

MEMBER Texas Press Association

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Will a second special legislative session be called?

The Legislature last week continued its stalemate over House and Senate plans to revitalize a shrinking state budget, and lawmakers expected to carry on in a second 30-day special session throughout September.

Gov. Mark White, on a collision course with the House with his plan to raise the state sales tax, told House Speaker Gib Lewis that unless House members softened, they could expect him to keep them in Austin another month.

Meanwhile, the House showed the first signs of cracking under immense pressure to raise taxes, when two conservatives, Bill Hollowell, D-Grand Saline, and Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, agreed to carry a bill raising the sales tax by seven-eighths cents.

Last week, senators passed and sent to the house their bill to cut only \$418 million, and with it went an ultimatum from Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Hobby predicted the Senate, in the end, would reject all cuts unless a tax bill was enacted.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams

The House at first quickly rejected the Senate cuts, sending the issue to a conference committee where lawmakers saw little hope of a compromise before adjournment September 4.

But by the end of the week, Hollowell, a multi-term Democrat who might easily win an in-house contest for "Most Conservative State Representative," agreed to carry a tax hike. He was joined by Speaker Pro Tem Berlanga, and pro-tax legislators took hope.



The crucial House leadership, Speaker Gib Lewis and Ways and Means chairman Stan Schlueter, still vowed to stop a tax bill. Quietly, the House agreed to adjust some cuts, particularly those made to higher education. The Senate

also wants to leave funds intact for court-ordered repairs in prison and mental health facilities.

'Simple slam dunk'
The House followed suit to permit branch and interstate banking for the first time in Texas, a quick action that sponsor Rep. Bruce Gibson, D-Groesbeck, called "a simple slam dunk." The bill went to the governor's desk for signing.

The moving force behind the bill was the closing of 15 Texas banks this year. Proponents want out-of-state banks to infuse Texas with new cash opponents fear they could drain more cash from Texas.

The House version removed the Senate's restriction to limit it to two metropolitan counties. Also, the House added a new bank holiday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

The bill allows out-of-state banks to buy existing banks in Texas, but not create new ones. No non-Texas savings and loan can buy a Texas

bank. Every bank in Texas will be required to have a majority of Texans on its board of directors.

Two controversial provisions: no out-of-state bank can accumulate more than 25 percent of all Texas bank deposits under its control, opposed by some as too lenient, and the door is open to banks in all other states.

The branch banking bill is expected to be on the November 1986 ballot for voter approval.

Parimutuel, lottery advance
The Legislature last week stood poised to pass legalized betting at home and dog tracks and setting up a state lottery similar to those in 22 other states.

The House tentatively passed the parimutuel betting bill, already approved in the Senate. And the Senate gave tentative passage to the lottery bill.

The House also nodded ahead a bill eliminating a 5-cent per-gallon tax credit for gasoline not made in Texas. The move would add \$13.4 million to the state's general revenues but not harm the gasoline industry here.

'Hell freezes over'
When Texas Democratic Party chairman Bob Slagle recently blasted former GOP Gov. Bill Clements for not selling his shares in a drilling company doing business in Libya, many understood he was trying to help the Democrat, Gov. Mark White.

Then a few days later, a look at the list of stockholders for Schlumberger, Inc., revealed the name of former Secretary of State John Fainter, one of Gov. Mark White's top operatives and closest friends.

Slagle, who should never be accused of faint-heartedness, refused to back off his statement; that Clements must show those shares and stop giving aid and comfort to an unfriendly nation.

In fact, he told one audience he would apologize to Clements when he would get clear of the tracks. Run toward the train to avoid flying debris, staying clear of the tracks.

7. Always stop for flashing lights bells and gates: It is the law, if for some reason the lights are flashing and no trains are in sight, stop and look both ways, then proceed when you are sure the route is clear.

8. Keep alcohol, distractions and fatigue out of your car. They are factors in a large percentage of crossing accidents.

9. When approaching a crossing, look, listen and live.

Other action

The Senate also approved additional benefits to boost early retirement by state employees, while the House advanced the Senate bill to retract a three percent pay raise for state employees starting next month.

Tips on railroad safety at crossings

In 1985, 55 percent of train-car accidents occurred at crossings with signals; 62% involved automobiles; 60% happened in daylight hours; 72% occurred in clear weather; 71% involved train speeds of less than 30 miles per hour; 93% happened when the driver's view was unobstructed, and 27% involved vehicles running into trains. There were 43 people killed and 253 injured.

1. Never race a train to a crossing, even if it is a tie you lose.

2. Any time could be train time. In fact, today's rail traffic runs on flexible schedules.

3. Be sure all tracks are clear before you proceed and there may be two or more sets of tracks, and one train could be blocking the view of another.

4. Be more alert at night or in bad weather. Watch for advance warning signals, and slow down.

5. Don't get boxed in. That trap can be a death trap if you stop in heavy traffic with cars in front and behind you.

6. Never stop on tracks. Abandon

your car if it stalls on tracks. Get out quickly and get clear of the tracks.

7. Always stop for flashing lights bells and gates: It is the law, if for some reason the lights are flashing and no trains are in sight, stop and look both ways, then proceed when you are sure the route is clear.

8. Keep alcohol, distractions and fatigue out of your car. They are factors in a large percentage of crossing accidents.

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Student Headlight subscriptions half-price

Subscriptions of the Eagle Lake Headlight sent to students away at school have been reduced to half price for the next two weeks. Regularly \$9, the 9-month subscription now can be purchased for just \$4.50, plus state tax. A coupon in the advertisement on Page Five of this issue makes ordering easy.

Project Literacy promoted

County judge Lester Crane, below, signed a proclamation last week proclaiming Sept. 7-13 as Literacy Week in Colorado County. The proclamation urged all citizens to become involved in the effort to recruit students and tutors, and to raise funds for this important program. Pictured from left are Mrs. Margo Harrison, Eagle Lake tutor; Mrs. Beverly Gindler, tutor and council member from Weimar; Mrs. Patti Woolley-Price, Nesbitt Memorial Library librarian; Mrs. Rose Lange, Eagle Lake tutor; Crane; Rev. Carl Evans, chairman of the Colorado County Literacy Council; Mrs. Sarah Uzzi, tutor, tutor trainer, director and volunteer coordinator of the county literacy council; and Mrs. Christine Mize, Weimar tutor. The tutors, all volunteers, are trained by Laubach Literacy Action, a national literacy organization. They work with students one-on-one, usually meeting twice weekly for about 90 minutes per session. The program is free and depends on donations for support. Project Literacy U.S. (P.L.U.S.) also is being promoted through churches, with Sunday, Sept. 7, designated Literacy Sunday. Several programs on national television networks are scheduled next week as well. "Adult literacy is a serious national, state and local problem, and a tragedy for those involved," the proclamation reads. It said that one out of five Texans cannot read or write at a level enabling them to cope in society, and that 58 percent of the adults over age 25 in Colorado County have less than a high school education.

City Council...

Continued from Page One

28, 792; Strickland, 23, 1225; Heritage, 20, 792, and Golf Course Road, 19, 528.

The list is in priority order. Should the funds be expended before all work is completed, the streets at the bottom of the list will be deleted.

In other business, council: •Set Tuesday, Sept. 2, for an evening budget work session. City manager Robert Klockman said one fact he discovered is that communities in Texas with populations from 3,000 to 5,000 have an average tax rate of about 39 cents. The Eagle Lake rate that probably will be adopted is about 31 cents.

•Decided to move the beacon at the airport to a city alley right of way, rather than purchase a new one. The move will make room for airport hangar development planned by Dan Canuto.

•Renewed the city contract with long-time city financial advisors Maroney and Beissner of Houston; •Sold some city easement to Harry Supak.

•Appointed Tom Reed to chair a survey effort to gather information that can be used should the city decide to apply for a comprehensive planning grant.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES
Jerry Lloyd Koss, 46, and Beverly Joyce Saul, 24.

Mark Rodane Coward, 23, and Alita Berence Bryant, 14.

DIVORCES FILED
Maria Conzetta Westworth Shaver and Mark Edward Shaver.

Ustil Espitia and Brenda Kathryn Espitia.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS
Deed, Vivian Cavazos, et. vir, to Maria A. Camarillo, tract of land, P. Reed's Survey, 8-15-86.

Deed, Eagle Lake Farms Partnership to Turfgrass Farms Venture I, 297 acres, James Earl Survey, 7-11-86.

Deed, Stuart W. Miller, et. ux, to Veterans Land Board, 10 acres, John Cassidy Survey, 8-15-86.

Deed, Sherita Bullard Gibbiths to Roy Howard Gibbiths, 59.80 acres, Capt. Winn Survey, 8-14-86.

Deed, Gilbert R. Belota to Brenda Lee Belota, undivided 1/2 interest in and to 32.27 acres, Peter Piper League, and 32.27 acres from the public road, 8-20-86.

Deed, Myrtle S. Rudwell, et. al, to Helmut Roder, et. ux, 112.99 acres, John H. Dabney Survey, 7-31-86.

Deed, Pango Industries, Inc. to James L. Hank, dba, Columbus Botane Company, 3.987 acres, John Hadden League, 8-15-86.

Deed, Charles A. Henry to J.W. Henry, et. ux, 27.56 acres, Leonard Pickens Survey, 8-22-86.

OIL, GAS LEASES
Timothy John Strunk, et. al, to American International Energy Corp., 100 acres and 20 acres, A.W. Broadview League, 8-1-86.

Art Club joins in Oktoberfest celebration

The Live Oak Art Club will host an art show in conjunction with all the exciting events to be held at Oktoberfest in Columbus.

The celebration, organized by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for October 31 and November 1 and 2. In addition to the art show, many other events are scheduled: an antique show at the Veterans Community Center, a biergarten under twinkling lights at the square, food booths, a polka street dance on Friday night along with Halloween-type pranks for children, live polka music throughout the weekend, a street dance Saturday night and many other activities.

The art show will feature arts and crafts for sale. Mary Richter is chairman of the event and Pam Peebles is co-chairman. The booth fee will be \$15 for both Saturday and Sunday. "This is an opportunity for people to exhibit and sell artwork of any kind; including paintings, pottery, arts and crafts," said Richter.

"I want to encourage everyone to register early as booths will be going first come, first serve," said Richter. "The Live Oak Art Club also will sponsor a demonstration booth. We will have hourly demonstrations," said Richter. "Just tell us what you would like to share with others about

what you do and how you do it, and we will schedule a spotlight to feature you!"

Richter extends a personal invitation to everyone. "We want our local talented artists to be featured in this show. We will do everything we can to help you exhibit and sell your artwork. This is an opportunity for you to 'show off' your work and to share your talents with others. Please join us for a weekend of fun at Oktoberfest!"

Mary Richter, chairman of the art show for Oktoberfest, displays examples of arts and crafts which will be available at the celebration.

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After school activities help teens develop responsible behavior

Participation in hand, 4-H, clubs, athletics and other after-school activities is more than just a "good time" for teenagers.

After-school activities encourage responsible behavior and help teenagers avoid delinquent behaviors, such as vandalism, says Diane T. Welch, a specialist with the Texas A&M University.

Vandalism is commonly thought of as an urban problem, notes Welch. According to studies reported by Pennsylvania State University researchers, however, over half the students in rural high schools had committed at least one act of vandalism. Nearly 75 percent of those students repeated their behaviors 3 or more times.

The reports also show that young people who participated in organized youth activities were not as involved in vandalism as those young people who did not have after-school hour activities.

"Of course, not all youngsters who participate in youth activities are perfect, reminds Welch. "But the studies show that teenagers involved in youth activities tend to commit more of the Halloween-type pranks as opposed to more malicious acts."

The specialist says that young people commit acts of vandalism in order to gain status and prestige, or they see vandalism as a "game" or "contest."

She points out that by

participating in extra-curricular activities, teenagers have a chance to learn new skills, to gain status and to develop good feelings about themselves.

In such an environment, Welch says, a youth can grow into a responsible person who does not have the need to vandalize property.

Participating in after-school activities takes time for both the students and the parents who may have to drive them to meetings and practices or serve as chaperones or volunteer leaders.

Some after-school activities may also involve extra costs or interfere with the family schedule, acknowledges the specialist.

But the inconveniences seem less important when parents recognize the importance of after-school activities in encouraging their teenagers' positive self-development, Welch maintains.

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