

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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 979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522
 email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net
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Produced and Distributed By:

James Sweet
 Carol Cardenas • Doug Beal
 Donna Samora

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Attorney General Abbott Gives Opinion On House Speaker's Powers

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott released a long-awaited opinion on Dec. 14, regarding the powers of the speaker of the Texas House. Questions arose over the limits of a speaker's power, and soon after the session ended, two

Republican House committee chairs asked the state attorney general to address a list of issues and render this opinion.

In summary, Abbott said the Texas Constitution and Texas statutory law are silent as to whether the speaker, and likewise, the president pro tempore of the Senate, are subject to removal from office.

"Any interpretation of this question must be governed by court decisions," Abbott wrote.

In the closing days of the 80th session of the Texas Legislature, a number of Democratic and Republican state representatives tried to remove Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, as speaker of the House.

It didn't work. Craddick fired one set of parliamentarians, then hired new ones to help him hold the powerful post.

It is normally a courtesy to allow members to address the whole House at appropriate times, and to make motions.

But a tactic used by Craddick under the advice of the new parliamentarians was to refuse to hear motions from the House floor, unless those motions came from members he considered friendly to him. Certain members stood at the microphone repeatedly in hopes of being recognized by

the chair (Craddick or his designee) to make motions, but were denied.

Texas not chosen for FutureGen

The U.S. Department of Energy selected Illinois, not Texas, to host the FutureGen project, hailed by some as a near zero emissions coal-fired power plant.

In losing the bid, Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 18 said though Texas was not selected, "our teams in Jewett and Odessa and our state officials deserve to be commended for developing impressive proposals to attract this project to the Lone Star State."

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Michael L. Williams, who chaired the FutureGen Texas team, said, "There are many clean energy projects on the drawing boards and I, for one, am ready to get busy."

Teachers to be checked by state

SB 9, passed by the 80th Texas Legislature, directed the State Board for Educator Certification to create rules that would set a deadline for a certified educator to submit fingerprints in compliance with the law and provide sanctions for failure to do so.

Starting in January, the state will begin fingerprinting or conducting criminal history back-

ground checks on about 1 million certified and non-certified Texas school district employees over the next four years, the Texas Education Agency said.

A teacher's certificate would be placed on "inactive status" as a consequence for non compliance, causing the person to become ineligible for employment in a Texas public school in a position that requires educator certification.

Perry names TYC conservator

Gov. Perry on Dec. 19 announced the appointment of Richard Nedelkoff as conservator of the Texas Youth Commission.

Nedelkoff, a former federal agency chief in the Bush administration, succeeds Ed Owen, who resigned as conservator in October.

The TYC houses minors convicted of criminal offenses. Last spring, the agency was put under conservatorship after various media published details of abuse of inmates by guards and by other inmates, and of administrative mismanagement at several TYC facilities.

DPS steps up patrol duties

Texans who expect to take to the roads during the Christmas and New Year holidays can expect to see more DPS troopers than usual.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
 State Capital

HIGHLIGHTS
 By Ed Sterling

Troopers will be looking for drunken drivers, speeders and seat belt violators.

The Texas Department of Public Safety reports that over the same period last year, troopers made 1,253 DWI arrests and issued 27,032 speeding tickets and 1,183 seat belt citations.

TxDOT to address billboard issue

The Texas Department of Transportation plans to hear public testimony on a proposal to allow digital billboards along state roadways.

The Texas Transportation Commission — the governing body of TxDOT — will conduct the hearing in

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Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

December 8, 1983
 Eagle Laker's hoped to get a glimpse of country singer **Kenny Rogers** when they spotted his bus "Gambler's Dream" at the Sportsman's Restaurant. But, **Doug Schwemm**, owner of Sportsman's reported it was only members of Kenny's band on the bus...

Lester L. Beckmann of La Ceiba, Honduras, C.A. passed away Tuesday, November 22 in La Ceiba. Funeral services and burial took place in La Ceiba on Thursday, November 24...

Final rites were conducted for **Mrs. Icentry Anderson**, who died November 30 at 1:30 p.m., from Mt. Olive Baptist Church December 4 at 2:15 p.m. with **Rev. H.R. Kuykendall** officiating. Burial was in Camp Zion Cemetery...

Garwood became Hollywood for three days recently while parts of a film were shot at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. William Lehrer**. "A Lady from Yesterday,"

directed by Robert Day, will be aired this spring on television in this country and on movie screens elsewhere. It will contain shots

of the inside and grounds of the Lehrer home...

Also in the spotlights is **Jeff Frnka**, he has his 77th birthday Monday, December 12. Wonder how old he really is going to be?? Happy Birthday Jeff!

County EMS Gets TxDoT Grant

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and The Texas Engineering Extension Service, Emergency Services Training Institute (TEEX) has awarded a Rural EMS Education Grant to the Colorado County Emergency Medical Services to provide an Emergency Medical Technician Class.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service, Emergency Services Training Institute (TEEX-ESTI) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) have formed a cooperative working relationship and combined resources to offer EMS agencies throughout rural and frontier Texas an opportunity to receive grant funded training programs.

Funding to support this effort originates from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) funds, and targets highway traffic safety issues.

Educational programs designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of jurisdictional response to highway-based incidents is the focus of this program.

Classes will begin on January 15, 2008 with an anticipated completion date of April 15. Sessions will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Colorado County Services Facility in Columbus.

An occasional Saturday may be required during the course. Some of the subjects covered in

the class are patient assessment and care, vehicle extrication, anatomy and physiology, CPR, trauma care, Hazardous Materials, response to terrorism events, Special Operations, medical and environmental emergencies along with various skills.

In addition to the classroom training, Emergency Room and Ambulance rotations at local hospitals and EMS systems will be required.

After successful completion of the class, students will be prepared to take the National Registry Test.

Upon passing the National registry exam, and submission of the state application, the student will be qualified to be certified as an Emergency Medical Technician in the State of Texas.

CCEMS is grateful that TxDOT and TEEX have helped make this class possible. This is part of an on-going program within the county to help bolster our EMS personnel ranks and to offer advanced training to those county fire departments that are assisting CCEMS with their First Responder Program.

The class is open to anyone in Colorado and surrounding counties.

The cost per student for the class is \$215.00, with at least \$107.50 due at the first class. This will cover books, insurance and other related class fees.

If you think you may be interested in attending, please call the CCEMS offices at 979-732-2188 for more information or to register.

The class will be limited to the first 20 students. For those that need continuing education hours, space will be available by reservation.

Kick-off Your New Year's Eve Celebration at the **EAGLE LAKE Fireworks Display** on **MONDAY Dec. 31st - 6:30 pm** Calhoun Road - Eagle Lake
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Soil, Water District Open House Jan. 18

An open house celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District No. 333 will be held Friday, Jan. 18.

The celebration will take place in the Conference Room of the Colorado County Ag Building at 316 Spring St. in Columbus from 3-5 p.m.

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