

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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MEMBER 2006

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Governor Rick Perry Makes Year-End Pardons

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 20 pardoned Billy Wayne Miller of Dallas after DNA testing proved his innocence and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles recommended his case for clemency.

Miller, who was released from the prison system seven months ago after having served 22 years,

was convicted of aggravated sexual assault in Dallas County in 1984 and received a life sentence. Post-conviction DNA testing showed that Miller was innocent. The district attorney, district judge, sheriff and police chief all supported the pardon.

Perry also pardoned 14 other current or former Texas prison

inmates - 11 from Dallas County, counting Miller - following recommendations by the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Most were in their teens or early 20s more than a decade ago when convicted of minor offenses.

AG files suit against polluters

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Dec. 20 sued four Houston-area chemical plants owned by Lyondell Chemical Co. and subsidiaries.

Court papers filed in Travis County say the plants repeatedly failed to prevent harmful air emissions and are in violation of Texas environmental laws.

Negotiations to settle with the four chemical plants reached an impasse earlier this year. In its lawsuit, the state is seeking civil penalties ranging from \$50 to \$25,000 per day, per violation.

Abbott's office said the lawsuit is the first in Texas arising out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to cut air pollution at chemical plants across the nation.

Future comptroller hires deputy

Newly elected State Comptroller Susan Combs, who will be the state's chief accountant, named Martin A. Hubert deputy comptroller.

In joining the Combs administration, Hubert, 43, follows Billy Hamilton, who resigned recently after serving as deputy under departing Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn.

Hubert is currently serving as a member of the the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Combs and Hubert will be sworn into office on Jan. 1.

Gaming group to make proposal

The lobbying group Texas Gaming Association announced a plan to use casino revenue to pay college tuition for high school graduates.

Details of the plan have not been finalized by the group, but a tuition-paying plan would be tied to the Legislature's acceptance of the group's proposal enabling the construction of casinos.

The idea is to embed casinos in 12 "casino destination resorts," three of which would be located on Indian reservations within the state.

For the plan to come to fruition, the Texas Legislature would have to pass legislation requiring an amendment to the state constitution, and Texas voters would make the final decision at the ballot box.

Officials' training deadline to hit

Each elected or appointed public official who is a member of a governmental body must have completed a course of training in the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act before Jan. 1.

Passed in 2005, the law also requires public information coordinators to take the training.

Anyone who wishes to do so may view the training videos online via the Web site www.oag.state.tx.us.

Restroom opening effort begins

A 10-year-old Austin girl has begun an effort to convince law-

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State Capital

HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

makers to consider legislation requiring businesses to make restrooms available to the public.

She wants businesses to be more accommodating to people who suffer from digestive ailments and other conditions.

New cigarette tax to take effect

The state sales tax on cigarettes will increase a dollar on Jan. 1 to \$1.41 for a 20-pack.

Inaugural scheduled for top execs

The second inauguration of Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst will be on Jan. 16.

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It's New Year's Time!

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Colorado County Clerk

Diane Matus
County Treasurer

Ivan Menke
Constable, Pct. 3

Mary Jane Poenitzsch
Tax Assessor-Collector

Darrell Stancik
Constable, Pct. 4

Harvey Vornsand
District Clerk

Doug Wessels
Commissioner, Pct. 1

R.H. "Curly" Wied
Colorado County Sheriff

Judge Jamison
Colorado County Judge

December 30, 1982

Miranda Lynn Munoz was born Christmas Eve in De Tar Hospital in Victoria the first child of Edward (Teddy) and Norma Lira Munoz formerly of Eagle Lake. Miranda weighed seven pounds, three ounces and measured 19.5 inches long...

The Eagle Lake Lions Club and Veterans of Foreign Wars handed out checks to the hospital, fire department, and Community Center as their parts in supporting area activities. William H. Harrison accepted a check

for \$1,000 from Abel Gonzales representing a part of a \$4,000 pledge the club made to furnish one of the new hospital rooms. VFW Quartermaster Earl Rodgers presented Fire Chief Sonny Spaniel with a check for \$1,000 for the departments new rescue tools and van. Abel Gonzales also presented a check for \$500 to Tommy Pilkington toward the Community Center fund drive...

Funeral services for Bret Anderson Ellis, 19, Barbara Ann Cooper, 18, and Jennifer Lee Cooper, 16 months, all of Eagle Lake were conducted

December 23 at the Mill-Bauer Funeral Home Chapel by Elder T. J. Smith...

Domingo Tom Reyes, 15, a freshman student at Rice High School, was buried December 23 in Lakeside Cemetery following funeral services at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church by the Rev. Ray Widacki. Reyes was killed in an auto accident December 21 near bonus at the intersection of FM 102 and FM 2614...

William Thomas Perry, 39, was buried December 24 in Lakeside Cemetery following funeral

services at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Mill-Bauer Funeral Home, with the Rev. Mike Barron officiating. Perry died about 9:30 p.m. December 22 as a result of an auto accident on U.S. 90A two miles east of Altair...

Katherine (Katie) Lena Kucher, 77, of Chicago, died December 22 at her residence in Chicago. She was the sister of Mrs. Edna Hollas of Eagle Lake. Funeral services were conducted December 24 at Koenig-Peel Funeral Home Chapel in La Grange...

Stafford Opera To Present 'The Nerd'

The Stafford Opera House in Columbus has planned a special performance, (not part of the regular season ticket season), Saturday, January 13, of the comedy The Nerd performed by Damian Gillen and The Company as a treat for you because you deserve a good laugh after all of the hectic running and going of the holidays.

Larry Shue wrote The Nerd as well as last season's hit The Foreigner. Damian Gillen says "after the smashing success of 'The Foreigner' last May, it seems fitting for The Company to follow up with the only other full-length comedy written by Larry Shue. ...This extraordinarily inventive, side-splitting comedy is one of the funniest plays ever written. The action centers on the hilarious dilemma of Willum, an architect, who is visited by a man he's never met but who saved his life in the war. The visitor turns out to be an incredibly inept, hopelessly stupid "nerd", a bumbling oaf with no social sense, little intelligence and less tact who outstays his welcome with a vengeance."

The Nerd was Shue's first full-length play but he also wrote The Foreigner, Grandma Duck is Dead, My Emperor's New Clothes and Wenceslas Square before his untimely death in a commuter plane crash at the age of 39.

Looking at reviews of this play, comments such as "extraordinarily inventive", "side-splitting comedy", "brings the audience to its knees, laughing", "the audi-

ence almost never stops laughing" are often used to describe this show.

This production is not a part of the regular season ticket pack-

age. Buy your tickets now for this production and don't miss this time to sit back, relax and enjoy dinner and an evening of laughter. Call 979-732-5135 for tickets or information.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending Dec. 7.

Friday, November 24

At 1:27 am, Deputy Thumann conducted a traffic stop after a short pursuit from Hwy 71 to S. Texas Avenue and CR 140. After further investigation, the driver, Vicente Estrada III, 26 of Bryan, was arrested for Evading Arrest in a vehicle, Possession of Marihuana, and No Driver's License. The passenger, identified as Fidel Zabala III, 25 of Bryan, was arrested for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Case closed by arrests.

At 2:20 am, Deputy Slubar met with a complainant at the Sheriff's Office about a Threat that occurred on Center Street in Alleyton. The complainant did not wish to pursue charges on the

suspect. A report was filed and the case will be closed unless future incidents occur.

At 4:28 am, Deputy Slubar responded to IH-10 westbound in reference to a report of an intoxicated driver. On arrival, the suspect vehicle was observed traveling on IH-10 in an erratic manner eastbound in the westbound lane. Deputy Slubar conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle near the 709 mile marker. After further investigation, Lucrecia Ann Mayo, 37 of Brookshire, was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated. Case cleared by arrest.

At 9:12 pm, Deputy Slubar responded to the Garwood Hunting Lodge in reference to a Burglary. The complainant reported several duck blinds and decoys had been stolen from a storage room. An investigation was initiated and the case is pending development

of suspect(s).

Saturday, November 25

At 2:20 pm, Deputy Pardo responded to CR 235 near Sheridan in reference to fence damage. One suspect was identified and agreed to repair the damages. The incident was determined to be accidental. Case closed.

At 6:10 pm, Deputy Slubar responded to Sheridan in reference to subjects operating unregistered vehicles on the roadway. The subjects were located and issued warning citations. Case closed.

At 8 pm, Deputy Thumann responded to Taylor Street in Glidden in reference to a missing truck. The truck was later found and no charges will be filed. Case closed.

Sunday, November 26

At 4 pm, Deputy Gonzalez re-

Continued on next page

YOU WANT A ONE-WAY TICKET TO A LITTLE GRASS SHACK IN HAWAII?

RIGHT—MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION IS TO GET BACK TO BASICS...

SO—YOU'RE GOING TO ELIMINATE ALL YOUR UTILITY BILLS?

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