

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

Division of Beal Publications, LLC • (USPS 163-760)
 P.O. Box 67 - 220 East Main
 CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067
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 Published Weekly-Every Thursday



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Advertising and News Deadline: 5 P.M. Monday

Subscription Rates

Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt)	\$15.50
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties	\$17.00
Other Texas Residents	\$18.50
Outside of Texas; Inside U.S.	\$20.00

Foreign Rates Available By Request

Single Copy Price : 50¢

Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas

Address Corrections should be sent to P.O. Box 67 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

Perry Says Texas Is At 'New Era Of Prosperity'

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry on Feb. 6 delivered the State of the State address to the state Legislature, exclaiming "Texas is perched at the forefront of a new era of prosperity."

Perry said the economy is growing, tax collections are on the rise, frivolous lawsuits are down and so are the costs of insurance for homeowners and doctors. He also said teacher pay and student achievement have improved.

The pluses aside, Perry said nearly 4 million Texans are living in poverty, so during the next four years his goal will be to spread opportunity to more Texans "who are willing to take personal responsibility for their lives."

Perry indicated, nevertheless, that poverty is not necessarily tied to a lack of personal responsibility, saying the rising cost of health care is be "one of the greatest obstacles to personal prosperity."

"Of the 5 and one-half million uninsured Texans, 2 million

are adults with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level," Perry said. "Most are working Texans whose jobs offer health-care benefits they can't afford, or no benefits at all."

So, Perry announced the launch of "Healthier Texas," his program to redirect unspent federal health-care dollars to a pool that would serve Texans 200 percent below the federal poverty level.

Perry touched on other subjects, such as a Human papillomavirus vaccination program for girls entering sixth grade, his proposal to sell the state Lottery, and his plans build coal-fueled power plants and a statewide matrix of toll roads.

Perry also talked about border security, literacy, prisons, and a get-tough stance with the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

State of State; response aired Austin News Channel 8 broadcast via cable and Internet

a Democratic response to the governor's State of the State address.

The response, by state Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston, took Perry to task for not doing more to fund public education, the big increases in college tuition, and "teaching to the test" in the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

Coleman also pointed out that under Perry 200,000 Texas children lost coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program, leading to \$893 million in cuts in federal matching funding.

He also criticized Perry's fast-tracking of coal-fired power plants instead of moving state policy further toward clean wind and solar power options.

And, Coleman called the governor's "Trans Texas Corridor" proposed highway project "unwanted, unwarranted and fiscally

irresponsible."

Some don't swallow HPV program

Dozens of members of the Texas Legislature have come out in opposition to the governor's Feb. 2 executive order requiring Human papillomavirus vaccinations for girls entering sixth grade.

Chief among the opposers was Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, who chairs the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. Nelson, said she would seek an attorney general opinion on the executive order, to see if it is legally binding.

On the other hand, Chris Bell, the Houston Democrat who placed second to Perry in the race for governor, lauded the governor for "getting it right."

Lottery sale price climbs higher

A couple of weeks ago, when Gov. Perry sent up a trial balloon

on his idea to sell the Texas Lottery to a private company, he estimated the value at \$14 billion. Now the amount has been estimated as high as \$20 billion.

If sold, what would Texas do with the money? Perry said he would divide up the billions of dollars into educational and cancer research and health insurance endowments.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick don't seem to have warmed to the idea of selling the Lottery. Selling it would require a constitutional amendment.

Bill targets crowing roosters

Rep. Ana E. Hernandez, D-Houston, filed House Bill 1225, legislation that would make it a public nuisance to allow the crowing of a rooster outdoors in a neighborhood if a reasonable

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

person would find the noise objectionable.

Hundreds protest coal plants

A crowd reportedly in the hundreds gathered at the Capitol Feb. 11 to protest the proposed construction of more than two dozen coal-fired power plants around the state.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

February 17, 1983

Mrs. Raymond Jochetz celebrated her 92 birthday. All six of Mrs. Jochetz's children were present to celebrate. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Jochetz of Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jochetz, Jr. of Huntsville, Mr. and Mrs. George Nicholds of La Porte, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Jochetz of Wharton, Mrs. Betty Roesner of Houston and Mrs. Miles Theuman of Eagle Lake...

Little Miss Kristi Gail Gertson was the guest of honor at a skating party observing her 5th birthday Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Silver Wings in El Campo. The party was hosted by her parents Darrell and Gail Gertson. Her actual birthday was Sunday, Feb.

13...

James Dierschke was pleasantly surprised on his 50th birthday February 6 with a party. Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Cunda and their children Melissa and Darrell of Rosenberg...

Funeral services were held Saturday, 12 for Harry Selph, who passed away Thursday, Feb. 10 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

February 12, 1959

Eagle Lake Lions Club March of Dimes Committee, headed by Joe Lee McCreary and Dexter Anderson, reported that Eagle Lake citizens contributed \$803.51 to the 1959 March of Dimes campaign...

paign...

The Eagle Lake School Board of Education approved a new one-year contract for Supt. E.B. Gibson and also for High School Principal Willard E. Ethridge at the regular meeting Monday night...

Miss Jeanette Labay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Labay of Garwood, has been selected as winner of the 1959 Good Citizenship Award presented by the Daughters of American Revolution...

Mike Ware, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ware, was honored on his fifth birthday Feb. 2 at Mrs. Eldin Kveton's Play School...

Ralph Gertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gertson of Lis-

sie, celebrated his sixth birthday with a party at his home Feb. 5...

The Eagle Lake Eagles defeated Pearland 47-44 last Friday night. Billy Uzzell was high scorer with 13 points, Melvin Wright and Johnny Nash scored 10 each, Gerry Clipson 8, Bobby Meitzen 4 and Ben Castillo 2. The Eagles lost to Hitchcock 52-37 Tuesday night with Uzzell and Clipson leading the scoring with 13 points each...

The Eagle Lake girl's basketball team wound up play Tuesday night by defeating Hitchcock 44-37 and the win assured the Eagles a second place tie with Pearland. Sandy Thomas was high scorer with 21 points, while Carol Beseda scored 11...

Flood Presentation Slated Feb. 19

Colorado County Texas Floodplain Association and NOAA is inviting the residents of Colorado County to attend a presentation on driving into flood waters.

"Turn Around, Don't Drown" is a program sponsored by the Texas Floodplain Administration, and is designed to educate the public concerning the dangers of

driving into swift moving water.

The program will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Colorado County Courthouse, on Monday, Feb. 19.

This will be an informative presentation concerning driving into flood waters, the necessity of road and 911 signs being visibly displayed, as well as a presenta-

tion by a NOAA representative, regarding weather and the use of 'Alert Weather Radios'.

There will also be videos regarding flooding as well as a time for questions and answers.

Please make plans to attend. For information call 732-2435 or 732-6380.

Isler Receives Air Force Award

Air Force Maj. William C. Isler has been awarded the John C. Flanagan Award, an Air Education and Training Command Medical Service Award for being psychologist of the year 2006.

Isler is chief of clinical health

psychology for the 59th Medical Wing, Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

The major has served in the military for 12 years.

He is the son of Bill and Nita

Isler of Eagle Lake.

In 1981, Isler graduated from Athens High School and received a bachelor's degree in 1986 from Baylor University, Waco.

He earned a doctor of philosophy degree 1996 from the University of North Texas, Denton.

County Fair Tag-Ins In April

It is time for 4-H members who plan to exhibit a livestock project in the 2007 Colorado County Fair to start thinking about their project plans.

Tag-ins for the Fair livestock

projects will begin in April.

4-H members are reminded that the Colorado County Fair Association requires youth exhibiting livestock projects in the 2007 Colorado County Fair to attend at

least four meetings of their local 4-H Club.

A majority of Colorado County 4-H clubs meet on a monthly basis from September through May.

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