

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)

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MEMBER 2006

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Eagle Lake Headlight reserves the right to reject, edit or omit editorial content and/or advertisement for any reason in order to conform to the paper's policy.

Tax Cut Effects Complicating State Budget Process

AUSTIN - Passing a 2008-2009 budget will be an overarching priority for lawmakers when the 80th regular session of the Texas Legislature convenes Jan. 9.

But the amount the Legislature will be able to spend is in question.

Last spring, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1, a tax-spreading measure meant to bring school district property tax relief, and the commitment to reduce school property taxes by one-third will have powerful consequences.

According to a late-November report by the Center for Public Policy Priorities, an Austin think-tank, lower revenue because of the tax cut will trigger a constitutional spending cap. That means less money will be in play.

Lawmakers and the executive branch already are looking at formulas to minimize the pain.

Bill would prevent use of images

Legislation filed by State Rep. Linda Harper-Brown, R-Irving, would make it a crime to use the image or name of a U.S. serviceman or servicewoman in an advertisement.

Harper-Brown's staff said one of the lawmaker's constituents asked for the legislation to prevent businesses from printing the names or images of service members, especially of the fallen ones, on merchandise such as T-shirts without their permission or the permission of their surviving spouse or legal representative.

Senator's bill would kill TAKS

Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, said she plans to file legislation that would do away with the high-stakes Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills exams that schoolchildren must pass to advance in grade and graduate.

Her legislation would replace the controversial TAKS with end-of-semester testing that is tied to the normal curriculum.

Judge says give up the tape

The Texas Department of Public Safety must release a May 2005 Capitol security videotape, a state district judge and the attorney general agree.

A two-hour portion of the tape was sought by the Austin biweekly Texas Observer to see if Republican campaign donor James Leininger of San Antonio took part in a hallway debate with lawmakers over his proposal to spend state money on private school vouchers.

The DPS maintains that it would constitute a security breach if the tape were made public.

In late November, Austin state District Judge Stephen Yelenosky ruled the tape must be made public, but the DPS had not released it to the Texas Observer, as of press time.

Yelenosky's ruling is in line with an earlier opinion by Attorney General Greg Abbott.

Former lawmakers laid to rest

Former state Sen. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, was laid to rest in the Texas State Cemetery on Dec. 1.

Madla, 69, and two close family members died in a house fire a week earlier.

Madla served in the Texas Legislature from 1972 to 2006.

Former State Sen. Temple Dickson, D-Sweetwater, died Nov. 29. He was 72.

Dickson served in the Senate from 1989 to 1993. His funeral was at the family ranch in Nolan County on Dec. 2.

Gift disclosure stance stays same

The Texas Ethics Commission voted 5-3 to stick with its earlier position that state officials do not have to disclose the amount of cash gifts they receive.

A cash gift simply may be reported as "currency," "check" or "money order" under the Nov. 26 ruling.

The agency earlier ruled that State Employee Retirement System board member Bill Ceverha of Dallas did not have to report a \$50,000 check he received from Houston homebuilder Bob Perry as anything other than a "check."

Government watchdog organizations and several of the state's larger newspapers criticized the ruling.

State railroad to keep running

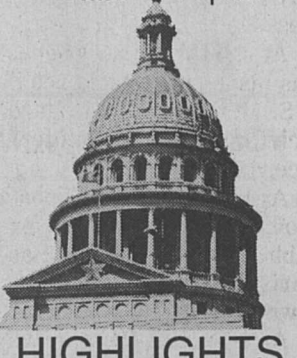
There will be enough money in the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department budget to keep the Texas State Railroad operating through the end of the fiscal year, Aug. 31.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick, informed the agency the money would be available to allay concerns by citizens that the railroad would shut down at the end of the current calendar year.

The railroad, built in 1880, runs between Palestine and Rusk.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

December 9, 1982

Come the first of January, **AJ Ashton** who recently celebrated his 65th birthday will retire from Eagle Tractor Inc. It was 33 years ago that he first went to work at the shop owned by **John and Jim Clipson**...

VFW Quartermaster **Earl Rodgers** presented a check for \$300 to Eagle Lake Police Chief **Gil Steen** for the department party...

A beautiful plaque was presented last week to **Joe Reed** at Lake Motors, for his 25 years of service as a Cadillac dealer...

Mrs. Mary Lou Will of El Campo announced the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, **La Nelle Joy Will**, to **Truman Engstrom, Jr.** of Garwood. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. **Truman Engstrom** of Garwood...

Funeral services for **Caroline Smothers Epps**, age 66, were held Friday, Dec. 3 at the Chapel of **Mill-Bauer Funeral Home** with the Rev. **George Welsch**, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, officiating. Interment followed in Lakeside Cemetery. Mrs. Epps closed her eyes to a peaceful rest Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital following a lengthy illness. She was the

manager of the Eagle Lake Rod and Gun Club...

Funeral services for **Mrs. Thomas W. Mattern**, 73, were held December 1 at the **Sams Funeral Chapel** in Tehachapi, California with the **Reverend Marvin Slicer** officiating...

Robert William Wall, a native of Rock Island, passed away November 26 in Pasadena. He had been bedridden for the past

five years. Funeral services were conducted by the **Rev. John Cartmill** with burial in Grand View Memorial Park Cemetery in Pasadena...

The **Heritage House** nursing home here was appropriately decorated for the coming holiday season with a beautiful wreath, scented door decorations for each resident's room and the dining area. The lovely decorations were

made by the **Lissie Methodist** ladies and put up in the nursing home Monday, Nov. 22 by the group...

A speedy recovery to **Mrs. Kate Spalinger** who has been in Eagle Lake Community Hospital undergoing tests after being hospitalized. Friends joined in extending their prayers for her quick recovery to good health...

Helping Hands Seeks Donations

Our benefit date of Sunday, December 10, is quickly approaching and many of you have asked what we need or what you could do. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

That is what Eagle Lake is known for. We have talked to many of you already, but, if we haven't yet, and you would like to donate an item(s) to the live or silent auction please call **Lynn Ellis** at 234-7582 or **Lori Zickuhr** at 234-5237 as soon as possible.

A little teaser for you live auction bidders are tickets to the **Rockettes Christmas Show** to be held Dec. 24 in Houston.

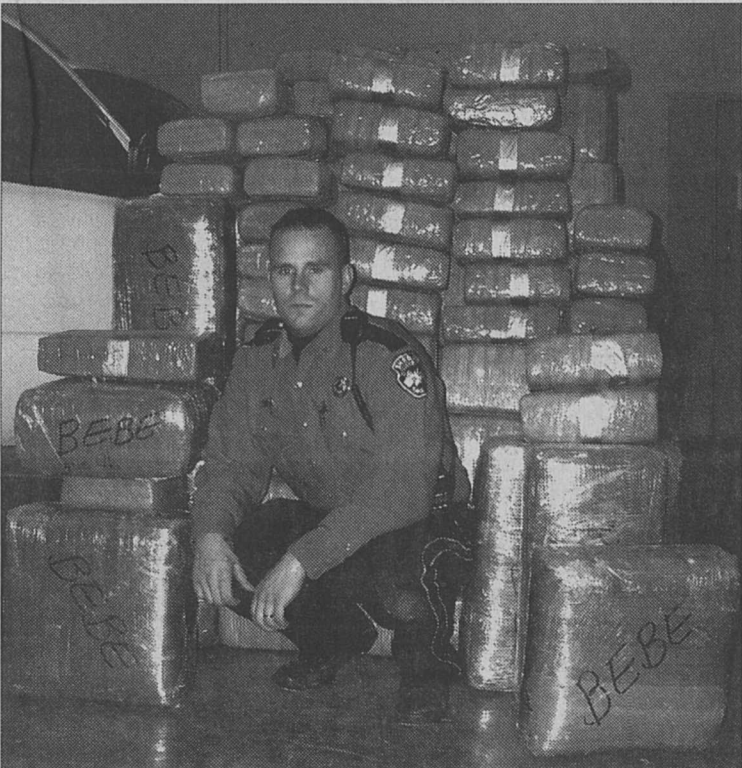
Family and Friends "God's Helping Hands" has chosen 40 families to assist for the holiday season.

With the help of several churches, hospital employees, the Professional Women's Group, school student councils, and others like you, we will provide a turkey, canned foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, and a gift to each family member.

There are many individuals that we hope to touch with your kindness. Actually, there are 181 individuals!!! With all of us pulling together, I have no doubt that our benefit will be a total success!!

We hope to see each of you at the Community Center, after church on Sunday at noon. Thank you again for your offerings and may God bless your family and health.

Your 2006 Family and Friends Hosts: **Brian and Lynn Ellis**, **Julie and Taylor Gannon**, **Chiquita Ishee**, **Joe and Candy McCreary**, **Oscar and Kymbra Owen**, **Oscar III and Scarlett Owen**, **Alex and Peggy Ramirez**, **Darrell and Christi Stancik**, **Tim and Geri Vandermark**, and **James and Lori Zickuhr**.



A traffic stop on I-10 recently resulted in the seizure of 1,284 pounds of marijuana. Sheriff's Deputy Randy Thumann initiated the stop.

Pot Seizure Totals 1,284 Pounds

A traffic stop by a Colorado County sheriff's deputy on Interstate 10, about two miles west of Weimar early Tuesday, Dec. 5, resulted in the seizure of 1,284 pounds of marijuana, with an estimated street value of \$630,000.

Colorado County Sheriff **R.H. (Curly) Wied** said it was the largest seizure by his department in recent memory.

The seizure occurred when Deputy **Randy Thumann** attempted to stop an eastbound 2003 Chevrolet pickup at about 1:40 a.m. for a license plate light being out.

But when Thumann turned on his emergency lights, the vehicle drove off the roadway, through a barbed wire fence and into a wooded area, more than 100 yards off the roadway.

Thumann said the driver, the only occupant of the vehicle, then fled into the wooded area.

The deputy said the seizure was also the biggest he has taken part in since joining the sheriff's department a year and half ago.

About four officers searched for the driver for about 30 to 40 minutes, before ending the search.

A search of the vehicle revealed the marijuana packed in 90 bundles. Wied said some of the marijuana was in the bed of the truck, covered with a sheet of plywood.

In addition, he said, packages of marijuana were stuffed in the cab of the truck and a toolbox.

Wied said the truck was registered to an owner with a Pasadena address, but said the department was attempting to verify the owner.

He noted drug dealers sometimes purchase a vehicle and do not change the title.

Round Up Some Cheer!

Just the Thing for the Hard-To-Buy-For or Last Minute...

Gift Certificates!

TO AUSTIN'S BBQ



Happy Holidays

AUSTIN'S BBQ

507 E. Main • Eagle Lake • 979-234-5250

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.



The Eagle Lake Headlight's Kris Kringle Cash Giveaway

Count the number of symbols in advertisements in this edition and submit your guess in writing to the Headlight by Monday, Dec. 11

(including symbol on this entry form)

A drawing of all the correct entries will be held to determine the winner

Two winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any one of the businesses advertising in this edition.

Kris Kringle Cash Entry Form

(Return to The Headlight by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11)

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



