



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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State likely to miss Court's deadline

Defying a court-imposed deadline that would halt state funding of public schools, the Texas House last week defeated an education finance bill supporters argued would keep funding under legislative control.

The \$7-63 defeat means the state will likely miss the Texas Supreme Court's April 1 deadline to craft a plan correcting inequities in money available to rich and poor school districts.

In arguing for the bill, supporters said it was essential the state not risk the court taking control of the schools. Opponents objected to the bill primarily because of its effect on schools in their districts and an estimated \$13.5 billion 5-year price tag.

Gov. Ann Richards said, "The public schools in Texas are in serious jeopardy unless this Legislature gets its act together about funding."

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock was holding out hope that the House might reconsider its vote.

"The know-nothings combined with the do-nothings to defeat a bill that was in the middle of the road and responded to the court's mandate," said an angry Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

House Speaker Gib Lewis said

members would work on another compromise on the bill and perhaps vote again early this week.

New Investigative Panel

Facing a state of allegations of criminal wrongdoing at several state agencies, Senate leaders are moving to create a special General Investigative

Committee for the first time in 32 years.

State Sen. John Montford said he has written a resolution to create a five-member committee of senators with subpoena power and investigative power.

"There are five or six major issues, serious allegations involving possible misuse of state appropriations, that need to be looked into by an investigative body," said Montford, D-Lubbock, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

The Senate action, Montford said, was prompted by a growing number of mispending allegations in recent months — none involving the Texas Department of Commerce, Housing Agency, and Department of Human Services.

"The idea here is to get a small, workable committee that can handle these matters in a prompt, timely fashion," Montford said.

Lean Budget Approved

Facing up to the reality of the state financial crisis, the House Appropriations Committee last week approved a budget that slashed spending in almost every area, including prisons, education and human services.

The Colorado County Extension Homemakers Club is a community group

which work with the county Extension Agent to plan and conduct educational programs in Home Economics.

Membership is open to all people regardless of race, creed, national origin, sex, religion or handicap. Any adult may become a member. The organization provides its members help in coping in today's society by providing programs in health, nutrition, parenting, education, safety, money management, housing, leadership and related areas of personal development. Methods include hands-on experience at workshops, on tours, at monthly club meetings and through community service.

May 5-12 is National Extension Homemakers Week. It would be a special way to celebrate in our county to be able to form an Eagle Lake club. Daytime or night meetings or both could be held. An organizational meeting is planned. Anyone interested in attending this meeting or receiving additional information is asked to call the Extension office at 732-2530 or write 316 Spring Street, Columbus, Texas, 78934.

Barbara Prouse

Council Chairperson

Colorado County Extension Homemakers Clubs

"The Headlight was honored to have the chance to talk with Evelyn Landa Nixon, a 1925 graduate of Eagle Lake High School, who was visiting her former hometown to see the wildflowers. She said she came from Houston just to tour the fields and they were beautiful.

"That saying, 'You can get the boy out of the country, but you can't get the country out of the boy' proved to be 100 percent true Tuesday. Jonna Bowen noticed there was a hog stuck in the fence at The Farris 1912 Hotel. Wayne Bowen and Bob Cook tried unyieldingly to get the hog free, but were unsuccessful. That's when 'Farmer Boy' Bill Farris took over and flipped the hog just like any cowboy would and freed the varmint. It is believed that The Farris is having a special on pork chops.

"Friends will regret to learn that Ernest F. (Beans) Fmka is seriously ill in the intensive care unit of Polk Ryan Hospital in Richmond. Bean and wife Wilma, both former long-time residents of Eagle Lake, now reside in El Campo. Prayers are offered for his quick return to good health.

"It was announced recently that Bill and Helen Farris have purchased the land next to their antique shop on E. Main (the former location of the White House Cafe).

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Marsalis

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