

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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A&M regents under fire for questionable spending

A Texas House member plans to sponsor legislation to limit expenditures by university regents, after reports of questionable spending by Texas A&M University System regents.

In a copyrighted story, *The Dallas Morning News* reported last week that Texas A&M System regents spent more than \$1.6 million over the past three fiscal years and used mostly public funds to pay for resort hotels, limousines and bar bills.

State Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said the method of financing regents' expenditures at state supported universities is a "Byzantine system" created to obscure accountability.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
Texas Press Association

"There's a relatively simple solution to this and I'll push for this in the next session of the Legislature," said Ogden, who holds a master's degree in business administration from A&M. Ogden, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said he'd work to "limit and attempt to define what we think is a reasonable amount of expenditures for regents not only at the A&M system but at other schools."

Business practices of A&M officials and regents have prompted criminal investigations by the Texas Rangers and the FBI.

Lezar Fails to Name Opponent
Tex Lezar, the GOP nominee for lieutenant governor, is running a statewide radio ad that doesn't name his Democratic opponent, incumbent Bob Bullock, but knocks the Clinton

administration and its alleged Austin connections.

The 60 second spot has been running primarily during breaks in the Rush Limbaugh talk show and urges voters to run "Bill Clinton's liberal friends in Austin out of office in the Nov. general election."

According to an Associated Press story last week, Lezar called Bullock a tax-and-spend liberal "like Bill Clinton." And Bullock said of Lezar, "His extremist views won't appeal to Texans today anymore than the last time he ran and lost. The ad is about what you would expect from a Nixon speechwriter."

Lezar finished third in the 1990 Republican primary for the office of attorney general.

Yarbrough Endorses Mattox
Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Jim Mattox has received the endorsement of former U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarbrough, who held the seat for more than two terms.

In making the announcement, Yarbrough pointed out his concern over the suitability of Mattox' runoff opponent Richard Fisher, saying, "We need a Democratic senator in the Democratic administration, not a half-Democrat who has campaigned as a Republican and a Ross Perot renegade, whose record would warn the president to beware the man."

Fisher's campaign spokesman Martin Johnson said, "While both Mattox and Yarbrough have rendered service, both have seen their time come and go."

Mattox is a former Texas attorney general and U.S. Congressman. Meanwhile, Fisher, a Dallas financier, promised to convert his personal financial holding into U.S. Treasury notes if he's elected to the Senate.

Ellis Denies Business Conflict
Apex Securities, an investment banking company partly owned by state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, made at least \$375,000; last year for underwriting bonds for local govern-

ments across Texas, *The Houston Chronicle* reports.

Ellis, who recently was appointed chairman of the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee, said there is no conflict of interest between the company's dealings and his official duties.

But Mary Nell Mathis of the public watchdog group, Common Cause, sees a potential conflict. "...There's always going to be an opportunity for abuse as long as we require lawmakers to support themselves," she said.

According to Ellis' personal income report on file with the Texas Ethics Commission, Apex received at least \$375,000 last year in fees from

bond transactions in seven counties, six cities, seven school districts and three river authorities.

Ellis was not a member of the committee until his appointment in March.

GSC Kills '15 Minute Rule'

A proposed guideline that would have allowed state agencies to charge extra when it takes them longer than 15 minutes to find requested documents under the Open Records Act was voted down by the State General Service Commission last week.

The GSC's action came in response to a legislative mandate calling for the setting of standards on when

and how much state agencies can charge for access to public records.

Though the guidelines to increase the cost of copies of computerized records were approved by the commission, Texans still can inspect, free of charge, information that is readily available on computers.

Bentzen Dollar Bills

The first dollar bills bearing the Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentzen's signature will roll off the presses on April 7. Bentzen, a native Texan, will introduce the new series of currency at the government's western printing plant in Fort Worth, the first plant to print the new bills.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 17, 1969
Rev. & Mrs. Raymond L. Woodruff will entertain the members of First Baptist Church with an open house at the parsonage this Sunday afternoon...

The Rice Consolidated Independent School Board voted to raise school taxes 10¢ to cover pay raises for teachers. The increase will be for the 1969 tax year...

Mrs. Annie Hollien Kretschmar succumbed to a lengthy illness July 14... Fred Grahmann, English teacher at Sheridan School, has been elected as the new principal at Eagle Lake Middle School for the fall...

Contractor J.J. Drymalla of Columbus was officially awarded the \$2,004,350 contract to construct the new high school at Altair... The "new" Thomas Dryer is ready for the '69 harvest with new buildings less than a year after it was destroyed in a fire July 31, 1968...

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Calvert have purchased the former home of Mrs. Louis Phillips at 610 Church St... Miss Glenda Sue Kveton and Carl Owen Dyer II were wed July 5. The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Elden M. Kveton of Eagle Lake and the groom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dyer of Baytown...

Frances Hengst, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Hengst, exchanged vows with Fulton M. Dromgoole Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. F.M. Dromgoole Sr. all of Eagle Lake, on June 28...

CVLL All-Stars team will play July 16 in the area tournament. The team includes Paul Garza and I.W. Fuller, Sheridan; Michael Michulka and Russell Janik, East Bernard; Ken Dawson, Billy Brosche and Griff Thomas, Eagle Lake; Lennie Thibodeaux and Paul Bittner, Garwood; Alan Janik, Arthur Yanez, Daniel Sanchez, John Merz and James Brune, Eagle Lake Eagles...

Mr. & Mrs. Rex Sanders of Eagle Lake announce the engagement of their daughter, Sherry, to William Moore, son of Mr. & Mrs. Gay R. Moore of Eagle Lake... John Torres and Lester Smith, 1969 graduates of Eagle Lake High School, are part of the Texas Marine Platoon at recruit training in San Diego...

November 16, 1945
Melton Ham arrived home last week after three and a half years of service, receiving his discharge at Camp Wallace... Second Lt. Hugh Sheridan arrived home from Hondo

Army Air Field last week with his discharge after three years with the air corps...

First Lt. Leonard Seaholm has been on terminal leave from the Army Air Corps. He was discharged Nov. 4 and was a navigator aboard a Flying Fortress in the Italian theater...

Over 2,000 spectators overflowed the stands and sides of the football field last Friday when the Columbus Cardinals came to vie with the Eagle Lake Eagles for championship of the south zone of District 26B. The Eagles won 13-6 and that was the first points scored against them this year. The Eagles' coach is Edwin Rensch...

Legal Matters

Credit clean up sometimes a dirty deal

By Texas Attorney General Dan Morales
A good credit rating is one of your most valuable possessions. Unblemished, it can lead the way to purchasing such things as your dream home or a new car. Stained and damaged, it can put a damper on your financial capability.

In exchange for sky high fees, bogus credit repair outfits often promise the moon to unwary customers. They tell you they can erase bad items from your credit report. But in reality, the only effective way to restore a good credit rating is to pay bills on time and pay them in full.

Several so-called credit improvement companies have set up shop in Texas. They promise to fix bad credit ratings and erase negative items from credit reports. But many of them are unable to keep these promises. What they do keep are their high fees which range from \$50 to \$500.

Typically, credit improvement companies write to credit bureaus and have false items corrected. But you can do the same thing yourself for free. Under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, consumers have the right to have inaccurate information on their credit report corrected.

The credit reporting agency cannot charge you for the necessary corrections. Although there are legitimate credit improvement companies, some are scam artists. They prey on consumers who are desperate to improve their credit ratings and deliver little or

nothing in return for their fees. Some companies may appear effective because they exploit loopholes in the procedures established by credit bureaus.

For example, say you had a car repossessed three years ago. You pay a fee to an outfit that says they will erase the entry.

The outfit writes to the bureau, which informs the repossessing firm. If the firm is slow in responding, you may have the repossession removed from your record temporarily. As soon as the repossession firm responds, the negative item reappears.

If you are denied credit, you have the right to get a free credit report from the credit reporting bureau that denied you. If there are erroneous entries on the report, write to the bureau and (See Credit, Page 9)

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Garwood cleanup nets trash

Volunteers recently collected over 40 cubic yards of old appliances and other trash from the Garwood area in a dump cleanup project coordinated by the Lower Colorado River Authority.

Participating in the effort were George Cason,

LCRA board member from Eagle Lake, Colorado County Probation Officer Vince Slominski and LCRA employees Boyd Harper and Will Wyman.

The crews removed trash dumps near and along the LCRA Photo

Auxiliary reports hospital memorials

Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary Pink Ladies announce memorial donations given for the time from Jan. 1 through March 31, 1994.

In memory of Mrs. Johnnie Powers: from Ethel Anderson, Leona Herman, Mrs. James L. Adkins, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Gertson, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. John Lane, Thomas Clinic Staff, Eagle Lake Implement Co., Mr. and Mrs. William H. Harrison Jr., Jeff Frkka.

In memory of Bob Ashby: from Mrs. Avis Laughlin. In memory of Harrison Walker: from Mrs. Avis Laughlin. In memory of Peggy Wieser: from Mrs. Avis Laughlin.

In memory of Gertrude Milner: from Mrs. Dorothy K. Cassidy.

In memory of Agnes Weather-

man: from Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. John Lane, Thomas Clinic Staff.

In memory of Una Mae Gertson: from Eagle Lake Implement Co., Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Gertson.

In memory of Rachel Canada: from Mrs. Earl Braden and family.

In memory of D.J. Tilly: from Dorothy Cassidy, Mrs. Jimmie Scott, Mr. and Mrs. William Stapleton.

In memory of Fred Henske: from Frances Adkins, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. William Stapleton, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Spalinger, Mr. and Mrs. Robby Cook.

In memory of Monroe Briscoe: from Mrs. Jimmie Scott, Jean McInteer, Mr. and Mrs. William Stapleton, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hall, Kenny and

Ann Ker, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Landry, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Mascheck, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Owen, Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Powers.

In memory of Joe S. Reed Jr.: from Mr. and Mrs. Simon Landry, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lundquist, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Braden Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Earl Braden Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Hadley, Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Shuart, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thomas, Dorothy Cassidy, Lake Lumber Co., Mr. and Mrs. Victor Corman, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Owen, Mr. and Mrs. David Hengst, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Mascheck, Mr. and Mrs. John Canaris, Gay Parkinson, Barbara and Brent, Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Powers.

In memory of Robert Pensell: from Florence Henske and family.

In memory of Mary Theuman: from Mr. and Mrs. Victor Mascheck, Mr. and Mrs. David Wintermann, Frances Adkins, Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Powers.

In memory of Frank Hill: from Dorothy Cassidy. In memory of Lester Brassy: from Mr. and Mrs. John Canaris.

In memory of Sylvia Frank: from Mr. and Mrs. John Canaris. In memory of Hazel Tise: from Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Powers.

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge...

History of the Attwater's Prairie Chicken begins

By Terry A. Rossignol
Assistant Refuge Manager
This is an continuing series about the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge located six miles north of Eagle Lake on FM 3013.

The endangered Attwater's prairie chicken (APC), known as the *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*, is a medium sized, chicken like bird that is about 17 inches long with a barred, brown and buff pattern.

The males have an area of yellow-orange skin on each side of the neck that inflates during courtship display. Although very similar in appearance, the APC should not be confused with the lesser prairie chicken, *Tympanuchus pallidirostris*, found in the Texas panhandle area or the greater prairie chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido cupido*, a grouse that became extinct on the east coast of the United States in 1932.

Historically, up to a million APCs occupied an estimated six million acres of coastal prairie grassland along the coastal bend of the Gulf of Mexico from Bayou Teche in southwest Louisiana to the Nueces River in Texas.

Today, unfortunately, only 158 APCs remain in the wilds of four Texas counties: Austin, Colorado, Galveston and Refugio. The APCs became extinct in Louisiana in 1919. Loss of prairie habitat has been the principal reason for the long term decline of the APC population.

Agriculture, urban and industrial expansion, invasion of prairie habitat by woody species and overgrazing have combined to result in a dramatic decline of the coastal prairie habitat required for these birds to survive. During the past several years, inclement weather coupled with loss of habitat can be blamed for the birds' decline.

These colorful birds utilize different areas of coastal prairie grassland for different activities. These are comprised of perennial bunchgrasses like bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass and big bluestem.

The shortgrass cover, less than 10 inches high, is generally used for courtship and feeding; midlength grass, 10-16 inches, for roosting and feeding; and tall grass areas of 16-24 inches for nesting and escape cover. Grasses over 24 inches are generally avoided but are occasionally used for shade during summer or protection from inclement weather and predators.

In Jan., males begin to gather on booming grounds or leks to start courtship activities. These areas, ranging from 1 to 10 acres, are used year after year.
(See Prairie chicken, Page 10)

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS
Deed: Timothy L. Larson to Jeffrey R. Meyers, et ux, 19.312 acres of the Richard Dowdy League, Abstract No. 163; filed 1-31-94.

Deed: Herman Pavlik, et ux to Joseph David Belchic, 6.701 acres of the B.G. Jiams Survey, Abstract No. 350; 2-2-94.

Deed: Herman Pavlik, et ux to Karl Peyton Weems, 4.178 acres of the B.G. Jiams Survey, Abstract No. 350; 2-2-94.

Deed: James D. Murrell to K. Ray Campbell, et ux, 1.160 acres in the G.H. & H.R.R. Co. Survey, Section 14; 2-3-94.

Deed: Coastal Banc Savings Association to Kenneth Ward, tract out of the Peter Piper Survey, Abstract No. 447; 2-3-94.

Deed: Adobe Royalty Inc. to Santa Fe Energy Resources Inc. int. in D.W. Chern Lease; 2-1-94.

Deed: Roland L. Reichardt, et ux to Lestlie G. Reichardt, et ux, int. in 346.3 acres in the L.S. Von Roeder Survey, Abstract No. 579; 2-1-94.

Deed: Lestlie G. Reichardt, et ux, to Roland L. Reichardt, et ux, int. in 146 acres in the L.S. Von Roeder Survey, Abstract No. 579; 2-1-94.

Deed: Marvin Sulak to Eric Florian, 0.9729 acres of the R. Alley Survey, Abstract No. 1; 2-1-94.

Deed: Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to Daniel J. Schinckel, et ux, 16.44 acres and easement in the Robert Maxwell Survey, et ux; 2-1-94.

Deed: Albert F. Leopold, et ux to Larry G. Kuhlman, et ux, 39.888 acres of

the Samuel M. Williams Survey, Abstract No. 605; 2-2-94.

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