

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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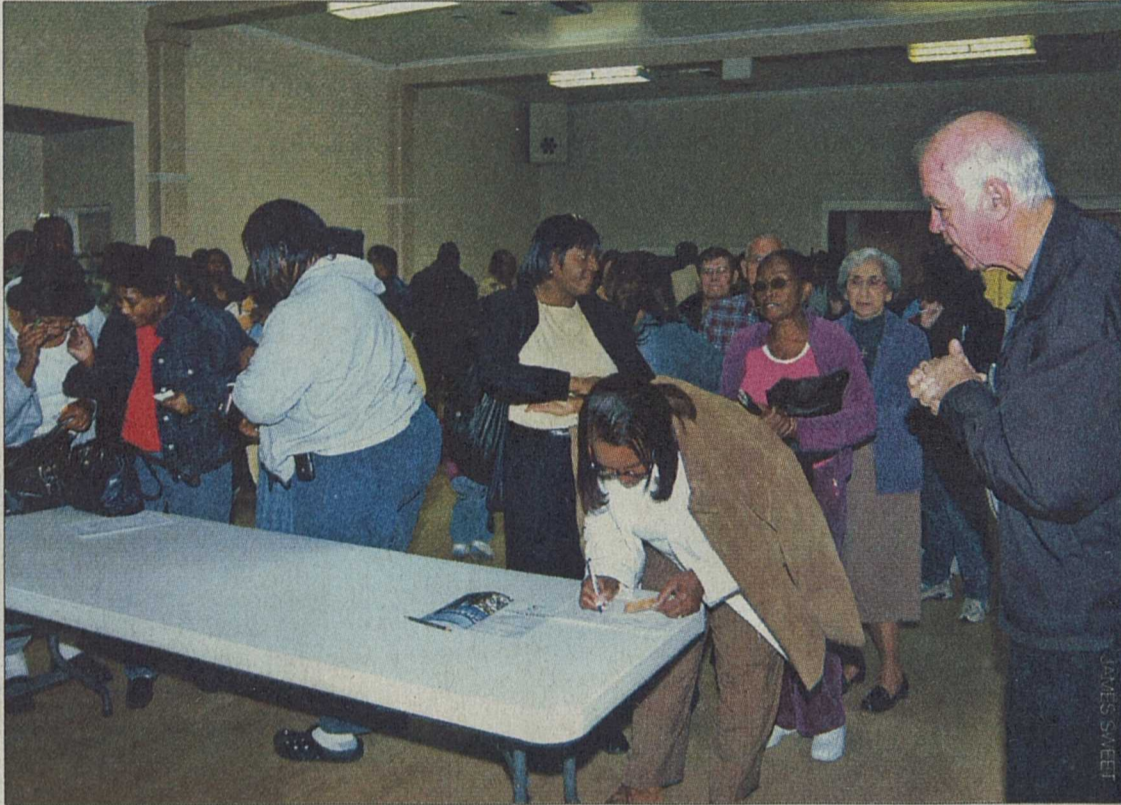
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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A good sized crowd was on hand for the Democratic caucus on Tuesday evening at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Pictured above citizens sign in at the caucus.

## Large Voter Turnout Seen In County For Primary Election

In Colorado County, Precinct 1 Commissioner Doug Wessels defeated challenger Victor Shimek 491 to 136 in the Republican primary. Wessels will face the winner of the Democratic primary in the fall. In that contest Ken Driik defeated Jerry Greak, 352 to 213. The commissioner contest was the only contested race at the county level in Colorado County. In the Democratic primary for State Representative District 17, Donnie Dippel defeated Latreese Cooke of Bastrop, 13,459 to 7,343 in unofficial returns. In Colorado County, Dippel had 1,429 votes to 793 for Cooke. In the fall, Dippel will take on Republican Tim Kleinschmidt, who was unopposed in the Republican

primary. The seat is being vacated by State Rep. Robby Cook, who did not seek re-election.

In Colorado County, Hillary Clinton polled 1,693 votes, compared to 1,188 for Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential primary.

In Eagle Lake, Clinton edged Obama with 316 votes to 309.

In the Republican presidential primary in Colorado County, John McCain had 943 votes, Mike Huckabee had 684 and Ron Paul had 132.

In Eagle Lake, McCain garnered 91 votes, Huckabee 79 and Paul 4.

Total voter turnout in Colorado County was 4,850 or 36.8 percent of registered voters.

Early voting figures for Colorado County were 925 this year, compared to 159 in the last presidential primary year of 2004.

The breakdown this year was 516 Democratic voters and 409 Republicans. In 2004, there were 101 Republican early votes and 58 Democratic early votes.

## City Council Adopts New Tree Maintenance Ordinance

The Eagle Lake City Council voted during their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 26 to adopt a new tree preservation ordinance.

The measure also abolishes a tree ordinance passed in 2002.

The new ordinance was passed in order to address issues with proper trimming of trees in the city.

The city came under attack in the fall for trimming oak trees at a time that a citizen felt was inappropriate in terms of helping prevent the spread of oak wilt disease.

The city maintained that the trees in question were trimmed because they were creating a hazard and/or damaging city and school district vehicles. The previous ordinance did provide for emergency tree trimming, but was somewhat vague in that emergency was not explicitly defined.

Council, at the time, decided to review their ordinance to see if any changes could be made to ensure that the city would not come under fire for improper trimming in the future.

Council assembled a committee to review the ordinance and work on changes.

The new ordinance makes clear that any tree may be trimmed at any time if it is causing a problem. The ordinance also mandates that tree trimming tools must be disinfected and that cuts be sealed if they are large enough to warrant such a treatment.

The ordinance also provides for up-to-date trimming procedure be used at all times and

mandates that a copy of the trimming procedures and guidelines be available at city hall and will be reviewed to make sure that they stay current with regards to advances in research and new information on issues such as oak wilt disease.

Council opted not to include the actual trimming guidelines in the ordinance so that they can be easily changed to stay in line with

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## County Discusses Courthouse Options

Colorado County commissioners spent almost two hours on Thursday, Feb. 28, discussing repairs to the courthouse, construction of an annex building and possible financing of \$10 million to cover the county's expenses.

After the meeting, County Judge Al Jamison said he wanted to see if costs for an annex could be pared.

The commissioners learned

that any major repair work the county undertakes now could reduce the amount of funding the county would get later from the state in the form of a grant.

That word came from Sharon Flemming, an assistant director of the Texas Historical Commission.

Flemming noted that the county restoration project is projected

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Farmer's market opening soon

The farmer's market will open soon for the season. The actual reopen date will be determined by the weather and how our gardens grow. Gardeners and farmers, plan now to bring your abundant harvests to the weekly farmer's market. For information, send email to [rwspal.elc.net](mailto:rwspal.elc.net), snail mail to P.O. Box 508 in Eagle Lake, or call Randall Spalinger at 979-234-4261.

### Lenten luncheons underway

The United Methodist Church (UMC) of Eagle Lake is hosting 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday, through March 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken and net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Bank. The fifth luncheon Monday, Mar. 10 will feature Rev. Ed Triem, of First Presbyterian Church (FPC), Eagle Lake as guest speaker. A sliced meat and cheese tray, crackers, sandwich bread, hot cornbread, iced tea and coffee will be furnished by the UMC of Eagle Lake. Soups and desserts will be furnished by FPC. Everyone is cordially invited... bring a friend. The Colorado Transit will provide service to and from Monday Lenten lunches. Please call them at 1-800-548-1068 to arrange pick up times.

### BTAC Conference ongoing

The Bible Truth Apostolic Church in El Campo is holding their 2008 Spirit and Truth Conference through March 9. Speakers include Richard Eberiga, Jamen Nicholson, Mike Blume, Kelly Wilson, Robin Steele, Chris Leach, Gary Ashcraft, Ronald Young, Luther Williams, Jerry Andrasik and Michael Jones. Service times are Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information call 979-543-2331.

### MMBC to hold revival March 5-7

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) of Alleyton will hold a revival Wednesday, March 5 through Friday, March 7 at 7 p.m. nightly. The public is invited to come out and share in a holy ghost good time. For more information you may call 281-935-3573.

### LOC General membership meeting

The Live Oak Chapter (LOC) of the Coastal Conservation Association will hold a General Membership meeting on Thursday, March 6, at the Knights of Columbus Annex Hall in Columbus. Social will start at 6 pm with the chapter meeting and guest speaker following. The guest speaker will be a biologist from Texas Parks and Wildlife who give us an update on the current state of our Texas Coastal Fisheries and the issues we face in the future. Please make plans to attend. The LOC is open to all residents in Colorado County and surrounding communities/counties. As we like to say... Friends, family and fishermen always welcome! This organization is open to the public and we want new members. Please call Todd at (979) 732-0486 or e-mail [liveoakcca@yahoo.com](mailto:liveoakcca@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. See you on the 6<sup>th</sup>!

### Giant donation book sale

The Nesbitt Memorial Library will hold a book sale Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8, during library operating hours. Most of the books that will be sold have been donated to the library by individuals. Some have been removed from the library's collection. More than 1,000 books will be available. People will be allowed to take as many books as they like, and pay whatever they think is fair and appropriate for them. This is a fine opportunity to bulk up your personal library for very little money. The library is at 529 Washington Street in Columbus. It is open from 9 to 6 on Friday and 9 - 4 on Saturday.

### Senior citizen dance is Friday

A Senior Citizen's Dance will be held Friday, March 7 at the Eagle Lake Community Center, 100 N. Walnut from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. "This Is It" will provide the music. For more information call 979-234-2903.

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Research indicates bald eagle numbers are on the rise in Texas. This photograph was taken last week near Eagle Lake.

### Precinct-by-Precinct Presidential Primary Results

| Democratic  | Clinton | Obama |
|-------------|---------|-------|
| Columbus    | 260     | 205   |
| Rock Island | 45      | 18    |
| Garwood     | 127     | 34    |
| Weimar      | 334     | 290   |
| Sheridan    | 74      | 55    |
| Buescher    | 125     | 41    |
| Brushy      | 112     | 60    |
| Mentz       | 51      | 26    |
| Bernardo    | 52      | 15    |
| Colum. Ag   | 162     | 117   |
| Altair      | 35      | 35    |
| Eagle Lake  | 316     | 309   |

| Republican  | McCain | Huckabee | Paul |
|-------------|--------|----------|------|
| Columbus    | 234    | 118      | 22   |
| Rock Island | 35     | 24       | 9    |
| Garwood     | 68     | 64       | 25   |
| Weimar      | 160    | 111      | 14   |
| Sheridan    | 49     | 24       | 8    |
| Buescher    | 72     | 60       | 14   |
| Brushy      | 74     | 70       | 7    |
| Mentz       | 25     | 25       | 4    |
| Bernardo    | 24     | 20       | 3    |
| Colum. Ag   | 93     | 63       | 18   |
| Altair      | 18     | 26       | 4    |
| Eagle Lake  | 91     | 79       | 4    |



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Pictured above is Kourtney Korenek pitching away at a recent softball game.