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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.

Special session called to raise taxes

Legislators are scheduled to convene in Austin this week to consider raising taxes to pay for increased teacher salaries and highway construction.

Governor Mark White called the special session as he promised he would a year ago, to also consider

passage of a public education reform package put together by Texans serving on his select committee.

Many legislators have expressed a reluctance to raise taxes right now, particularly the sales tax which White wants increased by a penny.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Preliminary head-counting had a few folks wondering if White could muster the necessary votes to pass his program.

But the uniqueness of a Texas special session is this: the governor calls lawmakers back to Austin and only he sets the specific agenda of topics that they can consider. He can reward legislators by adding their pet issues to the agenda.

Many legislators do not like special sessions, one reason being they generally lose money if the session drags on. The meager compensation they receive in return for leaving their businesses and jobs back home is not a personal incentive to some.

And although special sessions are allowed up to 30 days, generally they are much shorter because of the concentrated agenda, and an underlying attitude to get things over and go home.

Governors feel they have the votes, or are close to mastering the votes, before they issue the call.

Limited reform

And governors have the power to hold lawmakers' feet to the fire by calling several sessions in a row. Under these conditions, few legislators are strong enough to deny a governor what he wants, although they can limit what he gets.

The House leadership weeks ago signaled White they will not write a tax bill to pay for all the education reforms he wants.

Their strategy is, as indicated, to hold up passage

of a tax bill until the education reform package bill is signed by the governor. This way, they can closer estimate how much tax to raise, and they can avoid giving any one individual or special interest a blank check to spend.

Other players in the political drama include Dallas multimillionaire H. Ross Perot, who headed the select committee which drafted the reforms, and Texas Comptroller Bob Bullock.

Low-level waste

One issue lawmakers will face in regular session in January is creation of a low-level nuclear waste dump to handle waste generated in hospitals, laboratories, etc.

But a poll released last week indicates most Texans are opposed to such a dump, at least in their home county.

Across the state, 71 percent opposed putting the low-level buried site in their county. In West Texas, opposition ran higher at 80 percent based on a fear of contamination of the environment.

Currently, low-level waste is buried at only three sites in the nation, none in Texas. But beginning in 1986, those sites can refuse to accept waste from other states, leaving Texas and others to scurry around looking for their own dump sites.

After 25 years in state government, I believe we could do a better job of managing our money with

annual sessions, at least so we could write one-year budgets," he said.

Bullock told Rotarians in El Paso that he thought the Legislature would limit the tax increase to not more than \$2 billion, less than half of what White wants.

Primary endorsed

On the election front, Texas Democratic Party chairman Bob Slagle reversed his opinion and said he now favors a single national primary to elect a president.

Slagle caught a good number of suggestions and flak on Texas caucus system from members of his party.

Slagle was the defender and apologist for the caucus system, but rather than face a prolonged bloodletting among Democrats over the issue, he will support the changes.

On Democratic unity, Slagle said, "Our candidates act like a bunch of alley cats. And when they're done beating up each other, we'll be running a scared-up guy against a president, who's done nothing but smile at himself in the mirror for months."

Hunting leases

Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said his staff is looking at raising more revenue for Texas school state lands for hunting leases.

Mauro said his office would implement enhanced wildlife and game management plans, as well as soil conservation and revegetation projects.

Two weeks ago, Mauro was given the Texas Natural Resources Award from the Texas Wildlife Society for his work in protecting the environment.

After the festivities, many in the audience waited in line to shake Fitzgerald's hand. The large button and ribbon Fitzgerald is wearing was given to him by master of ceremonies Bill Carpenter so the veteran teacher would have pleasant memories of their constant discussion about premium courses and which students should be required to take them.

125 takes top honors in Rec Center tournament

Two men from Houston took top honors this past weekend in the Eagle Lake Recreation Center's two-man scramble that attracted 48 teams, according to Glen Sunderman, tournament chairman. The team of Jim Duff and Billy Northcutt scored 125 to win.

A.J. Arrington of Deer Park and Ken Minter of Houston won the first

flight with a combined score of 124; Johnny Pott and Tommy Strange were second flight winners with a 131; Horace Queen and Rex N. Smuts both of Houston scored a 135 to



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win the third flight, and the team of Charlie Smith and Kent Smith both of Belleville were fourth flight winners with a 155.

Among prizes awarded, the ladies golf association there awarded \$50 on Saturday and another \$50 on Sunday to the player laying his drive closest to the hole on the course's par 9 number 5. Joe Burttichell took the cash on Saturday after his shot landed six feet from the pin. Tommy Bell of Edna won the money Sunday, landing 10' 3" away.

Scores of the first place and other players, in order of placement, were:

Championship flight: Jim Duff-Billy Northcutt, 58-67-125; Roger Milican-Jeff Whitzell, 63-63-126; Bill Burttichell-Tom Mance, 63-64-127; Gary Sellars-Conrad Brossard, 63-66-129, and Charles Ford-Kevin Krampke, 69-64-130.

First flight: A.J. Arrington-Ken Minter, 62-62-124; Richard Domel-James L. Syptak, 66-60-126; Bobby Bell-T. Bell, 67-63-130; Jerry Goen-Howard Wilcoxlin, 65-67-132; Charles E. 69-133; Bob Ashby-Dr. Curtis, 68-68-136; Burttichell, 70-68-138, and Dale Dixon-Jim Dixon, 71-72-143.

Second flight: Johnny Pott-Tommy Strange, 67-64-131; Leo Barton-Randy Rehm, 65-65-133; Jim King-Steve Beller, 69-64-133; Gus Seaholm-Glen Sunderman, 65-69-134; John Mumme-David Marek, 67-66-135; Jimmy Davis-Bob Remkes, 69-66-135; Bob Artis-Wiese, 70-68-138; Kenneth Land-Randy McEcheron, 69-64-131; Jerry Humphries-Randy Knight, 69-74-143; David Townsend-Stephen Turnbull, 73-72-145.

Third flight: Horace Queen-Rex N. Smuts, 69-66-135; Chuck Graf-Bob Stratman, 68-70-138; E.F. Frnka-Ernie Frnka, Jr., 72-67-139; Gordon Hickman-Jim Scherdin, 70-70-140; Randy G. Blackman-Drew E. Murray, 77-81-156.

Fourth flight: Charlie Smith-Kent Smith, 68-67-135; Pinto Broschert-Webb, 68-68-136; Jerry Bassham-Anthony Burns, 73-67-140; Russell Spallinger-Kent Turner, 74-68-142; W. Jackson-Aubrey Mires, 73-72-145; Roy McDonald-Steve Shaddock, 69-78-147; Dave Carpenter-G. Dea Carpenter, 74-75-149; Mackie Caves-Gary Parrish, 72-79-151; Edd Pettit-Austin Gregg-Bill Watson, 75-78-153; Bob Haynie-Allen Shaddock, 75-79-154; Kockwep-Sommerlatte, 80-76-156; Dale Smith-Harold Williams, 87-80-157; Wayne Bowen-Randy Epps, 77-81-158.

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1944 - 1984

German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, in speaking to an aide about the expected Allied invasion, said, "The first 24 hours will be decisive... for the Allies as well as Germany, it will be the longest day."

At fifteen minutes past midnight on June 6, 1944, American and British paratroopers jumped into the night skies over Normandy.

The longest day had begun

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by Dale Cassady



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24 Years Ago **Let's Look Back**

[May 12, 1960] Eagle Lake high school golfers won second place in state interscholastic League competition in Austin. The local golfers, Curtis Laughlin, Gerry Clipson, Mike Cheatham, and Eddie Wiese, coached by Ben W. Cobb, posted a total of 676 strokes in the meet only 5 strokes behind first place winner, Edna. Curtis Laughlin also won medalist honors in the state meet.

[May 19, 1960] Carol Beseda named band drum major for the year 1960-61 at Eagle Lake high school. Feature twirler will be Miss Suzanne Powers; and twirlers, Barbara Boggess, Sue Matthews, Dianne Gum, Lana Tate, Cindy Thomas, and Terry Dannels.

[May 29, 1960] American Legion swimming pool officially opens the 1960 summer swimming session at 2 p.m. May 29 and Bobby Meitzner will be manager of the pool.

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It was "This Is Your Life" Saturday night for retiring Rice High School ag teacher, Professor Willie L. Fitzgerald. Helping him remember highlights of his career are from left, Fred McClure of Austin, former E. H. Henry High School principal, John R. Powell of Prairie View, retired from Prairie View A&M where he was head teacher trainer in vocational agriculture; A. C. Banks of Garwood, former student; Martin Williams, former ag teacher who is now counselor at Columbus High and a neighbor of the Fitzgerald family, and Belvin Mann of Eagle Lake, who was water superintendent here in 1956 and helped get the water to the student farm. Others who participated in that part of the program but are not pictured are James Jackson, retired 70-ag teacher from Brookshire Royal school district who now lives in La Grange, and Gene Smith of Eagle Lake, a former student who presented the Prof with a rather large paddle.



Fitzgerald got in the final words Saturday night, just after Ronel Roberts, Finest Axel, Obie Rhodes and Clifton Glover presented the Prof with a new pickup truck.



Dwight Rhodes, former Rice Student who now has a masters degree in agriculture and works at Prairie View A&M's large goat center, delivered remarks before giving Dorothy Fitzgerald a watch.

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