



**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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**TO THE EDITOR & YOU**

**Regarding the article "A Town Torn Apart"**

The one thing I really dislike is for people who put misleading articles in the newspaper and who fail to identify themselves as the author. If you feel that passionate about something be man or woman enough to sign your name. We live in a democratic society not autocratic.

The City of Eagle Lake has been functioning in this present form of city government since 1952 obviously Mr. Holland was not around and had nothing to do with the structure. We have had past mayors who were at one time the city manager for the city. Executive Power in the wrong hands can be a disastrous and dangerous situation. That's why we have a council where dialog takes place and a vote decides what is law, five people not (one) making the decisions.

When people run for office they need to know the job responsibilities that go along with the position. The mayor has no power. Never did, the council does.

Some people keep stirring the pot regarding the form of city government that Eagle Lake operates under. We're no different than Columbus, Weimar, Smithville, Flatonia, La Grange and other small cities with a population under 4,000 people. We all operate the same government structure.

Mr. Holland and his staff have kept this city operational and obviously have had to make some unpopular decisions but that goes along with the job when you are looking out for the entire city. Ask any mayor who has served their term in office. It's never been about power until now.

I resent the writers comment about, "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." I know that those of us who served in the capacity of mayor in Eagle Lake had the best interest of the city and its citizens at heart.

The city has always had to operate close to the edge that's nothing new. With limited funds, and resources, credit can go to Mr. Holland and the city staff who are excellent stewards of the cities finances. So to all of you who want to be so critical of Mr. Holland and how the city operates, be careful of the comments you make. Slanderous comments can lead to other issues.

Proudly submitted by,  
 Rene Cooper Scott  
 P.S. Get over the vacant council seat, move on!! We all have. Sometimes you win, and sometimes you loose.

**Salvation Army**

This holiday season you'll find many local merchants ringing bells for the Salvation Army to help those less fortunate in our community.

As the newly appointed coordinator for the Salvation Army in our area, I am pleased to be working closely with local merchants to raise funds to help those in OUR community who are less fortunate. All funds raised will remain in the Eagle Lake area.

Please drop by any of the following merchants business establishments through Dec. 31 to make your contribution: A. J. Struss, First National Bank of Eagle Lake, Furniture Shoppe, Janik's Meat Market, Simple Simon's Pizza, or Wallis State Bank.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 for our local community to assist families in need throughout 2005. Any contributions are appreciated.

Thank you,  
 Sidney E. Struss  
 Coordinator for the Salvation Army  
 Eagle Lake, Texas

**Judge: State should pay for school construction**

District Judge John Dietz ruled parts of the state's school funding system inadequate last September, but the final judgment he issued last week had a major — and initially overlooked — surprise: The state should pay school districts for bricks and mortar as well as teachers and books.

He had not mentioned paying for facilities in his initial ruling. In the written order, however, Dietz said a school district "cannot provide a constitutionally adequate education without a sufficient support network." That network, the judge said, included adequate and properly maintained facilities.

In his 125-page "Findings of Fact," Dietz used El Paso county's Ysleta Independent School District as one example.

The district has not floated a bond issue in two decades. Now it has 21 schools more than 40 years old and more than 60 percent of its classrooms more than 30 years old. To bring all its facilities up to standard, the judge said, the district would need \$550 million.

The school funding issue remains academic until the Texas Supreme Court acts on the state's appeal of Dietz' ruling.

**Judge denies injunction request...**

State Farm Insurance went to district court in Austin late last week seeking an injunction to block the Texas Department of Insurance from requiring it to lower its homeowner rates and issue refunds but the judge quickly threw out the request.

Based on an insurance reform law passed by the 78th Legislature, the state regulatory agency last year said State



**State Capitol Highlights**

By Mike Cox  
 Texas Press Association

Farm and Farmers Insurance had overcharged homeowner policyholders and should refund more than \$300 million.

In the motion filed last week, State Farm argued the state was attempting to get around an earlier court ruling that the company did not have to reduce rates and make refunds.

Bottom line: Don't base your holiday shopping budget on getting a check from State Farm.

**Recounts don't change results...**

The recount requested by incumbent Rep. Talmadge Heflin (R-Houston) shows he still lost to Democrat Hubert Vo by 33 votes. (The recount netted Vo one more vote.) Heflin also has filed a challenge in the House, but Vo came to Austin last week along with 16 other freshmen House members for an orientation at the Capitol.

In another contested race, Democrat Yvonne Gonzalez-Tourelles of Alice added 11 more votes to her margin, defeating Rep. Eric Opiela (R-Karnes City) by 846 votes.

**New state auditor...**

It's not a large agency, but the state auditor's office plays a big role in Texas government. The office audits state agencies and their programs and acts as a watchdog agency that does more than count beans.

Last week, the agency got a new head, retired Legislative Budget Board director John Keel, a former state representative who worked for Bob Bullock. He replaces retired auditor Lawrence Alwin.

**Attacking car burglaries...**

Rep. Vicki Truitt (R-Keller) has pre-filed House Bill 151, a measure that would stiffen the penalty for burglary of a vehicle. As it is now, breaking into a car or truck is a class A misdemeanor, with a maximum fine of \$4,000 or up to a year in jail.

Truitt wants the penalty to be a state jail felony of up to two years behind bars with a fine up to \$10,000.

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**Lets Look Back...**

**24 & 48 YEARS AGO**

**Nov. 6, 1980**

Then Bentley-Farris House added a new dimension to The Farris 1912 with year round accommodations, including services offered by The Farris 1912.

The Mighty Raider Band under the leadership of Floyd Spenrath earned a Division I Rating for the third year in a row...

Wanda Center is the new manager at the Kevin Court Apartments... Voters went to the polls and elected Ronald Reagan as president and George Bush as vice-president...

**Nov. 6, 1956**

Miss Peggy Sue Leopold and Tommy Burns exchanged vows Oct. 11 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church...

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce with President Bob McIner held a ribbon cutting at the new Entex office at 219 E. Main Street...

Fifty-eight co-eds representing student organizations and residence halls are vying for the 1980 Homecoming Queen at South West Texas State University. Among the 58 is Julia Thomas, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Thomas of Eagle Lake...

Rev. J. Melburn Sibley Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake was elected to the 192-member Executive Board at the Baptist Convention held Oct. 28-30 in Houston...

Funeral services were held for G. I. Jennings Oct. 30 who passed away Oct. 28 at Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

A distinguished visitor to the city last week was Bob Marcotte of Omaha, Nebraska, president of Ducks Unlimited. He visited here with David & Eula Wintermann...

**Nov. 15, 1956**

Seven high stepping young ladies lead the Eagle Lake High School Band. They are Donna Lou Thomas, assistant drum major; twirler Susan Davidson; head drum major, Ruth Ann Tate; the band mascot, Patricia Tate; twirlers Glenda Altman and Doris McCreary; and head twirler Jo Ann Konvicka...

Barbara Boggess, Eagle Lake Junior High School band twirler won the coveted honor of being named the Junior High School Football Queen at the Eagles final game...

Mr. & Mrs. David Zahradnick celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary with a barbecue at their home...

Ricky Walton, 11-year-old son of Rev. & Mrs. Charles Walton, was complimented by his parents with a birthday party...

The Eagle Lake Woman's Home Demonstration Club met on Nov. 8 and officers were elected. They are Mrs. Hans German, president; Mrs. W.C. Elkins, vice-president; Mrs. Joe Anderson, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Lee Stahl, council delegate; Mrs. W.L. Brumelow, council alternate; and Mrs. H.T. Neiswender, reporter...

Miss Wilma Fay McGlothlin and Airman Burris were united in marriage in the Garwood Methodist Church on Nov. 7.

**THIS IS D.Q. COUNTRY SPECIAL**

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**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**

Thursday - Friday - Saturday Nights

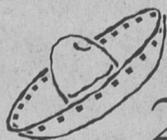
5:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m.

Hamburger Steak \$6<sup>99</sup> • Fried Catfish \$6<sup>99</sup>

Hawaiian Chicken \$6<sup>99</sup>

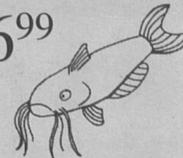
All of the above entrees include:

Fries or Mashed Potatoes & Soup or Salad



2 Beef Enchiladas \$6<sup>49</sup>

with Rice & Beans and Chips & Hot Sauce



**Happy 26<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Martha Ann Evelyn Holloway

Dec. 7, 2004

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 Your daughter, son, sisters,  
 brothers, mom and dad.

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