

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Abbott Proposes Legislation To Help Homeowners

AUSTIN - Is there anything that can be done before Texas gets hit with a market-driven wave of home foreclosures like Florida, California, Nevada and other states? Maybe so, if state lawmakers approve.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Oct. 23 proposed the Texas Foreclosure Deferment Act, legislation to help Texas homeowners stay in their homes.

Under Abbott's proposed act, a mortgage loan servicer would be required to provide a homeowner with a certified letter stating that the debtor has 45 days to cure a loan default before a notice of sale.

Current state law only provides homeowners a 20-day window to cure a default, Abbott said.

"Today's proposal ensures that struggling homeowners have more time to cure mortgage loan defaults and save their homes," Abbott said.

The Texas Legislature will convene Jan. 13, 2009. Early filing of legislation will begin Nov. 13.

Abbott's idea, expressed Oct. 23, fell between two messages from Gov. Rick Perry, one suggesting action to prepare for hard

times and the other touting how well Texas is positioned, compared with other states.

At a function in Dallas Oct. 21, Perry said, "As Texans face the impact of Hurricane Ike and prepare for effects of the national financial downturn, Texas businesses and families are tightening their belts and exercising greater financial discipline.

"State government should act no different," Perry said. "We have made tough choices over the years that have earned Texas the economic strength it enjoys today; and we must continue to follow these principles if we hope to weather these storms."

Three days later, on Oct. 24, Perry sent out an "In Case You Missed It" new release, quoting an Oct. 9 survey published by the Financial Times of London, asserting that Texas is the best state to live and do business in with harder economic times on the way.

Phones seized in prison sweep

The problem of cell phones smuggled in to the Texas prison system was the subject of an Oct. 21 interim meeting of the Senate

Committee on Criminal Justice.

State Sen. John Whitmire, chairman of the committee, said that during the preceding weeks he received many calls from death row inmate Richard Lee Tabler via an illegal cell phone.

Whitmire's complaint about those calls led to a lockdown and contraband search throughout the 111-unit prison system. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice found and confiscated 22 cell phones in the possession of death row inmates alone. It was learned that at least nine other death row inmates had used Tabler's cell phone to make more than 2,800 calls over the past month.

Whitmire spoke of his concern for the safety of judges, jurors, attorneys and witnesses involved in the trials of death row inmates and for public safety in general.

Among suggestions officials made at the meeting:

- Jam cell phone signals
- Use dogs trained to detect contraband
- Make pat-down searches mandatory
- Install metal detectors and surveillance cameras
- Increase pay for guards to make them less susceptible to bribery by inmates.

Austin joins ban-box movement

The criminal history box on city of Austin employment application forms is going to be a thing of the past.

Austin City Council voted to remove the box that asks applicants if they have ever been convicted of a crime.

"Ban the Box" is a movement that began in California five years

ago. The idea was to help make re-entry into society easier for former prison inmates.

Even without the box, officials said the city will continue conducting criminal background checks on applicants. Travis County passed a similar measure earlier this year.

Money to help in clean air effort

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has given the Texas Railroad Commission another \$12 million in grant money to help fleet operators in 34 counties replace their old forklifts, school buses and medium-duty trucks with low emissions equipment fueled with propane gas. This is the second \$12 million infusion for the purpose.

TEXAS ROTARY ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Early voting higher than in 2004

More than 1 million Texans had cast ballots halfway into the 10-day early voting period that began Oct. 20. In the 2004 general election, about 650,000 Texans voted early, over the whole 10-day period.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

November 16, 1984

A new addition to the family of Paul and Monica Lehrner of Garwood is a daughter, Lacy born on November 1. She is welcomed home by a brother, Dudley. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Lehrner of Garwood...

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Joseph Dostal of Houston are the proud parents of a baby boy born to them on Thursday, November 1 at 7:46 a.m. in Memorial City Hospital in Houston. Terry Dostal, Jr. topped the scale at nine pounds, 12 ounces. The proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dostal of Eagle Lake and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Davis of Beaumont...

Miss Leanne Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Smith of Eagle Lake and Joseph H. Waligura, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Waligura of Garwood

were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, October 20 at 3 p.m. in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Houston...

Sharon Anne Wegeforth and Dr. David Wayne Euers were married October 20 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in San Antonio with Father Adolpho Valdivia officiating...

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Brown of Garwood are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Melanie Nicole. Melanie was born on Wednesday, November 7 at 6:32 a.m. weighing six pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 18 1/2 inches in length.

November 17, 1960

John Howard Brasher, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Brasher, was chosen mascot of the Tri Rivers Firemen's Association in Wallis...

J.A. (Jack) Grieves, Jr., 44 of

Eagle Lake was killed in an automobile accident November 10...

Emily Gracie Adkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Adkins of Eagle Lake, was crowned princess of Trinity University...

The boys and girls at Eagle Lake High School changed roles with the girls getting football

teams together. The boys were cheerleaders and twirlers. Meandering majorettes for the Power Puff Gridiron tilt were Josie (Joe) Rebeck, Tootsie (Mike) Cheatham, Shimmy (Jimmy) Wiese, Gertie (Gary) Wright, Sunshine (James) Booker and Theresa (Teddie) Wiese.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Nine Sentenced In District Court

Nine individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Friday, Oct. 24.

Keitten L. Armstrong, burglary of building. Sentenced to 20 months in a state jail facility.

William C. Brozowski, driving while intoxicated/open alcoholic container-3rd or more. Sentenced to five years ID-TDCJ.

Aaron A. Craft, possession of a controlled substance. Probation conditions modified. 30 days county jail, extend probation one year.

LaRay Glover, evading arrest/detention using vehicle. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication fined \$600.

Thomas A. Gunter, robbery. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000.

Roy Hernandez, Jr., prohibited substance correctional facility-alcohol/drug/phone. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ.

Roy Hernandez, Jr., assault causing bodily injury, date/family/house. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ.

Gerardo Morales-Raya, tamper with government school record lic/seal/cert/perm. Sentenced to 180 days in county jail.

Julio Edwin Ramos, evading arrest/detention using vehicle. Sentenced to six months in state jail.

Concepcion A. Salazar-Pedroza, driving while intoxicated 3rd or more. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ.

Eighteen Sentenced In County Court

Eighteen individuals were sentenced in Colorado County

Court on Wednesday, Oct. 22. They included:

Ryan Allen Cason, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug classes.

Jade Eilers, theft. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs and ordered to pay \$528 in restitution.

Kimberly E. Garner, theft of stolen property. Fined \$100 plus court costs.

Alma L. Gonzales, sale to minors-alcohol. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs.

William P. Knigge, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500 plus court costs, interlock device.

Debra Knott, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$250 plus court costs, interlock device.

Maria DeJesus Rangel, theft of stolen property. Reduced to Class C, fined \$100 plus court costs.

Jordan Schubert, theft of stolen property. Fined \$50 plus court costs and restitution.

Johnny Sterling, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug classes.

Alan Quantea Steward, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 14 days in jail.

Catarino M. Valenzuela, driving while intoxicated-2nd. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs, 12 months driver's license suspension.

Joseph A. Baumbach, assault causing bodily injury family member. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$150, 10 days in jail as COP.

Continued on page 13

LET'S REBUILD AMERICA

VOTE DEMOCRATIC

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY THE COLORADO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY, P.O. BOX 1032, COLUMBUS, TX 78534, PAULINA KEARNEY, TREASURER.

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Sportsman's Restaurant
979-234-3071

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Hamburger Steak

Comes with salad, vegetable and fries or mashed potatoes

\$7.99 from 5-7 pm

5:00 - 8:30 pm

Ribeye Steak \$11.99
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 Handcut Ribeye & Shrimp .. \$14.99
 CoCoNut Shrimp \$14.99
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All entrees come with Salad Bar, Vegetable, Fries or Mashed Potatoes
 no changes or exceptions

201 Boothe Drive • Eagle Lake

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 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Congratulations Katie Pagel

On her first buck (8.15-1/2 spread) during youth season while hunting with her Dad and Mr. Bill