

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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MEMBER 2009

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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.

Attorney General Defends Texas' Malpractice Law

AUSTIN -- Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has filed a brief with the Texas Supreme Court defending the state's medical malpractice reform law. Abbott filed his brief in a case involving the Methodist Health-care System of San Antonio. Plaintiff Emmalene Rankin sued two physicians and the Methodist Healthcare System, alleging that a surgical sponge was left in her body after an operation more than 11 years ago.

In 2003, the Texas Legislature passed a bill prohibiting medical malpractice suits filed more than ten years after the alleged act of malpractice.

Lawmakers passed the bill in response to a shortage of doctors and the increasing costs of medical malpractice insurance.

The brief explains that Texas sets limits on the time for lawsuits to be filed "because our legal system does not remedy injuries in perpetuity."

The time limit is fair to plaintiffs and to health care providers, the brief states.

Rankin, the plaintiff, argues that the statute violates Texas' Open Courts provision in the state Constitution.

That provision puts no limits on a person's right to sue for redress.

A trial court upheld the state's limiting law, but the Fourth Court of Appeals reversed that decision and struck down the statute.

Insurer slapped for \$310 million

Texas Insurance Commissioner Mike Geeslin ordered State Farm Insurance to refund \$310 million to its Texas home insurance customers for overcharges.

Geeslin said State Farm overcharged its customers for several years dating back to 2003.

State Farm has fought state regulators for years, arguing that

it owes nothing to its customers.

"The commissioner found State Farm Lloyds' rates were excessive and is ordering State Farm Lloyds to pay refunds," Geeslin said.

State Farm can appeal the order, which would delay any repayments.

Texans may get Powerball game

The Texas Lottery Commission has taken steps to bring the Powerball lottery game to the state.

Meeting in Houston, the commission voted to publish its intent in the Texas Register and solicit comments on the plan.

Powerball is available in many states, and its highest payout was \$365 million. Commissioners said that adding Powerball to the Texas lottery's offerings could add \$35 million a year to the state's school fund.

Comments on the proposed rule can be submitted to Pete Wassdorf, Assistant General Counsel, by mail at Texas Lottery Commission, P.O. Box 16630, Austin, Tx., 78761-6630; by fax at (512) 344-5189; by e-mail at legal.input@lottery.state.tx.us; or by visiting the Texas Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org.

The commission will hold a public hearing and accept comments on this proposal at 1 p.m. Dec. 14, at 333 Guadalupe St.,

room 102, Tower III, Austin, Tx., 78701.

Few Latinos in school standards

At a meeting of the State Board of Education, state Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, objected to the lack of Hispanic historical figures required to be taught under a proposed social studies curriculum.

Representing the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, Chavez told the board that the standards do not reflect Hispanic heritage in Texas.

While Latinos make up more than 40 percent of the state's population, only 16 Hispanic historical figures are among the 160 mentioned in the required standards to be adopted for all grades.

Earlier this year, the board considered a recommendation to remove the late farm labor leader Cesar Chavez from the required curriculum for fifth grade social studies.

Chavez is still among the Hispanic figures required in the curriculum.

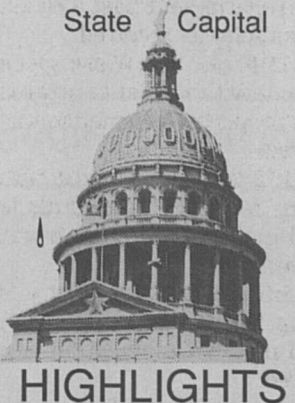
The board is set to vote on the new curriculum standards in January and give its final approval in March.

Mansion expansion criticized

A proposal to add a two-story

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

addition to the Governor's Mansion has lost the support of the Heritage Society of Austin.

The society has led efforts to rebuild the 153-year-old structure damaged in an arson fire in June 2008.

Dealey Herndon, project manager for the restoration, said the addition is needed because the mansion is too small and will lose space in the restoration to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The Heritage Society said altering the building by adding two stories would endanger the historical integrity of the only home in Austin on the list of National Historic Landmarks.

The proposed addition would add 2,000 square feet of living space to the building.

"We would like to see the exterior altered," said Mandy Dealey, president of the society.

El Campo's 22nd Annual

CHRISTMAS MALL

Sponsored by the

El Campo Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

www.elcampochamber.com 979-543-2713

Saturday, Dec. 5

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., El Campo Civic Center

Sunday, Dec. 6

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., El Campo Civic Center

*100 Booths with Arts & Crafts

*Food Available in Food Court in Dusen Room

Admission: Adults, \$2; Children 12-5; \$1; Under school age, FREE

*Entertainment

*Door Prize Drawings Every Hour!

Pictures with Santa

Available at Museum

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

Lighted Christmas Parade

Theme: "Polar Express"

Thurs., Dec. 3rd, 7 p.m.

Downtown El Campo

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.

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. 30

(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, Nov. 30)

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

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

December 19, 1985
Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce elected new board members. They are Jim Wood, Barry Boyette, France Ann Johnson and Tom Reed. They will be taking the place of Wanda Center, Jeff Frnka, Melody Grigar and Jack Herrell...

New cosmetology officers are Shelley Owers, president; Nelva dela Garza, pro-president; Monica Marsalia, vice-president; Barbara Kuykendall, pro-vice-president; Lydia Rodriguez, historian-reporter; Lisa Owers, parliamentarian; Sherry Williams, treasurer; and Nancy Torres, secretary...

Mark Wied, Brad Engstrom and Jimmy Rees of Garwood showed off their mile deer trophies they bought home from West Texas...

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department was called out to 68 fires in 1985...

T.J. Smith attended the Moor-

man Scholarship dinner held at Texas A&M...

Lt. Philip Leopold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Leopold, Jr., competed in the first annual Naha City Marathon in Okinawa. Out of 5,300 runners he finished 1,425 with a time of 4:23:15...

Kevin Hoffman, son of Lisa and Theorry Hoffman celebrated

his 5th birthday. The party had a Mickey Mouse theme...

The Miller sisters and their daughters met in the home of JoAnn Burkhardt...

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dostal held their 9th Annual Christmas Decorating Party on Dec. 8 in their home.

Schiurring To Run For Commissioner

Chriss R. Schiurring has announced his candidacy for the Precinct 4 Colorado County Commissioner position.

Chriss is a lifelong resident of Colorado County and a graduate of Rice High School.

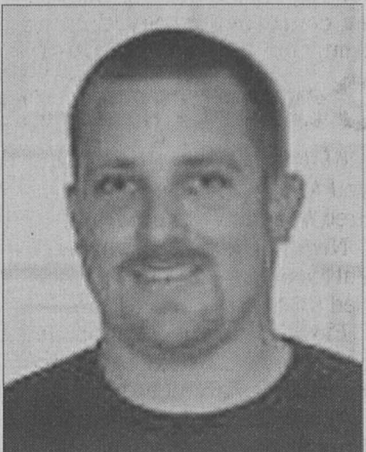
After working in his family's farming operation for many years, he started his landscaping and site work business, Eagle Tree Lawn and Landscape in 2003.

Chriss has served as an alderman on the Eagle Lake City Council for the last four years and has served on the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department

since 2006. He was a two-time Board member of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and is an active volunteer with other civic organizations.

He and his wife, Courtney Riedel Schiurring, are members of the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church and reside in Eagle Lake.

With experience in road construction, drainage, personnel management and equipment maintenance, Chriss Schiurring would appreciate your vote in May 2010, for Colorado County Precinct 4 Commissioner.



Chriss R. Schiurring

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Sixteen Indicted By Grand Jury

Sixteen indictments were handed down by the Colorado County grand jury on Thursday, Nov. 19.

--Jamar Glenn, 17, of Weimar, theft of a firearm on Oct. 27, involving receiving a stolen firearm.

--Cassius D. Johnson, 19, of Weimar, unlawful transfer of a handgun to a person under 18 years old on Oct. 27.

--James R. Plummer II, 18, theft of a firearm on Oct. 25 involving the receiving of a stolen firearm.

--Samuel A. Winkler, 17, theft of a firearm on Oct. 27.

--Carolyn E. Brooks, 52, of

Weimar, evading arrest on Oct. 22.

--Mary J. Buchanan, 50, of Weimar, DWI and assault on a public servant on Sept. 30.

--Florence Z. Cuellar, 42, of San Antonio, possession of marijuana on Oct. 28, five to 50 pounds.

--Rosalina Doll, 39, of San Antonio, possession of marijuana on Oct. 28, five to 50 pounds.

--Allen D. Greeley, 45, of Glidden, possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, 1 to 4 grams on Oct. 13.

--Christopher L. Machart, 26, of Sheridan, possession of a prohibited substance at a correction facility on Oct. 16.

--Taylor O. Nunn, 24, of Co-

lumbus, assault family violence, on Oct. 14.

--Richard A. Pulido, 56, of Glidden, DWI on Oct. 4.

--Oscar M. Ramirez, 26, of Houston, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on Oct. 11.

--Miguel Ramiro, 39, of Flatonia, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on Oct. 11.

--Alma T. Saenz, 55, of San Diego, Tx., possession of a prohibited substance in the Colorado County Jail.

--David E. Scott, 44, of Weimar, evading arrest on Oct. 23 and debit card abuse on Oct. 9.

Nineteen Sentenced In County Court

Nineteen individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, Nov. 18. They included:

Travis D. Brown, assault causing bodily injury family member. Sentenced to 180 days in jail.

Monica Bryant, theft/stolen property. Fined 100 plus court costs.

Jose DeJesus Contreras, purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs.

Dennis Delapaz, terroristic threat. Sentenced to 20 days in jail.

Jared Baldwin Kaloostian, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication,

Continued on page 3

Letters to Santa

Hey Kids, Write Santa a Letter!

The Eagle Lake Headlight wants to print your letter to Santa in its Christmas issue.

All letters received by December 11 will be printed.

Include your FULL NAME, your AGE and ADDRESS.

Dear Santa,

Mail or bring your letter to the Eagle Lake Headlight Office no later than December 11.

There is a mail slot if you would like to use it.