

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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# Court Orders Children Returned To YFZ Ranch

AUSTIN — Children the state of Texas removed from a polygamist sect's ranch near Eldorado in early April must be returned to their parents, the state's highest court ruled May 29.

Beginning June 2 children were returned to their parents if the parents first presented identification and agreed to take parenting classes and remain in Texas.

The conditional release arrangements were made after the Texas Supreme Court upheld a ruling by the Third Court of Appeals in Austin. The ruling said the state failed to provide evidence warranting the separation of those children from their parents.

The removal of more than 400 children began April 3 after the Texas Department of Family

and Protective Services received word that a girl or young woman had called a crisis hotline alleging abuse by an older male resident of the ranch.

The state obtained a court order to enter the ranch owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a breakaway sect of the Mormon church. Buses transported mothers and children to San Angelo, and from there the state placed children in foster care in homes and facilities across Texas.

In its ruling, the Texas Supreme Court said, "While the district court must vacate the current temporary custody orders as directed by the court of appeals, it need not do so without granting other appropriate relief to protect the children."

So, Tom Green County state District Judge Barbara Walther, whose original order removed the children, now may proceed within her authority to ensure the best interests of each child and that state Family Code is enforced.

The lawsuit seeking relief from the original removal order

was brought by 38 Yearning For Zion Ranch mothers with the assistance of the nonprofit group Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Inc. and a private law firm.

**Hearing held on cost of college**

Texas Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Raymund Paredes and the chairs of boards of regents at all Texas public university systems testified May 28 at a meeting of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education.

The Senate subcommittee is charged with studying the impact of tuition deregulation, passed by the Legislature in 2003, on college participation.

The cost of tuition for a semester at the University of Texas at Austin was \$1,975 in 2002. Today it is \$4,012.

Paredes estimated that the average public university graduate will owe between \$15,000 and \$16,000 in student loans.

Paredes said the increase in the cost of a public university education is driving more students to choose community colleges as a place to start.

State Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, said, "We must find other sources of revenue in order to fund higher education in the state of Texas. It is really important for you guys to start coming up with some ideas. We can't keep taxing the students."

**Texans take Cuba trade trip**

The United States trade embargo with Cuba has been in effect since 1961. In 2000, Congress passed the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act, allowing the sale of agricultural and medical products to Cuba.

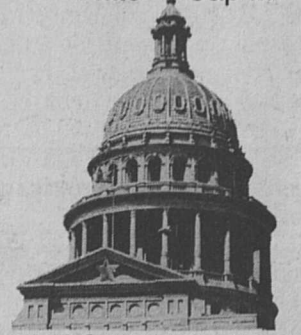
Now the Lone Star State is thinking about stepping up trade with the Caribbean state.

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and a group of business people traveled to Cuba May 27 to 31 to promote trade with Texas. The group of 24 included farmers, ranchers, commodity suppliers and port officials.

"It is only 900 miles between Houston and Havana but for several decades it might well have been a million miles," Staples

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

said. "This is a great occasion for two nations to work together to improve relations and what better way to do that than through food."

**Texas to resume death penalty**

A Kentucky case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court put the execution of Texas death row inmates on hold last September. The court ruled that the three-injection system used by Texas and other states is not cruel.

This month, Texas will return to administering the death penalty.

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 Fri. and Sat.: 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
 Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**The 24th Annual Knights of Columbus\***  
 \*Council #4843 - Eagle Lake, Texas

**Golf Tournament**  
 Sunday, June 8, 2008  
 (Rain-out date - Sunday, June 15)

**4 Player Scramble**  
 1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start - Eagle Lake Golf Course  
 Entry Fee - \$200 per team

**Includes: Caps, Mulligans, Grab-bags and Fried Pork Chop Lunch! The fried pork chop lunch will also be offered to the public.**

Buick Open Modified Handicapping System will be used.

Cart Rent: At Player's expense call 979-234-5981 (Limited carts available reserve yours early)

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Proceeds to Benefit Knights of Columbus Charities

For information contact Glen Janow at 979-234-5282, Gus Seaholm at 979-234-2261 or Michael Duarte at 234-2630

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Prizes for Gross and Net and Closest to the Pin #4 and #7 and Longest Drive.  
 Ties decided by Highest Handicap Hole - back.

## Let's Look Back... 24 YEARS AGO

**June 21, 1984**  
 Rudolph Till, Sr. of String Prairie celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Sunday, June 10...  
 Clara Looper, 94, of Boling, mother of Irene Sunderman, passed away Tuesday, June 12 at her residence following an extended illness. Funeral services were held Friday, June 15 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Wharton

Funeral Home with her grandson-in-law Rev. Stan Warfield, officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery...  
 Mrs. R.L. New flew to Middletown, New Jersey last week to attend the funeral of her brother Irvin Miculka...  
 T.J. Luedecke, son of Tim and Judy Luedecke of Eagle

Lake celebrated his sixth birthday Sunday, June 10 with a party held at his parents home...  
 Miss Betty Lou Boenisch, bride-elect of Robert McFerrin, was honored with a miscellaneous shower Saturday, June 16 at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Nada...  
 Herman and Elizabeth Boothe were on the campus of Baylor University in Waco May

27-June 1 to attend the Herbert H. Reynolds Summer School for retired persons. Over 200 were enrolled during the sixth year of this school...  
 Miss Carol Wick of Austin and Gary Lane of Austin were wed Saturday, June 2 at 4 p.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake with the Rev. Leroy Clementich performing the ceremony...

## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Ten individual were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Friday, May 30. They included:  
 Deana K. Espinoza, prohibited substance correctional facility-alcohol/drug/phon. Sentenced to two years TDCF-ID.  
 Deana K. Espinoza, theft less than \$1,500, 2 previous convictions. Sentenced to 12 months state jail.  
 John K. Hayward, driving while intoxicated 3<sup>rd</sup> or more. Sentenced to seven years TDCF-ID probated seven years, fined \$1,000, 10 days jail, COP, interlock device, one year driver's license suspension to SAFPF.  
 Donna M. Horn, possession of

a controlled substance. Sentenced to four years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000.  
 Darin Leopold, criminal mischief. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$100, 80 hours community service, reduced to Class C.  
 Jeffery A. Mosbaugh, driving while intoxicated 3<sup>rd</sup> or more. Sentenced to five years TDCF-ID

probated five years, fined \$1,000, 10 days in jail COP.  
 Mark Allen Robinson, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Sentenced to four years deferred adjudication, fined \$750.  
 James C. Schindler, criminal mischief. Probation conditions modified to ISF.  
 Aneshia P. Sezer, credit card or debit card abuse. Sentenced to

three years deferred adjudication, fined \$500.  
 Bethany R. Wenkebach, theft of a firearm. Sentenced to 180 days state jail.  
 Bruce W. Wied, criminal mischief. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$100, 80 hours community service-reduced to Class A.

## County Crop Row Tour June 18

The Colorado County Row Crop Tour will be held on Wednesday, June 18, at 4 p.m. starting from Nada Community in Nada.  
 There will be five Texas AgriLife Extension Specialist speaking at the field day and three other presenters speaking on storage bags for grain crops, precision ag products and bio energy.  
 These speakers will be talking about the different variety trials in both corn and cotton.  
 They will also discuss the different research test plots that were put in including a study for the Mexican Corn Root Worm and much more.  
 There will be three C.E.U's offered for private, commercial and non-commercial applicators toward re-certification.  
 The tour is being sponsored

by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Colorado County Row Crop Committee and local and

area agri-businesses. Please note the tour will start an hour earlier then normal.

## Ag Department Recap For Last Week

For the week ending May 24, 2008, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were mostly steady to \$5 per hundredweight higher, except calves under 500 pounds were as much as \$5 lower at a few locations.  
 Fed cattle prices also increased. Cotton prices declined as large stocks continue to weigh on the market.  
 Corn prices rose because of ongoing concerns about planting

progress and crop emergence in the Midwest.  
 As for futures markets, feeder cattle, finished cattle and corn closed the week higher, while cotton and wheat were lower.  
 Parts of West Texas recorded up to two inches of rain, but most areas observed little to no precipitation.  
 Topsoil moisture was rated adequate to short statewide.  
 Wheat harvest continued in South Texas with 6 percent of the crop harvested and 93 percent of the acreage headed.  
 Corn planting neared completion on the Plains, with the emerged crop reported in fair to good condition.  
 Cotton planting progressed to 56 percent complete, only slightly behind the 59 percent average by this date.  
 Pasture conditions were rated good to fair.

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 2007 Ford Fusion.....a/c, auto, 21k.....\$15888.00  
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