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Democrats prepared to get themselves 'off political hook'

Texas Democrats will convene in special session next week prepared to write a state budget they hope will get them off the political hook for a long time.

Texas Republicans accused top Democrats of shutting them out of the budget process and violating the Open Meetings Act, to boot.

Gov. Ann Richards, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, House Speaker Gib Lewis and four House members closeted themselves with comptroller John Sharp's deficit-reduction plan at a Matagorda Island hideaway late last month.

Except for Gov. Richards, all are members of the Legislative Budget Board and six people make a quorum.

The Associated Republicans of Texas asked Travis County DA Ronnie Earle and Attorney General Dan Morales, both Democrats, to probe the legality of the meeting.

Morales called them "partisan political buzzards" and told them to file a lawsuit with their own money.

Richards said no decisions were made in secret, just a briefing by staff, thus no violation occurred.

GOP Challenges Richards

The governor has gotten a lot of "I told you so" mileage by boasting that the Legislature does not need to pass an income tax.

Her critics remind that her present stance is a change from her soft position, necessitated by the fact that until Sharp's plan was released, an income tax on her desk was a strong possibility.

And still is at some future date. Some say it's inevitable.

State GOP Party Chairman Fred Meyer challenged Richards to put it on the line by promising to veto any income tax while she is in office.

Through a press spokesman, Richards declined and called the challenge "ridiculous, partisan game playing."

New Gubernatorial Powers

Meanwhile, Gov. Richards, who asked the Legislature last week to reorganize state government, has a plan that would give the governor sweeping new powers over most state programs and agencies.

The proposal would give the governor direct control over the criminal justice system, environmental protection programs, health and human services, economic development and transportation.

In a press conference, Richards wouldn't identify her primary targets.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
Texas Press Association

But in a proclamation officially calling the Legislature into special session on July 15, she made it clear she expects lawmakers to work on shaking up state government before adopting a new budget.

Cabinet-Style Authority

Under the plan, the governor would be handed cabinet-style authority to appoint executive directors of state agencies after the agencies are reorganized and consolidated into eight umbrella-type government departments.

Much of the reorganization would be similar to that already proposed by Sharp. But the plan developed by Richards' staff would go a major step further by having the governor appoint the agency heads, who now are named by boards and commissions.

"People believe there has to be more accountability, and we don't have it now," Richards said. "The notion of having a direct appointment of the departmental heads and the direction of an agency, making that person directly accountable to the governor, is a very important issue."

The idea of giving the governor authority to appoint agency chiefs has been endorsed by at least two key legislators, Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Ric. Williamson, D-Weatherford, vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Hutchison Skewers Taxes

State Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison has spent several weeks telling audiences there is no real deficit, just one contrived by Democrats who plan to increase spending 22 percent.

"Households and businesses don't increase spending 22 percent; why should government do so?" she asks.

Hutchison says Texas already has

(See Highlights, Page 11)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The County of Colorado shall conduct a Public Hearing regarding a proposed contract amendment to its Texas Community Development Program - 1986 Community Development Fund project for the community of Sheridan. The Public Hearing shall be held on Thursday, July 18, 1991, at 5:00 P.M., at the Sheridan Community Center. Agenda: 1. Proposed Amendments to revise project activities. 2. Citizen Comments.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Eagle Lake shall conduct a Public Hearing to advise the public about the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) and to obtain comments for a proposed application. The Public Hearing shall be held on 15th day, July, 1991, at 5:00 P.M., in the City Offices of the Municipal Building. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TCDP funds available, all eligible TCDP activities, and the use of past TCDP funds. Citizens are encouraged to submit their views and proposals regarding community development and housing needs to Bruce J. Spitzengel Consulting, 2906 Deer Creek Drive, Sugar Land, Texas 77478.

A second Public Hearing shall be held to advise the public about the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) and to obtain comments for a proposed application. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the proposed project, the amount of funds to be requested, and the estimated amount of funds to benefit low/moderate income persons. There is no displacement of persons anticipated under this project. The Public Hearing shall be held on 22nd day, July, 1991, at 5:00 P.M., at City Hall. The application shall be available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. Access assistance for handicapped persons shall be available at the hearings.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for your dedication!!

Dear Editor:

Special thanks to Coaches Dennis Jackson and Jack Sanders for running the "Summer Track '91" program. I think it has been great for the kids in the community.

They have worked with 74 students, all on volunteer time, and have taken them all around the state. We are fortunate that six students will be advancing to Nationals in Florida.

I am very proud that these men are on the staff at Eagle Lake Middle School and I really appreciate their professionalism and their dedication to the young people in the community. Keep up the good work!

Charles Abel

Subscriber in Japan voices opinion...

Parents took careless 'shot in the dark' in case against Benge

Now that I live in Japan and work for the government teaching school at an Army/Navy base, I really should not care what happens in Eagle Lake, Texas, but, because I receive my copy of the *Eagle Lake Headlight* each week, I occasionally peruse the paper to see what news is being generated locally.

I read with disbelief that Major Benge had been arrested for doing the job he was hired to do. He is employed by the school district to ensure proper behavior is displayed by all students at the elementary school. Since I was also employed by RCISD as the district's band director, I personally witnessed swats administered by the principals.

Corporal punishment is used as a last resort in most cases, and I never witnessed abuse taking place. Corporal punishment is legal at all RCISD schools, and is a deterrent to many students who misbehave. If Benge was arrested for administering corporal punishment, then why not arrest the other four principals? They are just as guilty as he. This case reeks of a child who obviously blurred the parent's sense of good judgement.

If I were Major Benge, I would sue the britches off the parents for libelous and slanderous accusations publicly acclaimed. It may not help alleviate the pain, concern and doubt about his ability as a professional educator, and the doubts the community may have about his ability as the elementary school principal, but it would certainly clear the air and possibly divert any future actions taken against him by parents who act before they think. This parent has taken damaging action against the reputation of a professional who is dedicated to uphold the discipline policies of the school district. That's the job for which the elected school board pays him.

The parents who filed the grievance probably did not follow school district policy by speaking to Major Benge first, then to the Superintendent and school board if not satisfied. This procedure could possibly have solved the issue before it went public.

Again, it seems sound judgement was not used by the parents. Major Benge is an employee of the school district directly responsible to the superintendent for his actions. Did these parents give the superintendent the opportunity of solving an "in house" controversy before they filed suit? I doubt it. Whether this procedure was followed or not was not clearly reported, nor was the extent of injuries to the child reported. Did a doctor examine the child, and, if so, did the doctor deem that physical abuse had indeed taken place? Without this evidence, the parents do not have a leg to stand on, especially since the punishment was witnessed by other adults and professionals.

The discipline policies at all RCISD schools needs strong leaders to enforce rules and behavioral practices necessary to ensure a proper setting for quality education to take place. Major Benge has those qualities of firm but fair disciplinary practices. I have grown weary of simple minded parents who believe and act upon information from their children before checking with the adults involved.

Regarding Michael Cooper's letter to the editor dated June 13, it seems obvious to me that the superintendent and trustees are displaying responsible and professional ethics by remaining quiet about the issue until lawyers and the court make decisions; therefore, not jeopardizing either the position of Major Benge or the school district. Throwing barbs at the superintendent before knowing the total picture was uncalled for.

My suggestion to the parents who filed to suit would be to immediately withdraw the accusations, and publish an apology to Major Benge. If not, then place the child in a private school whose discipline policy forbids corporal punishment, and hire a good lawyer.

Glen A. Wren
Camp Zama, Japan

P.S. Editor: I realize this issue may have been solved by now. I get the paper two weeks after publication, so I may be late with this response. I enjoy the *Eagle Lake Headlight* immensely. Keep up the good work.

Let's Look Back...

48 Years Ago

December 25, 1942

Pvt. Lester E. Schindler is a new subscriber to the Headlight. He is located at Prov. Hdq. Det., Aloe Air Field, Victoria, Texas... **Elmer Schindler** came in last weekend from Ellington Field to join his brother, Private Lester E. Schindler in the parental home... **Seaman First Class Paul Barrilett** left Sunday night after a few days pre-Christmas furlough spent with his parents, other relatives and friends...

Pvt. Lee R. Johnson notifies the Headlight of a change of his address. His late address is California Flyers Class, Santa Monica... From somewhere with the Pacific Fleet comes

(See 48 Years, Page 11)

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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS

Deed: Stephen Wayne Lewis to Peter William Lewis, int. in 643.69 acres, I & G. N. Ry. Co. Survey; filed 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to David L. and Dana K. Baldwin, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Donald R. Banks and Valeria D. Clemons, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Patrick J. and Patti L. Bellows, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Pamela Coker, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Wilbert Daniels Jr. and Cinderella, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Nabanjan and Bibati Das, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Bobby and Julie G. Etheridge, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Wilbert W. and Imogene G. Grueger, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Gynni L. Thies, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Steven A. VanDyke, und. int. in the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 6-24-91.

Deed: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp to Victor M. and Rosa Pantoja, 0.1177 acre tract in blk. #55, G.W. White Survey, Eagle Lake; 6-24-91.

Gift Deed: Stephan Hoelscher Sr. and Georgie May Hoelscher, et al to Lou Ann Hoelscher, 2.428 acres, Wm. Stagner Survey; 6-25-91.

Deed: Stephan Hoelscher Sr. and Georgie May Hoelscher to Rosann Hoelscher Mikulenka, und. int. in 61.705 acres, Wm. Stagner Survey; 6-25-91.

Deed: Rosann Hoelscher Mikulenka and Bernard Mikulenka to Stephan Hoelscher Sr., und. int. in 71.705 acres, Wm. Stagner Survey, et al; 6-25-91.

Gift Deed: Alma Hurd Williams to Joe L. Turner, und. int. in 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly League; 6-25-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Robert H. and Ellen Hays Becker, lot #25, blk. #3, section II, The Falls Subd.; 6-25-91.

Deed: Resort Recreational Properties, Inc. to Elpidia Presas, lot #10, blk. #3, section II, The Falls Subd.; 6-25-91.

Deed: Ned and Ruby Lee Stallman to W.A. Hefner III and Jessye Elizabeth Hefner, 15.175 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-25-91.

Gift Deed: Edwin C. Hartensteiner to Ruth Hartensteiner, et al, und. int. in 133.75 acres, John Swarte Survey; 6-26.

Gift Deed: Martha Labay Cernoch, et al to Albina Labay Estate, int. in 1.049 acres, J.S. Evans League; 6-26-91.

Deed: Herman Mahlmann and Clarence Mahlmann to Robert Gonzales Sr., tract in blk. 46, P. Reel's Survey, Eagle Lake; 6-26-91.

Deed: Jim Walter Homes Inc. and Mid State Trust II to Janet R. Scott, lot #17, Bocche 7 Ruwwe Addition, Eagle Lake; 6-26-91.

Deed: Resolution Trust Corp. to Kenneth R. Bowman, various lots and blocks, section 1 and 2, The Falls Subd.; 6-26-91.

Deed: Charles Patrick and Cynthia Ann Ellis to Hand and Karen Kucker Kastner, 30 acres, James Cornett Survey; 6-26-91.

Deed: Ruby Tolbiert to William Pierce and Joyce Arthur, lot #4 and outlot #1, bld. #27, Taylor Addition, Columbus; 6-25-91.

Deed: Patricia Ann Jezek to Nathan L. Goodwin Jr., int. in part of lots 4 and 5, blk #47, Columbus; 6-25-91.

Deed: Nathan L. Goodwin Jr. to Patricia Ann Jezek, 0.155 acre in original lot #3, blk. #10, Columbus; 6-25-91.

Deed: Patricia Ann Jezek to Raymond L. and Donna G. Bubak, 0.155 acre in original lot #3, blk. #10, Columbus; 6-25.

Deed: Weldon H. and Irma B. Kansteiner to Juan and Marie V. Maturino, part of lot #4 and all of lots 5 and 6, blk. #25, Glidden; 6-25-91.

OIL AND GAS LEASES

Texas Ameritrust, N.A. to American Trading & Production Corp., 160 acres, L & G.N.R.R. Company Survey #49; filed 6-24-91.

Board of Regents of the University of Texas System to Horizon Exploration Co. Horizon Resources, Inc., 1,144.7148 acres, I. & G.N.R.R. Co. Survey #2, et al; 6-24-91.

Iaiza B. Weems to American Trading & Production Corp., 160 acres, I. & G.N.R.R. Company, Survey #49; 6-24-91.

Marion M. Davis To Arkla Exploration co., 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-25-91.

Renee Anderson Williams to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-25-91.

Joe L. Turner and Alma Hurd Williams to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-25-91.

Evelyn B. Tylear to Murphy H. Baxter, 140 acres, J. Cummins Survey; 6-26.

Lorraine Williams to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-26-91.

Tracy Williams to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-26-91.

Lisa Hurd to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-26-91.

Celester Hurd to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-26-91.

Doris Annie Thomas to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-26-91.

Julia Ann Evoritt Gannon, et al to Windjam Resources, Inc., 200 acres, James Earl Survey, et al; 6-26-91.

Jeffrey Hurd to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-27-91.

Nathaniel D. Hurd et al to Arkla Exploration Company, 75 acres, Samuel Kennelly Survey; 6-27-91.

State of Texas to American Trading and Production Corp., 4.57 acres, John S. Evans League; 6-27-91.

COUNTY COURT CASES FILED

Steven Haade, speeding appeal, J.P. Pct. #2; filed 6-25-91.

Larry Joe Garamillo, violation of a protective order; 6-25-91.

Larry Joe Garamillo, violation of a protective order; 6-25-91.

Rebecca Jayne Walton, criminal trespass; 6-27-91.

Rebecca Jayne Walton, criminal trespass; 6-27-91.

Rebecca Jayne Walton, criminal trespass; 6-27-91.

Cabino Quintana, criminal trespass; 6-27-91.

Leonaldo Espinoza, criminal trespass; 6-27-91.

Gilberto Guzman, criminal trespass; 6-27-91.

Rebecca Walton, possession of marijuana, under 2 oz.; 6-27-91.

James Chamberlain, possession of marijuana, under 2 oz.; 6-27-91.

Rebecca Jayne Walton, terroristic threat; 6-27-91.

Rebecca Jayne Walton, unlawfully carrying a weapon; 6-27-91.

Calvin W. Stovall, theft by check; 6-27-91.

Delorese Wilks, theft by check; 6-27.

Ulab Johnson III, theft; 6-27-91.

Otis Howard, theft; 6-27-91.

Willie Elma King, theft by check; 6-27-91.

Keith A. Douglas, theft; 6-27-91.

Greg O'Neal Frazier, criminal mischief; 6-27-91.

Julie A. Melshor, theft by check; 6-27.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Martin Arnoldo Ledezma, 27, and Delicia Linnea Villarreal, 18, both of Eagle Lake.

DIVORCES FILED

Fred Cantu and Nydia S. Cantu; filed 7-1-91.

Clemente Vazquez and Eva M. Vazquez; 7-1-91.

Marilyn Mikulenka and James R. Mikulenka; 7-7-91.

Dollie Mae Johnson and Arthur Joe Johnson; 7-1-91.

Rosie A. Scott and Leon Donnell Scott; 7-1-91.

CIVIL SUITS FILED

Steven Taylor vs. Roland Hemphill, damages; filed 7-3-91.

Earl Pitchford vs. Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company and Gene Evans, damages; 7-3-91.

TAHC conducting brucellosis tests

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) veterinarians and animal health inspectors have intensified efforts to find brucellosis-infected cattle in three counties along the Gulf Coast. In sections of Liberty, Wharton and Colorado Counties, TAHC staff are working with ranchers to test all herds for the contagious, bacterial disease that can cause cows to abort, or produce less milk or weak offspring.

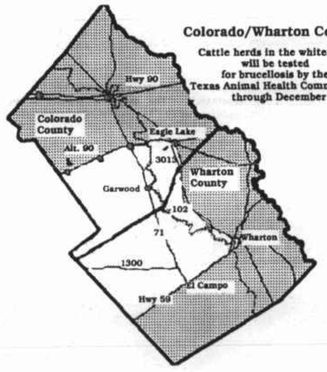
By the end of October, the TAHC plans to have tested more than 400 cattle herds in the western and northeastern section of Liberty County. During June, when the project was started, 16 herds were tested, with one infected herd found. The Liberty County test area extends west from the Trinity River to the county line. The northeastern portion is east of the Trinity River and north of Highway 105. (See Map) A temporary office has been set up in Cleveland and may be reached at 713-592-2016.

The TAHC completed testing cattle in the other portion of Liberty County in early March finding infection in herds belonging to 16 ranchers.

In Colorado and Wharton Counties, the TAHC staff will work with ranchers to test more than 700 herds by the end of December. Since June, 18 herds have been tested; three are infected.

The two-county test area is bounded to the west by the Colorado and Wharton county lines. The northern edge runs along alternate highway 90 to Eagle Lake, then drops south along highway 3013 to highway 102 to Wharton. Highway 59 is the southern edge. (See Map) Ranchers may call the TAHC's temporary office in Garwood at (409) 758-3671.

As the state's livestock regulatory agency, the TAHC must ensure Texas meets federal standards for wiping out specific livestock diseases, including brucellosis, which is detected through blood tests on adult cattle. If Texas does not "clean up" the disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 29 brucellosis-free states could impose restrictions on Texas' cattle industry.



Dr. Terry Beals, executive director of the TAHC, said area tests like those in Liberty and Colorado/Wharton counties are helping Texas' brucellosis infection count drop to record lows. In June, only 329 infected herds were under quarantine, down from more than 2,000 infected herds in the late 1980s. In the early 1950s, when the official brucellosis battle began, more than 25,000 Texas herds had the disease.

Before starting an area test, Beals said TAHC epidemiologists and veterinarians study the rate of infection in a county over a three-year period, and consider the area's typical management and marketing practices.

In Liberty County, for instance, 23 of 706 herds — or more than seven percent — of the county's herds were known to be infected in June. Despite usual testing efforts, infection has not significantly declined during the past three years.

In Colorado county, however, only about 2% of the herds are infected, while nearly 4% are infected in Wharton County. More disturbing in these counties, said Beals, is the high rate of infection in nearby or "adjacent" herds. In Colorado County, 12% of adjacent herds tested are infected, and in Wharton County, infection is found in 21% of the neighboring herds.

Area testing has been used several times by the TAHC to "clean up" persistent infection. In Jefferson County, area testing in 1989 resulted in finding 65 infected herds. Jefferson county was once the most highly infected county in the country, but now has only 11 herds under quarantine.

By testing all cattle in the area, Dr. Beals said, infected herds can be found and quarantined to stop the disease from spreading. Because there is no cure for the disease in livestock, infected cattle are sent to slaughter. (Cooked meat is safe to eat.) Cattle remaining in the herd are retested periodically to determine if they have developed brucellosis. A herd may be released from quarantine 180 days after the last infected animal is found and removed from the herd.

Gramm reports...

Texas gains new jobs as panel caps base closures

Texas is expected to gain more than 4,000 military and civilian jobs from bases closed elsewhere in the nation, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm noted.

The Base Closure Commission voted to shut down Bergstrom and Carswell Air force bases in Austin and Fort Worth, as well as the Chase Field Naval Air Station at Beeville, but it also shifted thousands of new positions into Texas from elsewhere.

"At the same time, we were successful in beating back proposals to close Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, the Navy's new homeport at Corpus Christi and Kingsville Naval Air Station," Gramm said.

Earlier this year, the Pentagon had recommended the closure of 31 major military bases nationwide, including three of Texas' 21 bases. Under the original list, Carswell, Bergstrom and Chase Field were slated for closure.

Even with the proposed closure of three Texas bases, however, the Defense Department's April plan left the state a new winner, gaining 4,100 jobs by shifting units into Texas from other states.

"The largest single change proposed by the Pentagon was the shift of 12,672 soldiers and 868 civilians from Fort Polk, Louisiana to Fort Hood," Gramm noted. "After an 11th-hour debate, the commission wisely endorsed the plan to transfer a second division to Fort Hood, returning it to full use as a two-division base."

(See Gramm, Page 11)

SCS News

Dean Kocurek of the Oak Grove area has completed construction of a pond.

William Glancy of the Oak Grove area has completed construction of a pond and shaped eroded areas.

John Dubiel of the Weimar area is in the process of shaping eroded areas.

Henry Herder is in the process of constructing ponds and is also shaping eroded areas in the Sheridan area.

Mary Ulbricht of the Borden area is planning to construct a pond.

M.R. Jaska of the Borden area is planning to construct a pond.

All programs of the Department of Agriculture are available to anyone with out regard of race, color, sex, age, handicap, marital status, or national origin."

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Painful redness of the gums, in fact, is considered one of the classic features of primary herpes. Another feature is the formation of small blisters that usually break and form ulcers. Whether it's a canker sore or primary herpes, the condition usually lasts from 10 to 14 days and then disappears.

Your dentist can prescribe medicine to alleviate the discomfort and suggest whatever other treatment may be necessary to protect your dental health.

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- NEW RURAL LAND OR RURAL RESIDENCE PURCHASES ONLY
- ONE-YEAR ADJUSTABLE RATE (repriced annually)
- CONVERTIBLE TO OTHER INTEREST RATE PROGRAMS WITHOUT FEES ON ANNIVERSARY DATE
- 1% CLOSED LOAN FEE
- LONG-TERM LOANS
- ASSUMABLE
- PRICED WEEKLY
- DETERMINED BY REFERENCE TO WEEKLY AVERAGE YIELD ON 1-YEAR CONSTANT MATURITY TREASURY INDEX

FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATIONS
Offices Located Throughout Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas

LA GRANGE-BELLVILLE
Federal Land Bank Association of Bellville
P.O. Box 459
La Grange, Texas 78945
409-968-5750
or 968-6611
P.O. Box 39
Bellville, Texas 77418
409-865-2219
or 865-2103

Federal LAND BANK Association

* Annual percentage rates range from 8.75% APR to 8.88% APR, depending on length of contract. APR based on rates for specified 1-year constant maturity treasury index during the week of May 13-17, 1991.