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Comptroller Sharp to provide economic forecasts to 25 regions of Texas

"If information is power, then communities across Texas will be in a lot better position to control their future after they receive economic forecasts tailored specifically to their area of the state," Comptroller John Sharp said recently, announcing that his office will begin releasing such vital data later this month.

Beginning in his hometown of Victoria on March 20, Sharp will conduct a series of 25 regional seminars in the coming months to give business, civic and government leaders an in-depth analysis of their local economy, the state's finances and Texas' relationship to the national economy.

The second seminar is scheduled for March 26 in Laredo.

"If the state's economy is to continue to grow, it's essential that our own hometown businesses and community leaders understand what's going on and how changes in the local, state and national economy may affect them," Sharp said.

"No one can effectively plan for their community's or business' future without a thorough understanding of where their economy stands right now. The Comptroller's office, more than any other state agency, gathers a wealth of economic data. We're going to share that information with folks

outside of Austin," Sharp said. "Those attending these seminars will receive detailed information on the outlook of individual sectors of their economy, including: manufacturing, trade, construction, real estate, services, agriculture and government. This kind of specific, targeted information has rarely been available to local leaders before, or provided in such a 'user-friendly' way."

"People also need the opportunity to ask questions about state spending, taxes and things that matter to them, and these seminars are a perfect forum for that," Sharp said.

The information provided at the seminars will be useful to anyone interested in the future of their community and that's why I hope that along with bankers and mayors, we

can attract labor leaders, farmers, environmental activists, representatives of minority groups and everyone else who wants to come."

While Victoria and Laredo are the first two locations, Sharp will also release regional economic forecasts for Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, College Station, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Lubbock, McAllen, Midland/Odessa, Nacogdoches, San Angelo, San Antonio, Sherman/Denison, Temple, Texarkana, Tyler, Waco and Wichita Falls.

There will be a nominal \$10 charge per person to cover the cost of the facility and materials for each seminar. For additional information, call 1-800-272-2729.

Don't forget to register for door prizes to be given away right after the meal. Money for the cover charge must be in no later than April 27, in

period. Administrators are granted multi-year term contracts. Principals receive two year contracts. Superintendent Carolyn McGahey operates under a three-year contract.

Resignations were accepted from high school coach and teacher J.W. Lively, Garwood teacher Judy Gangl and Edward Heinrich, resource teacher at Sheridan elementary school.

In other business the board: Heard a report from Deborah Mathys on the local school survey of drug and alcohol use by Rice students in grades 4-12.

Approved pre-advanced courses and advanced placement courses. Authorized bids for office and instructional supplies and library books.

Appointed election officials for the May 4 trustee election. Amended board policies concerning head lice and administration of medication by school employees.

Approved the hiring of Bickert, Heath and Smiley of Austin to review proposals for redistricting assessments for \$2,500.

Approved the appointment of the Rev. Sharon Burns of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus to the Colorado County Children's Protective Service Board. She will fill the void left by the Rev. Robin Reed formerly of the First United Methodist Church of Weimar.

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work and said that he sees many youth in his juvenile court. He felt that many times parents are at fault in juvenile addiction cases.

He added that the programs were indeed helping many of the youth going through them by simply pointing the problems they have.

"Once the parents are informed of the problems, they (the teen-agers) many times have their help. Many parents are so busy working and trying to make ends meet, they don't know what is going on in their children's lives," said Strunk.

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