

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Gubernatorial Candidates Already Starting To Throw Punches

AUSTIN -- Candidates for governor agreed to meet at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 in Dallas for an hour-long, televised debate.

As if they were the only ones in the race, incumbent Gov. Rick Perry and outgoing Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn continued their almost-daily Punch and Judy show.

But other high-profile contenders skipped waiting for the cruelest month to roll around before laying into Strayhorn in particular about matters such as ethics and campaign finance.

Kinky Friedman's campaign drew a bead on state comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn's campaign in particular.

Friedman's campaign asked Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle to investigate Strayhorn after the Rick Perry and Strayhorn camps accused each other of using state government employees to do campaign-re-

lated work.

Friedman campaign director Dean Barkley said, "We urge the district attorney's office to investigate her actions and determine whether the Comptroller violated Texas law."

The Chris Bell campaign also took aim at Strayhorn, using campaign finance records filed with the Texas Ethics Commission.

According to her campaign literature, Strayhorn has vowed to end "secret, foreign toll roads," although Zachry Construction is a partner with the Spanish firm CINTRA in the multi-billion dollar Trans-Texas Corridor toll road project.

The Bell campaign cited Strayhorn's stand and suggested she return \$29,500 donated to her campaign by members of the Zachry family of San Antonio.

Quest for ballot change rebuffed

U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Antonin Scalia put a stop further appeal by the Republican Party of Texas to remove Tom DeLay's name from the November ballot.

The Texas Democratic Party sued to keep DeLay on the ballot and won in an Austin federal district court and at the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

DeLay, former representative of Congressional District 22, said he plans to keep trying to get his name taken off the ballot.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Sugar Land, a Republican, has declared himself a write-in candidate for DeLay's old seat.

The Democratic party's choice for the seat vacated by DeLay June 9 is former U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson.

Why should voters outside of CD-22 give a hoot about who

wins? To some, the result may be interpreted as an affirmation or erosion of the GOP because of DeLay's national profile and the district's status as a Republican stronghold.

DeLay's daughter Dani Ferro sent out a statement from her father, saying he would "take the actions necessary to remove [his] name from the Texas ballot."

Signaling more to come, DeLay encouraged Texas Republicans "to take any and all actions necessary to give Texas voters an up or down choice this fall between two major-party candidates."

Utility rate discount on horizon

Gov. Perry told the Public Utilities Commission to put the restoration of a program that helps low-income Texans pay util-

ity bills in the agency's legislative budget request.

Perry said the electric rate discount program was not funded by the Legislature during the current biennium.

If passed by the 2007 Legislature, qualifying Texans will receive a 10 percent discount on their electric bills in the 2008-2009 biennium.

Speaker to reimburse for fix-up

Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland will repay the state for costs in renovating his luxury flat in the state Capitol, according to his aides.

Private donations will make up the more than \$50,000 in state money that went into the project.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Find out who is paying whom

Political watchdogs Texas for Public Justice has posted a telling report titled "Austin's Oldest Profession: Texas' Top Lobby Clients and Those Who Service Them." It's on the Internet for all to see by clicking tpj.org/austin-soldes06/facts.html.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Aug. 19, 1982

Justice of the Peace M.M. Jones moved from his office on the second floor of the police department building to an office inside City Hall...

The business and production office of The Eagle Lake Headlight will be moved Aug. 26 to 220 E. Main Street...

Gwen Paschall of Eagle Lake, an independent beauty consultant with Dallas-based Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc., returned from the 20th Annual Seminar held at the Dallas Convention Center, Aug. 2-4...

The Texas Classroom Teacher's Association sponsored its 10th Annual Leadership Conference July 30-31 at the Hilton Inn in Austin. Among the 300 teachers there was Lynda Appelt of Eagle Lake...

Morris Collins Gache, 92, fa-

ther of Alice Collins Glover passed away Aug. 5 in Louisiana...

Tip of the hat this week goes to four Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary members who have faithfully served over 2000 hours in the hospital. They are Letha Lundquist, Esther Sunderman, Annie Margaret White and Viola Zboril...

Sympathy was extended to Joe Wendel, a Rice High School teacher, whose father, Karl Wendel passed away after being poisoned by a scorpion sting...

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Matura of Altair announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Alice Renae, to David Wayne Wedel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wedel of El Campo. The wedding is calendared for Sept. 11 at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Posada announced the arrival of a baby girl, Bridget Helen, born July 31 at the Gulf Coast Medical Center

in Wharton...

Barbara Miller, vice president and cashier at The First National Bank, was graduated from The School for Bank Administration at The University of Wisconsin. Receipt of her diploma on Aug. 5 marked the completion of 186 credit hours of study...

Carmen G. Stallman of Garwood is among 74 persons receiving Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from Texas A&M University - the nation's largest veterinary school. Carmen is the daughter of Mary Stallman and Neal Stallman of Garwood.

August 28, 1958

In Eagle Lake, 968 voters went to the polls to elect Louis W. Stiles, Jr., the new Commissioner of Precinct 4 and M.M. Jones as Justice of the Peace of Eagle Lake Precinct 4...

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Konzen announced the arrival of a son, John Hunter, born Aug. 21 in Ganado. The new mother is the

former Miss Judy Thomas...

Mrs. W.K. Lehrer of Garwood complimented her granddaughter, Gretchen Lehrer with a birthday party held in the Sakowitz Tea Room in Houston...

Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Spanihel became the proud parents of a bouncing baby daughter Tuesday morning at Laughlin Hospital. The little lady has been given the name Mary Jo and is being welcomed home by two sisters, Cynthia and Teresa and one brother, Joe Mike...

Gardner Seaholm, Jr. better known as Buddie, celebrated his seventh birthday Aug. 9 with a party given in his honor...

Mrs. Joe Hardy was complimented at a farewell party Aug. 20. Mrs. Hardy and son, Roy, plan to leave soon to join Mr. Hardy in Temple where they will make their new home...

Mrs. O.J. Wintermann reported that the violent electrical storm Aug. 18 caused heavy damage to a room over her garage.

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DPS To Crackdown For Labor Day

The Department of Public Safety will be participating in three enforcement operations geared to getting drunk drivers off our roadways.

The first campaign is Drunk Driving - Over the Limit - Under Arrest, will begin Friday, August 18th at 12:01 am. This program will run for a total of 18 days, ending Monday, September 4th at midnight.

The next program is Operation C.A.R.E. - Combined Accident Reduction Effort.

Operation C.A.R.E. - focuses on strict enforcement of alcohol and drug related offenses, speeding, and occupant restraint laws.

The last program is Operation Holiday. Operation Holiday - allows the assignment of other DPS uniformed personnel to supplement highway traffic enforcement.

Both operations C.A.R.E. and Holiday will start on Friday, September 1st at 12:01 am and concludes Monday, September 4th at midnight, a period of four days.

"All available troopers will be out in force during these crack-

downs. We intend to keep our roadways safe by getting drunk drivers off our streets," said Senior Trooper Gary Pflughaupt. "Since Labor Day is traditionally the last weekend of the summer, more people are out celebrating - creating potentially dangerous situations on our roadways."

DPS wants to remind motorists of a state law that makes driving while intoxicated with a passenger younger than 15 a state jail felony, punishable by a maximum of two years in jail and

a \$10,000 fine. This will result in a \$3,000 surcharge (paid over three years), if an offender is convicted of driving while intoxicated.

"Our goal is to make our highways safe," stated Pflughaupt. "This isn't a game! When drivers are stopped for drunk driving and they're over the limit, they will be arrested for DWI."

Also, a motorist whose vehicle becomes disabled on the highway can use the statewide stranded motorist hotline, 1-800-525-5555, to call for assistance.



The Rock Island Volunteer Fire Department suffered a vehicle casualty battling a grass fire last Thursday on Hwy 90A a few miles east of Rock Island. The 1989 Ford pickup was damaged after it stalled out and then a shift in wind direction caused the fire to spread toward the truck.

IT'S OKAY - AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE IS UP AHEAD!

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CHEAPER MEDICAL ON THE HORIZON?