

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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State Reps Looking For Improvements

AUSTIN—A number of citizens expressed alarm after viewing a video clip showing state representatives engaged in the practice of "ghost voting" during the 2007 session of the Legislature.

Ghost voting is when a member casts an electronic vote for one or more colleagues who happen to be outside of the House chamber when a vote is called by the chair.

State Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, said April 4 that among House members, it's about 2 to 1 in favor of his suggestion to do away with the practice.

"But the public is about 99 percent in favor," he added.

A solution would be to install 10 or 12 remote voting stations that work by fingerprint identification, Goolsby said. Those stations would be in addition to a fingerprint voting machine to be installed at each member's desk.

Goolsby also suggested installing loudspeakers in the foyers and restrooms outside of the House chamber and lengthening the amount of time allotted for each vote would help, too.

There is a legislative interim charge for the matter to be studied.

A House rule amending the voting procedure could be up for consideration when the next regular session of the Legislature convenes on Jan. 13, 2009.

AG launches anti-ID theft site

Texans have a new way to prevent or minimize the damage from identity theft by using a Web site published by the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Www.texasfightstheft.gov features a "victim's kit" with a step-by-step checklist of what to do when you know or suspect that your personal information has been stolen or used without authorization.

Attorney General Greg Abbott spoke about the site at an April 3 news conference.

"Victims whose credit is ruined or whose bank accounts are emptied because their personal information has been compromised must take immediate steps to repair the damage," Abbott said.

"Our new Web site contains helpful tools to help identify theft victims and Texans hoping to prevent identity theft."

Prisons chief testifies at hearing

The Senate Criminal Justice committee met April 2.

Ron Livingston, director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, testified that prison reforms mandated by the Legislature are on schedule.

He said prison health care costs have been cut by using federal programs that provide

money for prescriptions and by shifting to an electronic record keeping system.

Also, bedridden, comatose or terminal inmates that pose no threat to society are considered for early parole, he said.

On April 3, the committee discussed the troubled Texas Youth Commission.

Committee chair Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, pointed out the shortage of guards and suggested streamlining the agency.

Senator denies she is running

It looked like the 2010 race for governor started in the closing days of March, when the Corpus Christi Caller-Times published a story that a U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison aide said the senator was running for governor.

But Hutchison, whose Senate term expires in 2012, denied that she had decided to run.

UT names interim chancellor

The University of Texas System Board of Regents appointed Kenneth Shine as interim chancellor for the UT System. He will step in May 1.

Shine, 73, has been serving as executive vice chancellor for health affairs for the UT System.

He follows Chancellor Mark Yudof, who recently was named chancellor of the University of California System.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Panel to study effects of new tax

In May, many Texas businesses will for the first time pay the revised state franchise tax. This is the tax intended to help offset the cost of residential property tax relief.

A committee of tax experts, business people and lawmakers will analyze effects of this new tax on businesses and the Texas economy. The committee will report its findings to the Texas Legislature, which convenes in January.

Comptroller Susan Combs, chair of the committee, has nominated two tax experts and 14 taxpayer members.

Lawmakers appointed to serve on the committee are state Sens. Steve Ogden, R-College Station, and Kirk Watson, D-Austin, and state Reps. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, and Myra Crownover, R-Fort Worth.

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

April 26, 1984

Doris Brigetta Nieman of Houston, bride-elect of Timothy Boyd Rees of Garwood was honored with a seated shower in the home of Mrs. Harry Engstrom of Garwood, April 14 at 2 p.m....

Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Fudge of Eagle Lake are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter, Denise Kae to Bruce Cason. The couple exchanged wedding vows Saturday, April 14 in Altair....

Dr. and Mrs. Russell Thomas are pleased to announce the arrival of their second child, Jacqueline Joan Thomas. The young lady made her arrival Friday, April 20 at Eagle Lake community Hospital. Jacqueline weighed eight pounds, 15 ounces and measured 20 1/4 inches long....

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Greak are proud to announce the birth

of their first child, Shelley Ann, who arrived Monday, April 16 at 8:35 a.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Shelley weighed six pounds, four ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches in length....

Telmo and Paola Morante of Eagle Lake are proud to announce a new addition to their family. A boy, Piero, was born April 9 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, five ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long....

Jose and Frances Posada of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their second daughter born April 13 at 1:20 p.m. Imelda Lynn weighed in at eight pounds....

Funeral services were held Monday, April 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada for **Norbert J. Popp**. Mr. Popp passed away suddenly at his home in the Nada community. The body laid in state at Triska Funeral Home in El Campo till Monday evening. Mass and burial was at St. Mary's in Nada....

April 21, 1960

Texas Concrete Silo Company of Eagle Lake was awarded a contract by Altair Dryer Inc. for the construction of the new dryer and storage facilities to replace those lost during a fire on April 8....

Judith Johnson of Eagle Lake

and **Don DeShazo** of Sheridan were among many students with straight A's to make the honor roll list at Wharton County Junior College....

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Miller of Lissie are parents of a son, **Michael Harold**, born April 15....

Eagle Lake Falcons baseball team beat the Sugar Land Braves 4-3 last Sunday. **Anthony Duyka** of the Falcons struck our 4 and walked 4. Others on the Falcon line-up were: **Walter Meitzen, III, V. Valdes, R. Dias, G. Yanez, H. Alvarado**, with two hits each; and **Duyka, F. Sosa, D. Torres, M. Barrios**, and **B. Castillo**, with one hit each.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending March 13.

Friday, February 29

At 10 am, Deputy Argo responded to the Rice High School in reference to two students driving recklessly on campus and on the roadway with no driver's license. After further investigation, two students were issued citations for No Driver's License. Case closed.

At 2:38 pm, Deputy Savino responded to Hargrove Lane near Columbus in reference to a Theft of a street sign. A report was filed and the case is pending further investigation.

Saturday, March 1

At 6:25 pm, Deputy Zak responded to a residence on Hwy 90 near Weimar in reference to a dog bite. The dog was taken to the Weimar Veterinary Clinic and later tested negative for rabies. The complainant was notified of

the results.

Sunday, March 2

At 6:45 pm, Deputy Zak responded to Smith Rau Road in reference to subjects possibly shooting a canon on private property. A report was filed and the case is pending further investigation.

At 10:30 pm, Deputy Thumann conducted a traffic stop on the IH-10 south service road at Alleyton Shell. After further investigation, Jesus Francisco Lara, 29 of Cotulla, was arrested for No Driver's License. Case closed.

Monday, March 3

At 12:30 am, Deputy Thumann conducted a traffic stop on FM 102 and Ramsey Road near Eagle Lake. After further investigation, Grant DeShawn Farrow, 19 of Columbus, was arrested for No Driver's License. Case closed.

At 4:32 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to IH-10 near the 686 mile marker in reference to a vehicle fire. A report was filed and the case is closed.

Tuesday, March 4

At 12 pm, Deputy Mieth met with a complainant at the Sheriff's Office in reference to an Identity Theft. A report was filed and an investigation was initiated. Case is pending.

At 3:57 pm, Deputy Butts responded to a residence on Clipson Road near Eagle Lake in reference to a possible rabid skunk. The skunk was transported to the Weimar Veterinary Clinic and later tested positive for rabies. The Texas Department of Health was notified and will conduct further investigation. The complainant was also notified of the results.

At 5:30 pm, Sgt. Pflughaup responded to a residence on Piper League Road in New Ulm in reference to a possible rabid skunk. The skunk was transported to the Weimar Veterinary Clinic and later tested negative for rabies. The complainant was notified of the results. Case closed.

Wednesday, March 5

At 7:45 am, Deputy Hudson responded to Main Street in Chesterville in reference to Criminal Mischief. A report was filed and the case will be closed unless further information can be developed.

At 4:15 pm, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence in Oakland in reference to a request for the issuance of a Criminal Trespass Warning. After further information, one subject was located and issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Case closed.

Thursday, March 6

At 8:55 am, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence on CR 102 near Columbus in reference to mailbox damage. A report was filed and the case is pending further information.

Friday, March 7

At 5 pm, Sgt. Girndt responded to a residence at Weido Loop in reference to a Welfare Concern. The subject at the residence was contacted and transported to the

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