

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

Division of Beal Publications, LLC • (USPS 163-760)  
 P.O. Box 67 - 220 East Main  
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 Published Weekly-Every Thursday

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**Advertising and News Deadline: 5 P.M. Monday**  
**Subscription Rates**

Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt) ..... \$18.50  
 Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties ..... \$21.00  
 Other Texas Residents ..... \$21.50  
 Outside of Texas; Inside U.S. .... \$23.00

**Single Copy Price : 50¢**  
 Second class postage paid  
 at Eagle Lake, Texas

**Address Corrections**  
 should be sent to P.O. Box 67  
 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

**Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri-8-5 Wed-8:30-3**

**Heads Of State Working On Solution To Transportation Puzzle**

AUSTIN - Their goal, they said, is to finance a "world-class transportation system."

Texas' top three elected officials co-signed an Aug. 19 letter to Texas Transportation Commission Chair Dierdre Delisi

expressing their collective wishes for a plan to fund transportation projects over the next biennium.

Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick told Delisi to prepare for an Aug. 29 bond review

board meeting with certain goals in mind:

-End the practice of funding the Texas Department of Public Safety with gas taxes that are needed for road construction. Use general revenue to fund the DPS.

-Create a finance entity that will allow the state's public investment fund managers to put money directly into state transportation projects that offer a "potential solid long-term return."

-Pass enabling legislation and appropriations for the Prop. 12 bonds approved by voters.

In November 2007, voters approved Prop. 12, amending the state constitution to authorize \$5 billion in general obligation bonds for transportation projects.

In September 2003, voters approved Prop. 14, allowing short-term borrowing by the Texas Department of Transportation. Perry, Dewhurst and Craddick instructed Delisi to prepare to begin selling \$1.5 billion in Prop. 14 bonds in September.

**Executive order begins Blue Alert**

An executive order signed by Gov. Rick Perry on Aug. 18 launched Blue Alert, a commu-

nications network to help track down suspects who flee after killing or seriously injuring federal, state or local law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

Blue Alert, based on the AMBER and Silver Alert programs, combines efforts of the DPS, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management and TxDOT.

When Blue Alert is activated, the suspect's vehicle information will be displayed across the state primarily via TxDOT dynamic message signs and media broadcasts. Alerts instruct the public to contact local law enforcement via 911 if they have information related to the offense.

**Immigration policies in question**

Two Republican state lawmakers have asked Attorney General Greg Abbott if the Texas Legislature has the authority to deter local governments from adopting policies, or invalidate existing policies that hinder state enforcement of federal immigration laws.

In the request for an opinion, Rep. Frank Corte of San Antonio and Sen. Dan Patrick of Houston wrote that "sanctuary cities" ad-

vocate policies that are favorable to illegal immigrants.

To support their views, the lawmakers cited the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007, which prohibits sanctuary cities and bars local governmental bodies from creating policies to limit or prevent local law enforcement officers from communicating or cooperating with federal officials on the immigration status of a person.

**Online certification testing grows**

Applicants took more than 50,000 online Texas teacher certification tests via the Internet in the past year.

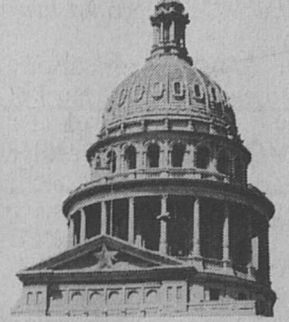
And, Texas is leading the nation in online certification testing, the Texas Education Agency reported Aug. 20.

Online testing has been available in Texas since 2004-2005. Test takers have five hours to complete an exam, but the average completion time is between three and four hours. The results come back in about a week.

Karen Loonam of the State Board for Educator Certification said she expects online testing eventually will be the sole method

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

for certification but she does not expect paper and pencil tests to disappear anytime soon.

**Interim DPS director is named**

The Texas Public Safety Commission named Texas Highway Patrol Major Stan Clark of Garland interim director of the Texas DPS on Aug. 15.

Clark will take office on Sept. 1 and serve until the Texas Public Safety Commission, which oversees the DPS, has selected a permanent director.

Clark has been with the DPS since 1973. He has worked at DPS offices in Tyler and McAllen, and has been a member of the DPS Capitol Police force.

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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.

*Let's Look Back...*

**24 YEARS AGO**

**September 13, 1984**

Gaye Lynn Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Thomas, was among those receiving Masters of Arts degree during the August 18 commencement at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville...

The National secondary education council announced that Beverly Rucka has been named an Academic All-American...

Bonnie Luann Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Brown

of Eagle Lake received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Sam Houston State University in the 1984 second summer term...

Dana Sanders of Sheridan will graduate this Saturday, September 15 from Lavaca Medical School of Nursing as Valedictorian. She will graduate with a 97.0 average out of a class of 12...

Two Eagle Lake area residents were among the 929 Southwest Texas State University students who filed for degrees awarded in summer commencement ceremonies on August 18 in Strahan Coliseum. Lori Lee Mahalite, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mahalite of Eagle Lake, received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in computer information systems. Paul Waligura, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Waligura of Garwood, received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree with a major in Agriculture Business...

Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Smith of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the engagement and

approaching marriage of their daughter, Leanne to Joseph Henry Waligura Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Waligura Sr. of Garwood. Wedding vows will be exchanged on Saturday the 20 of October in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Houston...

Sharon Anne Wegeforth, daughter of Genevieve Wegeforth and Arthur Wegeforth of San Antonio, is engaged to Dr. David Wayne Euers of Eagle Lake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Euers of Eagle Lake. The couple plan an October 20 wedding in Holy Spirit Catholic Church in San Antonio...

Miss Alicia Gonzales and Frank de la Garza were united in hold matrimony on Saturday, July 28 at 3 p.m. in a ceremony performed by Monsignor E.T. Quinters at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Houston...

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Baker of Houston, formerly of Eagle Lake, announce the birth of their first child, a son, born on August 6 at 11:25 a.m. at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. The baby was

named Matthew Wayne Baker and weighed nine pounds, seven ounces and measured 21 1/4 inches long at birth...

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Thomas of Richmond are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, born August 1 at St. Lukes Hospital in Houston. Given the name Jessica Capri, the little miss weighed seven pounds, seven ounces...

Past president T. Walker of the Sheridan Lions Club was awarded the "100 percent past president's award" by District Governor Bill Neinaast of Lions International in a special ceremony at the Community Center on September 4...

Mrs. J.D. (Ruth) Nelson, a registered Nurse, closed her eyes to a peaceful sleep at 2:10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 5 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital following a lengthy illness. Services were held Thursday, September 6 at 2 p.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church with Rev. Ray Widacki officiating. Interment was in Columbus Catholic Cemetery.

**Notice of Tax Revenue Increase**

The Colorado County, Texas conducted public hearings on August 25, 2008 and August 28, 2008 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Colorado County, Texas

from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 11.65 percent.

The total tax revenue raised last year at last year's tax rate of .4300 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$6,588,539.79.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of .4490 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$7,328,407.27

(insert amount computed by multiplying proposed tax rate by the difference between current total value and new property value.)

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of .4490 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$7,451,111.57

(insert amount computed by multiplying proposed tax rate by current total value.)

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 8, 2008 County Courtroom-1st Floor of Courthouse, Columbus at 9:20 a. m.

(location of meeting, including mailing address) (time of meeting)

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**Farm Bureau Meeting Set For Sept. 9**

The Colorado County Farm Bureau (CCFB) extends an invitation to all members to attend its annual meeting scheduled for Sept. 9, Tuesday night, according to Marv Ulbricht, county president.

A barbecue dinner will be served to members prior to the meeting. Dinner tickets will be \$7 per adult and children under 10 years of age free if bought in advance. After that the cost will be \$8 per person. Tickets may be ordered or picked up from the FB Office, 979-732-2383. Deadline to purchase tickets is Sept. 1.

It is of great importance that we continue to take steps to improve the effectiveness of our organization in representing

agriculture. Our role in the process includes adopting policies for the coming year. In addition, we plan to elect directors. Voting delegates will be selected to represent our county at the state convention to be held in Corpus Christi, Dec. 6-8, 2008.

Board members with expiring terms are Larry Poenitzsch, Bill Pavlicek, Charles Harbich, E.M. Holt and Dale Rankin.

The policy development committee is currently accepting suggestions for resolutions. Members are encouraged to contribute their thoughts to the committee at this time. All recommendations will be considered in drafting tentative resolutions to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Colorado County will hold a public hearing on the Colorado County 2009 Budget at the Regular Term of Commissioners Court on **September 8, 2008**, at 9:10 a.m., at the Courthouse, County Courtroom in Columbus, Texas. This Proposed Budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$828,070 dollars or 13.09%, and of that amount \$117,796 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. The proposed 2009 Budget is on file in the County Clerk's office at the County Courthouse, Columbus, Texas, and is posted on the County's website (www.co.colorado.tx.us) under Public Notices for public viewing.