

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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# Gov. Rick Perry Mourns Historic Mansion Blaze

Gov. Rick Perry, in prepared remarks regarding the fire that gutted the governor's mansion on June 8, said, "... few sights have left a deeper impression on me than the charred remains of this genuine Texas treasure standing behind me.

As I consider what was done to this once-majestic home, my heart aches beyond words."

The fire occurred while the governor and first lady Anita Perry were in Europe on a trade mission.

On June 11 Perry toured the burned interior of the 152-year-old home now braced to prevent stone and masonry walls from failing.

"I cannot begin to understand

what would motivate someone to do this, but I do know that they will be caught, and they will be prosecuted for what they have done," Perry said.

The state fire marshal has ruled the cause of the fire was arson. An investigation by state and federal agencies is under way.

A security camera recorded a human figure tossing an object at the mansion before the fire erupted. Authorities later said the object appeared to be a Molotov cocktail.

**TxDOT cuts back**

**Corridor plan**

The state's idea of building new rural toll roads in East Texas has been shelved after months

of public hearings and input including 28,000 comments from citizens.

The Texas Department of Transportation announced June 11 it will recommend that the Interstate 69/Trans-Texas Corridor Project be developed using existing highway facilities wherever possible.

If additional travel lanes are added to existing highways, only the new lanes would have tolls.

"After a dozen town hall meetings, nearly 50 public hearings and countless one-on-one conversations, it is clear to us that Texans want us to use existing roadways to start building the Texas portion of Interstate 69," explained Texas Transportation Commissioner Ted Houghton.

TxDOT Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, in a letter to the Federal Highway Administration, said the overwhelming sentiment of those 28,000 comments focused on the need to improve the existing transportation network rather than building a new corridor for

the project.

Saenz said TxDOT would continue to talk to the public about the project. He encouraged Texans to ask questions and share their transportation ideas at [www.keeptexasmoving.com](http://www.keeptexasmoving.com).

**Secretary of state**

**bids farewell**

Phil Wilson, Texas' 106th secretary of state, on June 11 announced his resignation.

The Brownwood native is the fifth Texan to serve as secretary of state under Gov. Rick Perry. Wilson's four predecessors include Henry Cuellar, Gwen Shea, Geoff Connor and Roger Williams.

Dallas-based power producer Luminant announced Wilson will join the company as senior vice president of public affairs and start work on July 7.

Luminant is a subsidiary of Energy Future Holdings, formerly TXU Corp. The company bills itself as the largest purchaser of wind-generated electricity in Texas.

**Roadcheck results are reported**

Highway patrol officers conduct a Roadcheck inspection blitz annually in states ranging from Mexico to Canada to reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities.

Roadcheck 2008 ran from June 3 through 5. During it, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers inspected 5,824 commercial vehicles. Of those, 1,435 were put out of service for equipment violations, the DPS reported.

Also, 178 drivers were found to have serious enough safety violations to be removed from service.

**Inmate executed June 11**

Karl Eugene Chamberlain was executed by the state of Texas on June 11 in Huntsville. The last execution was carried out in September 2007.

The execution followed a nine-month moratorium on executions observed by Texas and others states awaiting a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on a Kentucky case. Plaintiffs in that case argued that

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State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

a three-injection regimen used to administer the death penalty is cruel. The court found for the defendant.

**Texas GOP meets in Houston**

An estimated 12,000 delegates, alternates and guests attended the Republican Party of Texas convention in Houston, June 12-14.

Tina Benkiser, a Houston lawyer, was reelected as chair of the state party. U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona was confirmed as the Republican party nominee for president.

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**Breakfast Specials:** Mon.-Fri., 8 to 11:30 a.m.

**Lunch and Dinner Specials**  
 Mon.-Fri. Beginning at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Buffet Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**Hours:**  
 Mon.-Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.  
 Fri. and Sat.: 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
 Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

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

**July 5, 1984**  
 Miss Suzanne Fajkus, bride-elect of Patrick Pavlu, of Garwood was honored with a rice bag party by Mrs. Joan Mahalitic and Mrs. Marilyn Mahalitic...  
 Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Baird celebrated their 55 years of marriage on July 2...  
 Pam Cranek was crowned state beauty winner recently at the Hyatt Regency West Houston...  
 Mrs. Frieda Kubesch of Nada was honored with a dinner at the St. Mary's Parish Hall on her 75th birthday on Sunday, June 24...  
 Barbara A. Frybert, of Eagle

Lake received a Bachelor degree in history at Texas A&M University's spring commencement exercises...  
 Mrs. Carol Rehak of Wharton has successfully completed a 60-hour emergency care attendant course sponsored by the Brookshire-Pattison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The session lasting six weeks, came to a close June 21...  
 Graveside services for Hollis T. Miller, 68, of Markham was held Monday, June 25 at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Houston...  
 Citizens of the community learned with regret of the death

of Robert Lee Goode, age 64, lifelong resident of Colorado County and a resident of Eagle Lake for over forty years. Mr. Goode passed away in the Veterans Hospital in Houston on Sunday, July 1 following an illness of several months. Funeral services were held for 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. George Welsch Rector of Christ Episcopal Church officiating. Burial was to following the Lakeside Cemetery...  
 Mrs. Lillie M. Adams, age 86, passed away Thursday, June 28 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital after an illness of nine days. Funeral services were held

at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 30 from the First Baptist Church of Sheridan with Rev. Robert Hessong officiating. Graveside services and interment was in the City Cemetery in Hallettsville...  
 Frank Minton, 56, of Eagle Lake for the past year, passed away Saturday, June 30 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital following a sudden illness. Funeral services were to be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 3 from the Hixon Funeral Home in Welsh, Louisiana with Rev. Whitney Miller officiating. Burial was to follow in Our Lady of Seven Colors Catholic Cemetery in Welsh, Louisiana.

**1930 - 2008**  
**78 Years of Volunteer Service**  
**Wallis Volunteer Fire Department**  
**FIREMAN'S FROLIC**  
 Sunday, June 22, 2008  
 American Legion Hall,  
 Wallis, Texas

**Bar-B-Q Beef Chicken Dinner**  
 w/all the Trimmings & Tea

★ **PLATES TO GO AVAILABLE** ★  
 Catered by: Wallis K of C 3793

KJZT #22 Jr **11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**CAKE WALK ★ MOONWALK**  
**AUCTION 12:30** inside A/C Hall  
**Grand Raffle after Auction**  
 ★ **10 Great Prizes - \$5.00/ticket or 5 for \$20.00** ★  
 Pot Luck Drawing after Raffle

**Brazos FFA Tractor Show**  
 Judging begins at 10:15 am. Prizes and Awards given to 1st-3rd in class, Grand & Reserve Grand of Show, People's Choice, Most Unique, Most Original & more.  
 For information contact Jayson Hill 979-478-6012 or 361-772-0822

**Ice Cold Drinks by American Legion Post 200**  
 For information on Raffle Tickets or to make a Donation Call:  
 Clay 979-478-2230 Cell 979-885-9990 Dennis 979-478-6213 Cell 979-481-2106

## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Nineteen indictments were returned against 18 individuals by the Colorado County grand jury meeting on June 12.

Three indictments were sealed pending arrest of the individuals.

Indictments returned included:

- Carlos O. Acosta, 25, of Houston, evading arrest/detention using vehicle and unauthorized use of a vehicle on May 13.
- Melissa Alonso, 19, of San Antonio, possession of controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram, on May 13.
- Anthony M. Barrios, 31, of Eagle Lake, evading arrest/detention using vehicle on May 22.
- Luther C. Bristow, 30, of Sealy, possession of controlled substance, cocaine less than one gram, on May 14.
- Alberto Clavencio, 20, of Houston, theft of property, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on March 29.
- Carlos A. Garza, 36, of San

- Antonio, driving while intoxicated, on March 8.
- Jamie M. Jackson, 27, of Columbus, possession of controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram on May 23.
- Carl R. Jenkins, 29, of Columbus, burglary of a building, on April 2.
- Karen T. Latson, 53, of Columbus, theft on May 5.
- Richard K. McWhorter, 42, of Stone Mount, Ga., possession of controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram on May 16.
- Enrique S. Navarro, 58, of Albeytton, driving while intoxicated, on May 25.
- Efrén Renteria, 41, of Houston, evading arrest/detention

*Continued on page 9*

**WOMEN**  
 Feel like everyday's a BATTLE  
 Join the Princess League  
 every Thursday @ 7pm-8pm  
 And learn the BATTLE is not yours!  
 Contact: Isabelle Morales  
 670 Donovan  
 Hm: 234-3002 Cell: 281-409-6775

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Summer Art Camp For Children**  
**The Little Red Art Studio**  
 Four weeks of art classes during June and July

- 1st Week: June 9-13 - Pencil Drawing
- 2nd Week: June 23-27 - Clay & The Color Wheel
- 3rd Week: July 7-11 - Printmaking & Watercolor
- 4th Week: July 21-25 - Paint and Draw in the style of four different artists.

**Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$115 per week (all materials provided). You may choose the number of weeks you want to attend.**  
**Call: Lois Raabe 979-234-5015**

Today is Thursday... always a good day for me because Thursday typically means Austin's BBQ. Now, like most of you, I've been enjoying our local "joint" since the day it opened and I've always thought it was something special.

So while I was not surprised, I was very proud to open this month's Texas magazine and find Austin's ranked among the top BBQ Joints in Texas...AGAIN!

Yep, the magazine does this survey every few years and "our" place has always been among the top rated.

This year, they surveyed 1500 places, came up with their top 150 and, by my calculation, Austin's was easily in the top 15 or so, outscoring some of the perhaps better known places in the hill country, Houston or Austin.

So, congratulations on your recognition for a job well done!! Now, the decision, will it be turkey or pork today? Hmm, maybe a little brisket? Whatever it is, it'll be "The Best In Texas".

Dr. Russell Thomas