

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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GOP Holds Edge In Down Ballot Races

AUSTIN - America voted and Barack Obama, the junior Democratic U.S. senator from Illinois, was elected the 44th president of the United States on Nov. 4.

The Texas vote went against the grain, producing a 12-point margin (55.5 to 43.8 percent) in favor of U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. The ballot's eight other candidates for president received a combined total of less than 1 percent of the vote.

Voting maps show President-Elect Obama did something U.S. Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic candidate for president in 2004, could not do in his race against President George W. Bush. Obama won three of the state's four highest-population counties: Harris, Dallas and Bexar. Travis, the state's fifth most populous county, produced a 30 percent margin in favor of Obama.

Texas is a winner-takes-all state in the electoral college, so McCain claimed the Lone Star State's 34 votes: one for each of Texas' 32 congressional seats and two for its Senate seats.

John Cornyn, Texas' junior U.S. senator, held off challenger Rick Noriega, a Democratic state representative from Houston, to win his second six-year term. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas' senior U.S. senator, was not up for re-election this cycle. She has not ruled out a run for governor in 2010.

Five incumbent state representatives were voted out of office: Juan Garcia, D-Corpus Christi, lost to Republican Todd Hunter; Bill Zedler, R-Arlington, lost to Democrat Chris Turner; Dan Barrett, D-Fort Worth, lost to Republican Mark Shelton; Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, lost to Democrat Carol Kent; and Jim Murphy, R-Houston, lost to Democrat Kristi Thibaut.

Speaker faces list of challengers

State Rep. and current House

Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland, was re-elected to a 20th consecutive term for his district. In 2003, when Craddick was elected to succeed Hale Center Democrat Pete Laney as speaker, the GOP enjoyed a 26-seat advantage, holding 88 seats to the Democrats' 62. The Nov. 4 election left Republicans with a two-seat advantage in the Texas House, with 76 seats to the Democrats' 74.

Craddick's hold on the House gavel is likely to be tested when the 81st regular session of the Texas Legislature convenes in January. Nine House members have filed as candidates to be speaker.

Craddick's challengers, so far, include three Republicans: Jim Keffer of Eastland, Tommy Merritt of Longview and Delwin Jones of Lubbock; and six Democrats: Pete Gallego of Alpine, Senfronia Thompson, Scott Hochberg and Sylvester Turner, all of Houston, Craig Eiland of Galveston and Allan Ritter of Nederland.

2 new faces due in Texas Senate

Democrats picked up one seat in the upper chamber: Texas Senate Dist. 10 incumbent Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth, lost to

Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth. The race for Senate Dist. 17 - which includes parts of Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers and Jefferson counties - is not settled. The winner will be decided in a December runoff between Republican Joan Huffman and Democrat Chris Bell.

Republicans retake District 22

U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, Cong. Dist. 22, lost to Republican Pete Olson. This is the Houston-area seat vacated when former Republican House Majority Leader Tom DeLay resigned in June 2006. The district includes parts of Fort Bend, Harris, Brazoria and Galveston counties.

Combs reshapes tax division

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs renamed her Property Tax Division the Property Tax Assistance Division on Nov. 3.

She also moved it out of her office's Local Government Assistance and Economic Analysis Division and made it a stand-alone division.

Combs said the changes reflect a new emphasis on helping local school districts and county

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

appraisal districts comply with property tax laws and use property appraisal methods "that produce accurate results."

Combs also said she plans revisions to the annual Property Value Study, a measure of taxable value of property within school districts that is used to calculate the amount of funding they receive from the state.

School districts and county appraisal districts that disagree with the results of the study have a right to appeal, Combs said, and added that appeals now will be heard by the State Office of Administrative Hearings instead of by the comptroller's office.

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201 Boothe Drive • Eagle Lake

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

November 29, 1984

An appreciation service for Nannie Jo Castle for her 40 years of service will be held at Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Eagle Lake on Saturday, December 1 at 7 p.m....

Mr. and Mr. Brock Ashby were honored with a house warming on Saturday Nov. 17 at their lovely home in Pin Oak addition outside of Katy. The party was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wiese, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Grigar, Vance Duncan, and Jeff Frnka...

Mr. and Mrs. Herberto Garza are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter Elizabeth, to Michael Wayne Duarte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike V. Duarte. The couple plan to exchange vows on January 12, 1985 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Alden Porter McNeil (Mr. Mac), age 82 of Eagle Lake, passed away Sunday, November 25 at his residence at 5:20 a.m. Graveside services and interment were conducted at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27 from the Moody Cemetery with Rev.

Jim Johnson officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Dulany Funeral Home in Eagle Lake...

Clara Lillian Killough, 71, of Houston, passed away November 26. Services were conducted on Wednesday, November 28 at 11 a.m. from the Earthman Hunters Creek Chapel. Interment was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake...

Services were conducted for Mrs. Lillie M. Merten, 77, of Carmine, on Friday, November 23 at the Martin Luther Lutheran Church under the direction of Foehner Funeral Home. The Rev. Stephen Clark officiated at the services and burial was at the Carmine Cemetery...

In a lovely ceremony performed on Saturday, November 10, Miss Lana Mahalite of Eagle Lake, became the bride of Jim Stein of Columbus. The wedding mass was held in Saint Anthony's Catholic Church in Columbus with Monsignor Thomas Collins officiating at the double ring ceremony...

Lisa and Dave Hunick of Jacinto City are proud to announce

the birth of their first child, a son, born November 14 at 12:15 p.m. at Southmore Hospital in Pasadena. The little tot was named Nicholas David and weighed six pounds, four ounces and measured 20 3/4 inches at birth. Great grandparents are Mary and David Zahradnick of Eagle Lake...

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Cash of Texarkana are the proud parents of an eight pound baby boy, born Friday, November 16. His name is Dustin Adam. Paternal grandparents are Mrs. James G. Cash and the late James G. Cash of Eagle Lake...

Rev. and Mrs. Isiah Edwards Jr. of Garwood are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Tereska Sue to Eric Aundre Christal, son of Joyce M. Christal of Eagle Lake. The wedding is calendared for December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Sinai Baptist Church in El Campo...

Miss Tanya Ann Marcaurele, bride-elect of James L. (Jay) Brunge III, was honored at a come and go miscellaneous shower on Thursday, November 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Edison Room of the WCEC Building in El Campo.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Nine Sentenced In County Court

Nine individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Nov. 6.

Dagoberto Espinal, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, fined \$500, court costs and one year driver's license suspension.

Jonathan Garcia, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350 plus court costs.

Gabriel Hernandez, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to two years probation, fined \$1,000, court costs and interlock device.

Alice Ann Nelson, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500, court costs and interlock device.

Leonard Pourciau, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 15 days in jail, fined \$750 plus court costs, and six months driver's

license suspension.

Norman Gage, driving while license invalid with previous conviction. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350 plus court costs.

Eric Risinger, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$500 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug classes.

Jennifer Maria Santillano, purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor. Sentenced to six months deferred adjudication, fined \$350.

Three Suits Filed In District Court

Three lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the last week.

On Nov. 7, Colorado County Rice Mill Inc. filed suit against C.H. Robinson Worldwide Inc., C.H. Robinson Co. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp.

The suit involves a complaint that a train derailment on Nov.

12, 2007, caused the loss of a shipment of 840 50-pound bags of rice with a value of \$10,000.

On Nov. 10, Donald Helmcamp filed suit against Whitehead Production Co. Inc. The suit states that Helmcamp entered into an oil and gas mineral lease that has expired, and asked that the lease be removed as a cloud on the leased property.

On Nov. 10, Atlantic Credit and Financial Inc. filed suit against Chad Ferguson in a dispute over payment on a loan. The amount in dispute is \$8,270.

Divorce Filed

Kelvin Earl Evans and LaSonja Rae Evans, Nov. 7.

Divorces Granted

Eric Netherly and Merideth Netherly, Nov. 6.

Jessie Luna and Sonia Morino, Nov. 6.

Pamela Bourque and Thomas Bourque, Nov. 6.

Colorado County Crimestoppers

If you have any information about these crimes, or any other felony crime, call Colorado County Crime Stoppers, toll free at 1-866-522-TIPS (1-866-522-8477). Or, in an immediate emergency situation, you can notify your local law enforcement agency.

In October and November of 2008, p.m., person or persons unknown, have been cashing forged

payroll checks on DiversiTech.

DiversiTech has set up a "Payroll Check Confirmation Line". The number is 979-732-8243, ext. 1218. This line will be manned Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If someone tries to cash a DiversiTech Payroll Check, and you are not sure of the validity of the person or check, be sure and call 979-732-8243, ext. 1218.

You never have to give your name and if your information leads to an arrest and charges being filed on the criminal, you could earn up to a \$1,000 reward.

Colorado County Crime Stoppers, citizens, law enforcement and the media, are working together to make our community a safer place to live. Together, we can make a difference.