

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522
email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net
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Produced and Distributed By:

James Sweet
Carol Cardenas • Doug Beal
Donna Samora

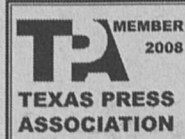
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State Making Plans To Issue Road Building Bonds

AUSTIN - The Texas Transportation Commission on Aug. 29 met and voted in response to an Aug. 21 letter signed by Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick urging the commission to get rolling on the issuance of highway construction bonds.

The five-member commis-

sion, appointed by the governor to oversee the Texas Department of Transportation, voted unanimously to issue \$1.5 billion in highway construction bonds to support 2009 projects that would have been unfunded or underfunded because of a \$1.1 billion shortfall.

Commission Chair Dierdre Delisi said she has instructed TxDOT to identify projects that are ready to move forward and expects TxDOT to present these projects to the commission later this month.

By amending the Texas Constitution, voters gave the state permission to issue short term highway construction bonds when they approved Prop. 12 on Nov. 5, 2007, and Prop. 14 on Sept. 13, 2003.

The state will address long-term transportation funding in the 81st regular session of the Texas Legislature, which convenes Jan. 13, 2009.

Hurricane hits, conventions go on

Gov. Perry and President George W. Bush were in Texas Sept. 1 to check on Hurricane Gustav relief operations.

Before Gustav came ashore Sept. 1 as a Category 2 hurricane, it prompted orders resulting in the evacuation of nearly 2 million

people from southern Louisiana and coastal counties of Texas near the Louisiana border.

Despite threatening weather, contingencies of politically active Texans traveled to their respective national party conventions.

At the Republican National Convention Sept. 3 in St. Paul, Minn., Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams made the motion to nominate Sen. John McCain as the GOP candidate for president. Lt. Gov. Dewhurst announced Texas' 140 delegate votes for McCain.

The Aug. 27 roll call vote at the Democratic National Convention in Denver stopped before the Texas delegation announced its tally, because Sen. Barack Obama earlier had received enough votes to secure the party's nomination for president.

In other news, two Austin men on Sept. 5 were charged in a Minneapolis federal court for illegal possession of Molotov cocktails.

The men allegedly had planned to use the incendiary devices to disrupt the GOP convention in St. Paul.

Repeal of TIF tax takes effect

The Texas Legislature in 2007 passed HB 735 by Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, a law to repeal the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund or "TIF tax" effective Sept. 1, 2008.

The Legislature created the TIF in 1995 to help fund the expansion of broadband services and conquer the so-called "digital divide" that left rural Texas with inadequate service.

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst on Sept. 2 said Texans had paid more than \$1.5 billion in TIF surcharges.

Dewhurst, who pushed for the repeal as president of the Senate, said he wanted to let Texans "keep more of their hard-earned money," and thanks to the repeal, their telephone bills will be im-

pacted this month.

More children get their shots

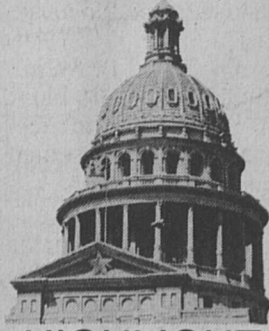
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Sept. 4 that the immunization rate for Texas children climbed to 77.4 percent in 2007, ranking Texas 22nd compared with the other 49 states. It's the highest ranking ever for Texas.

The immunization series, for children ages 19 months through 35 months, includes four doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, three doses of polio vaccine, one dose of measles-containing vaccine, three doses of Hib vaccine, three doses of hepatitis B vaccine and one dose of varicella vaccine.

"The progress that Texas has made is the result of aggressive and sustained efforts of state and local partners along with families," said state health commissioner Dr. David Lakey.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

School districts seek tax hikes

More than 100 Texas school districts will be asking voters to approve tax increases this fall, the Austin American-Statesman reported Sept. 3.

That's about one in 10 of Texas' 1,038 independent school districts.

The need for tax increases has been attributed to inflation: nearly everything is costing more and teachers need salary increases to keep from losing ground.

1.

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Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

September 27, 1984

The Alvin Wieses left for the valley September 6 and returned September 9 after touring McAllen and Laredo plus other places...

Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Carey and Michelle and Cristen of Corpus Christi were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Balas September 14-16 and 21-23 during teal season...

Frank and Barbara Pidgeon recently returned from a two-week vacation. They flew to California and visited San Francisco, Carmel and Monterey, before driving north through California, Oregon and Washington. While in Seattle they went to Victoria, British Columbia by ferry through the San Juan Islands...

Mr. and Mrs. L.V. Davisons along with their son, Allen and his family of Houston spent the latter part of July at Lake Quachita Arkansas visiting Hot Springs and other scenic places...

Norman and Nelma Strey and Norman Jr. and Wanda of Columbus recently drove to

Alaska and toured Fair Banks, Anchorage, Kensi Peninsula, Valdez and Haines. They left June 30 and returned home August 3...

Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. VanNort flew to Alaska in July. They arrived in Anchorage and toured Valdez and from there took a boat trip up the passage to Prince William Sound where they viewed the glaisers from the boat. The VanNorts toured the city of Anchorage and commented on the beautiful scenery in Alaska...

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mahalic are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lana, to Jim Stein son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Stein of Columbus. The couple will be married November 10 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Columbus...

Miss Judy Bunge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Bunge, Jr. of Garwood and a student in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas at Austin was recently named a Kappa Psi Little Sister...

Harry and Pam Briscoe of Burton are proud to announce the arrival of their second child, Rebecca Kay, born at 8:22 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11 at Bohne Hospital in Brenham. Rebecca Kay weighed seven pounds, two ounces and measured 20 inches in length...

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Espinosa, of Columbus, announced the birth of their first child, a son, born on Sunday, September 16 at 3:35 a.m. Youens Memorial in Weimar. The baby was named Blake Elias and weighed eight pounds and measured 20 inches at birth.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Six Sentenced In District Court

Six individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Monday, September 9. They included;

James Lee Black, possession of controlled substance. Sentenced to 12 months in state jail.

Willie Ladon Connor, evading arrest detention with vehicle, with previous conviction. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ.

Abel O. Moralez, engage in organized criminal activity. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ.

David Perez, assault causing bodily injury date/family/house. Probation conditions modified, Central Texas Treatment Center.

David Perez, possession of a controlled substance. Probation conditions modified, Central Texas Treatment Center.

Michalle R. Richard, driving while intoxicated/open alcoholic container, 3rd or more. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ, probated for five years, fined \$500.

Michalle R. Richard, assault causing bodily injury date/family/house. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ, probated for four years - SAFFP.

Erui Antonio Zelaya, forgery government instrument/money/securities. Sentenced to three years ID-TDCJ.

Lawsuit Filed In Rice Dispute

One lawsuit was filed in Colorado County District Court in the past week.

On Sept. 6, Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance and related companies filed suit against

Garrett Seed Rice, Ltd., and related companies.

Garrett Seed is being sued by a number of rice farmers in a dispute over use of genetically altered rice seed.

The insurance company claims that the dispute between

Garrett and the farmers is not covered by a commercial liability policy from the insurance company.

Divorce Filed

Joyce Kolar and Lawrence E. Kolar, Sept. 4

Stafford Opera Presents Dinner Theatre

The 1886 Stafford Opera House located at 425 Spring Street in Columbus is happy to announce the productions for the 2008-09 dinner theatre season, which begins in October and ends in June.

On Oct. 11, The Company will present "Blithe Spirit," a comic play written by Noel Coward.

The action of the play centers on socialite Charles Condomine being haunted by the ghost of his first wife Elvira following a seance and Elvira's continued, and increasingly desperate, efforts to disrupt Charles' current marriage.

The play is notable for the comic character of Madame Arcati, the eccentric medium.

On Nov. 8, The Houstonian Big Band performs music from the 30s, 40s and 50s. Listen and dance to the songs made popular by Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Harry James, Artie Shaw and others.

The band features an experienced conductor leading a traditional big band structure, including four woodwind players (saxophones and clarinet), four brass players (trumpets and trombones), a rhythm section (including drums, bass, and piano) and a female vocalist.

Based in Houston, this 12-piece musical group has been together for over 20 years.

The Company returns to Columbus on Feb. 14, 2009, with "Sylvia."

"Sylvia" is a hilarious contemporary comedy about mid-life crisis and a dog.

Empty-nesters Greg and Kate move to Manhattan.

She starts an exciting new career; he brings home a scruffy mutt named Sylvia who becomes a bone of contention between them!

On March 14, 2009, the stage comes alive when the Art Park Players presents "Route 66."

Travel with four service station attendants as they take you

on a revved up cross-country romp from Chicago to California.

This high-octane show will have you traveling down the highway with a mixture of familiar songs, along with lesser known gems, and variety in musical styles from the Beach Boys to good ole' country.

It's a lively trip down memory lane filled with dual-lane affection.

Jeryl Hoover of The Fredricksburg Theater Company returns to Columbus after a year's absence.

On April 11, 2009, he will perform "Solo Reminiscence."

"Solo Reminiscence" is a concert solely with and by Jeryl as a reflection on his years on stage with FTC, including many patron favorites such as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Camelot," "South Pacific," "1776" and many others.

He also will feature music that has been important to his life prior to FTC, such as "songs my father taught me."

We're back...The Company that is on May 9, 2009.

"All the Great Books (abridged)" is a roller coaster of hilarity.

Playwrights Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor have condensed literature's greatest books into 90 minutes.

This is a comedy that you don't want to miss.

The evening promises to be one of fun and laughter.

June 6, 2009, the Art Park Players return to our stage with the show "The Women."

A modern-day "Desperate Housewives," "The Women" is a gleefully malicious comedy about socialites, their twisted marriages and the delicious gossip that ruins their reputations.

The play examines several moving subjects that are relevant today, including love, marriage, pride and friendship.

Continued on page 7

2008 Colorado County Fair
Yesterday... Today...
September 11-14 Tomorrow...
Colorado Co. Fairgrounds
Hwy. 71 @ I-10 (Exit 695) - Columbus, Texas
30th Anniversary
Performers: JOHNS GUNS, SOUTHBOUND 955, BART CROW, JOHN CONLEE, CHARLIE ROBISON, LITTLE TEXAS, THREE MAN BAND, NEIL ROSS BAND.
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