



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Sigh of relief heard as final vote seals \$1.3 billion proposal

With a court deadline facing them, lawmakers late last week voted mainly along party lines to approve a school finance reform bill which the governor promised to sign immediately.

A huge sigh of relief rippled through Democratic ranks as the final vote sealed the \$1.3 billion proposal, much as a tardy student might have in handing in a long overdue term paper.

Relieved they were, but not especially proud or supportive of the hard-won compromise.

Even if the measure is approved by the court this week, the biggest unknown factor is how voters will react when large property tax increases kick in.

One member observed: This is unprecedented in Texas history: the Texas Supreme Court, holding a shotgun on the Legislature, forced it to raise local school property taxes with successive hikes over four years.

The resentment many lawmakers, particularly House members, feel toward the court is deep. Certainly, political careers may die over this vote alone.

The Good News

The good news is that it's over for

now and members can get on with other business in the six weeks that remain.

It has also opened the door to tax reform; many think that too many dedicated funds have left lawmakers with discretionary control over only 16 percent of the state budget.

And in school districts, where

ideas as the first Hispanic appointed to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

•The House approved what opponents called the "loan shark bill" allowing finance companies to charge higher interest rates, up to 28.3 percent on some loans.

•The Confederacy lost again: senators designated the third Monday in January as a state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and bumped Confederate Heroes Day down to an optional holiday on June 3.

•The House added \$2 to the price of new tires to pay for cleaning up an estimated 100 million scrap tires discarded in Texas and the 17 million annually we will discard in the future.

Ignore "Sacred Cows"

Vowing that there should be "no sacred cows" in state government, Gov. Ann Richards last week urged a new committee to scrutinize the dedicated funds that severely limit the Legislature's budget-writing alternatives.

The Governor's Task Force on

Other Statehouse Action

In other, less dramatic, action last week:

•A Senate committee approved appeals court Judge Fortunato Benav-

necessities are short and frills are non-existent, the bill is a rainbow of hope.

The Bad News

On the down side, many lawmakers think a new state income tax is much closer to reality now.

Others are worried that court liberals, in their zeal to interpret equality, have blazed a dangerous trail intruding too deep in local affairs and emulating federal judges.

A third complaint is that, like

Mark White's HB 72 reforms six

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams

Texas Press Association

Political advertisement paid for by Concerned Citizens for Don Bendy, Russell Thomas and Steve Bates, Treasurers, 702 S. McCarty, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

To The Citizens of Eagle Lake...

As you make your decision concerning who to vote for in the City Council Race, we ask you to consider...

DON BENDY as your write-in candidate

•17 Year Resident •Active Law Practice
•President of the Industrial Foundation
•Past President of Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce, Past Chairman of Administrative Council United Methodist Church

Political advertisement paid for by Concerned Citizens for Don Bendy, Russell Thomas and Steve Bates, Treasurers, 702 S. McCarty, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

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Now, get up to \$500 cash back or 12 month, 0% financing on selected Lennox equipment.

Beat Rising Energy Costs — Call Now!

EB AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING SERVICE

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Lennox is a registered trademark of Lennox Industries Inc. Offer good on H514, H516, H518, H521, H522 and H523 models only. Financing available to qualified buyers only. See participating dealer for details. Offer ends 5-31-91.

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Letters to the Editor

No plans for closing doors

Sears and Duncan & Son have been open for business in this community for 20 and 45 years, respectively. Both have no plans for closing their doors.

Debbie Yawter, owner-manager of Sears since 1976, states, "According to Sears District Manager Ned Rand, there are no plans to close privately owned Sears Catalog Stores. However, some small 'company-owned' stores have been closed or converted to individually owned Catalog Centers." The Sears Store in Wharton is an example of one such conversion.

Sears has made many changes and there are some

problems, as all Sears customers know, but those problems are being addressed and many have been solved. There are plans for sample appliances to be placed in the Eagle Lake Store. Also, Sears is offering free estimates on home improvements, roofing, siding, etc. through the local store.

Sears Service for this area continues to be available through the Sears Service Center in Wharton. Also, there is a new 800 number for parts with more convenient hours of service. Phone numbers are available through your local Sears Agent.

Chamber says thank you for your help

I would like to express my thanks to all who took part in driving or vol-

unteering for the Chamber of Commerce for the Wildflower Tours. It certainly makes it easier to get a job done when you have members eager to help. For those who were unable to help during this time, be assured we will call on you again for your help in some other area.

I would also like to say thank you to Penny Henske and her group of

To display children's artwork without ruining walls with tape or tacks, hang a fishnet on a wall and hold pictures to it with clothespins.

Thanks again for all the help and support.

Sincerely, Vicki Powers, President Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce

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