



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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 979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522
 email: headlight@elc.net
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Cathy Fearing • Jeannine Fearing
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 Shirley Luedecke • Katherine Smith

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To The Editor & You I'm Free

The following is from a mother in the area who lost her son a while back. She wanted to pass this on to the families of those who recently lost a loved one.

So in memory of Robin Aguilar, Yesenia Castillo, Heather Kieborz, Patty Ruiz, Baby J and Kevin Broesche:

I'm Free
 Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
 I'm following the path God laid for me.
 I took His hand when I heard Him call.
 I turned my back and left it all.
 I could not stay another day,
 to laugh, to love, to work, or play.
 A task left undone must stay that way,
 I've found that peace at close of day;
 If parting has left a void,
 Then fill it with remembered joy.
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.
 Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
 Be not burdened with time so of sorrow.
 I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
 My life's been full; I've savored much.
 Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
 Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
 Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
 Lift up your heart and share with me...
 God wanted me now;
 He Set Me Free!!!

Transportation agency approves \$21.5 billion traffic plan

The Texas Transportation Commission last week approved a \$21.5 billion plan intended to reduce traffic congestion in the state's largest urban areas.

The heart of the funding plan is something brand new for the state, the parceling of money to metropolitan areas for transportation projects that local officials deem a top priority.

Since the transportation agency's creation in 1917, spending decisions have been made based on what the commission considered the most important uses, not necessarily what locals wanted.

Formally known as the Metropolitan Mobility Plan, the plan uses various new financing options approved by the 78th Legislature - including \$3 billion in bond sale proceeds - to leverage the necessary funding to start badly needed construction projects years ahead of previous schedules.

For more information on the plan, including specific projects, check the department's Web site at www.dot.state.tx.us.

Rate decreases still on hold...

A state district court ruled Nov. 8 that a portion of the 2003 law allowing for immediate homeowners' relief was unconstitutional, effectively putting a hold on \$243 million the Texas Department of Insurance ordered re-funded to policyholders.

Insurance agency officials said they disagreed with the court's ruling and were exploring all legal options.

In August 2003, the agency ordered State Farm to reduce its rate by 12 percent and Farmers Insurance by 17.5 percent. The rollbacks had been on hold pending legal challenges.

The Nov. 8 ruling applies only to the immediate rate reduction provision of Senate Bill 14. The remainder of the 2003 reforms are not affected, the agency reported.

Heflin challenge looks unlikely...

It's looking more and more like Rep. Talmadge Heflin (R-Houston) will not challenge his narrow 31-vote loss to Democrat Hubert Vo.

Two clues: Based on the seniority system, Rep. Edmund Kuempel (R-Seguin) has been assigned Heflin's



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
 Texas Press Association

larger Capitol office; last Friday, House Speaker Tom Craddick appointed Rep. Jim Pitts (R-Waxahachie) as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. That was Heflin's job, one of the most powerful in the Legislature.

More time in the classroom...

When the 79th Legislature convenes on Jan. 11, lawmakers will face no shortage of hot issues. Few bills will be of more interest to parents of school age children than Sen. Eddie Lucio's (D-Brownsville) recently filed SB 106.

The measure would allow school districts to add 15 minutes or a half hour to the school day. That would enable districts to continue to meet the required level of classroom instruction while cutting six or 12 days off the

attendance calendar. School starts could then be moved to the traditional time of early September.

Last September, the comptroller's office estimated that the current August school start dates cost \$790 million, factoring in everything from air-conditioning bills to lost income.

No 20-20 vision yet on Rule of 85 talk...

The possibility of the Legislature changing the state retirement system's Rule of 80 to a Rule of 85 so far is merely a rumor making the rounds of state agencies in Austin.

No bills concerning such a change have been filed. Interested state employees can keep up with the issue through the Texas Public Employees Association or the Employees Retirement System.

Lets Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Oct. 30, 1980

Janice Waligura was crowned 1980 Homecoming Queen during halftime activities of the Raider vs. Bellville football game. Her escort was **Wayne Bowen** a member of the Raider team...

Emil B. Balusek of Nada passed away Oct. 23 at Columbus Community Hospital...

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Janish of Nada announced the arrival of a son, **Brian Jeremy** born Oct. 16 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton...

The 50th wedding anniversary of **Mr. & Mrs. Eusebio Salazar** was celebrated Oct. 18 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church...

Annie Mozisek was named 1980 Halloween Queen at the Sheridan PTS Halloween Carnival...

Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Glueck Sr. will observe their 40th wedding anniversary Nov. 9 at an open house at the Mentz Parish Hall...

Friends and relatives learned with sadness of the death of **Jack Rhodes**, a long-time resident of Eagle Lake. He passed away in his sleep at his home on Oct. 26. Funeral services were held Oct. 28 at Mill-Bauer Funeral Home...

Mr. & Mrs. James Rees of Garwood announced the birth of a daughter, **Dyana Parr**. She was born Oct. 21 at Gulf Coast Medical Center...

Citizens throughout the community were saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Glen Ivor Jennings** on Oct. 28...

Funeral services were held for **Oscar Einkauf** of the Sheridan community on Oct. 26. He passed away Oct. 24 after a lengthy illness...

Best wishes were sent out to **Roy & Myrtle Van Nort** on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary.

Nov. 8, 1956

Flintex Oil Company announced the lease of the Shell Service Station in Eagle Lake to **Robert Griffith** and **Robert Finney** and re-opening of the station on Nov. 12...

President **Ike Eisenhower** was re-elected for president with 8691 votes coming from Colorado County...

Last rites were held for **Mrs. C.C. Pennington** of Seguin, formerly a resident of Eagle Lake...

Eagle Lake's lone tally in the football game between the East Bernard Brahmas came when **Joe Barela** came

from his left for 21 yards to a touchdown. The rest was up to East Bernard and the game ended with the Eagles losing 38-6...

The **Rev. & Mrs. J.R. Townsend** announced the arrival of a son, **John**, born at the Laughlin Hospital on Nov. 5...

Mr. & Mrs. James Owen Ricks announced the arrival of a daughter, **Beverly Jean**, born at Laughlin Hospital on Nov. 5...

A daughter, **Melody**, was born at the Laughlin Hospital on Nov. 1 to **Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gilstrap**...

Theresa Theuman celebrated her fourth birthday at the home of her parents, **Mr. & Mrs. Miles Theuman**...

Mr. & Mrs. David O. Konescheck announced the arrival of a son, **John Charles**, born at the Laughlin Hospital on Nov. 6...

Damaged is light when two automobiles driven by **Billy Henneke** and **Genabgo Rodriguez** sideswiped on E. Main Street...

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Cranek, Blansitt honored with Couples Shower

Christie Cranek bride-elect of Joel Blansitt were honored with a Couples Shower on Saturday, November 20, at 6 p.m.

The shower took place in the meeting rooms at the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department. As the honorees arrived they were pinned on floral fall corsages. The fall and Thanksgiving theme were carried throughout the meeting rooms.

The honorees and guests were served a buffet style chili supper with numerous side dishes, chips, dips and desserts.

Special guests include, **Bodock and Marla Cranek** of Garwood, parents of the bride; **Don and Debbie Blansitt** of Schulenburg, parents of the groom; **Louis and Leona Cranek** of Garwood, grandparents of the bride; and **Garett and Russell Cranek**, brothers of the bride.

Other guests included family and friends from, Bay City, College Station, Columbus, Eagle Lake, Edna, Houston, Katy, Louise, Nada, Rosenberg, Schulenburg, Sealy, Stephenville, Sugar Land and Garwood.

The hostesses presented the couple with their chosen 15-Piece Calphalon Cutlery Set and Steak Knives.

Christie and Joel will be married on February 5, 2005.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE or contact the Admissions and Registration Office for times, locations, and requirements

WCJC Wharton County Junior College

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