

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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# Host Of New Laws Go Into Effect Across The State

AUSTIN - Six hundred and fifty-four new state laws took effect on Sept. 1. The 80th Texas Legislature also passed 670 bills that became law immediately last spring. Another 22 bills will take

effect on Jan. 1. The subject matter of the laws effective Sept. 1 is wide-ranging. Major among them are money issues affecting nearly everyone: the state's 2008-2009 budget

(House Bill 1) and school property tax reduction (HB 2).

The Texas Department of Public Safety drew up its own list of safety-related new laws and on Aug. 20 posted the list online at www.txdps.state.tx.us.

Here are a few traffic and criminal laws mentioned there:

- HB 8, "Jessica's Law," imposes a 25-year minimum sentence for sexually violent offenses against children under 14; eliminates eligibility for parole for certain sex offenders; makes a second conviction of a sexually violent offense against a child under 14 a capital felony; mandates Global Positioning System monitoring for offenders committed under the sexually violent predator statutes; extends the statute of limitations for sexually violent offenses against children under 14 to 20 years past the victims' 18th birthday; and clarifies that harboring a sex offender in violation of registration is an offense punishable by up to a third degree felony.

- SB 6 increases the penalty for sexually explicit online communication with a minor who is 14 to 16 years old from a state jail felony to a third degree felony and increases the penalty for online

sexual solicitation of a minor who is 14 to 16 years old from a third degree felony to a second degree felony.

- SB 1315 requires the DPS to develop an alert system for missing senior citizens similar to the Amber Alert Program for abducted children.

- HB 323 requires all new buses purchased by a school district on or after Sept. 1, 2010, to be equipped with lap/shoulder seatbelts. All buses contracted for use by a school district on or after Sept. 1, 2011, must be equipped with lap/shoulder seatbelts. But, the Legislature first must appropriate funds to school districts to cover the cost.

- SB 1287 requires certain establishments that sell alcohol to post specific notification regarding the offense of human trafficking in both English and Spanish along with the number to the national human trafficking hotline.

- SB 378, known as the "Castle Doctrine," removes the requirement that persons attempt to retreat before using deadly force to defend themselves.

- HB 1766 makes a state jail felony of the theft of wiring or cable that consists of at least 50 percent aluminum, bronze or

copper and that has a value of less than \$20,000.

- HB 1355, "Lillian's Law," requires all dog owners to properly secure their dogs on their property. A dog owner now can be held criminally responsible if the dog causes serious bodily injury or death at a location other than the owner's property in an unprovoked attack during which the owner, by criminal negligence, failed to secure the dog. The law exempts certain professionals, including peace officers, who deal with dogs on a regular basis.

**Court rules in challenge to pledge**

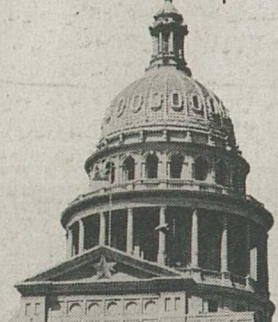
A Dallas federal district court on Aug. 28 denied a North Texas couple's attempt to prevent schoolchildren from reciting a revised Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

David Wallace Croft and his wife, Shannon, sought a preliminary injunction because the Texas Legislature, in the recently ended session, passed a law adding the words "one state under God" in the state pledge.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott commented on the ruling. In regards to precedent, Abbott said the U.S. Supreme Court repeatedly has held "patriotic acknowledgments of the Almighty

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

such as these" are consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

The voluntary, teacher-led recitation of the state pledge follows the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance.

Abbott's legal brief argues that instead of conflicting with the First Amendment, the state pledge reflects the protected freedom of religion.

On June 15, the wording of the pledge changed to this: "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

Before the change, the pledge was worded, "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible."

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**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**  
 To the Eagle Lake Community, surrounding communities, the members of the Malcom Thomas Scholarship Foundation would like to thank you for coming and supporting the Ole Skool Dance (August 25). Hope comes from loving, and loving from friends.  
 Know that your presence helped fashion our way. Also a very special thank you to our sponsors: Hair So Silky, Ms. O. Batiste, Discount Furniture, Ms. M. Lemons, Shaky Juke Joint, Mr. R. Carroll, Upson and Sons, Mr. C. Upson, Jake's Diesel, Mr. J. Martin, Hair By Marian, Ms. M. Giles, You'Nique Hair Care, Ms. K. Davidson, The Place, Mr. M. Black, Mark IV, Mr. I. Collins, Davis Barber Shop, Mr. T. Davis and we want to thank the DJ's for donating their time (Ice Man, Shaky, Lady D, Just Us and Cowboy).  
 Again, Thank You.

**Old Skool Organization**  
**THANK YOU !!!**  
 The Old Skool Organization would like to thank The Houston Texan Foundation, Rice C.I.S.D., B&B Foods, Jane Meldahl, and Mayor Mike Morales for making our event successful. The Houston Texan Foundation partnered with the Old Skool Organization for the experience of a lifetime. Our youth's dedication, team work, and community involvement awarded them tickets to see the **Houston Texans vs. Dallas Cowboys** on Saturday 08/25/2007. The event was Star Studded, Spectacular, and Breathtaking !!

- Cost of Ticket - Community Involvement
- Cost of T-Shirt & Hotdog - Team Work & Dedication
- Seeing our youth's face at Opening Kick Off - Priceless !!

The Houston Texans won the game 28 - 16, but the **Real Winners** were the youth of our community and the City of Eagle Lake.

**THANK YOU !!!**  
 Oldskool2007@sbcglobal.net  
 "Striving to support and broaden our kids' horizons,  
 One Child at a time"



## Colorado County Fair Proclaimed

Colorado County commissioner has issued a proclamation recognizing the Colorado County Fair on Sept. 13 to 16. Fair directors on hand for the proclamation included, standing, from left: Pam Potter, Jane Melhahl, Heath Weishuhn, Kaylee Brune, Jerry Henneke Sr., president; Penny Henske, Karl Valenta. Commissioners, seated from left: Darrell Gertson, Tommy Hahn, County Judge Al Jamison, Herbie Helmcamp and Doug Wessels.

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

**September 8, 1983**  
 Gerald W. Popp of Garwood received a Master's degree in Agriculture Economics and Texas A&M University summer commencement exercises...

**Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Korenek** of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Rita

**Jane to Kenneth Wayne Poncik**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Poncik of El Campo. The wedding was planned for September 24 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

On the afternoon of August 30 Miss Rebal Canaris was honored on her birthday at the home of her parents, Sue and Dan Canaris...

**Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lee Foster** of Eagle Lake, announced the birth of their second child, a son, named Joshua Reagan. The baby was born at 4:33 p.m. on September 5 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. The baby weighed seven pounds and two ounces...

**Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cranek, Jr.** of Louise announced the birth of their second child, a son, named Karl Robert. The baby was born at 10:39 a.m. on August 13 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton and weighed seven pounds, 13 ounces...

On August 31 Millie B. Jones was surprised with a birthday party in the backyard at the home of her mother, Mrs. Alma T. Davis...

**Kathy M. Hodde** from Eagle Lake received a Bachelor degree in Microbiology at Texas A&M University's summer commencement exercises...

**Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Eggemeyer** of El Campo announced the engagement of their daughter, **Fae Annette**, to **Gregory Bryan Popp**, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Herbert Popp** of Garwood. The couple will be married at 2 p.m. on October 22 at St. Philip's Catholic Church...

Visiting for three weeks here with the Ugartes are Mrs. Jose Ugarte's sister and brother-in-law, **Dr. and Mrs. Lourdes Ferreira** and children, Lourdes, Rebecca, and Enrique of Spain. Dr. Ferreira is a professor at the University of Salamanca Medical School in Spain...

**John Davis Henry** of Rock Island, 89, veteran of World War I, passed away of natural causes on September 2 at 8:30 p.m. at Bellville General Hospital. Funeral services were conducted from the Chapel of Dulany Funeral Home September 5 at 10 a.m. with **Dr. Roy V. Palmer** officiating. Interment was in Myrtle Cemetery in Rock Island...

Funeral services were held for **Feliciano Cruz** on September 7 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Dulany Funeral Home with **Rev. Roger Rodriguez** officiating. Interment was in Lakeside Cemetery.

**September 10, 1959**  
 The Eagle Lake Eagles football

team will travel to Louise to meet the Hornets as the 1959 football season opens. Opening lineup will be **Billy Uzzell, Johnny Meitzen, Curtis Laughlin, Mike Cheatham, Wayne Corman, Clinton Duyka, Gerald Clipson, Melvin Wright, Jim Whitley, John Allen Rolf** and **Walter Sommer**...

**Little Miss Debra Sommerlatte** was honored on her third birthday September with a backyard party at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. **Lonnie Sommerlatte**...

**Mr. and Mrs. James Dierschke** are the proud parents of a son, **Nicky Wayne**, born September 4 in Laughlin Hospital...

**Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ethridge** were complimented with a housewarming party given at their new home. Hostesses were **Mesdames Charles Causey, E.B. Gibson, Marcus Gunter** and **Herman Boothe**. They presented the couple with a lovely table lamp for their living room...

**Dean Preston Campbell** born September 7 to Mr. and Mrs. **R.J. Campbell**...

**Barbara Briggs** and **L.E. Meredith** were united in marriage August 13 in the home of the bride's parents, **Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Briggs** of Lissie.