THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
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State School Board Raises Graduation Requirements

AUSTIN — The requirements for high school students entering two upgraded graduation programs next fall just got a little bit harder.

The State Board of Education increased the number of math and science credits and the total number of course credits students must earn under the recommended high school program and the distinguished achievement program. Students now will need 26 credits, up from the current 24.

The new stricter requirements were spelled out in HB 1 but neither the legislation nor the new board rule affect the minimum graduation program, which requires 22 credits. Under that plan, students must earn at least three credits in math and two in science.

Appraisal group wraps up

The Texas Appraisal Tax Reform Commission held its final public hearing Nov. 21 in Austin to address "sky rocketing" appraisal values and concerns with the current appraisal tax system, chairman Tom Pauken said.

Pauken said the commission's goal is a system that provides oversight with responsibility while lowering the dependency on property tax.

Representatives from builder groups, Realtors and other businesses, as well as taxpayers, spoke at the final hearing.

Bill Hammond of the Texas Association of Business said the business community was providing its fair share of taxes, and opposed gross receipt taxes.

Bill Allaway with Texas Taxpayers and Research Association voiced the need to focus on market value for property tax, truthfulness in taxation, a percentage-based system and a long-term study.

The commission, appointed by Gov. Rick Perry, hopes to make a recommendation to the Legislature by the end of the year.

State to privatize IT services

The Department of Information Resources signed a nearly $1 billion contract with IBM Corp. to take over the information technology departments in at least 27 state agencies.

The Texas State Employees Union earlier had asked lawmakers to delay the contract after expressing concerns over two other IT contracts at the Health and Human Services Commission.

The consolidation is part of HB 1516, which calls for a massive restructuring of the state's information technology system.

IBM already holds a state contract awarded last March to design, develop, operate and manage the state e-mail system.

Lawmakers seek coal plant delay

A bipartisan group of lawmakers is asking state officials to halt the fast-track approval of seven of 18 proposed coal-fired power plants across the state.

The group wants more research done on the plants' impact on local communities and air quality.

The letter was circulated by Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, and signed by 25 other legislators.

CD-23 election set Dec. 12

Perry set Dec. 12 as the special election runoff date for Congressional District 23. In the general election Nov. 7, U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla received 48.6 percent and Ciro D. Rodriguez earned 19.87 percent of the vote. The district stretches from San Antonio to El Paso.

Two Latino groups opposed the date, the earliest date that could be called, saying it was an attempt to dilute Hispanic voting rights because Dec. 12 is the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico and Latin America.

But the secretary of state's office said any later date would run into the Christmas holidays.

Former SA legislator dies in fire

Former Sen. Frank Madla died in a fire at his San Antonio home Nov. 24.

Madla, 69, served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1973-92 and in the Texas Senate from 1993 until May when he resigned after being defeated in the March Democratic primary for his District 13 seat.

Madla's mother-in-law Mary Cruz also died in the fire and his 5-year-old granddaughter, Aleena Jimenez, later died at a local hospital, according to the San Antonio Express-News. His wife, Helen, was still hospitalized in stable condition as of Monday.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
State Capital
HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Let's Look Back...

24 Years Ago

Dec. 2, 1982

Funds were donated to the United Way of Eagle Lake. The campaign's Board of Directors met and said 12,529.80 was donated...

Mr. and Mrs. Brice Blaine Taylor of Rockdale were complimented with a shower in honor of their marriage on Saturday November 17. The First State Bank community room in Weimar was the setting for the occasion. Hostesses were **Mrs. Dorothy Breithaupt, Mrs. Shirley Seaholm, and Mrs. Connie Gertson, Mrs. Linda Henske** and **Miss Daphane Taylor** of Rockdale...

Ricky Miller of Garwood has been named a silver award winner in regional competition for the Future Farmers of America Crop Production Proficiency Award. He is the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Arlin Miller...**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Mangum of Eagle Lake welcomed their second child a son, **Andy Ray.** He was born Nov. 23 at at the Women's Hospital of Texas. Andy Ray tipped the scales at 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 21 inches in length. His big brother **Joshua Michael** welcomed him. Maternal grandmother is **Zella Norton** of Vidor, grandfather **Joe Williams** of Houston, great-grandmother **Janie Williams** of Houston. Paternal grandparents are **Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Mangum** of Corpus Christi and paternal great-grandmother is **Ethel Davis** of Falfurrias...

Nicole Shey Krenek daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Krenek** of Garwood celebrated her first birthday at a party given to her on Nov. 20 at the Krenek Ranch in Rock Island. Nicole's actual birthday was Nov 18...

Renae Kutzer, bride-elect of **Peter Kallina,** was honored with a bridal shower, Tuesday, Nov. 16, in the **Willard Hagendorf** home. Hostesses were **Earlene Botard, Zelda Walker, Mary Ashley, Vickie Werner, Delene Hollub, Stacy Wilson, Lois Vawter, Billie Hearn, Ruth Haines** and **Irene Hagendorf...**

Little Miss Amanda Jane Engstrom was honored on the occasion of her first birthday with a party given by her parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Engstrom.** The party was held in the back yard of Amanda's paternal grandparents, **Mr. and Mrs. Truman Engstrom, Sr.** of Garwood...

Earline and Heine Beken, Lester and Isabel Cranek, Louis and Leona Cranek, Leon and Lorraine Cranek and Fritz and Millie Cranek honored **Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Cranek** on their 66th wedding anniversary on Nov. 21.

Call Crime Stoppers It Pays Rewards

Crimestoppers Offers Reward In Theft Case

Between the hours of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2006 and 10:30 a.m., Monday, November 13, 2006, actor(s) entered a business located in the 900 block of E. Main St., in Eagle Lake and stole numerous hand tools.

If you have any information about these crimes, or any other felony crime, call Colorado County Crime Stoppers, toll free at 1-866-522-TIPS (1-866-522-8477). Or, in an immediate emergency situation, you can notify your local law enforcement agency.

You never have to give your name and if your information leads to an arrest and charges being filed on the criminal, you could earn up to a $1,000 reward.

Colorado County Crime Stoppers, citizens, law enforcement and the media, are working together to make our community a safer place to live. Together, we can make a difference.

Xi Pi Psi Reports On Activities

Ernie Sommerlatte, President of Xi Pi Psi hosted the November meeting in her home. She welcomed members and introduced our guests for the evening.

Invited guests were Vicki Parsons, Shirley Compton, Lois Ann Dziuk and Michelle Donnelly.

The highlight of the evening was the arrival of the Community Birthday Calendar.

This is our major ways and means project and members will be contacting citizens and delivering the calendars for $5. This year, the calendar features the Light House, as well as local merchants, which we all support. Contact your sorority members to receive your calendar!

Our Halloween Party was held in the home of Lonnie and Ernie Sommerlatte.

A delicious beef stew & jalapeno cornbread and desserts were enjoyed by members and husbands.

Special invited guests included Larry and Vicki Parsons and Mary Ann Kaluza. Halloween treats were awarded to winners of the ghostly tales led by Glenda Blair.

Pumpkin bears were won by Jo Ann Gertson and Dortha Kingsley as the only ones dressed for Halloween.

An election put Becky Anderson in as the new Rosebud girl, as Connie Lange steps down. The Rosebud is a tradition, where as members exchange gifts with their secret sister.

The Rosebud girl reminds secret sisters of upcoming birthdays or special events.

The program presented by Ernie, was on Thanksgiving and how it began as a Day of Prayer. Customs and traditions began in 1621, when a feast became a Custom.

From sharing cooked crow with the Indians in the early years, our traditions have grown into feasts of turkey and dressing and all the trimmings.

The holiday is famous for parades, football games, (is it turkey or pig skin) and the beginning of the Christmas season.

So let it be declared the 4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving and a day to be thankful for our many blessings!

The Christmas Party will be on Dec. 12, at which time secret sisters will exchange gifts. Invitations will include all the details.

The meeting ended with the closing ritual and mizpah. Refreshments were enjoyed with all members present and guests.

County To Get Drug Dog

Colorado County commissioners on Monday authorized the sheriff's department to purchase a drug dog.

Sheriff R.H. (Curly) Wied said the dog would help in locating drugs that may be hidden by suspected dealers.

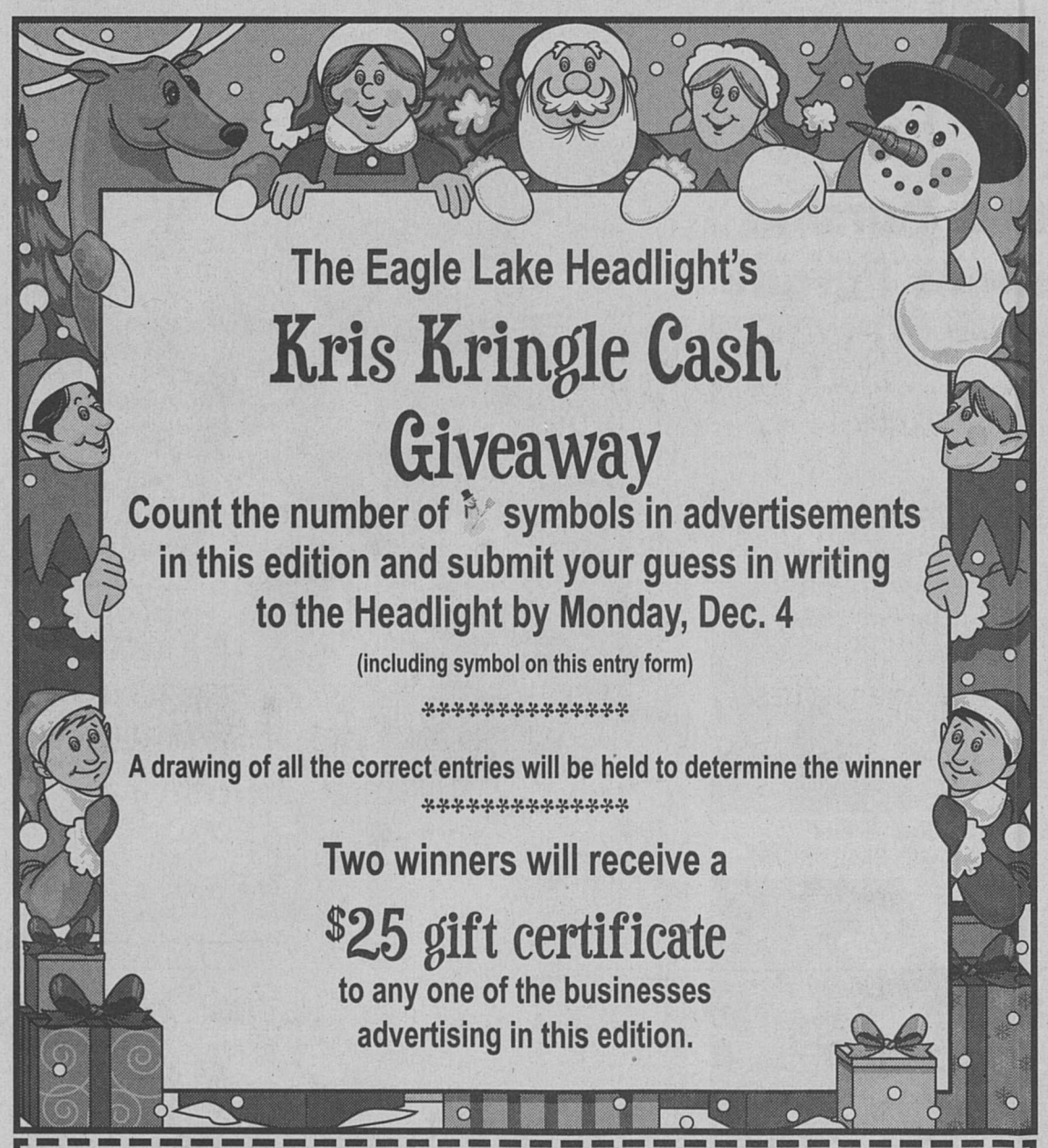
The commissioners authorized transferring $7,500 left over from an expired narcotics task force to purchase the dog and pay related expenses.

Wied said currently the closest agencies that have drug dogs are Katy and the Wharton Department of Public Safety.

"Its nose will help you out to find the dope," Wied said of the use of the dog.

He said the dog would be purchased in the near future and after training should begin to be used in February.

THIS IS D.Q. COUNTRY SPECIAL
Jalitos Ranch
Hunger Buster $2.79
Combo $4.99
Offer good Through Dec. 17
Now Selling Corn Dogs!
New Hours
Sun.-Thurs.-10 am - 10 pm
Fri.-Sat.-10 am - 11 pm
979-234-3541
Dairy Queen
We Now Accept Visa & Mastercard
EAGLE LAKE DAIRY QUEEN
100 Boothe Drive



Kris Kringle Cash Entry Form
(Return to The Headlight by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec.4)
PO Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

My Guess Is _____ (including symbol on this entry form)
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
I'd like to use my certificate at _____
(Must be business advertising in this week's Headlight)
One Entry Per Person

Round Up Some Cheer!
Just the Thing for the Hard-To-Buy-For or Last Minute...
Gift Certificates!
TO AUSTIN'S BBQ
Purchase $100 worth of Gift Certificates now through Dec. 31, 2006, and get
$15- Worth FREE!
You may buy the $100 in any way you'd like... four $25 certificates, ten $10 certificates... whatever! But, they must all be purchased at the same time.
Happy Holidays
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