

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Bonds for building prisons approved, but state has no money for operations

Two days after Texas voters approved more bond money to build prisons, the state's prison chief said many will never be built.

And as grumblings about the insurance industry rumble, a top New York-based ratings company warned Texans to beware of the many small insurance companies in the state.

"It would be prudent to take a real hard look at these types of companies," said William O'Neil of Standard & Poor's Corporation. "Historically, the majority of failures have been among small companies."

If that's not enough to worry Texas politicians, the media is reporting another kind of complaint: voter dissatisfaction with politicians, particularly long-time incumbents.

Even public servant at-large Ross Perot, the Dallas billionaire, is spreading the word nationwide for Texans.

Like A Grocery Store
Texas has had more life insurance

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
Texas Press Association

Companies go bankrupt than any other state, partly because little made it easy to start with very low capital.

During the last legislative session, industry lobbyists complained that under-capitalized companies were hurting adequate ones, first by competition, then by saddling them with their pooled losses after bankruptcy.

Told it is easier to start an insurance company than a grocery store, legislators passed a new law to require investors to put up more money.

But that doesn't address the problems caused by insurance investments in junk bonds and bad real estate mortgages.

Few New Prisons?

The anti-incumbent sentiment which reportedly is sweeping the country is not likely to be quelled if what the state prison chief says is true. Seldon Hale, criminal justice board chairman, said many of the planned prisons will never be built because the state doesn't have the money to staff and operate them.

Hale, an appointee of Gov. Ann Richards, said it will take \$3 billion a year to operate the planned prison system and will require a tax increase.

Throw Them Out: Perot

If H. Ross Perot has the image of a private entrepreneur who has always served his country at its best and call, perhaps this image and his enormous influence are well earned.

After word reached Texas ears that Perot fired up a rally of "clean house" activists last week in Florida, some lawmakers are worried he might do the same in Texas.

There's A Brighter Side

Richardson shrugged off the end of the honeymoon, explaining, "The reality is that, for the last nine months, we have fought some tough political battles."

And not very well, detractors add, pointing to higher taxes and insurance costs since she took office.

Governor's Rating Drops

Her supporters may be pushing her as vice presidential material, but the latest Texas Poll says Gov. Richards' approval rating has dropped in her home state.

The approval rating for Richards has dropped from 61% to 49%, while her disapproval rating has risen from 24% to 44%, mainly among independent voters.

The blow was softened later when

Other Highlights

"Calling the passage of Proposition 8 a 'victory for good government,'" State Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison said Texas voters no longer will be asked to approve state debt without knowing its amount, purpose and source of repayment.

The estranged wife of U.S. Rep. Craig Washington filed for bankruptcy protection to save her home from foreclosure sale. Washington, a state senator before going to Congress, claims to owe more than \$250,000 in back taxes. Texas GOP chairman Fred Meyer has suggested taxpayers are not obligated to pay the congressman's salary until he pays the back taxes.

"Texas Supreme Court Justice John Cornyn is trying to have a Lando lawsuit challenging the legality of his holding two state jobs moved to his hometown, Austin. Cornyn denied the issue of conflict and asked that six state district judges who double as fellow administrative judges be required to join him as defendants.

He is originally from Galena Park and attended South Texas Junior College and Centenary College of Shreveport, La.

The Clouses enjoy a quiet life at home. Mrs. Clouse is a school teacher and hopes to teach locally. She also enjoys crocheting and sewing. Rev. Clouse's hobby is woodwork.

Contractor H.C. Fowler of Columbus began work last week on the new home of Mr. and Mrs. John Clouse on Melody Lane next to the Fred R. Frnka home which is also nearing completion.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pidgeon were happy to have their children and grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Jean P. Adams, Brenda Kay, and twins, Scott Edwin and Sue Ellen of Fort Worth; Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Handley, Blake and Todd; Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Pidgeon and son, Jack Cornell and Mrs. Jack Pidgeon's sister, Miss Janie Cornell, all of Houston, home for the weekend.

Delbert Kunz and Michael Burns, Future Farmers of America members from Colorado County, have entered a Jersey Heifer and a Poland China Barrow in the San Antonio Livestock Exposition that runs from Feb. 10 to 19th at the Joe Freeman Coliseum.

Those going to Kenedy Thursday to attend the funeral of their sister and aunt, Mrs. Alma Syring, were Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Meysner and son, Norbert, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gerberman, Mrs. Louis Richter, Mrs. Fred Kubesch, Mrs. Joe Krenk and Mrs. John Littleton.

Miss Dianne Clipseon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Clipseon, and

Robert McMillan, student of A & I College in Kingsville, was home over the weekend. Robert enlisted last Oct., but has just been called. He will report in San Antonio, March 27th.

From far away French N. Africa comes the announcement of the promotion of Freddie Frnka to Aviation Machinist Mate 2c. Lieut. Joe Kearney arrived from Camp Roberts,

Calif. over the past weekend to visit briefly in the home of his brother, J.W. Kearney and family.

Chas. E. Walker writes from Moscow, Idaho, that he has completed all tests and passed his work and was promoted to First Platoon.

Isaac Williams, well known and respected colored sailor from this community, in a letter to D.S. Taylor of the Headlight, asks to be remembered to all Eagle Lake friends.

William J. Martin, who has been stationed in Portland, Oregon, for a long while has just been transferred to Fort Logan, Colorado. Letters from Pvt. Albert Konvika to relatives and friends speak of how well he likes the Army. At present Albert is stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Pvt. Perry D. Morris of Camp Swift, Bastrop and Aviation Cadet Allen Cassidy of A&M College spent Sunday with their respective family circles.

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