Opinion

This opinion page is meant to be a sharing of ideas, not just the writer's views. It's objective is to stimulate thoughts of readers about the positive aspects of the Eagle Lake/Colorado County Community.

Education reform bill approved, final vote postponed

A conference committee last week approved the education reform bill but postponed sending it back for a final vote so that the House could first hammer out a tax bill.

Meanwhile, generally mild-mannered Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby criticized the state's largest teacher group for failing to support the reform bill, and said the Texas State Teachers Association was finished as the major voice for teachers.

The education bill must be funded with the tax bill, and will likely come out of the legislative chute at about the same time. Like comedy, legislation depends on timing.

The House, which originates all tax bills, has insisted that the education bill proceed first . . .and it has. But with senators controlling the conference committee, they are now holding while the House brings up the tax bill from behind, urging that it be debated on both floors in front of the reform bill. While it may seem like a cat-and-mouse game between factions who differ on reform and how much they want to raise taxes to pay for it, it's also important to coordinate activities to prevent a busted play. With time running out on the 30-day deadline, one misstep could necessitate another special session to wrap up the package, and who knows where that could lead.

Teachers protest

Tempers flared Wednesday when leaders of the Texas State Teachers Association concluded they did not approve of the education reform bill and tried to derail it.

They denounced it in a press statement that compared teachers to dogs who were "being stumbled over and kicked."

The tactic angered Hobby, who reportedly banned them temporarily from his office. But TSTA leaders insisted they couldn't support the bill because it enforces competency tests for teachers and provides for too small raises.

Surprisingly, the bill is supported by another teacher group which has taken more radical stands, the Texas Federation of Teachers-AFL-CIO.

Salaries, merit raises

Acknowledging that the bill contained only half a loaf, their president said he didn't understand why teachers should throw almost $900 million in raises in the face of the Legislature with righteous indignation.

In conference committee the bill would increase starting salaries from $11,100 to $15,200 a year, while the top grade salaries would go from $21,500 to $26,600.

Up to 30 percent of the 140,000 Texas teachers can receive a maximum $2,000 in bonuses next year for exceptional work.

Higher drinking age

When the U.S. Congress voted last week to withhold highway construction funds from states that refuse to raise the minimum drinking age to 21, it hit the Texas Legislature in the pocketbook.

Lost among the hubbub of this special session on education is the effect that federal action will have on the coming regular session.

Texas must raise the legal age by late 1986, or stand to lose $33 million in fiscal year 1986 and more than double that the next year.

Hurting for revenues as badly as it is, the Legislature will be under heavy pressure to comply rather than lose money.

Mattox, railroad panel

Embattled Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox seems to be in new trouble every time he turns around.

Last week it was reported he angered officials at the Texas Railroad Commission by intervening in a federal oil and gas regulatory case.

The case involves two of Mattox's campaign contributors who are facing regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Mattox intervened saying it was up to the Texas Railroad Commission to regulate production in Texas.

Railroad commissioners Mack Wallace, Buddy Temple and Jim Nugent in a letter in March asked Mattox not to interfere because it might prejudice a pending RRC case involving the same two contributors.

But Comptroller Bob Bullock also wrote Mattox that if the feds prevailed, the state could lose as much as $18 million a year in lost severance tax revenue and recommended he intervene, a Mattox aide said. The dispute involves production of "white oil."

5,000 vet loans

Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro presented a certificate to an El Pasoan and made him the 5,000th Texas veteran to get a home loan through the Texas Veterans Housing Authority.

Mauro, who pushed for passage of the constitutional amendment, recently completed another bond sale to finance the loan program.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Names and addresses of your U.S. & Texas Representatives

Kent Caperton, State Senator, District 4, P. O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711.

Robert M. Saunders, Texas House of Representatives, District 30, P. O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78769-2910.

Lisbon Ley - Golf Lewis, Speaker of the Texas House, P. O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78769-2910.

Senator John Tower, 142 Russell Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 or 1100 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75242.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, S.R. 703, Washington, D.C. 20510.

U.S. Rep. Bill Patman, 14th District, Texas, 242 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

48 Years Ago

Let's Look Back

The Nada community grieves the death of Mrs. Wilhelmia Krenek Saturday morning. Lee Barnette and Donald Arnold, local boys under the dozen year age, Saturday captured three and a half foot alligator.

W. F. Wagner, well known farmer and pioneer citizen, died suddenly Tuesday. Bobbie Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Griff Thomas, Jr., has returned home from Houston where he underwent a nasal operation.

The pretty yard of Mrs. Hayes Stephens scored high and she was awarded first prize in the "Pretty Yards Contest" sponsored by the Eagle Lake Garden Club and the Rotary Club.

Duck stamp a bonus for waterfowl resource

When conscientious Texas waterfowlers start gathering up their gear for this fall's hunting seasons, they won't forget to purchase the two most important items of all — waterfowl stamps.

The state and federal stamps are important not only because they are required by law, but they also give hunters an opportunity to directly benefit the sport they cherish.

This year, a federal "duck stamp" will cost hunters $7.50. The state waterfowl stamp costs $5. Although routes the money takes after purchase differ, both programs enrich the waterfowl picture for all hunters through habitat acquisition and a host of other wetlands-oriented conservation programs.

Federal officials this year are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the federal duck stamp program, which so far has generated some $285 million to help preserve 3.5 million acres of waterfowl habitat. The federal stamps may be purchased beginning July 2 at most post offices, national wildlife refuges, or by mail from the U.S. Postal Service, Philatelic Sales Division, Washington, D.C. 20265-9997. (Send $8 to cover postage and handling)

The Texas waterfowl stamp program is a fledgling operation compared to the federal stamp, being in its fourth year. However, during this relatively brief period, sales of stamps and art prints have brought $2.9 million to the department for waterfowl research, management, protection and habitat acquisition and development in Texas.

State waterfowl stamps for 1984-85 are now being prepared and will be available from hunting license outlets and department offices by early August.

Art print reproductions of the stamp may be ordered from Collectors Covey, P.O. Box 57306, Dallas, TX 75207, (214) 630-4981.

Commission to hear arguments in United Parcel Service case

The Railroad Commission has agreed to hear oral arguments by United Parcel Service and companies opposed to UPS' application for authority to transport packages from point to point within the state. The Commissioners will hear arguments by both sides at 2 p.m. on July 9 at the Railroad Commission headquarters in Austin.

The request was filed with the Commission's Transportation Division after the hearings examiner in the case recommended the Commission deny the UPS application. That recommendation was delivered to the commissioners during their regular weekly conference on Transportation Division matters held June 18.

In granting oral argument, the Commission allotted one hour to each side for its presentation. The United States Postal Service was given 5 minutes to respond to any arguments made by the parties in the case about the quality of service provided by USPS.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

DISTRICT COURT SUITS FILED

Montgomery Ward & Co. vs. Shirley Barten, suit-on-account; 6-25-84.

Roy Arnold Cox vs. Regina Marie Cox, divorce; 6-26-84.

Brad Peikert vs. Theresa Peikert, divorce; 6-27-84.

Dennis Donaldson vs. George R. Taylor and Buddy Daley, individually and doing business as Buddy's Wrecker Service, damages; 6-29-84.

Joyce Marie Thomas vs. Marvin Donell Thomas, divorce; 6-28-84.

Wilburn Leppin Et. Ux. vs. Robert J. Heinrich, damages; 6-28-84.

Connie Manor vs. Gary P. Manor, divorce; 6-29-84.

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED

Patrick Allen Pavlu, 21, of Garwood and Suzanne Jane Fajkus, 18, of Eagle Lake; 6-22-84.

Manuel Stephen Ebarra, 18, of Eagle Lake and Joyce Ann Cardenas, 16, of Eagle Lake; 6-29-84.

Jesse P. Yanez, 35, of Eagle Lake and Martha Delia Ramirez, 21, of Eagle Lake; 6-29-84.

Fred Curtis Rogers, 46, of Austin and Vivian Francis Williams,45, of Lincoln; 6-28-84.

DeWayne Ray Dvorak, 28, of New Ulm and Adeline Rose Wostarek, 21, of Fayetteville; 6-26-84.

Robert Charles Waddle, 22, of Columbus and Kathy Wilson, 24, of Columbus; 6-27 -84.

Local instructor to begin session for aerobic dancing

Cathy Keuneke, Eagle Lake instructor for Jacki Sorensen's Aerobic Dancing, will begin the summer session, named "Strive", on July 10 at the Community Center.

Jacki Sorensen's Aerobic Dancing is a complete physical fitness program of easy-to-learn dances designed to condition and tone the entire body. Classes meet for one hour twice a week. Cathy, a certified instructor, will lead her students in flexibility and warmup routines, aerobic dances, and a cooldown routine. Heart rates are taken after each aerobic dance routine so that students can individually pace themselves.

For more information about the original Aerobic Dancing program, call 335-6594.

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Colorado County Sheriff's Report

By Jim Broussard

Phones
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The 4th of July holiday is here again, and the Sheriff's Department encourages everyone to use extreme caution. There will be many people on the road and people should be extra careful. If you are going to be driving and you have an alcoholic beverage to drink, let someone not drinking do the driving. The Sheriff's office hopes that everyone will have an enjoyable holiday and free of accidents.

6-25-84: Assisted at the scene of a disturbance in Weimar. Arrested one for disorderly conduct. Assisted at the scene of a possible burglary in Weimar. Removed livestock from the roadway on 1693. Had JP court. Checked on a disturbance in the Bernardo area. Issued seven traffic citations and served four civil citations.

6-26-84: Assisted a stranded motorist on 155. Removed livestock from the roadway in the Borden area. Investigated a theft of gas east of Columbus. Issued 10 traffic citations and served five civil citations.

6-27-84: Removed livestock from the roadway on 71 South. Responded to a burglar alarm activating in Columbus. Issued seven traffic citations and served three civil citations.

6-28-84: Assisted at the scene of an inquest in Columbus. Assisted with a funeral procession in Columbus. Checked on a burglar alarm activating in Columbus. Issued nine traffic citations and served four civil citations.

6-29-84: Assisted with the arrest of a juvenile for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Assisted a stranded motorist on 1693. Assisted the Columbus police with a disturbance call. Arrested one for hot checks. Checked on a burglar alarm activating in Columbus. Assisted at the scene of an accident in Alleyton. Assisted at the scene of an accident on IH-10. Checked on a suspicious subject on 1093. Issued five traffic citations and served four civil citations.

6-30-84: Assisted the Eagle Lake police at the scene of an accident. Checked on a suspicious vehicle in Garwood. Assisted with a funeral procession in Sheridan.

7-1-84: Checked on a theft in New Ulm. Assisted a stranded motorist near Glidden. Issued two traffic citations.

Bobby Johnson speaks at Pilot Club meeting

Wednesday, June 13, was the date for the monthly business meeting of the Eagle Lake Pilot Club. The minutes and treasurer's report was presented. Additional Standing Rules were introduced, voted and approved by the members. The highlight of the hour was the presentation of name tags to officers and directors, by President Nancy Lang.

Bobby Johnson spoke at the club's program meeting June 27. Bobby is secretary of Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps.

She presented eight points as to how citizens can help in an emergency:

(1) What is an emergency? An emergency is anything that you can't handle.

(2) What do I do when I decide that I can't handle the situation? Call for help!

(3) Where do I call? Call 234-5311. This is the ambulance phone at the hospital.

(4) What do I tell them? Give your name, street address (or directions), a phone number where you can be reached, and the nature of the emergency.

(5) How long do I have to wait for the ambulance? As soon as the hospital gets all the necessary information, they will dispatch the ambulance through pagers. The ambulance will be there within a few minutes.

(6) What do I do until the ambulance arrives? Remain calm; be sure that the entry is not locked or blocked, and reassure the patient that help is on the way.

(7) What do I do when the ambulance arrives? Do exactly as the attendants direct.

(8) How can I better prepare myself to handle an emergency? Knowledge is the best preparation. One way to be prepared is to attend the CPR Course, July 11 and 12 at the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps hall. Call Bobby Johnson at 234-2773 to register. Minimal charge for supplies.

The 63rd Convention of Pilot Club International will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada July 22-26. Representing Eagle Lake as a delegate to the annual convention will be Nancy Lang.

Pilot International is one of five worldwide classified civic-service organizations for executive and professional women with an approximate membership of 21,000

Hearing set for county to consider coal slurry pipeline

The Railroad Commission has scheduled a hearing in Colorado County, July 24 to consider the route of a coal slurry pipeline proposed by Energy Transportation Systems Inc.

The only issue to be considered at local hearings is the effect of the proposed pipeline route through the county and adjacent counties.

According to state law, the Railroad Commission must grant a certificate of public convenience and necessity to ETSI before the pipeline can be built. ETSI must prove that the coal slurry pipeline will be able to move coal at least as "economically and efficiently" as current methods. These economic issues will be addressed at a hearing to be held later in Austin. Requests to move the proposed pipeline route will not be considered at the Austin hearing.

The exact time and place for the Colorado County hearing will be set at a later date and notice will be published.

Hearings already were held for the following counties: Lamb, Castro, Potter, Randall, Carson, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Hemphill, Roberts, Ochiltree, Wilbarger, Wichita, Archer, Young, Jack, Palo Pinto, Hood and Somervell.

Counties that have upcoming hearings include; McLennan, Bosque, Bell and Milam on July 10 in Waco; Bexar, Wilson and Guadalupe on July 17 in San Antonio; Fayette, Lee, Gonzales and **Colorado July 24** in La Grange; Fort Bend, Austin, Brazoria and Harris on July 31 in Richmond; and Liberty, Jefferson and Orange on August 7 in Beaumont.

The Commission directed ETSI to supply specific information regarding the proposed route of the pipeline through each of the 36 affected counties which was compiled in April. ETSI also has been directed to supply additional technical information, such as engineering specifications and drawings. All of this information was sent to the Commission and county judges in each affected county.

Interested persons may still file a motion to intervene in the ETSI proceeding. Commission hearing examiners would then determine whether to grant party status.

Party status will generally be given to existing coal transporters in the state, landowners whose property will be crossed by the proposed pipeline, labor unions that represent employees of existing transporters of coal, and state agencies affected by the proposed project.

Before the start of the local hearing, members of the public who are not parties will be allowed to make comments concerning the proposed pipeline.

According to ETSI, its $3 billion Coal Slurry Pipeline Project is planned to begin in Wyoming and traverse Texas with a total length of some 1,800 miles. About 950 miles of the pipeline would be in Texas. Coal from the pipeline would be used by utilities in generating electricity.

ETSI filed its application with the Railroad Commission last December.

CPR course offered July 11, 12

A CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resusitation) course including obstructed airways will be offered on July 11 and 12 (Wednesday and Thursday) at the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps Hall (above the Police Station). The course is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

If you are interested in taking the course please call Bobby Johnson 234-2373 so that adequate supplies and instructors will be on hand.

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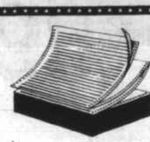

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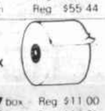

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