

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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**Interim Director Takes Control Of Texas Youth Commission**

AUSTIN — The Texas Youth Commission board of directors resigned March 16 under pressure from the Texas Legislature.

The board's final act was to submit a plan to fix problems at the agency that led to recent reports of sex abuse, beatings and neglect of confined youths. After submitting the plan at an emergency meeting, the board turned over its duties to the agency's acting director, Ed Owens.

Even before lawmakers gave the board votes of no-confidence and filed related legislation addressing failures of the agency to meet its obligations, perhaps the loudest voice for swift change was that of Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

"I believe the resignation of the Texas Youth Commission board and the submission of a rehabilitation plan will finally allow us to begin making real progress toward reforming the TYC," Dewhurst said.

The lieutenant governor, who is co-chair of the Legislative Audit Committee, said the plan will be reviewed, as will the just-released state auditor's report on the TYC.

Officials will take "whatever action is necessary to protect the children and restore the public trust in this agency," Dewhurst said.

Owens publicized a list of pledges he intends to fulfill as interim director. A few of those pledges are these:

- To centralize human resource functions to include criminal background checks for new hires and to collaborate with the Department of Public Safety in conducting monthly notifications of employee arrest;

- To make it so new employees are hired through a central hiring office instead of at TYC facilities.

- To demand that abuse, neglect and exploitation, and complaint policies be redrafted to include review and approval by designated executive staff with notification to the executive director; and

- To restructure programs to be age appropriate and match the psycho-social stage of confined youths.

**Speaker creates education panel**

House Speaker Tom Craddick on March 16 announced the formation of the House Select Committee on Higher and Public Education Finance.

The nine-member, bipartisan committee's task will be to improve public and higher education finance policy so Texas will do a better job of preparing students for college and entering the workforce.

Craddick said improving college and workforce readiness "is immensely important for increasing Texas' competitiveness in the global market."

Committee Chairman Dan Branch, R-Dallas, said, "It's critical that we get this right. We must continue to supply an educated workforce, so employers will keep relocating to Texas."

**Senate passes utility reforms**

The state Senate on March 15

approved a package of electric utility reforms lawmakers hope will bring more affordable rates to many Texas households.

The legislation, authored primarily by Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Marble Falls, also discourages market price manipulation and has safeguards to protect low-income, elderly and critical-care customers from having their power cut off.

"Electric rates are out of control and we need to reel them back in," said Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville.

The Senate passed a Lucio amendment that would require power companies to refund any unfair overcharges to customers, pending review by the Public Utility Commission and the state attorney general.

Customers reportedly paid \$70 million in overcharges because of market manipulation by power company TXU in 2005.

The legislation next moves to the House for consideration.

**Effects foreseen in CHIP funding**

The way some House budget

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State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling

writers see it, increasing funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program by \$78 million means cutting other programs that mostly benefit the needy.

According to figures by the House Appropriations Committee, cuts of about \$25 million to Medicaid, plus cuts to breast and cervical cancer programs, community mental health crisis centers, substance abuse programs, foster care programs, and independent living centers would make up the difference.

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**Different Types of Glaucoma Medicines**

Glaucoma is a leading cause of loss of vision. This condition causes damage to the optic nerve, along with high pressure inside the eyeball. When the optic nerve deteriorates, blind spots may occur. If this condition is not treated, blindness in both eyes may result. *Primary open-angle glaucoma* is the most common form of this condition, which develops gradually. *Acute angle-closure glaucoma* is another type which develops suddenly, and requires immediate medical attention. Severe pain may accompany the attack, and may be accompanied by blurred vision, nausea, and vomiting.

The eye doctor may prescribe medicated eye drops to control the pressure. Eye drops that are beta-blockers, such as *Ocupress* and *Betoptic*, decrease the production of aqueous fluid. Side effects of these types of medication include trouble breathing, slowed pulse, and decreased blood pressure. Alpha-adrenergic blockers, such as *Alphagan*, also reduce the production of aqueous fluid. Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors are another type of medication prescribed to treat glaucoma, which should be avoided in persons who are sensitive to sulfa drugs. *Azopt* and *Trusopt* are examples of this type of medication. If eye drops are not effective, oral medications, such as *Diamox* and *Neptazane* may be prescribed.

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**Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO**

**March 24, 1983**

**Gary and Sherry Grasshoff** are the proud parents of a baby girl **Jennifer Erin Michelle** born at 9:59 p.m. March 16 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

**Miss Judy Bunge** has been selected for membership in Angel Flight at the University of Texas at Austin...

**Debra Cooper**, bride-elect of **Robert Sheppard** was honored at a miscellaneous shower on Friday, March 11 in Sugar Land. The shower was hosted by **Mrs. Dianne Morton** and **Mrs. Shelia Reagan** at Mrs. Morton's home...

**Miss Susan Spalinger**, bride-elect of **Michael Phillips** was honored with a tea shower Saturday, March 5...

**Robert Sheppard** of Houston, groom-elect of **Debra Cooper** was honored on Sunday, March 13 with a surprise barbecue personal shower. The event was hosted by **Johnny Cooper** at the country home of **Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Wiese**...

There is a lovely display of bluebonnets at the home of **Butch and Lena Parma** on South McCarty Avenue...

**Mrs. Kathy Jankowiak**, formerly **Kathy Reuther** of Eagle Lake, earned her Masters Degree from the University of Houston central campus this past fall semester. Her degree was in education with an emphasis in occupational education. Kathy is presently teaching typing and shorthand at Columbia High School in West Columbia. Kathy is the daughter of **Mrs. Jack (Erline) Listowski** of Eagle Lake.

**March 19, 1959**

**Sidney Struss**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Struss**, celebrated his ninth birthday Wednesday, March 11 with a party given by his parents at the Community Center...

**Mr. and Mrs. Harry Todd** and sons moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where Mr. Todd is now associated with the Costal Transmission Corps...

**Mrs. Fred Hopkins**, daughter-in-law of **Mrs. J.D. Hopkins** and sister-in-law of **Mrs. R.L. Lange** of this city, is recuperating nicely at her home in Houston following surgery a few weeks ago...

**Mr. and Mrs. Alton Smith** of Garwood honored their daughter, **Sheryl**, on her first birthday with a party...

**Mr. and Mrs. James A. Mathis** are the proud parents of a daughter, **Patricia Ann**, born March 16 in Laughlin Hospital...

**Debra Lynn** was born March 11 in Laughlin Hospital to **Mr. and Mrs. James Brune**...

Eagle Lake High School track team to run in Boling track meet Friday and Columbus track meet Saturday. Coaching the team is **Victor Scott**...

**Sandy Thomas**, a forward and

**Judith Johnson**, a guard were placed on the All District girls basketball team...

**Janet Frnka**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Frnka**, celebrated her seventh birthday with a party at her home March 12. Janet's birthday was on March 10...

**Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Matthews** announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Joyce Marie**, to **Melvin Stancik**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stancik**, on April 12 in the First Baptist Church.

**Older Texan Nominees Sought**

The 29th Annual Older Texan Fair has been set for Thursday, May 10, 2007 at the Sheridan Community Center in Sheridan.

Each year, an outstanding Older Texan man and woman are selected and recognized for their volunteer service and contributions to the community.

Recipients must be 60 years of age or older and be a resident of Colorado County.

Civic, church and educational organizations throughout the county are encouraged to nominate an Older Texan for this award.

Nomination forms are available at the Colorado County Extension Office, 316 Spring Street, Columbus and must be submitted to the Extension Office on or before April 9, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Older Texans in Colorado County will also have the opportunity to exhibit afghans, tablecloths and bedspreads, baked goods, canned goods, crafts, floriculture,

fresh garden products, hand stitchery, paintings/drawings, photography and quilts.

Individuals entering must be age 60 or over and may enter as many items as they wish. Blue and red ribbons will be awarded to all items being judged. Rosettes will be awarded to the top items in each category.

Organizations and individuals may set up booths to sell items at no cost for the booth. Those who register to have a booth are asked to donate a door prize. The deadline for reserving a booth is Friday, May 4, 2007.

The Older Texan Fair will open at 9:30 a.m. to set up exhibits and booths and the judging of exhibits will begin at 10:00 a.m. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the speaker followed by the announcement of the exhibit winners and the Older Texan recognition and awards.

The program will be followed by a meal and the giving of door

prizes. Reservations for the meal must be made and paid for in advance.

Reservations may be made at the Colorado County Extension Office. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Older Texan nomination forms and guidelines for the exhibits and booths may be picked up at the County Extension office.

For more information contact Sharon Grahmann at 979-732-2530.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Co-operating.

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension Activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance eight days prior to the activity.

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400-500 lbs	130-144	115-128
500-600 lbs	116-130	102-114
600-700 lbs	106-120	96-105
700-800 lbs	96-106	88-95

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	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	135-185	115-150
300-400 lbs	115-128	105-114
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