



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
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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 Prison Board Seeks Emergency Funding

AUSTIN - The Texas Board of Criminal Justice met in Austin on Dec. 3 and decided to ask the state for \$66 million in immediate funding to purchase airport-style and mobile screening units and other surveillance equipment to stop cell phones and other contraband from being smuggled into Texas prisons.

Democrat John Whitmire of

Houston, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and Republican Jerry Madden of Richardson, chairman of the House Corrections Committee, said they support the idea.

In the summer and early fall, Whitmire was the target of illegal cell phone calls made by a death row inmate. Gov. Rick Perry responded in October, ordering

a sweep of Texas prisons that netted 144 illegal cell phones, plus weapons and other contraband.

Hutchison eyes governor's office

Texas' senior U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison on Dec. 4 filed papers with the Texas Ethics Commission and formed an exploratory committee, signaling her interest in running for governor in 2010.

Hutchison also transferred funds from her federal campaign finance account to a state campaign finance account.

A Republican, Hutchison won her U.S. Senate seat by special election in 1993. She was re-elected to full terms in 1994, 2000 and 2006. She served as Texas state treasurer 1991-92 and in the Texas House as a Houston-area representative from 1972-76.

Combs steps up transparency

Because of a slackening economy, legislative committees and teams of state number crunchers must be at their best to find money and deliver the fiscal 2010-11 budget, which could be around \$185 billion.

Meanwhile, taxpayers can learn how much of their money

government is spending and what it's being spent on.

Nearly a year ago, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs launched "Where the Money Goes" a Web site that now shows all state agencies' spending in detail.

In continuing along those lines, on Dec. 3, Combs introduced openbooktexas.com, a Web site that includes "Texas Smart Buy," an online ordering system; "Texas Transparency Check-Up," an accountability study of local governments; and "Single Set of Books," initiative examining uniform financial accounting in state government.

"It is clear that we have entered an era of great economic uncertainty, and government must make the most of every dollar, just like millions of working families," Combs said.

"Texans deserve to know their tax dollars are being used wisely. Families are cutting expenses and looking for ways to save. Government must do the same."

Ethics commission fines justice

The fines Ethics Commission on Dec. 4 fined Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht \$29,000 for violating state campaign finance rules.

The Ethics Commission said

an unreported reduction in fees Hecht received from a law firm for personal legal assistance was tantamount to a political contribution and that violates the rules.

Debt collector settles with state

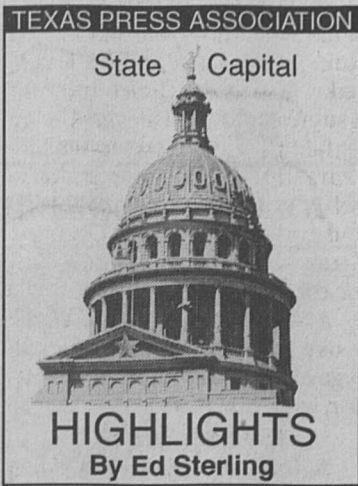
Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Dec. 5 resolved the state's enforcement action against debt collection firm NCO Financial Systems Inc.

NCO settled after being charged with violating the Texas Debt Collection Act.

State investigators said NCO unlawfully made harassing and threatening phone calls to purported debtors.

Under the settlement, NCO must implement policies that ensure its debt collection efforts fully comply with this law.

The settlement requires NCO to create a three-year \$150,000 restitution fund to compensate Texans harmed by its unlawful acts. The company will remit \$100,000 to the state's general revenue fund for violating the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, along with \$150,000 in attorneys' fees.



FEMA says mess disappearing

The Federal Emergency Management Agency rebuffed media assertions that it had been slow to remove debris from areas stricken by Hurricane Ike in September.

FEMA said as of Dec. 2 it had removed 18 million cubic yards, or 79 percent of debris, from public rights of way in Texas and called it the largest debris removal in Texas history.

FEMA estimates the Ike cleanup will cost \$800 million total. Cleanup for Hurricane Rita in 2005 totaled \$111 million, FEMA said.

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.

Headlight Subscriptions Make GREAT Stocking Stuffers!!

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

December 27, 1984
Kevin Hoffman celebrated his fourth birthday on December 10 given by his parents, Thierry and Lisa Hoffman...

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sommerlatte of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, born on December 9 at 3:38 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The baby was named Trina LeRae and weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches...

St. Mary's Catholic Church was the setting for the marriage of Kathy Marie Kalinowsky and Christopher Edward Wied, both of Houston, which was the third generation of the Wied family to be married at the church. The traditional mass and wedding ceremony performed by Monsignor

Victor Schmidtinsky was held at 2:30 the afternoon of December 1. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kalinowsky of Houston. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Wied of Garwood...

Miss Roxanna Marie "Roxie" Brasher graduated on Saturday, December 8 from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology...

Miss Sally Blake Stolle and Thomas Charles Kallina, both

of College Station, were united in Holy Matrimony at 3:30 p.m. on November 10 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station. Rev. Leon Strieder, pastor of St. Mary's Church in College Station, performed the double ring ceremony...

Lori Lemons, 18, daughter of Vera Lemons of Eagle Lake, is now training at the McKinney Job Corps Center. She is presently enrolled in Nurse Aide courses at the 650 students Job Corps Center...

Mrs. Amelia T. Albrecht, 85, of Alvin, passed away on Friday, November 30. Mrs. Albrecht was born on June 11, 1899 at Fairbanks and was a former longtime resident of Eagle Lake. The funeral was held at Woodlawn Funeral Chapel in Houston on Monday, December 3 with the Rev. Sherwood Oglesby of the First United Methodist Church of Alvin officiating. Interment was in the Woodlawn Garden of Memories in Houston.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Twenty-Three Sentenced In County Court

Twenty-three individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on December 3. They included:

Jose Cruz, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150 plus court costs, ordered to attend anger management classes.

Walter F. Hancock, driving while license invalid with previous conviction. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350.

Jorge Javier Isaula, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 15 days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs, 12 months driver's license suspension.

Stephanie Lira, prohibited weapons switchblade/knuckles. Sentenced to 90 days in jail.

Stephanie Lira, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 90 days in jail.

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

Deborah McTear, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to two years probation, fined \$1,000 plus court costs, one year driver's license suspension, interlock device.

Sergio Obregon, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500 plus court costs, interlock device.

Victor H. Gonzalez-Orozco, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500, interlock device, abandon enhancement.

Sunjay Patel, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend

drug classes.

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

Jermaine Wright, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350.

Kyle David Clarke, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

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

Francisco Galvan, reckless driving. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, \$600 restitution to the Dept. of Transportation.

Luis R. Gonzalez, driving while license invalid. Sentenced to 15 days in jail.

Arturo Chable-Guzman, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500 plus court costs.

John Dustin Henry, interference with emergency call. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$250 plus court costs.

Cody Lee Hermis, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$150 fine plus court costs, BIPP class.

Courtney R. Piedralzo, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug class.

Robert Lee Reyna, criminal mischief. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Christopher B. Salinas, unlawful possession firearm involving family/household. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, BIPP, \$100 family crisis fee, forfeit

weapon.

Justina Torres, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to 80 days in jail.

Justina Torres, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to 80 days in jail.

Juliana M. Walker, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500 plus court costs, AA, interlock device.

Two Suits Filed In District Court

Two lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the past week.

On Dec. 4, Midland Funding LLC, filed suit in a dispute over payment on an account. David J. Roznovak is the defendant. The amount in dispute is \$11,374.

On Dec. 8, a damage suit was filed arising from a fatal accident on U.S. 90 east of Weimar on Oct. 3 was filed.

The suit was filed by survivors of Monica Walker-Calley, who was killed in the accident.

They included: a daughter, Jennifer Calley; parents, Billy Walker and Dolly Walker; and Brenda Theiss, representing a minor son, Charlie Calley.

According to the suit, Walker-Calley was killed when the vehicle she was driving collided with a horse when the horse suddenly ran across U.S. 90 about 6:10 a.m.

Named as a defendant in the suit was Wendy Schreiber, who was described as the owner of the horse.

Divorces granted

Ashlie Hall and Ryan Gallaher, Dec. 4.

Dala Hilscher and Michael Hilscher, Dec. 4.

Leslie Allison and Mary Allison, Dec. 4.

The Eagle Lake Headlight's Kris Kringle Cash Giveaway

Count the number of ❄️ symbols in advertisements in this edition and submit your guess in writing to the Headlight by Monday, Dec. 15

(including symbol on this entry form)

A drawing of all the correct entries will be held to determine the winner

Two winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any one of the businesses advertising in this edition.

Kris Kringle Cash Entry Form

(Return to The Headlight by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15)
PO Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

My Guess Is _____ (including symbol on this entry form)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I'd like to use my certificate at _____

(Must be business advertising in this week's Headlight)

One Entry Per Person

Eagle Lake Headlight Want Ads Work Wonders
Turn Your Garage Full Of Junk Into CASH Call 234-5521