



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Produced By:
Jeannine Fearing • Susie Jackson
Shirley Lueddecke • Betty Drymalla
Janet Dupré, Sheridan News

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School funding again at top of state problems

Property-rich and property-poor school districts, after years of battling each other over funding, urged the Texas Supreme Court last week to reject the state's new school finance law.

Although their reasons are different, both sides of the funding case contend that the 1993 law is unfair and should be thrown out by the high court.

Attorneys for the state told justices that the new funding formula is the fairest yet devised by the Texas Legislature and will work if given a chance. Assistant Attorney General Toni Hunter, representing the state, defended the law, saying that funding is equalized for 85% of the 3.5 million students in Texas. A funding advantage exists only for students in the high-wealth districts, she said.

But Al Kauffman, attorney for a group of property-poor districts, said many of the districts have suffered severe cuts in state aid this year, while high-wealth districts continue to enjoy a financial advantage of several thousand dollars per classroom.



By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

"There is no reason why the Legislature had to pass a bill that took money away from poor districts..." said Kauffman, lawyer for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Justice Raul Gonzales asked Kauffman whether current law is the best that can be crafted given the state budget restraints, a no-new taxes pledge from state leaders and the state's heavy reliance on property taxes.

"How do you respond to some of those legislators who say, 'this is the best you are going to get'?" asked Gonzales.

Kauffman pointed out that the current law, while making progress, still allows some wealthy districts to

raise 28 times more money than poorer districts. "The gaps in this bill are simply too great," he said.

Unconstitutional tax law

Lawyers for the property-rich districts said the five options in the law amount to a statewide property tax. "It's an unconstitutional state (property) tax because it is imposed by the state and the state collects it," said Bob Luna, lawyer for the property-rich districts.

Justice Lloyd Doggett said Luna was making basically the same argument the court rejected five years ago in a 9-0 decision.

Last week's hearing, marked the fourth time since 1989 that the Supreme Court has reviewed the 10-year-old case. In three previous rulings, the court overturned finance laws and ordered lawmakers back to work.

A lower court has upheld most parts of the 1993 law and the Supreme Court is considering appeals of that decision.

State District Judge Scott McCown approved the law in December, supplementing it with an order to the Legislature to take action to help low-wealth districts with construction costs.

Prison Expansion Okayed

A court appointed special master says the state prison system's expansion should not be held back by an inmate's legal claims that the construction project unjustly displaces a softball field.

W. David Arnold indicates in his recommendations that the recreational needs at Amarillo's Clements unit will be met because the softball field is being replaced with basketball and volleyball courts.

Last month U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice of Tyler or-

dered Arnold to investigate the effect of the construction at Amarillo and other locations on the recreational needs of inmates.

\$187 Million to Texas Bases

The U.S. House has approved \$8.8 billion in military construction funds for next year, including \$187 million for improvements in Texas defense installations.

The House bill, which still must be approved by the senate, includes funds for:

•Fort Hood near Killeen, \$47.8 million;
•Fort Bliss, El Paso, \$42.7 million;
•Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, \$17.1 million;

•Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, \$16.5 million;
•Naval Station Ingleside, Corpus Christi, \$14 million;

•Dryden AFB, Abilene, \$12.4 million;
•Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, \$11.8 million;

•Brooks AFB, San Antonio, \$6.5 million;
•Lackland AFB, San Antonio, \$5.2 million;

•Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, \$3.3 million;

•Kingsville Naval Air Station, \$1.5 million.

Interstate Link Study

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved a feasibility study of adding a Rio Grande Valley link to a proposed new interstate highway.

As currently envisioned, Interstate 69, proposed four lane highway across the central United States, would run from Indianapolis, Ind., through Memphis, Tenn., to Shreveport, La., to Houston and then to Laredo.

A group of political and economic leaders from the Valley have asked that a leg be built that would extend to McAllen or Brownsville.

Legal Matters...

Violent crime victims get compensation

By Texas Attorney General Dan Morales

Few things are as traumatic as being the victim of a violent crime. While there is no amount of financial assistance can heal the pain endured by crime victims, it's critically important that such help be available to them.

Too often, the rights of the criminals have been emphasized more than the rights of their victims. I firmly believe that the balance must be shifted back in favor of decent, law-abiding citizens. Convicted offenders, rather than Texas taxpayers, should foot the bill.

Fortunately, we have a mechanism for helping crime victims: the Texas Crime Victims Compensation Fund. It is important that you know how it works and what benefits are available.

What is Texas Crime Victims Compensation Fund?

Passed by the Texas Legislature in 1979, the Texas Crime Victims Compensation Act created a fund for reimbursement of certain expenses to victims of violent crimes and their families.

Who is eligible?

The Act not only created the fund, it also set specific eligibility guidelines for applicants.

Individuals qualifying for compensation are those injured as a result of a crime that occurred in Texas or Texas residents traveling in a state that does not have a compensation fund.

In cases where the victim is de-

Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

September 11, 1969

Dr. Raymond Thomas announces Dr. Edward Bartsch will join the staff of the clinic on Oct. 7... Lake Crest Flower Shop has moved into a new building at Union and McCarty Sts. Rev. Julian Moreno, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, will be guest speaker at First Baptist Church Sunday at the 6:30 p.m. service.

The County tax rate has been set at 70¢ per \$100 valuation for \$62,448,970... Miss Annette Rodgers has been hired as the new health nurse for the schools... The Eagle 1969 annuals have arrived and are dedicated to Miss Marian Wozencraft, who retired as a first grade teacher in 1968. Elizabeth Reed was annual editor for this year...

Miss Annie Boenisch, 82, of Garwood, died Aug. 24... Mrs. Dora West, 91, of Rock Island, passed away Sept. 5... Sheridan has hired four new teachers: Mrs. Annette Tise, James Moore, Jack Johnston and Ray Williamson...

Miss Carolyn Kay Dutton of Dallas became the bride of Charles Frank Kalina III of Garwood on Sept. 6, the groom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Kalina Jr. David Lobbies and Harry Priemeyer of Garwood were named to the Outstanding American High School Society...

Seaman 3c Jerry A. Stokley is home on leave for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Judy Stokley... Olive Dawson of Eagle Lake received her certificate for Job Corps training in McKinney...

Mrs. H.S. Trudilla Wills, 84, of Eagle Lake died Sept. 3... The Sheridan-Garwood game is the grid opener this Friday night in Sheridan... Willard W. Shurt, Colorado County judge, was named to the Alamo Area TB Association board...

January 18, 1946

Cpl. Clarence J. Michulka, son of Charlie Michulka Sr. who lives near Eagle Lake, has been awarded one of the nation's highest tributes, the Distinguished Service Cross, for bravery in action serving with the coast artillery Corps in the European theater.

Clinton Tubbs last week sold his interest in the Magnolia Service Station to Walter Meitzen Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Meitzen... Excelsior Smith, formerly of Sheridan, purchased the Shell Service Station from C.C. Epps this week...

The Lakeside plant of Oak Crest Prov. Co. was discovered in flames around 7 a.m. Wednesday morning. The fire was beyond control when the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. reached the scene... Mrs. Chas. L. Culpepper sailed from Houston this week to join her husband, Rev. Culpepper, in Shanghai...

Claude Brewer Jr., who was discharged Oct. 25 at Ft. Sam Houston, is employed at Earthman Funeral Home in Houston...

Cpl. Elizabeth Westmoreland, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. R.T. Westmoreland, received her discharge from the WAACs two weeks ago. She visited her home before leaving for Tacoma, Wash., to stay with the families of her sister and brother...

Sam Mathis Jr., who returned recently from service with the Army in Europe, returned to work with the Santa Fe Railroad Monday in the ticket agent's office in Alvin... Kenneth Austin celebrated his birthday with a skating party at Austin Hall Tuesday. His fifth grade class were guests...

Jack Hoover, son of Mr. & Mrs. J.L. Hoover, returned home Jan. 6 after 28 months in the Southwest Pacific... Chas. E. Walker, R.M. 1c, (See 24 & 48, Page 5)

Rails remembered in museum exhibit

By Bill Harrison Sr.

The Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway began in Harrisburg, Texas in 1852, reaching the Brazos River and Richmond in 1854. It covered a distance of 32 miles and was known as the BBB&C.

In 1859 the first train pulled into Eagle Lake, a distance of 68 from Harrisburg. Tracks were laid on to Alleton which served as the western terminus during the Civil War years.

Most of the equipment and rails used for this railroad were second hand items purchased from railroads "back east" in the Eastern U.S.

At least one section, now on display at the Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake, was manufactured in 1858 for the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. It was recovered from old track in the area north of Alleton by Crockett Leyendecker and presented to the museum.

This and other pieces of rail from the area's past are prized historical artifacts. They are in an exhibit with their stories and histories for the public to view at the museum.

(The Prairie Edge Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. For special tours contact Bill Harrison at 234-2662.)

At least one section, now on display at the Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake, was manufactured in 1858 for the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. It was recovered from old track in the area north of Alleton by Crockett Leyendecker and presented to the museum.

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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS

Deed: Susan DeMarie Green, et al to Cornerstone Land & Mineral Trust, int. in tracts in Colorado County; filed 3-29-94.

Deed: Jesse De Leon Moreno Jr., et al to The Texas Falls Corp., int. in The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One; 3-29-94.

Deed: Michael M. Henry, et al to James Isam Brisco III, und. int. in 50 acres in John A. Cheatham Survey, Abstract No. 733, et al; 3-29-94.

Deed: J. Isam Brisco Jr., et al to James Isam Brisco III, und. int. in 3 tracts in John A. Cheatham Survey, Abstract No. 733, et al; 3-29-94.

Deed: J. Isam Brisco Jr., et al to Omie Helene Brisco Mich, und. int. in 4 tracts in John A. Cheatham Survey, Abstract No. 733, et al; 3-29-94.

Deed: Leonard F. Barton, et al to Mark A. Janda, et al, 34,343 acres of the John Swarte Survey, Abstract No. 504; 3-30-94.

Deed: Lillie Truchard, grantor, acting by attorney in fact, Anne Truchard Linville to Anthony Marie Truchard, et al, und. int. in land in Corbit Survey, Abstract No. 147, et al; 3-30-94.

Deed: Jacklyn M. Marak Bartosh to Randall G. Marak, tract in Henry Austin Five League Grant; 3-31-94.

Deed: Dana Frances to Russell D. Lindberg, 20.0 acres of Sandy Creek Development, John Cassidy Survey, Abstract No. 138; 3-31-94.

Deed: Gus H. Miller, et al to Albert L. McNutt, et al, 94.66 ft. on Miami St., portion of original lots 2 and 3, Block No. 32; 3-31-94.

Deed: John E. Meisner, et al to Joella M. Vachavik, et al, int. in 4 tracts of the Cynus Wickson Survey, Abstract No. 597, et al; 4-4-94.

Deed: The First National Bank of Eagle Lake to Jesse P. Yanez, et al, 0.167 acres, part of Patrick Reels Survey, Abstract No. 475, Eagle Lake; 4-94.

Deed: Ray Barton and Donald Barron to Robert E. Conner Jr., et al, 0.4061 acre, part of original Lot No. 1, Block No. 74, City of Columbus; 4-4-94.

Deed: Tom Tescho to Lawrence Melton Milner II, et al, Lot No. 9 and 10, Block No. 36, Town of Sheridan; 4-4-94.

Deed: Ernest L. Bara to James P. Berger, et al, 43.494 acres of the Bugler Survey, Abstract No. 108, Eagle Lake; 4-94.

DEEDS

Deed: Otto E. Kahlden, et al to Leslie K. Kahlden, 31.361 acres of the F. Pettus Survey, Abstract No. 37, Eagle Lake; 4-4-94.

Deed: Otto E. Kahlden Jr., et al to Lavene C. Wilson, 97.46 acres of the F. Pettus Survey, Abstract No. 37, Eagle Lake; 4-4-94.

Deed: Kervy Kahlden, et al to Otto E. Kahlden Jr., 3.831 acres of the F. Pettus Survey, Abstract No. 37, Eagle Lake; 4-4-94.

Deed: Lavene C. Wilson, et al to Otto E. Kahlden Jr., 135.212 acres of the F. Pettus Survey, Abstract No. 37, Eagle Lake; 4-4-94.

Deed: First United Methodist Church of Weimar to Compt Investments, LTD., und. int. in 2 acres of the A. Mehrens Survey, Abstract No. 648; 4-5-94.

Deed: Manuel Alvarado to Lucil Juana Corroba, 2 tracts in Lot No. 10, Block No. 2; and Lots No. 11, 12 and 13, Block 2, Sempres Addition, City of Eagle Lake; 4-6-94.

Deed: Frances Chenualt Ellison to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 219.62 acres in the Johnson and Stafford Survey Section 6, Abstract No. 719; 4-4-94.

Deed: Woodford Sidney Chenualt to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 219.62 acres in the Johnson and Stafford Survey Section 6, Abstract No. 719; 4-4-94.

Deed: Sadie Chenualt Russell to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 219.62 acres in the Johnson and Stafford Survey Section 6, Abstract No. 719; 4-4-94.

Deed: Polly Chenualt Orr to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 219.62 acres in the Johnson and Stafford Survey Section 6, Abstract No. 719; 4-4-94.

Deed: Alvin Velasquez Hernandez, Eagle Lake, DWI. Defendant failed to appear. Court ordered capias for arrest.

Deed: Galbino Quintana, Columbus, criminal trespass. Defendant failed to appear. Court ordered capias for arrest.

Deed: Domingo Ramirez, Columbus, criminal trespass. Defendant failed to appear. Court ordered capias for arrest.

Deed: Marie Addicks, La Grange, theft by check. Dismissed, restitution adn costs paid in full.

Deed: Alvaro Velasquez Hernandez, Eagle Lake, DWI. Defendant failed to appear. Court ordered capias for arrest.

Deed: William Douglas Wheeler, Deer Park, possession of marijuana; continued.

Deed: Paule Gonzales Jr., Columbus, as-

DEEDS

Deed: Otto E. Kahlden, et al to Leslie K. Kahlden, 31.361 acres of the F. Pettus Survey, Abstract No.