

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Texas' Severe Drought Worsens, Draws National Attention

AUSTIN -- In mid-July, Texas AgriLife Extension Service estimated agricultural losses at about \$4 billion. And now, nearly 80 counties are in a state of emergency due to severe drought conditions ruining crops and endangering livestock.

The Wall Street Journal, CNN and other major out-of-state media put Texas' record-high temperatures and record-low rainfall

in front of readers and viewers last week.

Commodity market watchers and economists admitted nervousness over worsening drought conditions in Texas and potential effects nationally.

On July 29, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department water specialist Cindy Loeffler said, "It's not as bad as the drought of record in the 1950s, but if it continues through summer and into

fall, we've got a problem.

What's made this so bad is the record heat.

Unless something miraculous happens, this will be the hottest month in Texas ever, not just the hottest July."

July turned out to be the hottest on record, going back to the 1850s.

Toll 'recovery program' coming

Delinquent toll payers may take advantage of a one-time toll violation "recovery program" approved July 30 at the Texas Transportation Commission's monthly meeting.

The Commission directed the Texas Department of Transportation to develop a program to collect on delinquent toll accounts. The idea is to offer violators a chance to open a TxTag account and pay all tolls accrued in full in exchange for dropping late fees that are owed.

Once the program is finalized, TxDOT will contact those eligible for fee reduction through direct mailings to the home or business

address associated with the vehicle's license plate.

TxDOT said the offer will not apply to violations on non-TxDOT toll roads, such as those operated by the North Texas Tollway Authority, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority or the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

Andrade sets Nov. 3 ballot order

Secretary of State Esperanza "Hope" Andrade on July 28 randomly drew the ballot order for 11 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Election Day is Nov. 3 and Oct. 5 will be the last day to register to vote. The proposed amendments, in brief form, in ballot order:

Prop. 1: To allow the financing of buffer zones adjacent to military installations through local taxes.

Prop. 2: To authorize the Legislature to provide for ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.

Prop. 3: To create uniform

standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

Prop. 4: To establish a national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence.

Prop. 5: To allow the Legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations.

Prop. 6: To authorize the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized.

Prop. 7: To allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.

Prop. 8: To authorize the state to contribute money, property and other resources for the establishment, maintenance and operation of veterans hospitals.

Prop. 9: To protect the right of the public to access and use public

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

Prop. 10: To provide that elected members of governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years.

Prop. 11: To allow the taking of private property via eminent domain for certain public purposes and to limit the Legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain.

AG warns of 'clunkers' scammers

Attorney General Greg Abbott on July 29 said Texans alerted Texans about Web sites offering registration for the federal government's "Cash for Clunkers" program.

Eligible vehicle owners do not need to register or provide personal information in order to participate in the program, he said.

Reliable information about the "Cash for Clunkers" program can be found online at cars.gov.

Congress recently approved the Car Allowance Rebate System program to provide credits of up to \$4,500 to fuel-efficient car buyers who turn in older, gas-guzzling vehicles to be scrapped.

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Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

August 29, 1985

The death of Mrs. V.T. Matthews, who passed away last Thursday morning August 22 at her residence following a long illness, saddened many in the Eagle Lake area.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, August 24 at 10 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, with the Rev. George Welsch officiating.

Burial was in Masonic Cemetery in Eagle Lake...

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Obera Munoz of Eagle Lake and Mablean Bluntson and Monica Pieprzyc, both of Garwood graduated as LVN's at commencement exercises recently held at WCJC...

Tommy C. Tillman, former resident of Eagle Lake was recently promoted to the position of Accounting Specialist I at the Phoenix Branch Loan Service Center Dept. of the Valley National Bank of Arizona...

Sharon Marie Baller, of San

Antonio, became the bride of Mark Krivacka of San Antonio on July 27 at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Edward Kucera officiating...

Looking through the Readers Digest for Sept. we came across the page titled "Life In These United States" and found a little story from a local person. Marsha Priesmeyer of Garwood wrote an anecdote about her daughter and herself and submitted it to Reader's Digest.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending July 16.

Friday, July 3

At 1:55 am, Deputy Lindemann and Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a residence in Garwood in reference to phone harassment. After further investigation, the harassing phone calls stopped and the case was closed.

At 2:55 am, Deputy Thomas and Deputy Zak initiated a traffic stop on IH-10 near the 686 mile marker in Columbus. After further investigation, one subject was arrested and charged with no driver's license and no proof of insurance. Case closed.

Saturday, July 4

At 12:05 am, Deputy Lindemann and Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a residence in Sheridan in reference to a possible alcohol overdose. The victim was transported to the Columbus ER for treatment by EMS. Case closed.

At 2:40 am, Deputy Lindemann and Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to the Rice Medical Center in reference to another possible alcohol or drug overdose that occurred in Sheridan. The victim was treated at the Rice Medical Center. A report was filed and the case is closed.

At 4:15 am, Deputy Thomas and Deputy Zak responded to a residence on Old Hwy 90 east of Columbus in reference to criminal mischief. Case is pending further investigation.

At 5 am, Sgt. Staff responded to the Rice Medical Center in reference to a Peace Officer's Warrant for a mental patient. The patient was transported to the Austin State Hospital for treatment. Case closed.

At 7:45 pm, Deputy Thomas and Deputy Zak responded to a residence in Rock Island in reference to a possible disturbance. On arrival, the incident was determined to be a criminal mischief and criminal trespass. After further investigation, Glen Everett Owers, 38 of Rock Island, was arrested on a warrant for criminal mischief, and John Dustin Henry, 28 of Rock Island, was arrested on a warrant for criminal trespass. Case closed.

Sunday, July 5

At 12:15 am, Deputy Linde-

mann and Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a residence near Cat Spring in reference to a mentally ill subject. On arrival, the subject was turned over to the care of family members. Case closed.

At 7:45 am, Deputy Abbott and Deputy Ortiz responded to CR101 south of Columbus in reference to an allegation of sexual misconduct. After further investigation, one subject was issued a citation for assault. Case closed.

At 1:55 pm, Deputy Abbott responded to the Sheriff's Office in reference to an intoxicated subject in the lobby. After further investigation, one subject was arrested and charged with Public Intoxication. Case closed.

At 8:30 pm, Sgt. Edman responded to the Columbus Police Department in reference to a Peace Officer's Warrant for a mental patient. The patient was transported to the Austin State Hospital for treatment. Case closed.

At 8:50 pm, Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a possible intoxicated subject on FM 109. On arrival, the subject was located near FM 109 at Weido Loop. After further investigation, Joshua Douglas McCoy, 27 of Columbus, was arrested for driving while license invalid enhanced and public intoxication. Case closed.

Monday, July 6

At 2:27 am, Deputy Lindemann and Sgt. Pflughaupt initiated a traffic stop on Union Street in Eagle Lake. After further investigation, one subject was arrested and charged with no driver's license. Case closed.

At 7:20 am, Deputy Hudson responded to the Columbus ER in reference to a dog bite that occurred near Sunset Plaza. The dog owner was located and arrangements were made for rabies quarantine at the Colorado Valley Veterinary Clinic. During the investigation, it was determined that this was the second incident involving the same dog. The dog was determined to be a dangerous dog in compliance with the law and the owner received notice in writing. After the quarantine was completed, the dog was determined to be clear of rabies. Case is pending future compliance with dangerous dog requirements.

At 8:30 am, Deputy Head and

Deputy Blair responded to German Lane near Weimar in reference to unauthorized use of a vehicle. Case is pending further investigation.

Tuesday, July 7

At 11:00 am, Deputy Head and Deputy Blair responded to Pleasant Trail in Alleyton in reference to mailbox damage. Further investigation revealed that someone had driven over the mailboxes with a vehicle after running off the roadway. Case is pending further information.

At 7:57 pm, Sgt. Staff conducted a traffic stop on two subjects riding ATVs on Hwy 90A and 3rd Street in Sheridan. After further investigation, Anthony Ray Mason, 34 of Sheridan, was arrested for endangering a child and another subject was issued multiple citations for violating the law. Case closed.

Wednesday, July 8

At 10 am, Deputy Blair and Deputy Head observed a vehicle on the north feeder road of IH-10 that had been abandoned for approximately 1 week. The vehicle was removed from the location by Delgado's Wrecker Service and stored as abandoned. Case closed.

At 10:19 am, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence on CR 218 near Weimar in reference to a

Continued on back page

Council

Continued from front page

6:30 p.m.

John Young informed the council of a two-inch gap around a manhole on Deer St.

The council also discussed the fact that there is currently no source of water available for use by renters.

Rucka mentioned that the city was installing a water line and was planning to meter the water used.

The money in the airport fund would reimburse the money used from the utility fund to pay for the water.

Water usage would be included in a renter's lease from the hangar.

Following council reports and account payments, the council adjourned.

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