

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Study Shows Promised Tax Relief Didn't Deliver

AUSTIN - In 2006, Texas lawmakers rolled back school tax rates for maintenance and operations by one-third over the next two years in an initiative that was to provide \$7 billion in annual property tax relief.

A study released Aug. 14 by Texas Taxpayer and Research Association shows how Texas taxpayers actually did get \$7 billion in property tax relief.

The study, Property Tax Relief:

The \$7 Billion Reality, by the non-profit non-partisan association's research arm, concludes that "The average Texans' property tax bill may not be lower today than it was two years ago, but it is unmistakably much, much lower than it would have been."

The study points out that relief was made possible by a swap that included "a complete restructuring (and increase) of the state's business tax, an increase

in the state's cigarette tax, and a commitment of surplus funds in the State Treasury sufficient to provide an overall net tax cut of roughly \$2.5 billion a year."

The eight-page report can be accessed at www.ttara.org.

TXDOT signals consolidation plan

The Texas Department of Transportation says it is considering the creation of four regional centers to house support functions presently located in 25 districts across Texas.

"The consolidation of support functions could create a more efficient working environment and generate a cost savings estimated at \$35 million," said TXDOT executive director Amadeo Saenz.

Sites for the regional centers would be Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Lubbock.

Each would support the district design, construction and maintenance operations, with districts aligned into the support centers based on regional proximity.

Saenz said restructuring would not result in a reduction of services at the district level.

"TXDOT would not cut services to the public. Our goal is to provide services in a way that is smarter and less expensive."

"Our local offices would continue to operate, concentrating on our core business functions of construction, design and maintenance," he said.

DPS promotes online renewal

The Texas Department of Public Safety reminds Texas residents they can renew their driver's license "without leaving the comfort of your computer" by going to the Internet site www.TexasOnline.com.

Driver's license and identification card holders are required by law to renew their license and ID card every six years. State law also requires that they change the address on their license or ID card within 30 days of moving to another residence.

The DPS has offered eligible individuals the option of renewing their license or ID card over the Internet since 2001. Individuals are eligible to renew online as long as they are 18 years of age, within one year of the license or

identification card expiring and did not renew online, by mail or telephone at their last renewal.

Ineligible driver's license and ID card holders include those who have an expired, revoked, or suspended license or ID card, and individuals who possess a provisional driver's license or a commercial driver's license.

The online change of address service fee is \$11, but if a license holder chooses to renew at the same time as changing the address, the total charge is \$25.

Judge allows dropout funding

State District Judge Stephen Yelenosky rejected the Texas State Teachers Association's lawsuit to stop state funds from going to dropout recovery programs run by private schools.

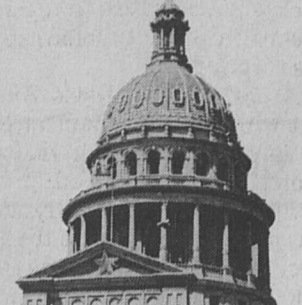
TSTA argued that Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott did not have authority to award grants allowing \$6 million in state funds to be awarded to private schools.

200th missing predator arrested

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Aug. 14 announced his

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

office's Fugitive Unit reached a milestone 200th Operation Missing Predator arrest on Aug. 13.

Since May 2005, the Fugitive Unit has located and arrested convicted sex offenders who fail to register with authorities. State, federal and local authorities work together to make it happen.

Estimate: \$54 million in savings

Before the annual Texas Sales Tax Holiday, Aug. 15-17, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs estimated Texans would save \$54 million, taking advantage of no state sales tax on clothes, shoes and a list of other items.

Brown Bag Hamburger Supper
 Eagle Lake Elementary School • Meet the Teacher Night
 5:30 p.m. - Thursday, August 21, 2008

\$5.00 each
 Proceeds benefit
 Eagle Lake Elementary School PTO

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

September 6, 1984

Kayley Elizabeth Poenitzsch infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Poenitzsch of Columbus was baptized in St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Columbus on Sunday morning August 26...

Mrs. Josephine Vollandine of San Antonio spent the weekend with her sister Annie Margaret White to help celebrate her birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Duncan entertained them with a luncheon...

Mrs. Martha Parma of Eagle

Lake, Bennett B. Parma of Houston and Stanley Parma Jr. of Katy attended services for William (Bill) Faldyn in La Grange who passed away Sunday, August 26 at 2 p.m....

B.W. (Buddy) Teague has been named to succeed S.B. Denton, Central Power and Light Co. vice president of district operations, who is retiring. Teague recently served as CPL's Laredo district manager, responsible for company operations in Webb,

Jim Hogg, Zapata and a portion of LaSalle County...

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Milentz of Columbus announce the birth of their second child, a son, born on August 18 at 3:37 p.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center Hospital in Wharton. The baby was named Patrick Wade and weighed seven pounds 13 ounces...

On August 25 Rebal Canaris, joined by friends and relatives, celebrated her third birthday. The

party given by her parents, Dan and Sue Canaris, was held in the backyard of their home...

John and Edweina Peroni recently spent a week in Jamaica with almost 250 other volunteers for the Foreign Mission Board. 14 states were represented with Texas having the largest delegation. For the entire week vacation bible school were conducted throughout Jamaica. Each team was made of five members.

BEST FOOD IN TEXAS!

Sportsman's Restaurant
 979-234-3071

Friday Nite Specials

Frog Legs - \$11.99 • Coconut Shrimp - \$14.99
 Shrimp Enchiladas - \$11.99 • Oysters - \$11.99
 Louisiana Shrimp - \$14.99
 Chicken Picatta - \$12.99
 Hand-Cut Ribeye Steak & Shrimp - \$14.99
 Cup of Gumbo
 Shrimp - Catfish - Crab Cake - \$14.99
 Grilled Shrimp - \$13.99

Janies Famous Bread Pudding
 5 to 8:30 pm

Senior Special 5 to 6:30 pm
 Catfish - Pork Chop
 Hamburger Steak
 w/ mashed potatoes, one vegetable & salad bar \$7.99

201 Boothe Drive • Eagle Lake

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader Applauds Rice Students' Good Deed

My husband and I recently received our Summer 2008 edition of Promise, a publication for friends of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. As I read through the articles, one titled, "Teenagers Unite in Simple Act of Kindness" caught my attention. The first sentence stated, "Eight teenagers from Rice High School in Altair, Texas and their teacher recently traveled to M.D. Anderson with one purpose: to make a difference in the lives of those younger than they, particularly those battling cancer."

As I continued reading, the article stated that before their trip to Houston, Veronica Villafuerte's work-program students went from table to table during their lunch hour for one week requesting donations for pediatric cancer patients.

They raised \$350 from their

friends and classmates. They gave, says Villafuerte simply because "they're good kids." What a worthy deed! The money the students' collected will support M.D. Anderson's Child Life Program, which helps patients and their families adapt and cope with the various steps along their cancer journey.

These students in the work-program and the students who chose to give to this endeavor

Reader Poses Seat Belt Question

Isn't it time to put seatbelts on school buses?

There have been too many deaths involving bus accidents.

If our children need to buckle up in our automobiles, shouldn't they have to buckle up on the way to and from school?

There have also been incidents in the past where children

are all to be commended and Ms. Villafuerte should be praised for her leadership role. I feel these children and their teacher have brought a special honor to Rice High School. I, personally, am very proud of all of these "good kids" and the teachers and administrators at Rice High School.

Sincerely,
 Mrs. James (Jo Ann) Bunge, Jr.
 Garwood, Texas

Reader Poses Seat Belt Question

have had to sit three to a seat with some standing or sitting in the aisle. Let's put the safety of our children first.

With the new school being constructed out in Altair it's time to think about our children riding without seat belts on the way to and from school.

Israel Aguilar

Wied Attends Sheriffs' Conference

Colorado County Sheriff, R.H. "Curly" Wied, recently attended the Sheriffs' Association of Texas 130th Annual Training Conference at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, July 20 - 23. Over 1500 people were in attendance.

The first Sheriffs' Association of Texas Conference was held in 1878.

Held annually in various cities across the State, this event allows Sheriffs, Deputies, Federal, State and City law enforcement officers to network and discuss different issues that affect law enforcement across the state and nation.

This year, participants received training on a variety of topics including; Animal Abuse Investigations, Reducing Inmate Health Care Costs without Reducing Healthcare, Medicaid Fraud, Drug Diversion, Crimes against the Elderly and Disabled, Retention, Recruitment, Succession Planning and Leadership Development, and Ethics and Leadership among other topics. Participants also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest in crime fighting tools and technology at more than 200 exhibitor booths.

The Sheriff's Association of

Texas (SAT) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of local law enforcement in Texas. Through the support of their Members, SAT provides training, legal/technical information, and other critical resources to Peace Officers in Texas.

SAT also offers scholarships to

Peace Officers and their children who wish to continue their education. In addition, they honor Fallen Officers with their Lost Lawman Memorial. For further information on the Sheriff's Association of Texas and how to join as a member, visit www.txsheriffs.org or call (512) 445-5888.

New Auctioneers For Study Club Fundraiser

By Betty Wilcox

The Executive Committee of the Eagle Lake Study Club is proud to announce a new auctioneer for the Sept. 20 auction. Born and raised in Eagle Lake, Dick Richter and his wife, JaNene, will serve as auctioneer for the 29th auction. The Richters live in Seguin and are professional auctioneers.

Have you found a choice article to donate this year? Get together with a friend or two and make a big splash for this year.

The Eula and David Wintermann Library serves the whole

community of Eagle Lake. Every summer there is a great reading program for school age children.

Throughout the year English language lessons are held for interested adults. There are computers for use for those who are computer literate.

So please make your plans to spend a fun evening at the Eagle Lake Community Center for a catered fried chicken meal, bake sale, silent auction and the big main auction and drawings for wonderful items.

Let's make the 29th Auction a big event!
 Support Your Library.