

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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State's Top Ethics Cop Ronnie Earle Announces Retirement

State's top ethics cop announces retirement

By Ed Sterling
 AUSTIN — Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, the state's chief ethics cop, will serve out his term of office which expires at the end of 2008, but not a day more.

Earle, on Dec. 14, announced his decision not to seek reelection. The 65-year-old Democrat will have served 32 years when his term expires.

In a prepared statement, Earle said, "There are particular cases pending that are enormously important to this state, this country, and democracy itself. If they are not resolved during the forth-

coming last year of my term, I will offer my assistance on those matters on a pro bono basis to my successor."

Among those pending cases are indictments against former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Republican political fund-raisers John Colyandro and Jim Ellis.

Panel hears NFL-cable spat

The House Committee on Regulated Industries met Dec. 10 and heard testimony in a dispute between cable interests and the National Football League Network.

At issue were whether cable customers should be charged extra for access to NFL games and

if the Texas Legislature should have any say-so in how the dispute is handled.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones spoke for the NFL Network.

Jones said his side is against "big" cable companies that desire to put professional football games on a separate, higher-costing tier.

Goodell added that fans might have to pay as much as \$8 per month to watch games only available on the higher tier if certain cable companies get their way.

Goodell also said he would like the NFL Network and the cable industry to enter a negotiated settlement.

Representatives of the Texas Cable Association countered that cable packages are governed by the Federal Cable Act, and therefore the Federal Communications Commission, not the state, has jurisdiction in the issue.

Ernest Young, a law professor with University of Texas, represented the NFL at the hearing. He said there is precedent for the Texas Legislature to intervene as an alternative to litigation.

At the end of the hearing, committee chair Phil King, R-Weatherford, said he was not convinced the state has jurisdiction.

Online, mail order tax is closer

Texas and a coalition of other states are closer to agreement on a set of sales tax laws to help state and local governments receive sales tax revenue from online and mail order sales.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said the "Streamlined Sales Tax" governing board on Dec. 13 unanimously approved a compromise allowing Texas and

other sales tax-dependent states to continue taxing intrastate sales at the rate in effect at the seller's location, but to tax interstate sales at the rate in effect where the merchandise is delivered.

"In fiscal 2006, Texas lost an estimated \$541 million in state sales tax on Internet and mail order sales," Combs said. "We must monitor and fix this leak."

DPS labs receive accreditation

The Texas Department of Public Safety reported its 13 crime laboratories, after years of evaluation, have received international accreditation.

The DPS laboratories are located in Austin, Garland, Houston, El Paso, Waco, Corpus Christi, McAllen, Tyler, Lubbock, Midland, Abilene, Amarillo and Laredo.

Only three other state police laboratories in the U.S. have received international accreditation: Oregon, Utah and Idaho.

State returns Crockett letter

The Texas Historical Commis-

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
 By Ed Sterling

sion announced Dec. 7 it would return a letter said to be the last one written by David Crockett.

Simpson Galleries in Houston offered the letter to the State of Texas for \$490,000 with 120 days to decide whether to purchase it.

The state decided not to, after putting the letter through forensic analysis by a private North Carolina firm.

The analysis failed to confirm the document's authenticity.

**Eagle Lake Headlight
 Early Ad Deadline Notice**

Week of Christmas
 December 27 issue

5:00 p.m. Friday, December 21

Week of New Year's
 January 3 issue

5:00 p.m. Friday, December 28

No exceptions.

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

December 1, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Addicks, Jr. of Houston proudly announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, born November 4 at 12:20 p.m. in John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. Given the name Shirley Ann Marie, the little miss weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces and measured 21 inches long at birth...

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hollier of Valley Lodge proudly announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kellye to Mike Gertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Gertson, Sr. of Eagle Lake. The couple

have planned to exchange their wedding vows at 4 p.m. Saturday, January 7 at the United Methodist Church in Eagle Lake...

Little Miss Nicole Shay Krenek celebrated her second birthday Friday, November 18 at a party in her home. She is the daughter of J.P. and Beverly Krenek of Garwood...

Miss Janice Charmaine Kuffer and George Bazan, II were united in holy matrimony on September 10 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Deer Alberta, Canada...

Mr. and Mrs. Ric D. Weaver

of Weatherford are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a daughter. Rami Sue made her debut into this world on Thanksgiving Day at 9 a.m. at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth. At birth she tipped the scales at six pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20 inches in length...

Mr. and Mrs. John Dudley Batla are the very happy parents of a beautiful little girl named Natalie Renee. Natalie was born November 23 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. She weighed seven pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 1/2 long.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

District Court Dispositions

Nine individuals were sentenced in District Court on Monday, December 17. They included:

Lisha Bartley, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to two years state jail, probated three years, fined \$1,000.

Jason D. Johnson, robbery. Sentenced to four years TDC.

Stanley D. Mitchell, theft two or more convictions. Sentenced to 10 months state jail.

Jaylon T. Pettus, burglary of habitation. Probation conditions modified.

Arthur Ray Rhodes, theft. Sentenced to 30 days in county jail, plead to Class A - criminal mischief, 16 days in jail credit.

Melvin Douglas Robinson, tamper fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, plead to attempted tampering.

Martin A. Solorzano, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Sentenced to 90 days in county jail, credit for 74.

Martin A. Solorzano, evading arrest/detention using vehicle. Sentenced to 90 days in county jail, credit for 74.

Keith Matthew Torres, burglary of building. Sentenced to 12 months state jail.

Keith Matthew Torres, burglary of building. Sentenced to 12 months state jail.

Keith Matthew Torres, bur-

glary of building. Sentenced to 12 months state jail.

Keith Matthew Torres, forgery. Sentenced to two years TDC.

County Court Dispositions

Fourteen individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, Dec. 12. They included:

Felicia Ann Adams, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to six months deferred adjudication, fined \$100.

Jacoby R. Bailey, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to three days in jail, credit for two served, fined \$350.

Cody W. Burnett, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 20 days in jail, credit for four served.

Tiffany A. Harrell, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 30 days in jail (weekends).

Jacquelyn Karstedt, theft. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$100 and restitution.

Sharon Noel, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Abandon count II, accident involving damage; and count III, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to two years probation, fined \$1,500, 20 days in jail (weekends), 18 month driver's license suspension.

Jason Waddell, theft. Sentenced to two years deferred adjudication, fined \$2,038.18.

Steven Anderson, criminal

mischief. Sentenced to 10 days in jail.

Jarrett B. Christal, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 20 days in jail, credit for seven served, work release.

Martin Herrera Ferrell, theft stolen property by check. Reduced to Class C, fined \$100.

Roger W. Fry, failure to identify giving false/fictitious information. Dismiss count II, driving while license suspended with previous conviction. Sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Mitchell T. Marcotte, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to six months deferred adjudication, fined \$350.

Ernesto B. Navarro, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500, interlock device.

Jessie Upson, Jr., driving while license invalid with previous conviction. Sentenced to 20 days in jail, fined \$100.

One Suit Filed In District Court

One suit was filed in the last week in Colorado County District Court.

On Dec. 14, Brian and Tracy Psenck filed suit against Mary Lee Ferguson, seeking partition of one-tenth of a .325 acre tract of land.

Divorce Granted

Michelle Thumann and Reece Thumann, Dec. 17.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader Says 'Thanks' To Raiders

It is with great pleasure that I extend Congratulations to the Rice Raider Athletes for their hard work and dedication this season.

As a community, we have had some of the most exciting volleyball and football, some can only imagine. You are all winners!!!

The Raider volleyball team and the football team were reaching for a goal that was just beyond

their grasp, but always keep in mind that you didn't fail.

Yes, you fell short of the goal you wanted, but you didn't fail. Those are two different things.

To fail means that you didn't even give it your best try, while falling short is giving it your best with all your heart, soul and might, while that brass ring is still a little further than you can reach.

As athletes, you can be proud

and hold your heads up high, because you broke school records and made your fans proud no matter what the outcome. You showed real class and sportsmanship along the way.

RAIDERS, THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!!

Two Raider Fans, but one who is always outspoken, Ann Sunderman Pavliska RHS Class of 1971 "Go Big Blue"

Kick-off Your
 New Year's Eve Celebration
 at the

EAGLE LAKE

**Fireworks
 Display**

ON

MONDAY

Dec. 31st

6:30 p.m.

Calhoun Road

Eagle Lake

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

979-232-0233

