

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Early Estimates Put Dolly Damage At \$750 Million

AUSTIN - Hurricane Dolly hit the Texas coast at South Padre Island on July 22, causing wind damage, power outages and flooding that affected an estimated 1.5 million people.

Levees along the Rio Grande withstood rains of up to 12 inches that pelted the region.

Gov. Rick Perry "pre-deployed" a wide range of state agencies and other aid-providing groups to South Texas communi-

ties before the hurricane made landfall.

On July 23 the governor requested a disaster declaration from President George W. Bush. U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn backed Perry up by asking the president to expedite assistance from FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

On July 24, Bush signed a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration covering Aransas, Bexar, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Victoria and Willacy counties.

Dolly weakened to a tropical depression on July 24, but dumped heavy rains on Laredo and Eagle Pass on its way west.

An early estimate of property and infrastructure damages was \$750 million.

Grand jury indicts ranch suspects

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on July 22 announced the Schleicher County grand jury had that day issued indictments containing nine counts of sexual assault, bigamy and related charges against six suspects associated with the Yearning For Zion ranch compound near Eldorado.

Warren Jeffs, leader of the polygamist sect that occupies the ranch, was charged with sexually assaulting a child, a first-degree felony. Jeffs is incarcerated in

Arizona and awaiting trial on separate charges.

Also indicted were four other suspects charged with felony sexual assault of girls under age 17. One of the four suspects was charged with bigamy. Yet another suspect was charged with three counts of failure to report child abuse.

The indictments are part of a criminal investigation combining the efforts of the Texas Attorney General's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Rangers, 51st Judicial District Attorney Steve Lupton, and Richard B. Roper, the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas. The state has not made public the names of the suspects other than Jeffs.

In early April, after hearing allegations of child abuse at the ranch, a San Angelo state district judge ordered law enforcement and state agency personnel to

take custody of more than 400 children who resided on the 1,700-acre property.

Nearly two months later, Judge Barbara Walther rescinded her order after an Austin state appellate court and the Texas Supreme Court found insufficient evidence to merit state intervention at the level implemented. The children soon after were returned to their parents.

New secretary of state is named

Gov. Rick Perry on July 23 named Esperanza "Hope" Andrade of San Antonio as Texas' 107th secretary of state.

The secretary serves as the state's chief elections officer, the governor's liaison on border and Mexican affairs and Texas' chief protocol officer for state and international matters.

In 2003, Perry appointed Andrade to the Texas Transportation Commission, the body that

oversees the Texas Department of Transportation.

Andrade succeeds Phil Wilson, who served from July 1, 2007, to July 6, 2008. Wilson resigned to accept a position with Luminant, a Dallas-based energy company.

Clothing tax holiday coming up

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds shoppers they will get a break from state and local sales taxes Aug. 15-17 in the annual sales tax holiday.

A law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007 exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes.

Backpacks under \$100 and used by elementary and secondary students also are exempt. Not included are luggage, briefcases, athletic, duffle or gym bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

State executes third prisoner

Derrick Sonnier, 40, was executed by lethal injection on July 23 for the 1991 murder of a woman and her 2-year-old son. Sonnier was the third Texas death row inmate to be executed in the current year.

The state of Texas also executed convicted murderers Carlton Turner, 29, on July 10 and Karl Chamberlain, 37, on June 11.

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Do you experience
dim, foggy or blurred vision, colors fading, haloes around lights, double vision or trouble driving at night?
You may suffer from cataracts and your vision maybe at risk.
Take the first step to better vision.
Call today.
★ Austin County Eye Associates
979-885-4600

Taco Tony's Mexican Restaurant
20 Calhoun Road • Eagle Lake
979-234-3984

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

August 16, 1984

David W. Adkins of Eagle Lake freshman mechanical engineering major has earned "Distinguished Student" status at Texas A&M University...

Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Parker of Coolidge, were honored with a series of events recently in Houston to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The Parker's Tanglewood Suite at the Inn on the Park in Houston was the setting for a champagne brunch, Saturday, July 14...

Pam Crane of Garwood returned home August 4 from Houston where she participated in the "Imperial Miss America" pageant, held at the downtown Hyatt Regency. Pam won the title of "Imperial Miss America Photogenic". She received a crown, trophy and \$150 scholarship...

Donna and Roy Kirk, owners of Sealy Office Products, were presented a gift travel certificate from **Matthew Raskiewicz** of Dallas southern regional manager with Teknika Electronics which is based in Fairfield, New Jersey...

Julie, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Mac Ruffeno**, of Columbus was named District Eleven Talent winner in competition held Thurs-

day night August 9 at Herndon Auditorium in Rosenberg...

Miss Lori Mahalite and **Mark Faldyn** were united in marriage in a lovely ceremony at 4 p.m. of July 28 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake. **Father Ray Widacki** officiated at the double ring ceremony...

Mrs. H.L. Beaird and daughter, **Mrs. Jackie Gilbreath** returned from a vacation in San Francisco...

Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Stolle of Tyler announce the engagement of their daughter, **Sally Blake** to **Thomas Charles Kallina**. Thomas is the son of **Mr.**

and Mrs. Anthony V. Kallina of Garwood. The couple will pledge their vows on November 10 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station...

Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Rucka are proud to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, **Brenda Gail** to **Stephen Wayne Potter**, son of **Mrs. Doris Potter** and the late **Lester C. Potter** of Columbus. **Brenda** and **Steve** will exchange vows on Saturday, September 29 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Annie K. Sklar, 87, of Wharton

passed away Sunday, August 5. Service were conducted Tuesday, August 7 from the Holy Family Catholic Church, with **Rev. Joseph Koebel**, pastor of Holy Family officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery in Wharton...

Leroy Benjamin Briggs, 67, of Eagle Lake Wednesday morning August 8 at Southwest Memorial Hospital in Houston at 3:55 a.m. Services were conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, August 10 in the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with the **Rev. E.B. Beasley** officiating. Burial was in Lissie Community Cemetery.

Fair Queen Contestants Sought

Contestants are being sought for the Colorado County Fair Queen and Junior Queen Contests to be held at the Columbus High School Auditorium on Saturday, September 6.

Girls between the ages of 10 and 13 are eligible to enter the Junior Queen Contest and girls 14 to 19 years of age may enter the Fair Queen Contest.

All contestants must be single and must be residents of Colorado County or attend school within the county.

To qualify for the pageant, contestants for Junior Queen must sell 20 season passes and Fair Queen Contestants must sell 50 season passes for the 2008 fair.

The Fair Queen Contestant who sells the largest dollar amount of advance passes will be crowned Membership Queen and will receive the \$2000 Pamela Potter Honorary Scholarship and a life membership in the fair association. The first runner up in sales will receive a \$750 scholarship and the second runner up in sales will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Fair Queen and Junior Queen will be chosen by out-of-county judges. They will be judged on personality, appearance and poise. The contestant chosen Fair Queen will receive the \$1000 Leslie Schmidt Heard Memorial Scholarship.

The Fair Queen, Membership

Queen and Junior Queen will participate in activities during the 30th annual Colorado County Fair to be held at the Colorado County Ag Complex on the Highway 71 Bypass from September 11-14. They will also represent the fair association by riding the official fair float in area parades throughout the coming year.

A complete set of rules, entry forms and season passes may be obtained by calling one of the following members of the queens contest committee: **Pamela Potter** at 979-732-2705, **Deborah Hayward** at 979-725-8603 and **Dianne Causey** at 979-234-2958.

The deadline to enter the contest is 5 p.m. Friday, August 15, no exceptions.

50-211 (Rev. 05-08/08)

2008 Property Tax Rates in Colorado County

This notice concerns 2008 property tax rates for Colorado County. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
Last year's tax rate:			
Last year's operating taxes	\$ 6,308,756\$		
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 279,784\$		
Last year's total taxes	\$ 6,588,540\$		
Last year's tax base	\$ 1,532,218,290\$		
Last year's total tax rate	\$.43000 /\$100	\$ /\$100	\$ /\$100

	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
This year's effective tax rate:			
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 6,563,833\$		
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 1,632,161,976\$		
= This year's effective tax rate for each fund	\$.40215 /\$100	\$ /\$100	\$ /\$100
Total effective tax rate	\$.40215 /\$100		

In the first year a county collects the additional sales tax to reduce property taxes, it must insert the following lines unless its first adjustment was made last year:

- Sales tax adjustment rate	\$ /\$100
= Effective tax rate	\$ /\$100

	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
This year's rollback tax rate:			
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$ 7,226,475\$		
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 1,632,161,976\$		
= This year's effective rate	\$.44275 /\$100	\$ /\$100	\$ /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$.47817 /\$100	\$ /\$100	\$ /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$.02891 /\$100	\$ /\$100	\$ /\$100
= This year's rollback rate for each fund	\$.50708 /\$100	\$ /\$100	\$ /\$100
This year's total rollback rate	\$.50708 /\$100		

A county that collects the additional sales tax to reduce property taxes, including one that collects the tax for the first time this year, must insert the following lines:

- Sales tax adjustment rate	\$.05761 /\$100
= Rollback tax rate	\$.44947 /\$100

For a county with additional rollback rate for pollution control, insert the following lines:

+ Additional rollback rate for pollution control	\$ /\$100
= Rollback tax rate	\$ /\$100

50-179 (Rev. 03-08/02)

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Colorado County adopts a 2008 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$.40215 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2007 taxes by \$ 52,906

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation	\$3,250,000
Interest & Sinking	\$400,000

Schedule B - 2008 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to Be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Series 2004	\$ 235,000	\$ 46,408.76	\$ 750	\$282,158.76
Series 2008 (expand as needed)	0	197,633.33	0	197,633.33
Total required for 2008 debt service		\$ 479,792		
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A		\$ 0		
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources		\$ 0		
- Excess collections last year		\$ 0		
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2008		\$ 479,792		
Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100 % of its taxes in 2008		\$ 0		
= Total Debt Levy		\$ 479,792		

Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

(For hospital districts, cities and counties with additional sales tax to reduce property taxes) In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$ 956,192.42 in additional sales and use tax revenues. For County: The county has excluded any amount that is or will be distributed for economic development grants from this amount of expected sales tax revenue.

Schedule D - State Criminal Justice Mandate (For Counties)

The County Auditor certifies that County has spent \$ in the previous 12 months beginning for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

Schedule E - Transfer of Department, Function or Activity

The spent \$ from to on the . The operates this function in all or a majority of the [Second Year of Transfer: Modify schedule to show comparison of amount this year and preceding year by unit receiving the function.]

Schedule F - Enhanced Indigent Health Care Expenditures

The spent \$ from to on enhanced indigent health care at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at Colorado County CAD 106 Cardinal Lane Columbus, Texas 78934

Name of person preparing this notice Bill Mitchell

Title Chief Appraiser

Date prepared July 28, 2008