissie announced the birth of a son, Dustin Ray, born Sept. 14 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton.

Sept. 27, 1956

Ora Lee Glover of Altair, was accidentally shot to death in an accident at the Glover home...

Services were held for V.T. Matthews, victim of an automobile and truck collision, Monday. Services were held at the Colly Memorial Methodist Church with the Rev. Charles Walton officiating. Interment was in the Masonic Cemetery...

City manager P.V. Werner tendered his resignation in order to accept a similar position with the City of Jasper, Texas...

Ernest Reagan Larmer, native of Eagle Lake and son of Mr. & Mrs. Bert Larmer, was named last week to the position of manager of the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce and Gillespie County Fair Association...

Last rites were held for L.D. Roberts, a native of Eagle Lake, on Sept. 24, with the Rev. Joe R. Townsend, pastor of the First Baptist Church officiating. Interment followed in the Lakeside Cemetery...

Halfback John Larry Waits went over from six yards out to move the Broncos in the lead over Shiner. The Sheridan Broncos won the game 13-6 over Shiner...

Sally Gideon was named Garwood FFA Sweetheart at its chapter meeting on Sept. 21...

Darlene Fay Loessin, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gussie Loessin, celebrated her seventh birthday Sept. 19...

Walter A. Frnka was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant in the United States Army. Lt. Frnka is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred G. Frnka...

Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Harry of Garwood celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary Sept. 30...

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Muesse complimented their son, Keith Wayne, with a family picnic and wiener roast in honor of his eighth birthday anniversary.

PARISH OF THE NATIVITY
Roman Catholic Church of Victoria
545 South Austin Road Eagle Lake, Texas

2004 Fall Festival
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2004

EUCCHARIST
8:00 A.M. Bilingual 10:00 A.M. English
Meal & Music
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Chicken Fried Steak, Green Beans, Rice & Gravy
Dine in or Drive thru
Meal Tickets \$6.00 Per Plate

AUCTION (Begins at 1:00 P.M.)

Food Entertainment & Booths
Country Store Kiddie Rides & Games Face Painting
Plant Walk Cake Walk

Soccer Tournament - 11:00 A.M.
Volleyball Tournament - 11:00 A.M.
Horseshoe Tournament - 2 P.M.

Music for Mealtime & Free Dance Provided
By: D.J. "Jazzy J"

Want to go down in history?
Your house, that is!

Get info form at local public libraries in Colorado Co. Sponsored by Colorado County Historical Commission.

Becky Wied of Wied Realty is proud to announce the addition of Stacey Leopold as a new sales associate.

Stacey lives in Nada with her husband, Dusty, and their son, Colton (7) and daughter, Dakotah (4). Stacey is a 1993 graduate of Rice School in Altair and a 1995 graduate of Wharton County Junior College with an Associates Degree in Business. She & Dusty, along with their 2 children, are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. In 2004, Stacey received her real estate license and is now pursuing a career in real estate. She brings to Wied Realty her desire to help her customers buy or sell a home or property on a more personal level by taking the time to listen to their needs, finding out what's important to them and putting their interests first, and in the process, making their dreams come true.

The Wied Realty team now consists of Becky Wied, Broker, Alex Wied, Jesse Wood, Stacey Leopold, Sales Associates, Jo Ann Zbrank, Office Manager, and Cori Wied, Receptionist.

Wied Realty
Personal, Professional Service

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EAGLE LAKE DRUGSTORE

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New Dosage Form: Fast Dissolving Tablets

A new development in pharmaceutical technology has allowed some drug manufacturers to put their products into a new type of dosage form, a fast-dissolving/disintegrating tablet (FDDT). FDDTs are designed to dissolve rapidly when exposed to saliva, thereby eliminating the need for a glass of water or swallowing. Medications like Claritin Reditabs can be very convenient when administering a medication to a child that is too young to swallow a tablet or an elderly person with difficulty swallowing. Acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, has also been made into a FDDT under the name of Tempra FirstTabs. Dimetapp Quick Dissolve Children's Cold and Allergy Tablets and Benadryl Allergy and Sinus Fastmelt are other examples.

FDDT formulations can be a good addition to a traveling first aid kit when obtaining an 8 ounce glass of water is inconvenient or impractical. Because they take less time to get into the system, some medications that are needed to work immediately are being made into FDDTs. Examples include Zomig ZMT (zolmitriptan) and Maxalt-MLT (rizatriptan) for migraine headache sufferers. The FDDT formula of Zofran ODT (ondansetron) is also very useful for cancer patients who are too nauseous to swallow the needed anti-nausea medication.

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