

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

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 : 75¢
 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

Hutchison To Keep Senate Seat Until After GOP Primary

AUSTIN — U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison announced her intention to stay in the race to be the Republican Party of Texas' nominee for governor while continuing to serve in the Senate. In her Nov. 14 address in Houston to the Texas Federation of Republican Women, Hutchison said she would not give up her Senate seat as long as a national health care bill and cap-and-trade energy legislation are on the table.

"I realize this will keep me in the Senate past the primary election," she said. Recent polls show incumbent Gov. Rick Perry leads Hutchison by about 12 points.

Senators question commission head

At a Nov. 10 hearing of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, John Bradley, newly appointed chairman of the Texas Forensic Science Commission and Williamson County district attorney, said the commission had no written policies or rules yet and that guidance from the Legislature is needed.

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, chair of the criminal justice committee and dean of the Senate, asked Bradley if the commission would continue to investigate the arson report that contributed to the Cameron Todd Willingham murder conviction and recent execution.

Bradley, who Gov. Perry brought in as chair when the investigation of the Willingham case already was in progress, said the commission will continue, but he refrained from stating a timetable for doing so.

Whitmire asked Bradley if his role as a district attorney presented a conflict of interest for him.

Bradley said he believed it did not.

Some committee members expressed concern over whether

the commission would conduct its business in an open and transparent way. Bradley responded that confidentiality is critical in the early stages of the investigatory process.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, raised questions over the governor's possible influence over the commission.

Bradley countered with an insinuation that Ellis's position on the national board of directors of the Innocence Project might be a problem.

Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, said he wants the commission to focus on forensic mistakes and prevent "junk science" from entering into the legal process.

New agency absorbs old duties

A new state agency, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, opened Nov. 2.

The "DMV" is taking over certain responsibilities formerly shouldered by the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Department of Public Safety and a few other agencies.

TxDOT will provide services and facilities to the DMV until the agency can stand on its own.

Gov. Rick Perry appointed former car dealer Victor Vandergriff

as chairman of the nine-member board that oversees the agency.

Created last spring by the 81st Texas Legislature, the DMV will have about 650 full-time employees, who will carry out the following responsibilities:

- Vehicle titling and registration;
- License plates;
- Disabled driver placards;
- Vehicle dealer licensing and enforcement;
- Motor carrier operating authority;
- Grants to law enforcement to prevent vehicle theft; and
- Texas Lemon Law assistance.

The Texas Department of Public Safety will continue to issue driver's licenses.

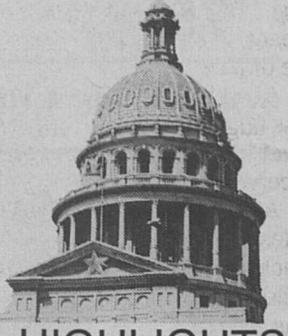
Slower economy cuts into revenue

A tamped down economy has slowed spending enough to result in decreased state sales tax collections.

That might force a downward adjustment in state revenue.

And that, in turn, could mean stopgap measures may be needed to keep government functioning smoothly.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, whose job it is to make revenue estimates and keep the

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
 State Capital

HIGHLIGHTS
 By Ed Sterling

state fiscally on target, suggested that sales tax revenues this holiday shopping season, which extends into the new year, could improve the picture.

Combs is expected to give a new revenue estimate by the end of the month.

Texas still behind on H1N1 doses

Last week the state was set to get 320,000 doses of H1N1 "swine" flu vaccine.

The Texas Department of State Health Services regularly places orders in efforts to get the Lone Star State's current allotment of the vaccine, which is 3.3 million doses.

Texas expects to receive 13 million doses of the vaccine by January.

ANTIQUES
The Nathan Building Antique Mall
"The Store Behind"
 Thursday - Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 107 East Main St. • Eagle Lake, TX 77434
 979-234-5212

ALAMO DRIVING SCHOOL
DEFENSIVE DRIVING
Ticket Dismissal - Insurance Discount
Place: Los Cucos Mexican Cafe
 (211 W. Elm Street - Wharton)
Date: 1st and 3rd Saturday of Each Month
Time: 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 (Registration: 9:15 am to 9:30 am. Must Be On Time!)
 Limited Space (First 50 People) Walk-ins Welcomed!
For reservations call 281-980-7587
 State Approved CO-500-000 CP107

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.

Let's Look Back...

December 12, 1985
Mrs. Birdie May Huff, 73, passed away December 7 in Memorial Hospital Southwest, Houston. Graveside services and burial was Tuesday, December 10 at Lakeside Cemetery with the Rev. Melburn Sibley officiating...

Rudolph George Herman Sr., 87, of Lissie passed away December 3 at his residence. Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, December 6 from Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. E.B. Beasley, officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery...

James Finis Middleton, 81, of Eagle Lake passed away at his residence on December 3. Graveside services and burial were conducted at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 5 at Lake-

side Cemetery under the direction of Dulany Funeral Home. **Rev. Charles Runk** officiated at the services...

Excel Smith, 74, of El Dorado, passed away November 28 in

Houston. Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 2 from Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery...

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kutzer of Sheridan and **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Placke** of Giddings are proud

Gertson To Seek Re-Election

Darrell Gertson, Commissioner of Precinct #4 in Colorado County announces he will seek another term.

Commissioner Gertson is married to Gail and they have raised four daughters and have six grandchildren. He is a fourth generation resident of Colorado County. They are members of the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church. Gertson is active in the Knights of Columbus, The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and is a board member on the Colorado County Fair Association.

He is a graduate of Rice High School and has attended various state and local workshops and

seminars to stay current on issues within the county.

Along with his commissioner duties the court also appointed Commissioner Gertson to serve on the Houston/Galveston Area Council Solid Waste Committee, The Clean Rivers Steering Committee, and The Colorado River Floodplain Coalition. He was instrumental in overseeing the construction of the Emergency Management Services new buildings in Columbus and Eagle Lake.

He looks forward to another term and the opportunity to serve the citizen's of Colorado County as Commissioner of Precinct #4.

to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children **Rebecca** and **Scott**. The couple will exchange vows on Saturday, December 21 at First Baptist Church in Sheridan.



Darrell Gertson

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Two Lawsuits In District Court

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

On Nov. 12, State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Co. filed suit against Alex Thompson, involving claims arising from a Dec. 18, 2007 accident in the 200 block of Veterans Dr. in Columbus.

The suit states that State Farm

insured an automobile owned by Pearlene Waddle which was damaged in the collision. In addition, occupants of the vehicle were also injured. The suit is seeking \$10,051 from Thompson.

In a separate suit filed on Nov. 13, Gene Maxwell, Colby Maxwell and Angela Maxwell, filed suit against Morgan Case Jennings-Smith, involving claims stemming from Nov. 22, 2007 accident in Colorado County.

The states that a relative of the plaintiffs, Joseph Maxwell, died from injuries received in the accident, in which he was a passenger in a vehicle driven by Jennings-Smith.

Divorce Filed

Rodney Louis Mallams and Brenda Ann Mallams, Nov. 17.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cooper Praises RHS Vet Celebration

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to everyone involved in the Rice High School Veteran's Day celebration. You guys made us all proud.

We Veterans understand that you do these things to thank us and we appreciate it more than you could ever know.

But I just want you young people to know, and always remember, that people like us come from people like you and when we see the dedication with which you take up the challenges you face in your lives everyday, it makes us realize that the future is bright and America is still great.

So, we salute you too.

JC Cooper
 Lissie, Texas



Pictured above is Blessing Goodwin unveiling the Fallen Soldier's monument during the Veteran's Day program on Wednesday, November 11 at Rice High School. The bronze monument will be installed at the new flagpole at the Rice School District Altair Campus.

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, Nov. 23
 (including symbol on this entry form and in the Gift Guide Insert)

 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, Nov. 23)
 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)