

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT



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Gubernatorial Candidates Square-Off In Live Debate

AUSTIN — Four candidates for governor met in Dallas Oct. 6 for the only public debate in the race, but this column gets an Austin dateline because one of the four will occupy the governor's mansion come 2007.

While fans prepared for the Texas-OU football game to be played the next day in the Cotton Bowl and millions of other Texans attended high school football games, others caught the broadcast of the evening debate.

Reporters asked questions. Among the topics were crime, border security and immigration control, toll roads, and health and education.

Democratic challenger Chris Bell, whose job it was to appear competent, trustworthy and in command of the facts, seemed to accomplish those things.

Kinky Friedman, whose hat and cigar set him apart from the other candidates in the eyes of the TV audience, needed to show that he offers an alternative to anyone who is or wants to be a career politician. That, he did.

State Comptroller Carol Keeton Strayhorn, who like Friedman is running as an independent, needed to convince the audience that she could do a better job at leading Texas than Gov. Rick

Perry. She accused Perry of being too close to lobbyists and not delivering on promises.

The standard game plan for an incumbent (Gov. Perry) in a campaign debate is defend his record, talk about the future and maintain composure while under attack. He seemed to do that.

Libertarian candidate James Werner stayed at home in Austin and listened to the debate on the radio. He was not allowed to participate because his statewide polling numbers were too low.

Whether any candidate said anything to change minds and win new votes is hard to calculate.

There's about a month left until election day Nov. 7, when the numbers that really count will be recorded.

New hotline for TAKS problems

Data gathered by a testing security company show that nearly 700 Texas public schools had "unusual data patterns" or "testing irregularities" in the 2005 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

Testing irregularities include similar answers on scan forms, erasure marks on similar questions, similar response patterns and unusual gains in scores.

To deal with possible com-

promises to the exam, Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley created a five-member "task force on test integrity" and named an inspector general to lead the effort.

After reviewing findings in an initial round of on-site campus visits, the task force recommended actions such as:

- Allowing inspector general Michael Donley, a lawyer and former U.S. Air Force security officer, to refine questions asked in on-site interviews,

- Increasing the number of people interviewed on sites,

- Offering a hotline for teachers to anonymously report questionable practices or outright infractions.

Since the Texas Legislature adopted benchmarks for public education in the mid-1980s, alleged practices known as "teaching to the test" have placed a question mark on the validity of TAKS and its previous incarnations.

Smoking rules change in Austin

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks struck down part of Austin's 2005 indoor anti-smoking ordinance.

Pursuant to the ruling, it is no longer up to barkeepers and restaurant owners to enforce the ordinance.

Now, if Austin police happen to catch smokers lighting up indoors, those people will be ticketed.

Managers of some eating and drinking spots that prefer to remain free of cigarette smoke are politely asking smokers to take it outside.

Record year for well plugging

The Texas Railroad Commission reports there are 362,950 known oil and gas wells in the state, and 11,287 of them have been declared abandoned.

In fiscal year 2006, which ended Aug. 31, the agency plugged 1,824 of the abandoned wells — a record. The previous high came in 2005, with 1,710 wells plugged.

Comptroller predicts surplus

An early estimate by the office



of the state comptroller projects a \$4.3 billion revenue surplus when the current biennium ends in August 2007. A sharp increase in sales tax collections got credit for the surplus.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Oct. 14, 1982

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Carley of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Lynette**, to **John Delgado**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. David Delgado** of Eagle Lake. The couple will recite their vows Oct. 16 in the home of **Jewel Law** in Eagle Lake...

Mr. and Mrs. Edward (Skipper) Lee are the proud parents of a second child, a son, born Oct. 4. He has been named **Tyler Lewin Lee**...

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Clipson announced the marriage of their daughter, **Julie**, to **Arthur Lefkowitz** on Sept. 28 in Stafford...

Winners of the third grade fire prevention poster contest sponsored by Eagle Lake Insurance Agency at Eagle Lake Primary School were **Marcos York**, **Robert Lujan**, **Jamie Marquart**, **Laura Rodriguez**, **Sylvia Trevino**, and **Michele Owens**...

John Lewis Austin of Louisiana, a former resident of Eagle Lake and brother of **Edna Ruth Clark** of this city, passed away Sept. 29 at the age of 61...

Ginger Case celebrated her second birthday at a party hosted by her parents **James and Billie Jean Case** at the Lollipop Kiddie Stop in Columbus...

Warren Botard of Sheridan was surprised when he was notified that he was the recipient of the annual **Sheridan Parents and Teachers Scholarship**...

Rosie Bell Sampson of Garwood, a resident of Heritage House in Eagle Lake since Oct. of 1978, passed away Oct. 1 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Descendants of the late **Mr. and Mrs. George Schmidt** held their 5th reunion at the New Biellau Community Center on Oct. 2...

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Williams were honored Oct. 10 at a reception in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary...

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Janak of Hallettsville announced the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, **Jeanne Marie**, to **Richard Sommerlatte**, son of **Mrs. Simona Sommerlatte** of Eagle Lake and the late **Leroy Sommerlatte**. The couple will exchange vows Nov. 20 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hallettsville...

Homecoming queen nominees are **Karen Rucka**, **Susan Drlik**, **Laurie Bubela**, **Patricia Fields** and **Becky Bengel**...

Cosmetology officers named are as follows: **Tracey Soape**, president; **Ethel Shorter**, vice-president; **Lynn Ishee**, secretary;

Rebecca Morales, reporter; **Janie Jaramillo**, treasurer; **Belinda Cavazos**, historian; and **Suzanne Fajkus**, parliamentarian.

Oct. 16, 1958

Miss Tommy Lou Reese and **Alton Dale Herman** were united in marriage in a beautiful ceremony performed October 5 at Christ Episcopal Church with **Rev. Nelson Longnecker** officiating...

Mrs. Willie Emmel was pleasantly surprised when a group of ladies dropped by to help celebrate her birthday Oct. 8...

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clipson honored their daughter, **Virginia**, with a Rock and Roll Party Sept. 27 on the occasion of her 11th birthday...

Eagles are still following the losing pattern by dropping another game to Pearlland by losing 21 to 6...

Garwood Gars stretched victories to six straight wins by romping over **Wallis Steers** 42-16...

Miss Janelle Miller, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Miller** was complimented with a party on the occasion of her 9th birthday Oct. 10...

Guilty Verdict In Drug Case

In a two-day trial ending October 3, 2006, a jury in Colorado County District Court convicted a California woman of possession of methamphetamine after deliberating a little less than one-hour. Retired District Judge **Gus J. Strauss**, sitting as a visiting judge, sentenced the defendant to five-years probation. Assistant County Attorneys **Jay Johannes** and **Carolyn Olson** prosecuted

the case.

On the afternoon of December 31, 2005, Department of Public Safety Trooper **Klent Tipton** stopped the defendant's vehicle for speeding on Interstate 10. The defendant was traveling from California to Louisiana to celebrate the New Year. Methamphetamine, weighing 17.44 grams, was found in the rear passenger area of the vehicle.

The driver, **Cynthia Arce**, 37, of Riverside, California, was arrested along with her passengers, **Manuel Lua** and **Euphemia Roufeil** and charged with possession of methamphetamine after Trooper Tipton found methamphetamine, a portable scale and baggies hidden in a Calvin Klein gift box. A pipe and cleaning rags used to smoke methamphetamine were also found in the passenger area of the vehicle.

The defendant testified that she did not know about the methamphetamine in her car despite admitting to smoking it with her passengers just prior to the start of their trip. Her co-defendants, **Lua** and **Roufeil**, entered guilty pleas for probated sentences rather than go to trial.

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Rice Medical Center's 11th Annual Harvest Ball

Saturday, October 14

Honoring Mr. Joe Lee McCreary

Harvest Ball will include a social hour, steak dinner, drinks, live auction, and silent auction. Festivities will conclude with a dance.

Some of the live auction items up for grabs...

- Gourmet Dinner for 8 (Donated by the RMC Employee Volunteers with Chef Russell Thomas)
- Skeet Shoot and Picnic for 20 (Donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Matthews and Mr. and Mrs. John Carey)
- Large Rice Basket (Donated by Eagle Lake Rice Dryer)
- 17 HMR Rifle with scope (Donated by The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus)
- Swarovski Optik Binoculars (Donated by Dr. & Mrs. Frank Cavallo, Radiologist)



Last year's Harvest Ball was a huge success. The Employee Volunteers were able to purchase over \$26,000 worth of equipment for the Rice Medical Center.

To purchase tickets call **Shara Sunderman** or **Vicky Pavlu** at 979-234-5571
 Ask for **Erica Wilkerson** to donate to the auction.

Without generous supporters, The Rice Medical Center Employee Volunteers could not purchase the much-needed equipment for our hospital. This year the Employee Volunteers are trying to raise money to purchase an orthopedic tourniquet for the operating room.