

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**



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**Panel Of Judges Redraw Five Congressional Districts**

AUSTIN — A panel of three federal judges returned voting power to Hispanic Democrats in Laredo by redrawing U.S. congressional districts Aug. 4.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the new boundaries of Congressional District 23, which includes Laredo, were racially gerrymandered by the 2003 Texas Legislature, and ordered the panel to fix it.

The Legislature's flawed redistricting plan moved a chunk of Laredo into CD-23, the district of Republican U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla of San Antonio. The move diluted the voting power of Hispanic Democrats, a traditional constituency.

The panel agreed to protect incumbencies while respecting the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in resetting boundaries, so now Laredo is back in a more compact and contiguous CD-28 represented

by Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo. The realignment gives Bonilla more of the south side of San Antonio.

Of course, you can't squeeze here without something poking out there. So changing the shape of CD-23 put the boundaries of nearby districts in flux.

To accommodate the CD-23 fix, the panel adjusted CD-25, represented by Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, to include more of Austin and less of the Rio Grande Valley.

What Doggett lost in the Valley moved to CD-15, represented by Democrat Ruben Hinojosa. And, Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, picked up more Hill Country counties in his CD-21.

Changes to districts 15, 21, 23, 25, 28 invalidate the March party primaries for congressional candidates in those districts.

So Aug. 25 has been set as the filing deadline for new candi-

dates. Ballot certification is set for Sept. 6. Primaries will be held in tandem with the general election on Nov. 7.

Candidates who receive less than 50 percent of the vote will be in runoff to be scheduled by the secretary of state.

Of course, the new district boundaries undo some of the work of former U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, who was the prime mover behind the unusual mid-decade redistricting plan that bolstered the Republicans' congressional majority.

**DeLay's name must stay on ballot**

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Aug. 3 upheld Austin U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks' ruling that Tom DeLay's name may not be removed

from the Nov. 7 ballot.

Tina Benkiser, chair of the Republican Party of Texas, said the Fifth Circuit's decision will be appealed. Next stop would be the U.S. Supreme Court.

The party had sought to remove DeLay's name from the ballot in order to name a replacement nominee.

In July, Sparks said no to that, because DeLay ran in the March party primary for Congressional District 22, giving voters the impression he intended to go the distance.

But under multiple ethics indictments related to campaign fund-raising activities, DeLay resigned from office on June 9 and moved to Virginia.

Texas law says a candidate must reside in the district in order

to be elected, but with DeLay a legal resident of Virginia, victory would be assured for the Democratic opponent.

This prompts questions. Will DeLay switch his residence back to Texas, and if so, could he beat Democratic challenger Nick Lampson?

**How much are we talking about?**

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn estimated Texas families would save \$49 million during Texas' eighth annual sales tax holiday. The savings come from not having to pay \$38.5 million in state sales taxes and \$10.5 million in local sales taxes.

**Financial report less than rosy**

Recent hikes in tuition aren't

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State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

exactly vaulting colleges and universities into a financial comfort zone. The Southern Regional Education Board reports the funding for higher education in Texas isn't enough to match growing enrollment and higher inflation.

*Let's Look Back...*

**24 & 48 YEARS AGO**

**Aug. 5, 1982**

John DeShazo, 47, passed away in a Houston hospital after a lengthy illness...

Coby Shorter, III, an Eagle Lake 4-H member attended the 4-H Council Workshop in Austin...

Marilyn Mahalite, won one of 17 scholarships and achievement awards totaling \$4,000 given by Santa Fe Railway to Texas FFA youth...

Mildred Segelquist, 78, a former Eagle Lake resident passed away. Interment was at Lakeside Cemetery...

A new patio was added to Heritage House Nursing Home for the enjoyment of residents, their families and staff...

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dostal and Jane of Eagle Lake and Miss Carol Dostal of Yoakum attended the 216<sup>th</sup> A.A.A. Gun battalion reunion at the Double Tree Hotel in Tucson, Arizona...

**Aug. 12, 1982**

Bert Tise won a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in the University Honor Program at Texas A&M University...

Candelario L. Juarez, 68, retired after more than 30 years of service with the U.S. Civil Service Commission, passed away in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Fleck of Columbus announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Patricia Lynn, to Paul David Vasut, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil E. Vasut, Sr. of Eagle Lake. A Sept. 4 wedding is scheduled in the afternoon at Grace Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake...

Alejo Garza-Adame, 44, a five year resident to Eagle Lake passed away after a brief illness at Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

The KC Council 4843 of Eagle Lake installed their officers for

the 1982-82 year. Elected were Grand Knight, Darrell Gertson; Deputy Grand Knight, Rick Arlitt; Chancellor, James Dierschke; Recorder, Ray Sykowski; Treasurer, Andrew Harbich; Advocate, Albert Tomchesson; Warden, John Contreras; Inside Guard Lupe Almanza; Outside Guard, Richard Sommerlatte; 3 year Trustee, Chuck Stephens; and 2 year Trustee, Rico Cortez.

**Aug. 21, 1958**

Electrical storm and heavy rains from 2 to 4 inches hit the area Monday night...

Eagle Lake Eagles football team will begin practice sessions Monday, Aug 25 with Ben Cobb and Victor Scott as their coaches...

Mr. and Mrs. Russell H. Reese, Jr., announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Tommy Lou, to Alton Dale Herman. The wedding will be an event of early October...

Lewis B. Epps, son of Mr. and

Mrs. C.C. Epps of this city, will be among other Texas A&M college students to receive reserve commissions in the Army and Air Force, ROTC, Friday, Aug. 22...

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Emma Sodergreen, who passed away at her daughter's home in Houston...

Mr. and Mrs. L.V. Cranek of Garwood entertained with a barbecue dinner Sunday honoring their children and grandchildren who have birthdays in the month of Aug. Those honored were sons, Lester and Lewis and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Leon Cranek and grandchildren, Julia Ann and John Beken and Jan Cranek...

Miss Janet Hunt of Garwood and James W. Wesson of Goldthwaite were united in marriage in a beautiful setting in the El Campo Church of Christ last Saturday evening. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hunt of Garwood and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Wesson of Goldthwaite.

**THIS IS D.Q. COUNTRY SPECIAL**  
**Aug. 10-Help The Kids, Buy A Blizzard**  
 All proceeds from Blizzard sales on August 10 go to the Children's Miracle Network.  
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**Academic Ratings**

*Continued from front page*

Two schools, Rice High School and Eagle Lake Junior High were rated as "unacceptable." The overall passing rate at the

Exemplary	Recognized	Academically Acceptable	2006 % Met	2005 % Met
In all subjects	90%			
In all subjects	70%			
Reading	60%			
Writing	60%			
Social Studies	60%			
Mathematics	40%			
Science	35%			
<b>Rice High School</b>				
Reading	93%	80%		
Social Studies	88%	77%		
Mathematics	60%	49%		
Science	61%	47%		
<b>Eagle Lake JH</b>				
Reading	68%	-		
Writing	72%	-		
Social Studies	64%	-		
Mathematics	48%	-		
<b>Sheridan Elem.</b>				
Reading	92%	88%		
Writing	96%	97%		
Social Studies	>99%	93%		
Mathematics	88%	83%		
Science	69%	67%		
<b>Garwood Elem.</b>				
Reading	98%	98%		
Writing	>99%	94%		
Social Studies	>99%	82%		
Mathematics	92%	87%		
Science	75%	75%		
<b>Eagle Lake Elem.</b>				
Reading	75%	-		
Writing	68%	-		
Mathematics	66%	-		
Science	39%	-		

--no data due to re-organization

high school met the standards of "acceptable," but one subgroup, African-American students was below the acceptable standard in math, causing the entire campus to be downgraded.

Of that group 29 percent passed the math portion of the test, compared to the passing standard of 40 percent.

At Eagle Lake Junior High, the students overall met the acceptable standard, but the subgroup of African American students had a passing rate of 56 on reading compared to a passing rate of 60 percent for acceptable status.

In math, the African American students had a passing rate of 34 percent, compared to a rate of 40 percent needed for acceptable.

Hispanic students at the school also performed just below the acceptable standard in social studies, with 59 percent passing, compared to the acceptable passing rate of 60 percent.

Overall, the Rice District retained its overall "acceptable" rating from last year.

Rice Superintendent Michael Lanier said the district planned

more individualized instruction to help improve student performance.

"We realize that the district has some problems and plan to work hard along with the community to address them," Lanier said.

Lanier said that district plans to identify students in need of individual attention through testing and work with them during the school day in a one-on-one environment during a newly instituted district-wide 30-minute activity period.

Lanier also expressed some concern with the current state accountability system.

"Although I am in favor of academic accountability, I don't care for the current system. In a small district volatility remains a major concern. If one or two students have a bad day it can have a major impact on our ratings."

Education officials have noted that the passing standards will be increased by 5 percent in most areas for the coming school year.

**County Tax Values Up**

*Continued from front page*

Other increases were industrial and business real property, up \$26.1 million and rural non-agriculture land, up by \$5.2 million.

Chief Appraiser Billy Youens said the strongest increases in oil and gas values were in the Rice School District, with an increase of \$73.6 million.

"A strong real estate market resulted in increases for most types of properties," he said. In the Weimar School District property values increased by 5.19 percent. The increase amounted to \$10.4 million, raising total taxable property values in the district to \$212 million.

In the city of Weimar, property values increased by \$6.8 million for a total of \$92.7 million, or 7.96 percent

According to the appraisal district, 19 new homes were built in the Weimar School District with a total value of \$2.5 million or an average value of \$136,172.

The district also gained five mobile homes, with a value of

\$193,450. In the city of Weimar, residential and farm values increased by \$1.9 million.

In the Columbus School District, 46 new homes were constructed, valued at \$7.05 million, with the average value of a new residence at \$153,323.

The district also saw the addition of nine mobile homes with a value of \$281,440.

In the Rice School District, 23 new homes were added, with a value of \$2.1 million, or \$94,830 average. No new mobile homes were reported.

In the city of Eagle Lake, residential single family homes increased by \$2.6 million.

Youens said 54 protests of property values were heard by the Appraisal Review Board, with 22 protests resulting in lowered market values, 31 protests resulted in no change and one agriculture-wildlife value protest was denied.

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