

<b>THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT</b> Division of Beal Publications, LLC • (USPS 163-760) P.O. Box 67 - 220 East Main CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067 979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522 email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net Published Weekly-Every Thursday <small>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.</small>	<b>Produced and Distributed By:</b>  James Sweet Carol Cardenas • Doug Beal Donna Samora	<b>Advertising and News Deadline: 5 P.M. Monday</b> <b>Subscription Rates</b> Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt) ..... \$17.00 Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties ..... \$19.50 Other Texas Residents ..... \$20.00 Outside of Texas; Inside U.S. .... \$21.50	<b>Single Copy Price : 50¢</b> Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Texas  <b>Address Corrections</b> should be sent to P.O. Box 67 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
<b>Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri-8-5 Wed-10-3</b>			

# Rain, Flooding Create Disaster in 37 Counties

AUSTIN — Phenomenal rainfall and flooding left much of the state hurting, troubled or vulnerable in the second half of the month of June.

At least 11 deaths have been attributed to the foul weather. Military units activated by order of Gov. Rick Perry, the Texas Department of Public Safety, game wardens and other state resources responded.

Perry sent a disaster declaration that includes 37 counties to President George W. Bush, seeking federal assistance. The White House announced it was making federal funding available to help with the disaster areas.

Attorney General Greg Abbott warned residents in stricken areas to beware of scammers and price gougers, who seem to come out of the woodwork when

disasters strike.

More rain is in the forecast. Some longtime weather watchers have called the unusually wet spring and early summer a signal that a 50-year drought cycle has ended. Others say it's a symptom of global warming. Others say it's El Niño. Still others say it's just a wet spell that was bound to come.

### NT toll project moves forward

The Trans Texas Corridor project is on hold for the next two years.

Lawmakers wanted to use that block of time to study the possible effects of building the proposed massive network of toll roads stretching from the Mexico border to the Oklahoma border.

But legislation signed in June by Gov. Rick Perry allows certain regional toll projects to move forward.

Perry put his signature on the agreement, even though he appeared to have the whole Trans Texas Corridor project ready to go with Cintra of Madrid, Spain, and project partner Zachry Construction Corporation of San Antonio. Now, one of those regional toll

project proposals moved forward on June 28.

The Texas Transportation Commission voted 4-1 to tentatively approve a plan for the North Texas Tollroad Authority to accelerate the building of Texas 121 through Denton and Collin counties and do 30 other North Texas traffic congestion-relieving projects.

For things to really get going, the Texas Department of Transportation has to make sure certain things are in place.

Before making a final decision, the agency must be satisfied with the regional authority's preliminary studies, project timing, funding and payment schedules. Next, the Texas Transportation Commission — TxDOT's governing body — would have to ratify the decision.

### Court rules in favor of DeLay

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals decided 5-4 to uphold a Travis County state district court ruling stripping off a charge of conspiracy stemming from the 2002 state election against former U.S. House majority leader Tom DeLay.

The charge is one of several

brought in 2005 by Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, who serves as the state's chief ethics prosecutor. Earle said he plans to appeal the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals' decision.

DeLay, is still in hot water, facing charges of money laundering and conspiracy to launder money. He said he is appealing those charges, too.

### Health agency's survey begins

The immunization branch of the Texas Department of State Health Services is conducting a survey on customer satisfaction with its Austin-based programs and services.

Feedback from parents, legal guardians, vaccine providers and other professionals will be used to improve services.

The survey period ends July 17. Call (800) 252-9152 for a paper copy of the survey or visit www.immunizetexas.com to do the survey online.

### Census says we grew last year

Perpetual traffic clogs on Interstate 35 could not have frightened off many people from moving to the capital city last year. The U.S. Census Bureau announced in its June 28 report of most populous cities that Austin increased by 18,600 residents in the last year, bringing the population to 709,000. Austin is among the top 10 in numerical gain nationwide, the Census noted.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



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

**July 7, 1983**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Briscoe of Austin are pleased to announce the arrival of their second child, Brian Gary, born Sunday, June 5 at Seton Hospital in Austin. He weighed seven pounds, 10 1/2 ounces and measured 20 3/4 inches at birth...  
In memory of our love one, Sis Eulilia Harris Ashton (Dump) of Eagle Lake passed on to receive her heavenly reward on the night

of June 19 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Services were held Thursday, June 23 at 1 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church with the Rev. Coby Shorter, Jr., officiating. Interment was at the Paradise Cemetery in Vox Populi...  
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Woodruff of Taiton escorted their children Katy, Benny Paul, Terri and Jodi, along with Mrs. Ben Woodruff and David Fucik, also of Taiton. Mrs. Lawrence Berger, of Garwood, Mark Cox of New Gulf, and Johanna Kubena of Nada, on a vacation trip to Hawaii...  
Dr. Raymond R. Thomas of Eagle Lake has completed continuing education requirements to retain active membership in the American Academy of Family Physicians, the national association of family doctors. The

academy formerly was called the American Academy of General Practice...  
Mark Anderson and Dexter Anderson of Eagle Lake have been honored by the Lions Club organization of their work and support of Lions Club activities.

### July 9, 1959

John Laughlin and William Blair of Eagle Lake were selected to play on the All-Star team to represent Colorado Valley Little League. Bennie Blair was named as manager of the team...  
A.H. Seaholm has been re-elected Worshipful Master of the Eagle Lake Lodge, No. 366 A.F. and A.M. for the Masonic year 1959-60...  
Robert Crutchfield, son of Ray Crutchfield of Eagle Lake, recently enlisted in the Armed Services and is stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado...

Mrs. O.J. Wintermann has as guests for a house party over the Fourth of July weekend, her nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wintermann and son, Stephen, of St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Sam B. Symington of Houston...  
Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Henry have sold their home and plan to move to Fort Worth to make to make their home. Mr. Henry recently retired from duties with the Magnolia Oil Co. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Duty have purchased the Henry home.

Sunday afternoon's heat didn't slow down a volleyball game that took place in the back yard of the Fred R. Frnka's home. Players were Ted Brunner (Louise refereed), Billy McDaniel, the Bill Farris, the Butch Szymanski's the Butch Parma's and the Jimmy Thomases.

## Sheridan Man Ruled Insane

A judgment of dismissal due to insanity was filed in a burglary of a habitation case against a Sheridan man.

Judge W.C. Kirkendall signed a judgment of dismissal due to insanity on July 2, 2007 after a court-ordered evaluation revealed that Joshua Spangenberg, 25, of Sheridan was insane at the time he committed the offense of burglary of a habitation on October 15, 2006.

Colorado County Attorney Ken Sparks and Public Defender

Kevin Dunn filed an agreed motion requesting entry of the judgment.

"All the evidence from the arresting officer, witnesses, Austin State Hospital, and the mental health professional appointed by the court indicates that the defendant was delusional and insane at the time he committed the burglary," said Sparks. "There is no evidence to the contrary," he added.

Spangenberg remains in cus-

tody in the Colorado County jail. After the dismissal, the case was transferred to the Colorado County Court for civil commitment proceedings.

Spangenberg will undergo a psychiatric examination and is subject to a temporary commitment of 90 days if found to be in need of treatment.

If he is found in need of further treatment after the 90-day period, he can be re-committed for a maximum period of one year.

## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

### District Court Sentencings

Six individuals were sentenced in proceedings in Colorado County District Court on July 2 before District Judge W.C. (Bud) Kirkendall.

--Jamal Zodik Claude, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 16 months state jail.

--Jamal Zodik Claude, bail jumping and failure to appear. Sentenced to three years prison.

--Martine Angel Dehoyos, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to two years prison.

--Christna Hopson, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to two years state jail, probated for three years, fined \$1,000, 15 days in jail as condition of probation.

--Floyd J. Kelley, prohibited substance correction facility. Probation conditions modified.

--Eddie King, criminal mischief. Sentenced to two years state jail facility, probated for two years.

--Roderick T. Stevens, evading arrest/detention. Sentenced to 180 days in county jail.

### Two Civil Suits In District Court

Two civil suits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the last week.

On June 27, prosecutors filed suit to forfeit a 1994 Ford 150 pickup that was seized on June 15 by the Weimar Police Department.

The suit said the owner and possessor was Glynn Garry Schefler and that the vehicle was contraband.

A separate suit was filed on June 28 in a dispute over a promissory note.

The suit was filed by Isidro Sanchez and names Benny Gonzales as defendant.

The suit claims that the two executed a promissory note in the amount of \$300,000 with monthly payments of \$5,000 for five years.

The suit states that Sanchez made all of the payments, ending on March 1, but that Gonzales claimed that additional amounts are due.

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