



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)
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 Published Weekly-Every Thursday

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Advertising and News Deadline: 5 P.M. Monday

Subscription Rates

Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt)	\$15.50
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties	\$17.00
Other Texas Residents	\$18.50
Outside of Texas; Inside U.S.	\$20.00

Foreign Rates Available By Request

Single Copy Price : 50¢

Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas

Address Corrections should be sent to P.O. Box 67 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

Governor Perry Says Main Goal For Session Is Tax Reform

AUSTIN — On April 12, five days before the opening of a special session of the Texas Legislature, Gov. Rick Perry sent a letter to House Speaker Tom Craddick.

In the letter, Perry declares: "Once legislators have met the goal of reforming the current tax system, I will then consider expanding the call to other meaningful issues facing our state."

Picture an ox and cart in Perry's mind, with tax reform as the ox and school finance reform as the cart. Perry has been pressured to put the ox and cart side by side.

The ox must lead, however, because the Texas Supreme Court ordered legislators to do one thing: give local school districts the freedom

to adjust property tax rates meaningfully, instead of merely fixing rates at the maximum. The task must be accomplished by June 1.

Perry's Texas Tax Reform Commission, chaired by former state comptroller John Sharp, produced a 92-page document with language that substantially reforms the tax code.

In those pages are words to create

a business tax based on adjusted gross receipts. Adjustments, or deductions, are based on how much compensation is paid to a firm's employees, or on the amount of a business's cost of goods sold.

Note: Cost of goods sold is found by establishing the cost of a company's beginning inventory and adding net purchases in a business year to get a cost of goods available for sale. Cost of ending inventory is subtracted from that amount, and the total is cost of goods sold.

Most businesses would pay a 1 percent tax, but retailers and wholesalers would pay 0.5 percent under the Perry-Sharp plan.

On April 11, the Texas Association of Business, which represents more than 140,000 businesses and millions of employees, added its stamp of approval to the Perry-Sharp plan. Earlier, 23 other major associations and groups endorsed the plan.

But as of April 16, no House member had come forward and offered to carry the Perry-Sharp plan as a bill in the special session, which started April 17.

Dems ask for new ethics rules
 State Reps. Jim Dunning, D-Waco,

Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, and Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, on April 13 proposed to amend House rules so that issues before the Legislature in the special session would be more "transparent" to all Texans.

The trio's "Open the People's House Reform Plan," outlined in a letter to all House members, would take some of the mystery out of the legislative process by requiring:

- real-time record votes on all questions so the public can hold officials accountable;
- real-time Internet access to all floor amendments;
- conference committees to meet and vote in public; and
- the House to abide by the same open meetings laws required of every other governmental body.

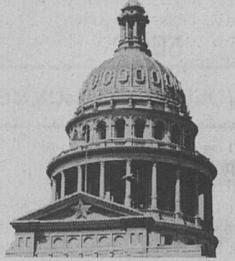
Perry ad blitz raises hackles

Gubernatorial candidates Chris Bell, a Democrat, and Carole Keeton Strayhorn, running as an independent, complained about Gov. Rick Perry's advertising campaign promoting his tax reform proposal.

Perry supporters raised some \$6 million from corporate and other donations to pay for the advertising.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

With the campaign on and the special session about to commence, Strayhorn questioned the ethics of soliciting corporations. Bell said, "Just because it's legal doesn't mean it's ethical."

Health agency issues caution

The Department of State Health Services recommends thorough hand washing after handling baby chicks given as Easter presents. Hand washing reduces the risk of contracting salmonella, a bacteria that can cause diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain and fever, the agency said.

EAGLE LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Volunteers are needed to help complete the Chamber of Commerce Office. Your Chamber Office will soon have a permanent place to call home. Please help us realize this dream.

Volunteers needed!

Scheduled Work Days
 April 22nd & 29th @ 9:00AM to 5:00 PM
 April 23rd & 30th @ 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Volunteers needed!

For more information contact John Gertson @ 979-234-2200

STAR OF THE WEEK
Lighthouse



This certifies that
Givelle Polanco, Grade: 5th

Has achieved
 Star status
 for

- Honor Roll Student**
- Excellent School Attendance**
- Excellent Attitude**
- A Kind Heart**
- Respectful of others**
- Excellent school conduct**
- Patient**

Achievements



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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

April 15, 1982

Egg roll winners at Eagle Lake Primary School were Melissa Luna, Steve Torrez and Mark Behne. Steve captured the grand prize...

Ms. Agnes Reel Duke of Eagle Lake and Michael G. Strauss of Bellville announced their recent engagement and forthcoming marriage. The wedding is planned for May 22 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bellville...

Coach and Mrs. Michael Michulka of Garwood proudly announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Leigh Ann, born April 8 at Gulf Coast Medical Center...

Miss Sharon Barton, bride-elect of Ricky Kristynik was honored with a Kitchen Shower at the home of Mrs. James Brossmann of Schulenburg...

Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Mayo are the happy parents of a baby daughter born at Women's Center of Texas in Houston...

Brandon Mathis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mathis, celebrated his fourth birthday party on April 6 with a Popeye theme used in party decorations...

April 24, 1962

Janet Wied and Al Mahalitic, who plan an April 24 wedding, were honored with a Yard and Garden Shower at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bittner April 3...

Relatives and friends in the area learned with regret that funeral services for Alfred Paul Berger, 71, of Garwood were held April 7 in Nada...

Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Fudge announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Debra Nell, to Jonathan M. Gregory, son of Rev. and Mrs. Bob Gregory of Robstown. The wedding is planned for May 22 in the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Nawara announced the arrival of their first child, a daughter, Cassie Machele, born April 2 in the Columbus Community Hospital...

Final rites were held for Mrs. Christine Champ Denver April 6 in Garwood. She passed away April 1 at the Columbus Community Hospital...

Thomas Kallina, a sophomore agricultural engineering major at Texas A&M University, was selected to serve as First Sgt. of C-Battery in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band...

Sheriff Jim Broussard was elected Commander of Paul Perry Hasted, VFW Post 6113 of Columbus...

Bert Tise, freshman student at Texas A&M University in College Station, was listed as one of the top students in the Engineering Design Graphics classes, following results at mid-term of his second semester...

Funeral services for Frank Cernoch, lifelong resident of Nada, were held April 12 in Nada...

Sports and outdoors lovers learned with great regret of the death on April 10 of Tom T. Waddell who during his 92 year life's span almost became a legend for his work in a wildlife conservation and protection of the environment.

April 17, 1958

Colorado County Chapter of the Ex-students Association of Texas A&M College gathered for the annual San Jacinto Day Muster at Marvin's in Altair...

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department won first place in the Tri-Association racing contest held in Bellville. Members of the team included Henry Dostal, Chief Henry Kretzschmar, L.J. Spanihel, John Brasher, Johnny Burns and Monroe Briscoe...

Specialist 3rd Class Kenneth Mahalitic with the SVC Battery of the 534th AFA Battalion, came home April 12 after spending two years in the U.S. Armed Forces...

Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Frnka celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at their camp house April 13 in New Ulm. They were married 25 years April 9...

Mrs. H.L. Kretzschmar was honored by a group of ladies at her home in Ramsey on the occasion of her birthday...

Mrs. V.D. Morris was surprised Friday when a group of friends dropped in to help her celebrate her birthday.

Rice Consolidated Bond Election

Early Voting

May 1 – May 9
 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 @ Rice CISD Admin. Bldg
 Early Voting Available only Mon.-Friday

Election Day

May 13
 7:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.
 Eagle Lake Junior High
 Garwood Elementary
 Sheridan Elementary



Why two campuses in Eagle Lake?

- A buyer could not be found for either of the facilities.
- It would cost in the millions of dollars to upgrade one of the facilities to house all students, from Pre-K to 5th grade.
- Keeping both campuses open will keep the property values strong in the Eagle Lake subdivisions surrounding both campuses. If one of the schools were to close, the vacant building would significantly devalue the property around the building.
- There would be a more manageable number of children on each campus. Approximately 200 students on one campus and 250 on the other campus. This is similar to the number of children currently enrolled in each of the Sheridan and Garwood Schools.
- No significant difference in the cost of running the two campuses versus one campus. There will only be a slight increase in utility costs.
- Less traffic congestion when dropping off and picking up kids at school because the number of children at each campus is reduced to 1/2.

What improvements will be made to the two Eagle Lake Campuses?

- The current Eagle Lake Elementary School (ELES) will be reorganized for the 3rd, 4th & 5th grades.
- A new library and a new lobby will be built at the ELES.
- The current Eagle Lake Junior High (ELJH) will be reorganized to house grades Pre-K-2nd grades.
- The technology will be updated in both the current ELES building and ELJH building.
- Dilapidated and unusable portions of both buildings will be removed.

For more information email "ricebondelection@hotmail.com" or visit the website "wintermannlibrary.org". You may also call Clark Powers @ (979) 234-3238 or Laura Myres @ (979) 733-9949, Preston Little (979) 758-3778, Clark Peterson (979) 234-3171

County Soil, Water District Urges Water Wisdom

Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) wants to show you how to be water wise, during its annual Soil and Water Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 30 to May 7, 2006 as Stewardship Week, with the theme "Water Wise".

Many of us may take our water supplies for granted. But a large network of private and government agencies help protect, treat, and deliver our water. In the United States, over 53,000 community water treatment systems deliver drinking water to millions of people. Over 13,000,000 private wells provide water to families and businesses. Agriculture, electric power generation, industry, and transportation all depend on water resources.

W. J. Kleimann, chairman of the Colorado SWCD stated "we want to help people in Colorado County learn how important it is to help conserve water but how easy it can be."

Colorado SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (www.nacdnet.org), which oversees the Stewardship Week

program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

Water is one of the most pressing resource issues facing our country. Conservation districts across the country help landowners, homeowners, and businesses learn how to conserve water, from simple lifestyle adjustments to large scale projects. People can contact their local district for a wealth of useful information.

"Every person can help conserve water," says Kleimann, "It is easy, it helps the environment, and it usually saves money." Join the Colorado SWCD and its partners during Stewardship Week to find out how.

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District. You can learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week at www.stewardshipweek.com. You don't have to be a wise old owl to find out how to be water wise.

Want Ads Work Wonders!