

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Record Voter Turnout Expected In Primary Election

AUSTIN — Turnout for the March 4 primary elections likely will reach a record number.

Texas Secretary of State Phil Wilson, the state's chief elections officer, on Feb. 27 projected an overall turnout of 26 percent of the registered voters in Texas. That is 3.3 million voters.

The previous record came 20 years ago in the 1988 presidential primaries, with 2.7 million Texas voters casting ballots.

To predict turnout, the secretary of state's office factors in

early voting between Texas' 15 most populous counties: Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, Collin, El Paso, Denton, Hidalgo, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Williamson, Nueces, Galveston and Cameron. About 60 percent of all voters in Texas are registered in those counties.

Candidates push hard for Texas

Texas continued to prove itself a battleground state for presidential candidates in the last few days leading up to the March 4 primaries.

Polls pointed toward a close finish in the race between U.S. Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, vying for the Republican presidential nomination, spent time and energy in delegate-rich Texas.

Candidates seesawed back and forth between Texas and Ohio, a state sharing the March 4 date for its primaries.

Senate panel hears 'Gaps' update

The Senate Education Committee met Feb. 27 to hear from state education officials about the implementation of reforms passed by the Legislature last session.

Texas Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes reported on the "Closing the Gaps" initiative, a program to increase college enrollment and graduation rates for all Texas high school students.

Paredes said the state is on track to meet its enrollment goals by 2015, adding 235,000 more col-

lege enrollees as of 2007.

Also, he said, minority enrollment is up since 2000, with an increase of 49 percent for Hispanics and 38 percent for African-Americans.

College completion rates were also up, said Paredes, increasing by 152,000 degrees in the last seven years.

Again, the largest percentages of growth were among minorities, with a 67 percent increase in college graduation for Hispanics, and 44 percent for African-Americans.

DPS gives details of cocaine bust

The Texas Department of Public Safety announced Feb. 27 it seized 360 pounds of cocaine after DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers stopped a flatbed tractor trailer for a routine inspection.

The cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$3 million, was discovered in 142 individual packages in a secret compartment in a flatbed trailer.

The stop and seizure occurred Feb. 24 on U.S. 90 about 18 miles west of Brackettville at the Kinney County and Val Verde County line,

a DPS spokesperson said.

A Piedras Negras, Mexico, resident was arraigned Feb. 26 in Del Rio on federal drug charges in connection with the seizure.

DPS Narcotics investigators are continuing the investigation.

On the job injury report released

The Texas Department of Insurance on Feb. 26 released statistics for on-the-job injuries in 2006.

According to the report, the number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in private industry in Texas increased by nearly 5 percent compared to 2005.

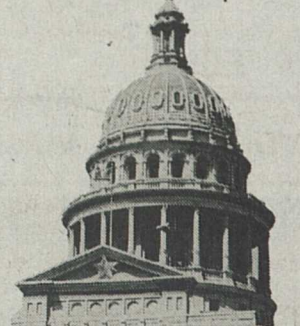
Although 3,230 more of these types of injuries and illnesses were reported in 2006 compared to 2005, the 2006 total is less than the numbers reported in 2004 and 2003, the agency said.

Plenty of flu to go around The Texas Department of State Health Services' latest flu report, for the week ending Feb. 23, classifies flu activity in Texas as "widespread."

The classification applies when there are increases in flu-like ill-

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

nesses and recent lab-confirmed flu cases in at least half of the state's regions.

DSHS reported "widespread" flu activity for the same week last year.

Disaster proclamation renewed

Gov. Rick Perry on Feb. 29 renewed a disaster proclamation, originally issued Jan. 29, to address the threat of wildfires across the state.

He identified 32 additional counties as threatened or impacted by wildfires, making a total of 216 counties at risk. To date, fires have destroyed homes and burned more than 500,000 acres.

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

February 16, 1984

Mrs. Raymond Jochetz celebrated her 93rd birthday Sunday...

Mr. and Mrs. Al Blazek of Richmond announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Paula Lynn to Michael Gregory Lanier, son of Mr. and Mrs. M.G. Lanier of Garwood. The wedding vows will be exchanged on Saturday, March 10 in the First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg...

Clifton C. Hefner, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Hefner of Garwood, has recently accepted a new assignment with Chevron Overseas Petroleum, Inc. in San Francisco...

Herbert and Aileen Glick celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 5. In honor of the occasion Herbert wore the same tie he wore in their wedding...

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Meitzen of Eagle Lake, announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, born on February 6 at 9:15 p.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center Hospital in Wharton. The baby was named

Brandy Lynn and weighed six pounds, 13 ounces...

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Garcia Rubio of Lissie announce the birth of their second child, a son, born at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He was born January 19 at 3:06 a.m. and weighed nine pounds, five ounces and measured 21 1/2 in length...

Donna Marie Newsom and Carl W. Seaholm, III exchanged wedding vows in a double-ring ceremony Saturday, December 17 at the United Methodist Church in Eagle Lake with Rev. Paul Krupicka and Rev. Charles Runk officiating.

March 10, 1960

Sue Ellen Rolf, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Rolf, received first place with her calf in the middleweight division of the junior division in the Houston Fat Stock Show and Wayne Corman's registered Hereford heifer placed third in a field of 70 Hereford scramble calves...

J.T. (Tommy) Pilkington of Eagle Lake has been appointed Constable of Eagle Lake Precinct 8 to succeed Elton (Buster) Semora who resigned last week...

Jack Dowdy completes qualifications for a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at

Oklahoma A&M College...

Officers elected for the Eagle Lake Parent Teacher Association for 1960-61 are; Mrs. D.A. Thornton, president; D.A. Thornton, vice president; Mrs. Robert Griffith, secretary; and Mrs. C.L. Spalinger, treasurer...

Mrs. Sylvia Danklefs of Garwood was named crew leader for the 1960 Census of Population and Housing this area...

First place winners in the Science Show sponsored by the Eagle Lake High School were: Gerald Birdwell in Physical Science, Larry Tate in Biology division, and Jerry Powers in Junior High division.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Eight individuals were sentenced in District Court on March 3. They included:

Manuel Belman, driving while intoxicated-3rd offense or more. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ probated five years, fined \$1,000, 10 days in jail.

Bradley Carlisle, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000 and seven days in jail.

Francisco Javier Garay, aggravated assault with deadly weapon. Sentenced to five years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000, 120 days in jail as COP.

Jorge Luna Garcia, prohibited substance in correctional facility - alcohol/drug/phon. Probation conditions modified.

George Hernandez, III, burglary of a building. Sentenced to six months county jail.

Dimitric A. Knight, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to three years ID-TDCJ.

Glynn G. Scheffler, driving while intoxicated-open alcohol container, 3rd or more. Sentenced to five years, probated 10 years, SAFFP.

Timothy Wiseman, possession of a controlled substance. Probation conditions modified, adjudicated two years/three years, fined \$1,000.

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Relay For Life Gets \$3,000 Donation

Isidro Sanchez, owner and entrepreneur of Nancy's Steakhouse, Guadalajara Restaurant, Los Cabos Restaurant and Nancy's Seafood Restaurant donated \$3,000 to the Relay For Life Sponsorship chairperson, Sondra Baker on Saturday, March 1.

Mr. Sanchez and his family have been a part of our Colorado County family since the opening of Guadalajara Restaurant approximately 15 years ago.

Mr. Sanchez continues to believe in the future growth of Colorado County and the City of Columbus With his significant investment, construction and opening of Nancy's Steakhouse on Hwy. 71 South two years ago.

Mr. Sanchez again brings his expertise to Columbus with the same energy and foresight. Los Cabos restaurant will soon open as a Mexican food establishment. Nancy's Seafood Restaurant will replace the current Guadalajara Restaurant.

The \$3,000 donation from Mr. Sanchez the largest single donation in the history of the Colorado Relay For Life since its inception

five years ago.

Donations continue to be requested for this year's Drawing Event, which promises to be more impressive than last year when over \$32,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society's signature fund raising event, Relay For Life.

The chairpersons for Colorado County have set a goal of \$50,000 dollars from the sales of the 2008 drawing tickets.

To donate much needed monies and items please call Sponsor-

ship Chairperson Sondra Baker, 979-732-6455.

Among the items listed for the drawing are a Snapper 18.5 hp Garden Tractor, a 32" LCD Flat Screen TV, Stihl chain saw, a Stihl weed eater, and many more items. Support you favorite Relay For Life team by buying drawing tickets from them; \$10 for 6 great chances to win one of these gifts.

For more information about creating, joining or buying drawing tickets from a team member call Team Chairperson Robin Mertz, 979-732-1687.

Wildlife Management Spring Meeting March 15

The Colorado County Wildlife Management Association (CCWMA) will hold their spring meeting on Saturday, March 15 at the KC Hall in Columbus at 4 p.m.

There will be a catered barbecue meal served to go along with other activities.

Vendors related to wildlife management, deer, hog and hunt-

ing in general will be present with their items.

There will be games for the young'ns and bucket drawings for an assortment of outdoor gear and more.

There will be a big drawing for a variety of prizes including guns. Drawing tickets can be purchased from CCWMA members or at the door the day of the meeting.

Allen Cain, a wildlife biologist from Pleasanton, will be the keynote speaker and his presentation will be on "Aging Deer on the Hoof".

Bring a shoulder mount of a buck harvested in Colorado County (any year) and you will get a free meal ticket.

Proceeds from the event fund scholarships for Columbus, Rice and Weimar students each year.

*To All the Eagle Lake Citizens...
 Forgive me for any inconvenience I may have caused you while working at the Post Office.
 And Thank You for your patience while I was an employee there.*

Rudy Lopez