



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Family & Friends gearing up for the season

Our benefit date of Dec. 5 is quickly approaching and many of you have asked what we need or what you could do. Thank you so much for your generosity! That is what Eagle Lake is known for. I have talked to many of you already, but if I haven't yet, and you would like to donate an item(s) to the live or silent auction, **PLEASE** call me at 234-7582 as soon as possible.

Those of you who would like to donate a turkey or ham may bring it

to B&S Taxidermy, or if you would like to bring it directly to the church we will be distributing out on Friday, Dec. 17 between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Just let me know so we can order the remaining amount needed.

Family & Friends—"God's Helping Hands" has chosen 62 families to assist for the holiday season. With the help of several churches, hospital employees, school student councils, and others like you, we will provide a turkey or ham, canned foods, fresh fruit and vegetables, and a gift to each

family member. There are many individuals that we hope to touch with your kindness. Actually, there are 239 individuals!!

With all of us pulling together, I have no doubt that our benefit will be a total success!!

We hope to see each of you after church on Sunday. Thank you again for your offerings and may God bless your family and health.

Lynn Ellis
President of Family & Friends

To the 'Dumpers'... You know who you are

Please keep your trash off of our streets in Altair. We are a small town, but we do have pride. From the Citizens of Altair

A town torn apart

Over the last eight months, we have witnessed something that is deplorable within our City Government and it must cease immediately.

In May, and after a very spirited election with an enormous voter turnout, we elected a new mayor and re-elected two aldermen. The new administration attempted to bring in new ideas and energy but was re-buffed in these attempts resulting in a resignation of the Mayor — a sad event.

Another election was held to fill the vacancy, and our present mayor was elected and had to resign his alderman seat on the council. Attempts have been made to fill this vacancy but were rejected by a majority vote of the council, which clearly manifests itself in political tones and nothing else — again a sad event.

There appears to be a seriously divided issue of whether or not our present city manager should remain. There are those who feel very strongly

that this office is in total control with no citizen input or change possibilities and they want a change but feel powerless to effect it. This has been brought forth in serious conversations and research as to whether or not Eagle Lake is operating under a City Manager form of Government (Chapter 25) or under the Mayoral form (Chapter 22), and which is legal. According to the Code, the only way a municipality can change from a Chapter 22 form of government is to petition for a special election to do so, which has never been done. However, there appears to be historical opinions and interpretations made by the Attorney General's office and a Resolution from the State Government that seems to give some members of our City Government rational to the present status of operations.

There are several alternatives available: (1) do nothing, or (2) wait until the next election in May of 2005

and elect three new aldermen that will effect the desired changes of the majority, or (3) circulate a petition that calls for a special election to either reaffirm the Chapter 22 status for a lack of any historical vote to the contrary and allow the mayor to decide the position of any assistance in operating the City, or (4) a petition in the form of a mandate from the voters requesting the removal of the present city manager.

We are fortunate in that we have a new mayor whose heart and actions are in the right place and deserves all the support available. It is fortunate that some members of City Council do not feel this way and politics needs to be put aside. This City is on the very edge of financial instability and time is our worst enemy — the passing of a budget does not sweep this under the rug, and reality is upon us.

From a Concerned Citizen

Legislature to consider state tax system, legalized gambling

When the Legislature convenes Jan. 11, its agenda will be the legislative equivalent of a heavily-laden Thanksgiving plate. But the lawmaking process, unlike turkey and dressing and all the trimmings, is almost guaranteed to give some people heartburn.

The House Research Organization released a report last week on topics likely to come up during the 79th Legislature.

As the introduction understates, "The Texas Legislature will consider a variety of issues when it convenes...." Topping the pile, of course, will be revising the school finance system and considering measures aimed at property-tax relief.

"In addition," the report continues, "revising the state tax system, including business taxation and the possible expansion of legalized gambling, reforming the system of workers' compensation insurance, and reviewing the distribution of water resources are among the issues" that likely will dominate.

Behind every consideration will be the state's budget and the revenue stream it relies on. The report notes: "While the fiscal outlook at the beginning of 2005 is expected to be better than that which confronted the state two years ago, budgetary concerns remain."

Heflin decides to fight...

His Capitol office space has been reassigned and he'll no longer be



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, but Rep. Talmadge Heflin (R-Houston) has submitted the necessary paperwork to the House to contest his election defeat.

Meanwhile, Democratic challenger Hubert Vo has been certified as the winner by 32 votes.

Once a committee appointed by the speaker issues its report, Heflin's legislative colleagues could take up the matter in a proceeding somewhat like a trial. After hearing evidence, they can either seat Vo as a new member or return Heflin. Another option would be requiring the governor to call a new election. Heflin earlier requested a recount in the tight race that appears to have ended his 21-year legislative career. Two other candidates for House also had filed recount requests with the Secretary of State — Eric Opie (R-Karnes County), who lost to Democrat Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles of Alice by 835 votes and Kelly White, an Austin Democrat who fell 147 votes short of defeating incumbent Todd Baxter (R-Austin.)

The Kinkster's New Year's resolution...

Kinky Friedman this January is

expected to toss his black cowboy hat into the 2006 gubernatorial election ring. The Kerrville mystery novelist, singer and cigar-smoking Clown Prince to both former President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush has been threatening for more than a year to run as an independent candidate.

If Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison decide to challenge Gov. Rick Perry in the '06 Republican primary, and if Friedman indeed runs as threatened, the next governor's race promises to be the best political spectacle in years.

Ornament raises money for state...

Here's a shopping idea and a way to help preserve the furnishings and artwork in the Capitol.

The ninth annual Capitol Christmas ornament, an image of the Capitol rotunda, sells for \$16. The 24-karat gold ornament is available at the two gift shops in the Capitol complex or via the Internet at www.TexasCapitol-Giftshop.com or by calling 1-888-678-5556. So far, the ornament project has raised \$2.6 million for Capitol preservation and education efforts.

CHPT plans tours, exhibit and dinner theatre for Christmas weekend

The Columbus Historical Preservation Trust (CHPT) has been busy getting ready for the Christmas on the Colorado weekend, Dec. 3-5 by planning a Candlelight Christmas Homes Tour, a Heritage Christmas Homes Tour, an historical courthouses exhibit, and a dinner theatre.

The **Candlelight Christmas Homes Tour** will be on Friday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be four private homes and one house museum on the tour. The homes included on the tour are the 1856 Tait Town House, 526 Wallace Street; the 1867 Tate-Senftenberg-Brandon House Museum, 616 Walnut; the 1882 Simpson-Williamson-Rankin Home, 630 Milam; the 1899 Hamburger-Peters Home, 1437 Milam and the 1919

Seymour-Schobel Home at 603 Travis.

Tickets for the Candlelight Christmas Homes tour are \$10 for 5 houses or \$2 per house. Children's tickets are \$1 per house or free for children under 6 years.

The **Heritage Christmas Homes Tour** will be on Saturday, Dec. 4. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. visit the Mary Elizabeth Hopkins Santa Claus Museum at 604 Washington which has North America's largest collection of Santa figurines or the 1836 Alley Log Cabin and Antique Tool Museum at 1230 Bowie Street where you can see a quilting demonstration, blacksmithing demonstration and "Shootists" in period costume. From 1 to 4 p.m. the 1867 Tate-Senftenberg-Brandon House Museum at 616 Walnut will again be open and the 1858 Dilue Rose Harris House Museum at 602 Washington will be open for tours.

Tickets for the Heritage Christmas Homes Tour are \$6 for the 3 houses and the museum or \$2 per visit. Tickets for children are \$1 per house or museum and are free to children under 6 years.

der 6 years.

You may purchase tickets to either tour beforehand at the visitors center at the Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street or at the individual homes on Friday or Saturday. Maps to both tours will also be available at the visitor's center.

The **free Preservation Texas Exhibit** on historical courthouses will be open Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street. On Saturday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. you can get free kolaches, sweetrolls, and coffee when you tour the exhibit. The courthouses exhibit will remain open on Saturday until 4 p.m. and will be open on Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Then sit back, relax and enjoy the dinner theatre also at the Stafford Opera House on Saturday evening. See **Star Spangled Girl** performed by ONSTAGE Theatre Company of Austin. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:30 and the curtain opens at 7:30. Tickets are \$25. For tickets or information call 979-732-5135 or 877-444-7339.

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Treatment For This Diabetes Complication

People with diabetes which is not well controlled over time often develop a complication called *diabetic neuropathy*. Nerve damage due to diabetic neuropathy can manifest itself several different ways. If, for example, a single nerve malfunctions, a single body limb could become weak. However if the nerve deficit affects the hands, feet, or a leg, an abnormal tingling or burning pain accompanied by weakness can develop. Diabetic neuropathy is the most common complication of diabetes, affecting 62% of Americans with this condition.

Treatment for diabetic neuropathy varies with the individual. In general, however, the better a person's blood sugar is controlled with oral drugs and/or insulin, the less neuropathy the person will usually experience. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like *ibuprofen* are often used for mild neuropathic pain, and antidepressants such as *amitriptyline* or seizure medications including *gabapentin* (Neurontin) have been used for severe cases. *Duloxetine* (Cymbalta) is a new drug recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for managing pain associated with diabetic neuropathy. In studies, people who took Cymbalta reported a 58% greater reduction in pain when compared to those who received a dummy pill.

Local farm leader voices concern

Local farm leaders are concerned about the future of agricultural trade. Colorado County Farm Bureau President Charles Harbich said that healthy export markets are vital for a strong rural economy. U.S. farmers and ranchers produce more than they need to supply the U.S. market. Selling the surplus abroad boosts prices and contributes to a positive U.S. balance of payments in export trade.

"We need to understand that farmers and ranchers produce more than enough crops for our country, and the surplus makes the price of their products go down," said Harbich.

There are many factors, such as financing arrangements, exchange rates, transportation costs, and product labeling, that play into how trade works. The USDA reports about \$59.6 billion in agricultural export sales in 2003.

"Selling goods overseas is a major help to the economy and contributes positively to the U.S. balance of trade," Harbich said.

There are trade barriers, in the form of tariffs, bogus food safety concerns and embargoes that are obstacles to U.S. agricultural trade. The Bush administration has promised to intensify trade efforts in a second term.

"Our farmers and ranchers work with what they have and they bring in the best, safest, and most affordable food and fiber in the world. Without overseas markets, surpluses here would severely depress the market. It's happened before," Harbich said.



HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY

Dasia

Dec. 6

Love,
Your Family



County Go-Texan plans ticket sales for HLS&R

The Colorado County Go-Texan Association will sell tickets for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLS&R) to help students from Colorado County to receive scholarships from the HLS&R.

Tickets may be purchased from any Colorado County Go-Texan member by filling out an official HLS&R order form. The official form is the only way to get credit for the sale. They have a minimum of 100 tickets to sell, and they will gain extra points

for additional sales.

Parents, groups, 4-H and FFA members are all encouraged to purchase tickets through the Go-Texan Association. They will also help groups coordinate a 55-passenger charter bus for the trip.

For more information call Clinton "Buddy" Mascheck at 979-234-5347, Lisa Krenek at 979-758-3733 or 979-578-1947, Royce Korenek at 979-732-9486 or Donnie Head at 979-725-8139.

Engstrom honored at bridal luncheon

Miss Amanda Jane Engstrom, bride-elect of William Robert "Bill" Ishee was honored with a bridal luncheon Saturday, November 27 at 12:00 in the home of Mrs. Lee Roy Lund-

quist in Garwood.

Ms. Karen Rees of Garwood helped to host the affair.

The honoree was pinned with a soft pink carnation corsage.

The Christmas theme was carried out throughout the home. Guests were seated at tables covered with red cloths and over laid with white lace coverlets. The tables were accented with tall Red Amaryllis and Christmas greenery. Red and green glittered grapes were placed at the base of the arrangement.

A menu of Chicken Divan Crepes, fresh fruit salad and poppy-seed dressing, croissants, iced tea and layered

(See Engstrom, Page 5)

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Look and feel your best for the holidays!

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