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Minimal tax bill in second session rumored...again

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams

Texas Gov. Mark white, fighting for his political life, took the offensive last week against the Texas House, threatening to veto the new betting bill unless House Speaker Lewis' team solves the state's fiscal crisis in a second 30-day session.

What White means is raise taxes, and he's backed by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby on that issue.

But the House again demonstrated its opposition to a tax hike when some 85 state representatives rallied to support House Speaker Gib Lewis. Opposed for re-election back home, Lewis is also fighting for his career.

Tempers were hot and House members complained of being pushed around by the governor and senators who want a sales tax increase.

The house and Senate are now farther apart than before. Endgame politics and re-election rhetoric may have derailed what appeared to be a new basis of cooperation.

Cut first, tax later

Last week, Lewis softened his stance, saying he was not entirely opposed to a tax hike. In fact, for days, Capitol scuttlebutt had it that Lewis would allow a minimal tax bill in the second session because he had saved his re-election face.

Hobby, for his part, signaled he would accept the so-called Band-Aid approach that senators had vowed to kill.

But after white's threat, House members rallied at Lewis' office. Lewis repeated his first position: cut the budget first and then we'll think about raising taxes.

Lewis still holds the majority of votes in a divided House. One frustrated pro-tax representative even accused Lewis of aiding White's Republican opponent, former Gov. Bill Clements. He implied no tax bill would wound Mark White.

Are we watching legislators vote on the basis of whether they want to support the re-election of either Mark White or Gib Lewis? Or can the fiscal crisis stand as a valid issue by itself? Maybe both.

Veto anyway?

White is suspected of wanting to veto the betting bill anyway. Pro-horserace members are reluctant to give White his tax bill until after the new bill becomes law. They don't trust him.

On the surface, it appears the budget is being sacrificed for parimutuel betting, but the real issue is predominate House sentiment that taxes should be raised in January, not now.

Now into deficit

By mid-week, Hobby warned legislators they faced the most radical loss of funds of any state in the nation's history. By not acting, they could also become the nation's laughing stock.

Hobby called the first session a flop, but said a stopgap plan of tax

hikes, budget cuts and accounting maneuvers will keep state checks from bouncing, if the House okays it in September.

The House Republican response was to question the accuracy of Democratic Treasurer Ann Richard's statistics.

The curtain rang down early Thursday on the first special session, four days after the state ended the fiscal year $231 million in the hole, the first deficit in 25 years.

Lawmakers finished business on only three major issues: legalized betting at horse and dog tracks, school discipline and interstate and branch banking.

Pressured and determined, the governor came out fighting. He gave legislators the weekend off to face voters back home before starting the new session Monday morning, when he planned to address a joint session.

They went home fatigued, particularly the workhorses on the budget committees who had started weeks ago hammering out the budget cuts.

Don't let anyone tell you re-election politics figure in. They do.

What's left?

The situation remains that White and lewis factions are still on a collision course. Either one, or both, may win or lose in November despite the tax issue. But they are playing hardball like it hasn't been played in years.

Departing for home, most legislators were too tired or confused to speculate what, if anything, may be accomplished in the next 30-day session. A little hope was held out that possibly a combination of cuts and taxes, tied together in one bill, will emerge, and peace will be at hand.

Support for a tax bill is more evident in the House. With little to show so far, his supporters realize how another session of failure will harm Mark White's re-election campaign. Half-a-loaf wouldn't hurt, but they'll get it when Lewis says they can.

Clements-White debate

Meanwhile, the negotiations are on again for a televised debate between White and Clements.

Clements, leading in the polls, officially started his fall campaign last week in Dallas. He complained the media attached the word "secret" to his plan to balance the budget. He denied every using it, but White's statewide TV ads derided Clements for having a "secret" plan.

In fact, Clements said, he outlined his plan in letters to White back in June and July. Meanwhile, he continues on the campaign trail, staying out of the Capitol fray when possible.

Give to Cystic Fibrosis

The Cystic Fibrosis campaign is coming to a close and donations have been coming in very slowly.

Just to refresh your memory on this disease, the kids that have C.F. are very prone to lung infections and digestive disorders. There is no cure for this disease and the life expectancy is very short.

Think for a minute if your child or grandchild took 53 pills a day, 371 per week or 19,345 a year as a young man does in Baytown. Plus the at-home postural drainage exercises three times a day, to say nothing of his hospital stays.

Those kids fight for their life every hour of every day. Just put a pillow on your face and hold it securely and try to breath. This is how children with C.F. feel all the time. They are fighting this every day with every breath they take.

Mrs. Helen Pilkington, the local C.F. chairman, ask that you please try to help these kids with your monetary donations. Everyone in Eagle Lake has been very helpful in raising money for C.F., but more is needed. Please help the C.F. kids. Any donations may be sent to: Helen Pilkington, 509 Strickland, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434. Thanks for caring!

Room mothers elected at Primary School

The room mothers who will serve during the 1986-87 school year at Eagle Lake Primary School are listed below with the teacher's name:

Pre-kindergarten: Miss Merris A.M. - Mrs. Alma Buitrago, Miss Merris P.M. - Mrs. Becky Morales

Kindergarten: Mrs. Appelt A.M. - Mrs. Jeri Shindler, Mrs. Appelt P.M. - Mrs. Sue Canaris, Ms. Kramr A.M. - Mrs. Christine Hruzek, Mrs. Webb A.M. - Mrs. Charlene Rodgers, Mrs. Webb P.M. - Mrs. Susan Hadley.

First Grade: Mrs. Keuneke - Mrs. Ortensia Salazar; Mrs. Leopold - Mrs. Ann Pavliska and Mrs. Sandy Rodgers; Mrs. Moody - Mrs. Jennifer Obenhaus, Mrs. Shorter - Mrs. Beth Waddell, Mrs. Weaver - Mrs. Donna Stephens.

Second Grade: Mrs. Brunner - Mrs. Cindy Fink, Mrs. Kucherka - Mrs. Debbie Schmitt, Mrs. Neuman - Mrs. Judy Luedecke, Mrs. Brown - Olga Buitrago.

Prairie Edge Museum Notes

Prairie Edge Museum continues to grow not only in volume, but also in ways of serving our community. Wednesday, September 10 we are looking forward to a visit from the third graders (all seventy-five of them) and their teachers. We want to encourage all school principals of this area to put a trip to the museum on their list of outside activities. If I were still teaching, I feel sure I would take my classes on a field trip to this "storehouse of history." On September 25 we are happy to have the Colorado Chapter of the DRT meet at our museum. Several of us board members will be prepared to show them and tell them about artifacts connected with the history of our state. Our Sesquicentennial year is nearly three-fourths over. I do hope you have been enjoying it as much as I have.

Sincere thanks to the following friends who help to make working for and at the museum such a pleasure: Mrs. Skutca of the Sewing Center for sewing the hem in one of our flags; Bill Appelt for sawing the railroad ties around our caboose to the correct length; and to Bill Harrison Sr. for donating a new Texas flag to fly in front of our building.

Annie Margaret White has donated such an interesting "picture book" and commentary of "old" Eagle Lake. The first picture is entitled "Eagle Lake in Cow Boy Days." There is a picture of the Lakeside Sugar Refinery; and because of the successful growing of sugar cane around Eagle Lake and thereby being profitable to the farmers, this part of Colorado County was referred to as the "sugar bowl." There are pictures of church buildings, hotels and residences. Make plans to look at this interesting booklet.

The big garage sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4. Articles to be sold are continuing to be brought in. The museum building is usually open in the mornings on Mondays and Tuesdays and the regular opening hours are 2-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call Bill Harrison Sr. at 234-2662 or Elizabeth Boothe at 234-3361 if you need to take articles for the sale at other times than those which I have designated.

The following are two facts concerning early Eagle Lake: "By a vote of 67 to 35 the citizens of Eagle Lake voted to incorporate in 1888. Capt. J.W. McCarty was the first mayor."

"The first railroad actually constructed in Texas was the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado. It reached Eagle Lake in 1859 from Harrisburg, Texas and on to Alleyton in 1860."

Elizabeth Boothe, reporter

Veterans Memorial Library News

Donna Merta, Librarian

The summer reading program at Veterans Memorial Library in Garwood ended on August 19 with a party. Prizes were awarded to the children that read the most books and cake and punch was served after the children had participated in various games.

Participants in this year's summer reading program were as follows: Division I (kindergarten through second grade), Bryan Rees, Kristen Stienke, Valerie Korenek, Samantha Schuetze, Christina Brown, Chris Smidovec, Marcie Till, Jason Casarez; Division II (third through sixth grade), Jason Williams, Becky Korenek, Nicholas Korenek, Erin Korenek, Chastity Brown, Sam Mader, Nick Casarez.

Winners in Division I were: Valerie Korenek and Christina Brown, tied for first, each reading 126 books; second, Kristen Stienke, 106 books, and third, Marcie Till, 102 books. Division II winners were: first place, Nicholas Korenek, 42 books; second, Becky Korenek, 36 books, and third, Erin Korenek, 20 books. Prizes ranged from a Texas flag that had flown over the capitol on Texas' Independence Day of the sesquicentennial to back packs to school supplies.

All participants in the summer program were awarded certificates of participation and given various small prizes such as a U.S. flag and a free ice cream cone.

Librarian Donna Merta wants to thank all the children who participated in the reading program and welcomes them back again next year.

Diabetes support group meeting September 16

The Diabetes Support Group will meet on Thursday, September 16 at 2 p.m. at the ag building (316 Spring Street) in Columbus.

The speaker will be Betty Bauer, group chairperson. She will present a program on "The Ups and Downs of Exercise."

Plan to wear comfortable, casual clothing to the meeting.

Do you pay too much for insurance?

If you have your car insurance with one agency and your home insurance with another, then chances are you're paying too much for insurance.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 4, 1986

PROPOSITION NO. 1 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 15 proposes a constitutional amendment that would permit the legislature to provide by general law for the apportionment of the value of railroad rolling stock among the counties in which the property of the railroad is located for purposes of property taxation, and would delete the requirement that the Comptroller participate in making the allocation. To comply with both statutory and constitutional law, the apportionment currently is being made by the State Property Tax Board in conjunction with the Comptroller.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to provide by general law for the apportionment of the value of railroad rolling stock among counties for purposes of property taxation."

PROPOSITION NO. 2 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 33 proposes a constitutional amendment that would replace the constitutional requirement that the subject of a bill be expressed in its title with a mandate that each house of the legislature adopt rules of procedure that would require the subject of each bill to be expressed in its title in a manner that gives the legislature and the public reasonable notice of that subject. Determining compliance with the rule would be the responsibility of the legislature. Currently, a law is invalidated if a court finds its caption is defective. The amendment would provide that past and future enactments may not be held void on the basis of an insufficient title.

The amendment also would eliminate the suggestion that the state's laws be revised every ten years, and instead would provide for continuing revision of state laws.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment requiring each house to include in its rules of procedure a rule that each bill contain a title expressing the bill's subject, and providing for the continuing revision of state laws."

PROPOSITION NO. 3 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 73 proposes a constitutional amendment that would permit the Legislature to authorize any county, city, town, or other political subdivision to use public funds or credit to pay insurance premiums on nonassessable life, health, or accident policies. Due to the prohibition in the constitution against the lending of credit and granting of public money, political subdivisions currently are prohibited from becoming shareholders in associations such as mutual-insurance companies, in which policyholders are shareholders. A nonassessable mutual insurance policy does not allow a company to raise capital by assessing the policyholder an extra amount on a premium. This amendment will allow mutual insurance companies and stock companies to bid for life and health group policies of political subdivisions. Public liability will be limited to the payment of premums specified in the contract.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment allowing political subdivisions the opportunity to engage in and transact business with authorized mutual insurance companies in the same manner as with other insurance companies."

PROPOSITION NO. 4 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 4 proposes a constitutional amendment that would repeal the prohibition against branch banking by state banks and would allow state banks and national banks domiciled in this state to establish and operate banking facilities at locations within the county or city where they are domiciled. The amendment would also authorize the Legislature to permit a state bank or a national bank domiciled in this state to engage in business at more than one place if it acquires a failed state bank or national bank domiciled in this state.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to provide that a bank may offer full service banking at more than one location within the city or county where its principal facility is located, subject to limitations and restrictions provided by law."

Estos son los informes explanatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el día 4 de noviembre de 1986. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis por llamar al 1/800/252/8183 o por escribir al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12887, Austin, Texas 78711.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Leonard Paul Richter, 24, and Lisa Frances Leihardt, 20.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS

Deed, Leon Smith, et ux, to Whitson M. Johnson, et ux, 0.306 acre, city of Eagle Lake; 8-22-86.

Deed, Carl Kleimann, trustee, to Louis F. DeCaro, et ux, 45 acres, Bernard Scherrer Survey; 5-29-86.

Deed, Emily Finney Clark to Rodd D. McCorquodale, et ux, 15 acres, M.D. Ramsey Survey; 8-19-86.

Deed, Alvina E. Matzke to Armando Adame, et ux, a portion of lot 3, block 34, city fo Weimar; 8-22-86.

Deed, Ora M. Bright, et al, to Vernon D. Haines, 10 acres, Southern Harvey Morey Survey, and lot 5, block, 88, town of Sheridan; 8-18-86.

Deed, Mark Shaver to Joe Korenek, et ux, 1 acre, Robert Maxwell, Survey; 8-14-86.

Deed, Robert H. Day, et ux, to Michael F. Morgan, et ux, lots 4 and 5, block 1, Smith and Jones Addition, town of Columbus; 8-25-86.

Gift Deed, Mary A. Kalous to Eloise M. Walla, et al, lot 24, block 4, town of Weimar, and west 3/4ths of lot 3, block 26, town of Weimar; 8-27-86.

Deed, Marta Birdwell to Roger Birdwell, 25 acres, Peter K. Bartleson League; 6-26-86.

Gift Deed, Ethel Taylor Houston to Gladys Helen Taylor Dillard, et ux, part of block 84, town of Columbus; 8-28-86.

Deed, Velton Marion Crawford Jr., et ux, to William Stanley Cain, et ux, 5.971 acres, F.A. Zimmerscheidt League; 1.63 acres, F.A. Zimmerscheidt League; 8-25-86.

Deed, P. Ross Hancock to Marvin Henrichsen, et ux, 71.938 acres, William Lewis Survey; 8-29-86.

OIL, GAS LEASES

Angeline Hoffman, et al, to Shell Western E&P Inc., 260 acres, Conrad Gargens Survey; 6-6-86.

Hugh D. Sheridan, et al, to Harber Oil Company, Inc., 104 acres, G.S. Sneider Survey; 8-15-86.

Hugh D. Sheridan, et al, to Harber Oil Company, Inc., 81.983 acres, J. Pierce Survey; 8-15-86.

Silver Streaks win A's tournament

The Silver Streaks of Eagle Lake, coached by Mike Morales, went undefeated to take first place in the A's tournament recently.

Second place winner was The Rebuilts of Wharton, coached by Joe Hopkins; third place, Mayfield Trucking, coached by Marteo Navarro of Eagle Lake; fourth place, Wharton Magnums, coached by James.

Keith Pesnell, Silver Streaks team member, was named most valuable player. The golden glove infielder and outfielder went to Mike Morales of Silvers Streaks and Richard Koch of The Rebuilts.

Other teams who participated were Frankie's Pool Hall of Eagle Lake, coached by Freddie Walker, and The Sealy Rebels, coached by Tom Teague.

Thanks to the umpires and to everyone else who participated in this year's tournament.

1986-87 waterfowl season adopted

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission adopted 1986-87 waterfowl hunting regulations in a public hearing held in Austin recently.

The seasons and bag limits are similar to the previous year, but federal frameworks allowed addition of one day to the duck season in the eastern portion of the state and two days in the western portion. Federal officials also closed the season for canvasback ducks, which were a 100-point species last year.

In the eastern portion of the state (including Colorado County), the duck hunting season is Nov. 1-5, and Nov. 22-30, 1986, and Dec. 13, 1986-Jan. 18, 1987. In the High Plains Mallard Management Unit of West Texas and the Panhandle, the season is Nov. 1-9, and Nov. 22, 1986-Jan. 18, 1987.

There will be no changes in the 100-point system of duck bag limits. The point values are: 100 points each for mallard hens, mottled ducks and black ducks; 70 points for redheads, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and fulvous and black-bellied whistling ducks; 20 points for blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, gadwall, scaup, wigeon, shoveler and mergansers (except hooded mergansers); and 35 points for all other ducks not listed, except the season is closed on masked ducks and canvasbacks.

The season for light geese in the eastern portion of the state was set for Nov. 1, 1986-Jan. 25, 1987; the dark goose season dates are Nov. 1-Dec. 5, 1986, and Dec. 13, 1986-Jan. 18, 1987. The bag limit is five light geese plus one Canada or black brant and one white-fronted goose per day, for a maximum total of seven geese. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

In the western portion of the state, the season for all species of geese is Oct. 18, 1986-Jan. 18, 1987. The bag limit is five geese, not to include more than two dark geese. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The season dates for woodcock are Nov. 22, 1986-Jan. 25, 1987; bag limit 5 per day, possession limit 10.

The season for common snipe (jacksnipe) is Nov. 1, 1986- Feb. 15, 1987; bag limit eight per day, possession limit 16.

Fishing tournament Oct.11 at Fayette Power Project

The Lower Colorado River Authority will sponsor an open-team fishing tournament and Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 11, at the Fayette Power Project cooling pond near La Grange.

The tournament is open to the first 100 two-person teams who register. LCRA will charge a registration fee of $10 per team but will not collect any entrance or use fees at its 2 FPP parks during the Appreciation Day.

"The purpose of the tournament and Appreciation Day is to thank fishermen and all our park users for making the FPP cooling pond one of the most popular fishing lakes in the state," said Terry Colgan, manager of LCRA"s Land Policy and Programs Division.

Those who would like to enter the tournament may contact Ed Gau, FPP parks manager, at (409) 249-5208, for an entry form and complete rules and regulations. Registration forms must be postmarked no later than Saturday, September 27.

Adult education class registration September 15

Registration for adult education classes will be at the Eagle Lake Middle School on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. Classes will be offered in GED and English (for non-English speaking persons).

All classes are free to the public and anyone who does not have their high school diploma or GED are urged to sign up. Any questions should be directed to Charles Abel or Marie Argo at Eagle Lake Middle School 234-3501.

Farewells and reunions in the faith

By Rev. E.B. Beasley Jr., pastor of Lissie, Wallis United Methodist Churches

It's time to say "good-bye." It is a sad and lonely feeling. On Tuesday, September 16, I will drive out of Lissie, not knowing when I will ever be back. I won't begin my Sunday mornings with Wallis any more. I'm going to miss a lot of friends.

But it's also a good feeling. I am glad I was here. I have enjoyed each of you and all of the opportunities which I have had here. I have some fine memories of our time together. I hope that some of you will come through Van some time and that we will get to see you again.

What makes it even easier to leave is one of the great promises which God had made to us. I'm thinking of the promise that one day all of His children who claimed Jesus Christ as their Savior will be gathered together. I know that I will have the opportunity to see all of my friends again and that we will have all of eternity together some day. That's an exciting hope.

Another parsonage family is coming here to collect their share of fine memories. Earl and Nell Lock will be here on September 18 to begin their ministry here. They have had a very successful ministry in Waskom, during the last seven years and are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. I commend them to you. They are personal friends of mine and I believe that you will fall in love with them.

I look forward to seeing you, my friends, again. I may see you several times in the coming years. I long even more for the great reunion which is yet to come.

Keep the faith!

Lillie Parker visits son in Colorado

Lillie Parker, of Eagle Lake, visited her son, Calvin Parker in Denver, Colorado. While there, Mrs. Kim Jones accompanied her on a tour of the mountains where they went to Central City which is 8,049 feet above sea level. They visited the old toll gate saloon where they saw a gun fight between Wyatt Eurpp and Buffalo Bill and they sat at the same table President Grant sat at years ago. They ordered two hamburgers which cost $7. (Mrs. Parker said the hamburgers haven't digested yet!) Then they went to the ice cream parlor and ordered an ice cream cone which cost $1.83. Afterwards they went panning for gold, but didn't find any.

Denver is a rich state, says Mrs. Parker. "Everything is as high as the mountains there. They have plenty of watermelon, which wasn't so high."

Mrs. Parker reported having a very enjoyable time and met many nice people.

Attend church

Mrs. Parker and her nephew, Bob Cleveland, of Eagle Lake, attended church services Sunday at White Cloud Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Branch of Witcha, Kansas visited with Mrs. Parker and also attended church services Sunday.

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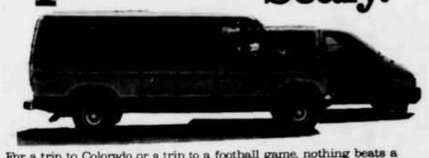
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The Toy Sitting is Back!

...During September, you can have lovely Gallery portraits made and save the cost of a basic sitting.
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ALL YOU DO IS: Make your appointment for September and bring a new toy!
The photography session is not limited to children only — it can be of a group, individual, or couple. The toys will be given to Santa for under-priviledged children to be distributed in your area.
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