

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

Division of Beal Publications, LLC • (USPS 163-760)
 P.O. Box 67 - 220 East Main
 CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067
 979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522
 email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net
 Published Weekly-Every Thursday



The Eagle Lake Headlight reserves the right to reject, edit or omit editorial content and/or advertisement for any reason in order to conform to the paper's policy.

Produced and Distributed By:

James Sweet
 Carol Cardenas • Doug Beal
 Donna Samora

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

Colorado County (including Lissie & Egypt)	\$19.50
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton & Austin Counties	\$22.00
Other Texas Residents	\$22.50
Outside of Texas; Inside U.S.	\$24.00

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

House To Debate State Budget

AUSTIN - Legislators packed the four-day workweek leading up to the Easter and Passover holidays with long lists of bills to be considered in committees.

But the march of bills will grind down to a lower gear April 17 when the appropriations bill, HB 1, hits the House floor for a debate sure to be contentious.

Whatever the House ends up with will have to be reconciled with the Senate's CSSB 1, their \$182.2 billion version of a state budget for 2010-2011.

Meanwhile, other issues abound, such as road funding, projected to run out in 2012.

The Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee met April 8, and Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, who chairs the committee, said, "The course we're on will result in no new roads in Texas in the very near future."

The committee's vice chair, Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, attributed the dwindling road construction fund balance to:

--The state gas tax, which has not been increased since 1991 to make up for ongoing cost increases in construction and maintenance.

--The bleed-off of dollars from the highway fund to pay for other state programs.

--Too much debt.

So, Carona is proposing a

funding solution via SB 855, a bill given tentative approval by the committee on April 8.

Carona's bill would permit a local governmental body to hold an election so voters could decide for themselves to raise funds through a bond issue or create fees to pay for local road projects.

Such fees might include increases to the gas tax, vehicle registration fees or tailpipe emissions fees.

Under Carona's bill, an election ballot would list:

--Each proposed project that fee increases will fund.

--How much the project costs.

--When the project will be completed.

--When the fee increases will expire.

Senate Passes Air Quality Bill

The Texas Senate on April 8 approved a bill by Sen. Kip Averitt, R-Waco, that would enhance air quality improvement efforts in Texas.

Averitt's SB 16, which now moves to the House for consideration, creates incentive programs for the purchase or development of so-called green technologies from plug-in hybrid vehicles to more efficient appliances and equipment for businesses.

SB 16 requires four agencies: the state comptroller, the Texas Commission on Environmental

Quality, the Public Utilities Commission and the Texas Railroad Commission, to work together with the goal of lowering toxic emissions into the air and to negotiate with the federal government in regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

DPS Challenges Court Ruling

The Texas Department of Public Safety on April 10 announced its appeal of an April 9 ruling by Travis County state District Judge Orlinda Naranjo ordering the agency to issue driver licenses to temporary visitors and non-citizens who apply.

The ruling stems from a case brought by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The appeal, the DPS said, means that DPS rules will remain in effect; non-citizens or temporary visitors to the U.S. who appear at DPS driver license offices will not be issued driver licenses if they do not meet the agency's current identification rules.

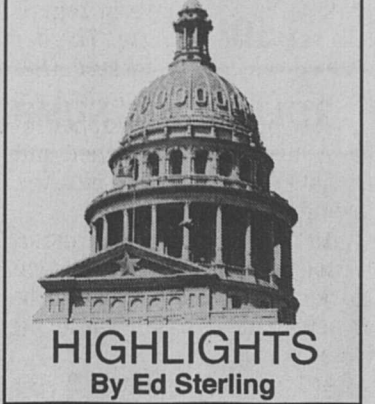
The DPS said one reason it is appealing the ruling is that it "could shut down the agency's ability to appropriately and securely identify driver license applicants."

State Agency Notifies Peanut Plant

The Texas Department of State Health Services announced

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

April 9 it assessed \$14.6 million in administrative penalties against Plainview Peanut Co. LLC.

On April 8, the agency notified the company of "alleged violations" including unsanitary conditions, product contamination, illnesses linked to consumption of peanuts from the plant and for operating almost four years without a food manufacturer's license from the state.

The DSHS on Feb. 12 ordered the plant to close and to recall all products shipped since it opened in 2005.

Lawmaker Regrets Remark Made

State Rep. Betty Brown, R-Athens, on April 11 issued an apology for a remark she made April 7 in a House Elections Committee meeting during which she asked if Asian Americans could adopt names "we could deal with more readily here."

Insulated Windows!
 We replace any window in any type of house with no mess!
100% Financing • 90 Days same as Cash
12 Months No Interest W.A.C.
CUSTOM MADE TO FIT
 • Reduce Noise • Increase Security
 • Save Energy • Block Dust & Pollen
 • Sashes Tilt In For Easy Cleaning
NEEDVILLE CONSTRUCTION
 9105 Main St. • Needville, Texas
1-800-342-7306

Save with DIRECTV today!
150 channels only \$29.99/mo
Plus Free*
HBO STARZ! SHOWTIME
1-888-388-1724
 Satellite Solutions *terms and conditions apply

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.

La Grange Automatic Gates, Inc.
 Havard & Donna Macik, Owners
 • Licensed Electronic Access Company
 • Electric & Solar Powered Gate Openers
 • Residential, Commercial & Industrial Gate Openers
 • Repair, Service & Installation of Most Makes and Models of Gate Openers
 License #D12581
(979) 968-2637

Looking for a good night's sleep?

WHARTON SLEEP CENTER
 Comfortable, non-clinical bedroom settings, helps you feel like you're sleeping at home! All we need is a referral from your doctor and we'll call you to schedule an appointment!
 Don't have a doctor? Call and we'll help you find one!
Treatment for any sleeping disorder including:
 Snoring Unable to sleep Narcolepsy
 Sleep Apnea Daytime Sleepiness Restless Legs Syndrome
 South Texas Medical Clinics, P.A.
 stxmc.com 2100 Regional Medical Drive, Wharton
 979-532-1700
 Not affiliated with Gulf Coast Medical Center

Let's Look Back...
24 YEARS AGO

May 9, 1985
 Rose Fajkus, bride elect of Bill Lobnitz, was honored with a wedding shower on April 27 at 2 p.m. at the home of Becky Hardin in El Campo. Hostesses were Hardin, Judy Merta, Becky Kutae and Theresa Harton...
 Eagle Lake Police Chief Ben Johnson was honored recently with a certificate of appreciation by the Rice Area Memorial Post 8783 Ladies Auxiliary. Chief Johnson made an interesting and valuable program about drug abuse in March...
 Miss Cynthia Renee Balas,

14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Balas of Eagle Lake, has been selected to compete in the Texas Miss Teen Pageant to be held at the Loews Anatole Hotel in Dallas on August 30, 31 and September 1. This pageant is the official statewide finals for the Miss Teen National Pageant to be held in November of 1985...
 Erica Castillo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Domingo Castillo Jr. of Sealy, attended the 1985 USTA Texas State Championships and Open Competition, which was held in Huntsville on

April 13 and 14. In the Open Competition, Erica won first place in solo and first place in two baton in her age group of eight year olds. In the State Championships, Erica advanced to the preliminary rounds and placed fourth in two baton and 6th in Solo. Erica will be attending the 1985 USTA South Central Regionals which will be held in Beaumont on June 8 and 9. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Domingo Castillo Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Montemayor of Eagle Lake...
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Va-

lenta of Eagle Lake are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, DeLeslyn Pearl to Steven Dale Venghaus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Venghaus of Columbus. The couple will exchange vows on June 15 at 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bube-la announce the birth of their fourth child, a son, Michael, born on April 15. He weighed seven pounds 30 ounces and measured 21 inches long...

Colorado County Courthouse Report

Seven Sentenced In County Court
 Seven individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Monday, April 6. They included:
 Bradley S. Emmons, burglary of building. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000, Lubbock probation as COP.
 Ryan Lee Knesek, burglary of habitation. Sentenced to three years ID-TDCJ.
 Sara A. Parker, forgery financial instrument. Probation conditions modified, 15 days in jail, substance abuse evaluation.
 Francisco Juarez Rojas, pos-

session of controlled substance. Probation conditions modified, extended 12 months, SAFFP.
 Gloria Ann Snavely, forgery government instrument/money/securities. Sentenced to six years ID-TDCJ.
 Gloria Ann Snavely, forgery government instrument/money/securities. Sentenced to six years ID-TDCJ.
 Joe Allen Sosa, possession of controlled substance. Sentenced to 24 months state jail.
 Joe Allen Sosa, burglary of habitation. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ.
 Joe Allen Sosa, bail jumping and fail to appear felony. Sentenced to six years ID-TDCJ.
 Kirktrina Wiley, violation of civil rights person in custody, violate sexual. Probation conditions modified, 30 days in jail.

Divorces filed
 Loretta Louise Cameron and David Webster Cameron, April 9.
 Maria F. Osornio and Francisco Javier Osornio, April 14.

Senate Concerned About Transportation Finances

AUSTIN - Texas could soon have no money to build new roads if the Legislature doesn't take action to find new sources of funding, according to warnings from members of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee.
 Committee members gathered Wednesday to highlight the risk they believe the state transportation system faces. "The course we're on will result in no new roads in Texas in the very near future," said Committee Chairman John Carona of Dallas. He and his colleagues fear that state money for new roads could dry up as early as 2012.
 The problem, according to committee Vice-Chair Kirk Watson of Austin, has three main causes. The first is the fact that

the state gas tax, which is a major source of new transportation dollars, has not been raised since 1991, in spite of rising construction and maintenance costs.
 The second cause is diversion from the state's highway fund to pay for other state programs. The final cause, said Watson, is too much debt. "We are literally papering over the problem of not having sufficient funds by resorting to borrowed money and soon that's going to catch up with us," he said. "Frankly, it's just not sustainable and it leaves our future at risk."
 Transportation study during the interim looked at the potential shortfall of transportation funding in Texas through the next decades.
 The balance of Fund 6, the state highway funding source, has decreased from \$3.74 billion in 2004 down to \$2.5 billion today. By 2012, that number is projected to drop to about \$1.7 billion. "The money in the system is just enough to maintain what we have," said committee member Senator Eliot Shipleigh of El Paso. "If we don't provide the revenue options in this session, we will head in that direction by 2012." Annualized though 2030, that leaves Texas with about an \$8 billion annual shortfall in transportation funding.
 Later Wednesday, the Senate gave tentative approval to one plan that Sen. Carona believes

Two Lawsuits In District Court
 Two lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the past week.
 On April 13, Sharina Williams filed suit against Henry Polasek for injuries she said she suffered in a motor vehicle accident on Jan. 11, 2008, with a vehicle driven by Polasek.

Don't Keep Me A Secret
 Please pass my name to anyone you may know who could benefit from my services...
 I could use your help just as many seniors could use mine.
 • Medicare Supplement Insurance
 • Long Term Care Insurance
 • Life Insurance
 • Fixed Annuities
 Jose "Joe" Sanchez
 Licensed Agent
713-775-5036
BANKERS
 LIFE AND CASUALTY COMPANY
 We specialize in seniors
 04-B011

Continued on page 10