

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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**DPS, Border Patrol Target Commercial Drivers**

AUSTIN — The state of Texas is working with the U.S. Border Patrol to catch and prosecute commercial truckers who smuggle illegal weapons, drugs or humans across the Texas-Mexico border.

The name for this new joint operation is "Texas Hold 'Em."

A news release from the governor's office says "Texas border security operations have put mounting pressure on Mexican crime cartels and other crime organizations to find alternate ways of smuggling contraband into the state.

This includes recruiting commercial drivers to transport contraband, including drugs and

humans, across the border in return for bribes."

The Border Patrol will work with the DPS, making sure the agency receives the necessary court documents to suspend violators' driver licenses upon a felony smuggling conviction.

In the first eight months of fiscal year 2008, Border Patrol agents in Texas intercepted 423 tractor trailers resulting in the detainment of more than 1,800 undocumented immigrants and more than 112,000 pounds of illegal drugs.

In the Laredo area, 330 truck drivers have been caught smuggling drugs or humans into Texas in the last 18 months, the govern-

nor's office reported June 19.

The Border Patrol is pursuing similar agreements with other states to expand the program nationwide.

**AG supports federal 'shield' law**

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on June 20 wrote to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in favor of S. 2035, legislation to create a federal reporter's shield law.

The purpose of such a law would be to protect media reporters from being forced to identify their sources, under certain conditions.

"As attorney general," wrote Abbott, "I have consistently supported a qualified reporter's privilege that would allow journalists to conceal their confidential sources under specific — and appropriate — circumstances.

"In 2005, we filed a brief with the United States Supreme Court arguing that the federal courts

should recognize a common-law reporter's privilege. Urging the high court to recognize this protection for journalists, we wrote that 'an informed citizenry and the preservation of news information sources are of vital importance to a free society.'

"Preserving sources' identities would strengthen the constitutionally protected freedoms of the press and expression by ensuring that government cannot unilaterally compel reporters to reveal confidential sources. As Texas' chief law enforcement official, however, I believe that any legislation creating a reporter's privilege must be balanced with law enforcement and national security interests.

"With that in mind, I urge the Senate to pass legislation creating a qualified federal reporter's privilege.

The Congress should ensure that independent third parties evaluate on a case-by-case basis when governmental access to confidential sources is necessary

to protect our nation.

Thus, when authorities want access to journalists' confidential sources, they should have a mechanism that renders that information accessible — but only after satisfying an independent arbiter that the government met the burden established by the Congress.

"If passed, a reporter's shield bill would preserve our nation's longstanding commitment to freedom of the press while also protecting our ability to protect our fellow citizens," Abbott concluded in his letter.

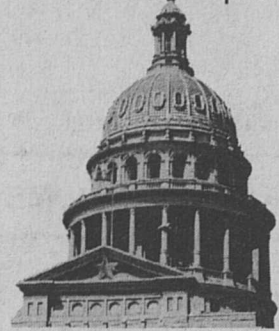
**Official seeks security audit**  
 Allan Polunsky, chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission, on June 19 said he would ask the U.S. Secret Service to analyze the security of state buildings.

This follows a June 8 arson fire that gutted the governor's mansion.

It's been reported that some of the security cameras were not working and the security detail was inadequate at the governor's

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

mansion when the fire occurred. Texas Crime Stoppers is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who started the fire.

**State banking chief resigns**  
 Randall S. James, Texas banking commissioner, on June 16 announced his retirement from the Texas Finance Commission.

In that role for the last 16 years, James has held supervisory and regulatory authority over 330 state-chartered banks with control over \$153 billion in assets

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 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 12, 1984**  
 Joe S. Reed Jr. of Lake Motors, Inc. recently was honored as a Cadillac master dealer for 1983 the pinnacle of achievement in automotive retailing. This prestigious award recognizes Mr. Reed as one of the top Cadillac dealers nationwide...  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Cranek of Garwood are proud to announce the birth of their second child a boy born Thursday, June 28 at 5:56 p.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. Little Garrett Louis weighed six pounds, 12 ounces...  
 Lupe Almanza, of Eagle Lake has recently completed a career training program with Interna-

tional Correspondence schools. He studied the ICS-Newport/Pacific high school program...  
 The lovely back yard pool and deck of Gi and Geny Smith and daughter Andrea of Mont Belview was the setting for a BBQ and swimming party in honor of Pat Jeannie and Jody Meismer of Garwood...  
 Jody Meismer of Garwood was honored with a birthday party on his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday at Chuck E. Cheese in Houston...  
 Patricia Marie Stallman and Ben Christen were united in marriage on Saturday, June 16 at

10:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Weimar. The double ring ceremony was performed by Rev. Charles B. Carolan...  
 Brennan Wade Jobe turned one on July 8 and celebrated with a party hosted by his parents Kelly and Tracy Jobe at their new home on FM 102 west of Eagle Lake...  
 Betty Lou Boenisch bride-elect of Robert McFerrin was honored with a Tupperware shower, Tuesday, July 3 at the home of Dianne Bures in Nada...  
 Mrs. Rowena Walker Monahan, 84, passed away early Thursday, July 5 after a brief illness. She

resided at Air Force Village, San Antonio. After private services burial will be at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake with Dulany Funeral Home in charge of local arrangements...  
 Mrs. Charles (Bertha) Schneider, Sr. of Nada passed away Monday evening July 2 in El Campo Memorial Hospital suffering a cardiac arrest. Funeral services were held from Triska Funeral Home in El Campo and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 4. Interment was in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Nada.

**10th Annual Eagle Lake Fireworks Display**

will be held **THURSDAY July 3, 2008**  
 9:00 p.m.  
**Calhoun Road**

For More Info: 979-232-0233

**COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT**

**Seven Sentenced In District Court**  
 Seven individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Friday, June 20. They included:  
 Thelma Jean Brown, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 180 days in jail.  
 Jermaine Thomas Collins, credit card or debit card abuse. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ.  
 Jermaine Thomas Collins, injury to a child/elderly/disabled with bodily injury. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ.  
 Frances M. Gomez, driving while intoxicated-3<sup>rd</sup> offense or more. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ.  
 Frances M. Gomez, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ.  
 Richard Kimble McWhorter, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 70 days in county jail.  
 Robert Lee Reyna, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Sentenced to two years deferred adjudication, fined \$250.  
 Michael V. Rosas, driving while intoxicated-3<sup>rd</sup> offense or more. Sentenced to seven years ID-TDCJ probated five years, 90 days in jail C.O.P.

**Ten Sentenced In County Court**  
 Ten individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, June 18. They included:  
 Robert E. Bunton, driving

while license invalid. Sentenced to 20 days in jail plus court costs.  
 Felipe H. Cruz, duty on striking fixture/hwy landscape. Sentenced to six months unsupervised deferred adjudication, fined \$350, plus court costs.  
 Andrea Rene Earls, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Reduced to Class C, fined \$100, plus court costs.  
 Sammy Kirk Farrow, Jr., theft of stolen property. Sentenced to 150 days in jail, restitution lien, plus court costs.  
 Willie Samuel Harris, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, credit for two served, fined \$450, plus court costs.  
 Shawn A. Morris, terroristic threat. Sentenced to one day in jail, fined \$100, plus court costs.  
 Caroline M. Sutherland, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, pled to obstruction highway, fined \$500, restitution, plus court costs.  
 Paola Tavera, theft. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, plus court costs.  
 Paola Tavera, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, plus court costs.  
 Charlotte Mae Taylor, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 33, plus court costs.  
 James L. Way, possession of marijuana. Fined \$250, plus court costs.

**Marriage Licenses Issued**  
 Kyle Eddric Burreis and Kimberly Nicole Havelka, June 11.  
 Joshua Aaron Chollett and Megan Aleece Hill, June 9  
 Michael Anthony Fitzgerald and Karen Yvette Doyle, June 20.  
 Joe Louis Giles, Jr. and Niaesha LaQuit Cauley, June 20.  
 Kris Earl Matura and Debra Ann Beyer, June 17.  
 Christopher Allen Pavlicek and Amanda Gayle Kleimann, June 9.  
 Jeronimo Zavala and Natividad Ann Garcia, June 12.

**Divorces Granted**  
 Martha Reyes Casanova and Salvador Casas Casanova, June 23.  
 Adrian Farrow and Ebony Farrow, June 23.  
 Glen Welch and Julia Lynn Welch, June 23.  
 Juan Alejandro Duenas-Tienda and Elvira Alicia Cantu-Hernandez, June 23.  
 Lashrondra A. Gordon and Cory D. Gordon, June 23.  
 Jolce Brooks Fox and Cory Robert Fox, June 23.

**Divorces Filed**  
 Christopher Brent Jones and Stephanie Diane Jones, June 17.  
 Marleni Villanueva and Jose Miguel Alvarez, June 24.

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