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LETTERS TO EDITOR

'Come and help me stay alive!'

An open letter to the Eagle Lake community:

I am your Ambulance Corps. I respond to your emergencies, be they illness or injury. I pick up your children run over in the street. I carry your mothers and fathers when their hearts are tired. When your age relatives in the nursing home need a test or hospital evaluation—or even if they just need to go back to the nursing home—I am there. I have been there for 13 1/2 years—and I am weary.

My average age is 45 years; some are younger but over half are older. I must have two Emergency Care Attendants (ECA), minimum, or my ambulance cannot run, by law. I am losing at least six certified people this year. I have gained only one. My older branches are withering. They don't want to be replaced, not yet. They just want "shoring up".

True, I am paid a "clothing allowance" from each run, which more than covers my clothing, but I am not in this for the money. My people weren't looking for a lifetime career. They just wanted to help people and help the community. But I have only 15 certified people on my current schedule running from one to four 12-hour shifts per week. They can't make a short business trip out of town (or a long one) or an impromptu shopping trip or visit their grandchildren without planning it six weeks in advance. There are no more certified people to take duty and these 15 are already spread so thin that I have to call on them further.

It wasn't always this way. It doesn't have to be now. With 25-30 certified people on a schedule it is easy to find a temporary stand-in when the unexpected comes up. I've had them in the past—and I've had lean times but not so bad I couldn't cover them. But my people, most of whom have been at this 10 years or more, are tired of trying to cover it all. They don't want to give it up. They just want help. Help and replacements when they can no longer continue.

I do a good job for the community. You know it—you tell me so. My doctors tell me so. People passing through tell me so. Don't tell me how good I am, come and help me stay alive! For, if you don't, something must give. There may be days when I have no certified people to man my ambulance. So it will be "out of service"—one day, two days? Who knows? The link between your illness or trauma and the hospital will be broken. Perhaps I will be replaced by a paid service. Your taxes will go up. Personal services and Tender Loving Care will go down.

It is up to you. Can't you find one (or night) to give? The payment is negligible. The personal satisfaction is immeasurable.

Ambulance Corps Unit 803

Looking for descendents

To the Editor:

I am doing the family history of Samuel Faylor and need to contact the descendents of his daughter who lived in Eagle Lake at least until the sometime in the late 1940's. Her name was Ellie Lyle. My Eleanor Faylor married Felix

I would truly appreciate hearing

from any of Aunt Ellie's children, grandchildren or anyone who has knowledge of this family.

I am the granddaughter of Ellie's brother, John A. Faylor.
Betty Thurston Holler
1100 N. 5th Street, Fort Smith,
Arkansas 72901, (501) 782-4340

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Federal judge doesn't fine state for contempt

State Capitol Highlights By Lyndell Williams



Lawmakers, waist-deep in budget alligators, took their eyes off a nearing veto battle with Gov. Bill Clements and looked skyward for help after a Texas judge ruled the public school funding method was unconstitutional.

Only a few days earlier, Texas had dodged a bullet when the federal judge overseeing court-ordered prison reforms gave the Legislature an "A" for effort and said he wouldn't fine the state for contempt.

With only four weeks left in the regular session, lawmakers consider the worst is behind them. The major obstacle ahead is whether to pass a budget that requires new taxes over the objections and possible veto of the governor.

How the school funding ruling affects that drama, if at all, is unclear.

Clements campaigned the state last week for his budget version, but took one day to ask GOP House members to support his promised veto of any budget with new taxes.

Special session threat
His opponents' plan to follow Clements with a "truth squad" hasn't worked out, because the governor kept his schedule secret and legislative duties pinned them down in Austin.

But in polling his own party, Clements apparently found some small resistance to his proposed cuts in public education. Whether it's enough to keep him from the two-thirds measure to sustain a veto is his secret, but it's safe to assume he has the votes.

Worse than prisons
The Texas judge ruled the present school funding method creates havoc and have notes among local school districts, and is unconstitutional because it discriminates against students in poor districts.

He is expected to set an injunction next week to order the state to change the current funding system. The Texas Education Agency will appeal, a process anticipated to last two years.

Open meetings law under revision
The Texas Senate has approved a bill that would require governmental bodies, including school boards, to take minutes of executives sessions.

Senate bill 169 by Kent Caperton of Bryan would require that minutes include the beginning and ending time of each executive session and "the substance of each deliberation."

Under provisions of the bill, each board member would be required to certify that the minutes taken were a "true and accurate record of the proceedings." If any member could not so certify, it would be noted in the minutes and become part of the record.

Minutes taken during closed door sessions would be sealed and not be available to the public. If open meet-

Bond program moves

Meanwhile, Hobby's \$2.1 billion "Build Texas" bond program to build prisons, libraries, parks and dams sailed through the Senate State Affairs Committee. Also approved was a \$500 million bond proposal to pay the state's share in building the lucrative federal supercollider project here.

A Senate panel voted 5 to 4 to send the "Texaco Bill" to the floor for debate. The bill would lower the amount of bond the oil company must post in its legal battle with Pennzoil from a maximum of \$11 billion to \$1 billion.

The full Senate also received proposed changes in abortion regulation when an amendment was added in committee outlawing abortions in the last three months of pregnancy and removing the licenses for doctors who perform them.

Other highlights
Land Commissioner Gary Mauro and Cameron county officials said last week they will jointly offer for lease some 162 acres on South Padre Island for recreational and economic development.

Ten state employees are being investigated for fraud in connection with falsifying applications for food stamps in December, when state checks were delayed by cost-saving changes.

The University of Texas at Austin, that hotbed of Vietnam War resistance, is now a major weapons designer and ranks third in federal money received for "Star Wars" projects.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

DIVORCES FILED
Carolyn Lee Jackson and Norman Jackson.
Patricia Ann Conner and Iurel Gregory Conner.
Kelly Patricia Heger and Daniel Henry Heger Jr.

DIVORCES GRANTED
James Allen Schilling and Carolyn Catherine Schilling.
Patricia A. Horndt and Michael C. Horndt.
Helene Mith and John A. Mith.
Bobby Torres and Emma Tate Lane Torres.
Jacqueline Pfeiffer and Ronnie Dean Pfeiffer.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS
Deed, James M. Rau to Caro, Inc.,

two tracts being 26,750 acres, Peter Piper Leasing, filed 4-29-87.
Deed, Walton J. Warschak, et al, to Greg F. Walsh III, 80 acres, B.F. McKillen Survey, 4-15-87.
Deed, Ervin J. and Roselyn E. Clost to Jack A. Clost, 30 acres, Peter Piper Leasing, 4-15-87.

Deed, Adele K. Telushik, et al, to Louis A. and Linda Sue Barilleaux, 68,797 acres, Jesse Burnham Leasing, et al, 4-2-87.
Deed, New Utah State Bank to Harold Mack Jr., 133 acres, John Andrews Survey, 4-17-87.
Deed, Larry Cernoch to Paul Cernoch, 363 acres, A.D. Kenen Survey, 4-15-87.
Gift Deed, Emil H. Shumbers and Annie Mary Shumbers to Clarence Shumbers, et al, 50 acres, Robert Maxwell Survey, 4-10-87.

Deed, Granting Easement, Gloria Wilson to United Built Homes Inc., 2,725 acres, Henry Austin Leasing, 4-21-87.
Deed, Gladys Marie Succop to The Brownville Corp., undivided mineral interest in two tracts in R. Alley one half league, 2-17-87.

Gift Deed, Henry Sr. and Edna Hudec to Annette Hudec Arterburn, et al, undivided interest in five tracts in Henry Austin Five League Grant, Colorado and Fayette Counties, 4-17-87.
Gift Deed, Henry Sr. and Edna Hudec to Annette Hudec Arterburn, et al, undivided interest in 14,555 acres, H. Austin Five League Grant, 4-17-87.
Gift Deed, Victor J. and Emma Stavino to Margaret Stavino Cooper, et al, lots 1-7, block 30, Glidden, 4-17-87.

Mixed drink tax report issued for county, city

According to a report from the state, drinkers in Colorado County paid \$12,574.00 in mixed drink taxes during the first quarter of this year. The county received a 12.5 percent rebate from that amount, meaning a check for \$1,571.75 was sent to the courthouse in Columbus, the report said.

The cities where the drinks are sold also receive a 12.5 percent rebate. In Eagle Lake, the tax amounted to \$2,818.81, resulting in \$352.35 for the city. In Columbus there was \$4,651.04 in taxes collected, with \$581.38 paid to Columbus. Weimar received a check for \$155.41 from the \$1,243.24 collected there.

Magnolia Homes Tour May 16, 17

The 26th annual Magnolia Homes Tour and 33rd annual Live Oak Art Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17 in Columbus.

The tour will include five early Texas and Victorian homes. The homes on the tour will be the Seftenberg-Brandon house, Alley log cabin, Gant house, Raunonda and Dick Gillette-Raffens house. Other historical sites such as the Colorado County Courthouse, Confederate Memorial Museum and the Brunson Building will also be open for the public to view.

Activities for the weekend, which will take place on the square, will include survey rides, an old fashioned beer garden, continuous entertainment, a sidewalk cafe, arts and crafts show and sale and tickets for homes tour.

On Friday, May 15 is family night on the square and a gigantic auction will take place at this time. A musical, "Star Search" will be presented each evening by the Stafford Opera House Players on the Stafford Opera House stage.

Tickets for all five houses may be purchased for \$8 for adults; \$3 for children under 12 years of age. The charge for individual houses is \$3 for adults; \$1 for children under 12 years of age. Admission to the antique show is \$2 and "Star Search" tickets are \$7 for adults; \$2 for children under 12.

The public is invited to come and join us for this family weekend of fun and entertainment.



Top photo: Hector Tapia and Jason Dulany (figure 2). Top right photo: Karen Earls and Natalie Cordova (figure 3). Right photo: Vernita Barrow and Greg Vasquez (figure 1).

Earth Science - 1986-87 - Eagle Lake Middle School

By E.B. Gibson

An Earth Science curriculum should be designed to meet the needs of all its students, not for the sake of passing only, but for the future as well. A complete Earth Science program should challenge the student with a high aptitude for science and yet be taught on such a level that the student with limited ability in science will benefit as well.

Originally, Earth Science addressed four major areas of the earth: atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and astronomy. We believe these to be the major areas to be treated by Earth Science today. However, if students are to develop better understanding of and a deeper appreciation for science, more is needed. To enhance the Earth Science program, we include the following additional units: (a) metric measurement, (b) laws of force, motion and energy, (c) chemistry, (d) electricity and magnetism, (e) heat, (f) light, (g) sound, and (h) nuclear energy.

To keep students informed of current science events, periodicals such as *Science World* and *National Geographic* are used to supplement the textbook.

The following criteria are used to evaluate each student:

1. Home and classroom assignments (figure 1)

2. Laboratory Activities - The hands-on approach is used (figure 2)

3. Each student is required to keep a notebook of all laboratory exercises.

4. Extra Credit Activities - Students are given an opportunity to contribute to the enrichment of classroom activities by giving demonstrations, discussing science news articles, inviting guest speakers, etc.

5. Test - Students are encouraged to review science worksheets for twenty minutes each day. This method allows the student to grow into an understanding of science. A small test or quiz is given weekly.

Students who fail are given reinforcement assignments and retested over the same materials.

6. Science Reports - Each student has the responsibility of giving one report each school year. A science report may cover a wide variety of topics so long as it relates to science.

The Earth Science curriculum is designed to prepare the student for a smooth entry into the high school science program—whether he enters the Physical Science or Biological Science program.

Under the provisions of the bill, persons using video cameras could not be denied access to an open session of a governing body. The governing body could determine rules for the use of video equipment, including the location of equipment and the manner in which the recording is conducted.

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Seventh Grade: Felix Salinas and Sylvia Trevino.
Eighth Grade: Dustin Hengst and Heather Abel.
Special Education: Dwayne Lopez.
These students' pictures will be displayed in the hallways at the Middle School for the entire month of May. Congratulations to these students for their efforts here at school during the past month.

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I eat out a lot.

Excuse #17:
I hate to diet alone.

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