

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT Produced By: Jeannine Fearing... (USPS 163-750) P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main (409) 234-5521 CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067 Published Weekly Every Thursday

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Pro-tax legislators bank on new tax bill

Pro-tax forces in the Legislature are prepared to split in the eye of Gov. Bill Clements' newly-repeated promise to veto any new taxes in the current special session.



State Capitol Highlights By Lyndell Williams

Rather than equalize school finance with existing revenues, as Republican Clements urges, the pro-tax legislators are banking on a Democratic majority to force his signature on a new tax bill.

Strong signals last week pointed to that scenario: "La Gov. Bill Hobby and Sens. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, and Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, filed a comprehensive school finance and education reform bill that would increase funding by a total of \$3.4 billion over the next three years.

"Sen. Gene Green, D-Houston, filed a school finance bill drafted by the education board. It would cost \$15 billion in additional state funds over the next five years, including a first-year cost of nearly \$1 billion.

"House Speaker Gib Lewis wouldn't rule out a tax hike this special session and is considering a state income tax. "Comptroller Bob Bullock certified no extra revenues available to stop-gap court-ordered school finance reform.

"Rep. James Hurry, D-Galveston, chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Jim Ruda, D-Brownfield, Appropriations Committee chairman, agreed a sales tax hike would sail easiest in the House. Ruda predicted the House will pass an education plan costing \$300 million to \$600 million, and that new taxes are needed for anything over \$200 million.

A half-cent sales tax hike would generate \$600 million by the end of the 1991 fiscal year if it were implemented by July 1, Hurry said. Outnumbered, Surrounded If that's what the conservative House is going to do, the liberal Senate will probably attempt to up the ante.

Remember a few years ago when, with time running out on the fiscal year, the Senate forced Clements to sign a big tax bill and made him eat his veto pledge? He hated doing that, and the Democrats loved making him squirm. Clements is embattled and in trouble. He is outnumbered and surrounded with no chance of outside help.

Custer or Travis To the Democrats, he's Custer at Little Big Horn: a single-minded, misguided leader who is holding up progress and deserves to go down. To the Republicans, he's Travis at the Alamo: the last hero-leader holding out against an army of big spenders.

Outnumbered he is; but he is not unarmed. The Big Hammer Clements expects lawmakers to transfer funds from other state agencies to provide a limited amount for education until the regular session

Children's learning environment

To the voters of Rice C.I.S.D.: Are you aware that in Sheridan the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes must cross a highway to get to and from the main building to their classrooms? Are you aware that in Garwood the pre-kindergarten classes are held in a portable building that is without insulation and is on the north side of the school?

Are you aware that the Eagle Lake Middle School needs many repairs made on the inside due to a leaky roof? Are you aware that the Eagle Lake Primary School is in such bad condition that a new school

Responding to Stephens' letter

To the Editor: In response to Chuck Stephens' letter in last week's Headlight, I would like to point out that many of the concerns he raised have already been addressed by the Board or by Rice administrative officials. I will try to summarize them briefly here:

1. The overall concern about the need for additional space at Rice High School should be put in proper context: it relates not to how many total students are on the campus in any given year, but to how many must use the same space at the same time. It should be pointed out that due to requirements imposed by state law and federal regulations, several areas at Rice High School are badly overcrowded, and since our schools are not all located in the same community like many of our neighboring districts, we do not have immediate access to other facilities.

2. Considerations about the site for the new Primary School: Access—Several routes into and out of the site are available, and additional easements are there to be used if necessary. Our architect has looked over the site thoroughly and finds no problems with access to it.

3. Traffic safety—Rice C.I.S.D. buses have an exceptional safety record, and was pointed out by Mr. Stephens. Of the hundreds of miles of bus routes covered every week in the district, day in and day out, according to Superintendent Harold King there have been only two very minor accidents in the last 11 years. Neither of these caused any personal injury, and the damage to the buses involved was very slight. It should be noted that this 11-year period would include the time during which gravel truck traffic was very heavy on roads throughout the district. It should also be pointed out that a school zone would be established around the site by the Texas Highway Department as soon as the new school opened, so excessive speed of vehicles on Highway 90-A should not be a

young and old entertained that afternoon with his fine fiddle music and his humor. Two events will be added back to the Bene-fair this year. The Barbeque Cook-Off and the Mixed Volleyball Tournament have been missed so much that the Ambulance Corp felt it was necessary to bring these events

back to attract a larger attendance. The parade will start at 10 a.m. with booths of arts and crafts, food and games opening at 11 a.m. Put a big check on your calendar for May 5 and make plans now to attend this years Sheridan Ambulance Bene-fair. For more information concerning the Bene-fair, contact Traylor Walker at 409-234-3921 (W) or 409-234-3937 (N).

Crime Stoppers Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers will pay a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for any information which leads to the arrest and conviction of person(s) involved in any case of criminal activity. The caller may wish to remain anonymous. Call 234-5555 and help take a bite out of crime.

Letters to Editor

Editor's Note: Locating the new Primary School next to the Eagle Lake Middle School would cause the City of Eagle Lake to spend approximately \$500,000 upgrading utilities in that area since they already are at peak capacity.

Building quality education

To the Voters in Rice C.I.S.D.: I have a deep concern about the future of our school system and I hope many of you have the same concern. I honestly feel that if the bond issue is not passed, there will be a lot of damage done. We will probably, for one thing, lose some of the good quality teachers we have acquired recently as well as some of the excellent ones we have had for a while. We will definitely be taking a step backwards on the quality of education we are trying to build for our children.

I feel our School Board has researched all aspects of this bond issue thoroughly and are doing an excellent job in presenting the issue to the public. We need to show support for our board and believe in their concern for our schools. After all, we are the ones who voted them into their position.

School bond election important

To the Editor: This Saturday's school bond election is so important to those of us with children going to school. I hope that people who may not have children in school now will remember that this community and its schools have been good to them and their kids.

Indigent health care still an issue

To the Editor: As the election rhetoric begins to draw to a close, and after all of debate, glad handing and posturing finally begins to wear thin, there's one issue that still hasn't been fully addressed. In my opinion, that one issue is indigent health care in Colorado County.

In 1985, the state legislature mandated that each county set aside ten percent of their budget annually for indigent care. It wasn't a suggestion or a consideration, it was and still is the law. Furthermore, the law requires that arrangements be made to provide primary (that's office care), secondary (hospital care), and tertiary care for these indigents. At that time the County Judge's office took control of this program so that the money would be "spent properly" and, initially, contracted with John Sealy Hospital in Galveston for care not available in our county. After that first year, however, the contract was not renewed. Since that time, in spite of the recommendation, then the cajoling and

Telephone companies testing long distance discounts

A new optional telephone calling discount program for some long-distance calls named "1-SAVER" will be tested in several Texas locations including Eagle Lake. The trial began February 1. Ten local telephone companies have received approval from the Public Utility Commission for the trial. They include Brazos Telephone, Central of Texas, Constel of Texas, Fort Bend Telephone, GTE Southwest, Inc., Industry Telephone, Lake Livingston Telephone, Laifkin-Corcor Telephone, Southwestern Bell Telephone and United Telephone.

"We will test long-distance discount packages initially in each city to gauge their acceptance by our customers," said Audrey Fossier, manager for Southwestern Bell Telephone. "Based on our market information, we hope to expand the long-distance discounts across the state. During the trial, different pricing and discounts will be used to determine which package is most widely accepted by customers, according to Fossier. Customers were notified of the discount service in the current bill insert.

All of the programs include an up-front monthly charge for discounted long-distance calling. However, other variables will be tested such as increasing percentage discounts with additional usage, time of day, block of time and flat rate methods. Residents customers have two options. Option A includes a \$2 monthly fee for a 20 percent discount on all eligible calls during evening/night/weekend time periods. Option B includes a \$2 monthly fee for a 15 percent discount on the first \$10 of calls and a 25 percent discount above \$10 on all eligible calls during evening/night/weekend time periods. This option is not available to GTE and United Telephone customers. Business customers have three options. Option A includes a \$6 monthly fee for a 15 percent discount on all eligible calls without any time-of-day restrictions. Option B includes a \$10 monthly fee for a 20 percent discount on all eligible calls without any time-of-day restrictions. Option C includes a \$25 monthly fee for a 25 percent discount on all eligible calls without any time-of-day restrictions.

"Long distance calls eligible for the discount plan are those provided and billed by the local phone company," said Fossier. "As plans for the trial go forward, customers in test locales might look at their past bills to determine which calls might fall under the optional calling plan," she said. The local telephone companies will evaluate the results of the Optional Calling Plans later this year to determine if the offering should be expanded.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS Edward J. Mikula, 74, and Ruth Vance Youngs, 72, both of Weimar. Balamoros Octavio Roman, 70, and Virginia Risel Gonzalez, 62, both of Sealy. Lenzil Coleman Knox, 59, and Marcia Lea Lytes, 48, both of Wharton. Michael Anthony Gonzales, 21, and Jacqueline B. Andel, 37, both of Eagle Lake.

COUNTY COURT CASES FILED Carol Morris, theft-by-check; filed 2-23-90. James Wesley Christian, failure to display driver's license appeal, Municipal Court, Columbus; filed 2-23-90. James Wesley Christian, speeding appeal, Municipal Court, Columbus; filed 2-23-90. Larry Zaskoda, theft-by-check; filed 2-23-90. Betty Perrino, theft-by-check; filed 2-23-90. Robert D. Remy, speeding appeal, J. P. Pct. #5; filed 2-23-90. Anna Magdalena-Fisher, speeding appeal, J. P. Pct. #5; filed 2-23-90. Mrs. Bruce Brokmeier, theft-by-check; filed 2-28-90.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS Deed: T Lang to W Lang, tract in blk. No. 36, Eagle Lake; filed 2-19-90. Deed: Lorene Gates to Bennie Hernandez Jr. and Susan Hernandez, 0.913 acre, James Tumlinson League; filed 2-19-90. Deed: Jewel Briscoe to Wm. Robert and Alice Strunk, lot No. 1 thru 4, 9.10 and part of lot No. 11 in blk. No. 15, Weimar; filed 2-19-90. Deed: Emil J. and Sylvia Dusk to Allie Delgado and Mark Delgado, 0.283 acre, H. Austin Five League Grant; filed 2-19-90. Deed: First State Bank of Weimar to John A. & Martha Hajovsky, 2 tracts, R. Dowdy League; filed 2-19-90. Deed: James E. Dotter, Jr. to Doris

Commissioners approve civil litigation and indigent health care contract

In a special meeting February 21, Colorado County Commissioners Court approved civil litigation for the recovery of the \$6,100 that was stolen from the tax office last March. Also, the commissioners voted to approve an \$80,000 contract between the University of Texas Medical Branch, Colorado County and Columbus Memorial Hospital District to care for indigent residents of the county who need health care.

Telephone companies testing long distance discounts (continued) mine which long-distance pricing method is most widely accepted by customers, according to Fossier. Customers were notified of the discount service in the current bill insert. All of the programs include an up-front monthly charge for discounted long-distance calling. However, other variables will be tested such as increasing percentage discounts with additional usage, time of day, block of time and flat rate methods.

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ELECT PAUL BILLECK Colorado County Commissioner Precinct 2 The Best Candidate who is young, qualified, dependable and will get the job done. "I will be a full time Commissioner who will work for and with the people of the County by keeping the roads in good condition and using your tax dollars wisely. Also, everybody will be treated equally."

VOTE for JOYCE M. STANCIK FOR TREASURER Colorado County Democratic Primary - March 13, 1990 "Competent • Dedicated • Industrious • Trustworthy" Born in and life resident of Colorado County \$ Have firm background in banking, office management, all financial record keeping, reporting and payroll management. \$ Attended Wharton County Junior College, banking and computer courses as well as other continuing education courses. \$ Active member of First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake, VFW Auxiliary, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colorado County Historical Commission, Colorado County Genealogical Society and supporter of the Colorado County Fair. \$ Will work to the best of my ability to complete all educational and certification requirements set out by the county and/or state. \$ Ability to get job done accurately and efficiently will be an asset to Colorado County in the process of upgrading the Treasurer's office from a part time job to full time status. \$ YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED. \$ Paid for by Joyce M. Stancik, 206 W. State St., Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

Lake Motors, Inc. • Eagle Lake Presents... BIG Olds SALE! 1990 Olds Cutlass Ciera Sedan List Price \$16,592.00 Discount -2,350.00 "Bored with Ford" Rebate* -500.00 Factory Price Reduction -410.00 WOW! \$13,332.00 ...Others to Choose From... But Hurry! Sale Ends March 13th! LAKE MOTORS, INC. • EAGLE LAKE 409-234-2513 "Home of Award Winning Service"

ELECT Robert Lee "Bobby" Richardson Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 In the Democratic Primary March 13, 1990 A Vote For Bobby Is A Vote To Say No To Drugs! A Friend of the People. Experienced in the ways of life with good common sense. Fair and honest. Paid for by Robert Lee Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 1921, Columbus, Texas 76904

Jim Turner For State Senate Campaign workers for the Jim Turner Campaign were in Eagle Lake Monday. Turner is a candidate for the Texas Senate. Campaign workers for the Jim Turner Campaign were in Eagle Lake Monday. Turner is a candidate for the Texas Senate. Campaign workers for the Jim Turner Campaign were in Eagle Lake Monday. Turner is a candidate for the Texas Senate.