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1996-97 State budget deficit forecast

Texas faces a multibillion dollar budget shortfall in the next biennium, but state House and Senate leaders say there are ways to deal with the projected deficit without slapping citizens with new taxes to cover it.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Montford, D-Lubbock, said, "There's a lot of wailing and gnashing of the teeth. There always is. But I think this discipline is important. We simply must contain our growth and live within our means."

In a report by the Associated Press, Montford estimated a \$2.7 billion gap between projected spending growth and new money available in the 1996-97 biennium and stipulated that the gap estimate does not include the cost of juvenile justice reforms—if implemented. He said about \$4 billion in new revenue will be available, but the projected need for spending increases



State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

is about \$6.7 billion.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert J. Ratliff estimated the budget deficit would be even higher—\$3.5 billion. Janel, D-San Angelo, like Montford, thinks the Legislature can ratchet down the spending to avoid a tax increase. "We did it last session. We'll do it again this session," he said.

Federally mandated state spending may force some programs, such as higher education, to be cut, Janel added.

House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, while agreeing that the state can make a budget without raising taxes, also said, "There will have to be sacrifices somewhere."

Counties to Get FEMA Help

Fourteen flood stricken counties in Southeast Texas will be eligible for financial assistance totaling about \$9 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA funds will be used to repair sewer lines, roads and buildings and will help local government agencies with overtime charges for emergency response crews, said FEMA director James Witt last week.

The 14 counties are Fayette, Grimes, Harris, Jackson, Lavaca, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker, Waller and Wharton.

FEMA is still working on damage estimates in 23 other counties that Gov. Ann Richards requested to be eligible for individual assistance.

FEMA funds are critical so local taxpayers will not be overwhelmed, Ed Schaefer, assistant coordinator for operations for the Texas Division of Emergency Management, told the Houston Chronicle.

Flood victims still have until Nov. 15 to apply for flood stamps under

special procedures set up to address their immediate needs, according to a report in the Chronicle.

Inmates Work on Flood Relief

Inmates from at least six state prison units worked on flood relief in the recent Southeast Texas floods, doing everything from searching for drowning victims to doing laundry for a local hospital to filling sand bags.

Some 30 to 40 inmates are still on the job and expected to work another week in cleaning up debris in Montgomery County, according to Glen Castiberry, director of communications for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"As a routine with the prison system, we offered this help to local authorities when the rains started. We use volunteer inmates with good records; we provide heavy security during the operations and we never charge the local authorities or public for the manpower or equipment," Castiberry said.

These are not just pigs. They become pets because of the time spent with them to prepare them for show. I hope whoever is doing this is reading this letter. Thankfully, your

Sincerely,
Sherri Sommerlatte

High Turnout Expected

Texas' do care who the next governor will be, according to projections by Secretary of State Ron Kirk.

He said 55% of registered voters are expected to make it to the polls, which would be the highest voter turnout in a gubernatorial election since 1974, when the term of office was increased to four years.

Spokesman for Democratic Gov. Ann Richards and her Republican opponent George W. Bush both said a higher voter turnout is positive news.

Last week, it looked like anybody's win, with Bush and Richards locked in a statistical dead heat.

Other Highlights

•State Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said last week he will sponsor a proposal for "first class, first rate" casino gambling in 1995. He said he wants to give voters the chance to decide in a statewide election whether they favor casino gambling.

•The Texas Automobile Dealers Association is warning consumers that a large number of flood-damaged cars and trucks will soon enter the used vehicle market because of the floods in Southeast Texas. "Although such vehicles may show few signs of vehicle damage, they may have serious problems even after they are cleaned," a spokesman said.

•Texas has a constitutional right to tax gross bingo receipts, the 3rd Court of Appeals ruled last week. Two bingo operators filed a lawsuit in 1992 alleging that state taxes on bingo receipts were unconstitutional. The state collects 5% of the money that bingo operators pay out in prizes.

July 26, 1946
H.E. Tate, son of Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Tate, this week opened a new machine shop here, located on East

To The Editor & You

Get a life, get a job...
get your own pig

To the editor and community of Eagle Lake;

If you're reading this, you most likely read the article last week about Del Fink Jr.'s FFA show pig being stolen from the Rice hog farm here in Eagle Lake.

Well, I'm writing this to let you know that whoever stole Del's pig last week had the nerve to try to steal another show pig on Sunday night, Nov. 6.

These are not just pigs. They become pets because of the time spent with them to prepare them for show.

I hope whoever is doing this is reading this letter. Thankfully, your

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

March 19, 1970

Eagle Lake High School auto mechanic projects by Allen Morales, Preston Hemphill Jr., Bennie Schmidt, Frank Fry placed at district contest. Hemphill, Fry and Schmidt qualified for state contest...

Annette Rodgers has been the full time nurse for the ELISD schools this year...

Louis Schorlemmer of Eagle Lake and Donna Trefny of Weimar will head up the census counters for Colorado County...

Two brothers from Sheridan, Wilmer Woytek Jr. and Travis Woytek, were killed in a one car accident during heavy rains March 10...

Optometrist Dr. Charles Cooper is to open an office here... Candy Farris of Eagle Lake was won the local WCEC oratory contest at Garwood...

A shower and parties have honored Julia Wells, bride elect of James Scott Blair III this week...

Garwood band members Harriet Engstrom, Sharon Zdranek, Marilyn Heiner, Sheryl Abell and Marsha Stallman placed at solo and ensemble contest last weekend...

Rev. F.A. Kraack, rector, announces pre-Easter services at Christ Episcopal Church... Sheriff Doc Mueller showed off their new uniforms with the U.S. flag on the shoulder for county commissioners...

Applicants can now call 1-800-462-9029 where they will be referred to the SBA.

Applicants will also be able to register for assistance at the FEMA Disaster Application Centers where SBA will have loan officers available.

Applicants must register with FEMA first before they are referred to SBA to assure that the applicant has access to all the available disaster programs under the Presidential declaration.

Individuals below minimum levels established by SBA will be referred by FEMA to the State Grant Program to expedite the delivery of disaster assistance.

The counties of the 14th Congressional District listed as primary declared counties eligible for physical and economic injury loan applications are Bastrop, Brazoria, Burleson, Fayette, Jackson, Matagorda, Victoria, Waller and Wharton.

The Presidential Declaration also includes adjacent counties eligible to apply for economic injury loans only; Calhoun, Colorado, Gonzales, Lavaca, Refugio, Travis and Williamson.

Letters to Editor Policy

The Eagle Lake Headlight will accept reasonable length letters for publication in the Letters to the Editor column under the following guidelines:

1. Letters should not be more than 1,500 characters.

2. All letters must include the writer's name printed as well as the writer's signature, and include the writer's address and home and work telephone numbers. The Headlight must be able to reach the writer in person before the letter can be published.

3. The writer may request their name be withheld from publication, but the information mentioned in Paragraph No. 2 must be included for our files.

4. Letters about political activity will be published but those which mention candidates will be considered advertising and charged at the regular advertising rate.

5. Letters from political candidates espousing a political view, will be considered for publication but the writer's name will not be printed unless the writer pays the retail advertising rate.

6. The newspaper reserves the right to apply fairness standards in withholding any letter from publication, and to edit letters for libel protection.

Misses Jo Ann Meitzen and Jean Linke were co-hostesses at a party at the Meitzens' home on last Saturday evening... Among the 1,281 students registered at the University of Maine for the annual summer school is Miss Marion Wozencraft, primary teacher, Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Taylor and little daughter Pat of Cleveland, Texas, visited their parents and grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ruether and Mrs. Annie Taylor...

Mrs. C.R. Curry attended the fall market in Dallas this week in the interest of her firm, J.B. Smith.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl W. Austin and baby son spent Sunday in Houston with her mother, Mrs. Lola Jones...

Mrs. Earl Braden has been enjoying a vacation from her duties as an operator at the local telephone exchange...

Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Rawlins spent last week with her mother as sister at Eldridge and Garwood.

From now until May 31, 1995, Southwestern Bell Telephone will donate \$2 to the board of trustees of your local high school when you purchase the Call Waiting service. Your school can earn up to \$1,500 to help purchase anything from fine arts programs to computer software to band uniforms.

Southwestern Bell Telephone

"The One to Call On"

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PJs would like to remind you

...of their performance next weekend, Nov. 18 and 20. They will present The Show Must Go On at the Prairie Edge Museum in the auditorium.

Local Episcopalians to vote on hospital merger

A proposed merger between Houston's St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and Methodist Hospital is the concern of members of Eagle Lake's Christ Church.

Although officials of these two highly regarded health care facilities have been discussing a merger for some time, final approval, at least from the standpoint of St. Luke's participation, must come as the result of a favorable vote by the Diocesan Council.

Members from Christ Church are Fair Wells, Ethel Cone, and Mary and Rollin Baker.

They and Rev. Russell Minter have not only received large amounts of literature presenting arguments both for and against this merger from Bishop Maurice M. Benitez of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas but attended a pre-council meeting at Camp Allen near Navasota Nov. 3 for a briefing on the matter.

Joe Lee McCreary, member of the Church of Christ Vestry, also visited the session as an observer.

Council members came away from the Camp Allen briefing aware that the two hospitals are currently highly successful in their present mission.

However, the proposed merger is geared to rapidly changing health care services in the years to come. It is emphasized that neither of the religious institutions would not lose its identity in such a merger.

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Prairie Edge Museum Notes

By Elizabeth Boothe, Reporter

For the week of Nov. 10, 1994 One of the greatest services to our community is our museum thrift shop. Not only does the shop offer wonderful bargains to be purchased at very nominal prices, but help is extended to people in needy situations.

Recently this part of Prairie Edge has been able to contribute clothes and other necessities to people in our community through the Red Cross. The shop will be open Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Among the bargains on sale that day are several casement windows.

Through the years I have been given and have bought many wonderful

books. One of these is the history of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway. Vic Scott called me recently to tell me he had received a call from a man whose father had worked for this railroad.

He was interested in finding historical data about it and I was happy to tell him that I have the book which will be welcome to see and read.

Another book is my college textbook containing Shakespeare's 34 plays, all of which I read during the course. My famous professor was Dr. A. J. Armstrong, who was also a

Browning scholar and largely instrumental in having the Browning Library built by the Baylor University campus.

Since there are many, many pages of notes from lectures by Dr. Armstrong and these have been recorded on onion paper and interleafed, I wanted this book to go to Baylor.

Having sent it to my Alma Mater, I hope it will be placed in one of the libraries there.

Many of you, I'm sure are joining me in being proud of our town's Sandra C. Thomas, who has been inaugurated as the seventh president of Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Several from Eagle Lake, Houston and Fredericksburg were blessed by being able to attend the inauguration and accompanying activities.

I am proud of the hundreds of Eagle Lake High School graduates

who have been or are still engaged in worthy vocations. Following is a list of many of these. If I do not include all, please let me know and I shall be glad to add them to the list: homemakers, teachers, school administrators, librarians, pharmacists, dentists, doctors, nurses, city and county officials, secretaries, lawyers, rice farmers, horticulturists and ranchers.

For many years I have known that one of my favorite pictures was eventually to be given to Prairie Edge. When it was necessary for me to part with many treasures because of having sold my house, I added the framed picture entitled "When Steam Was King" to our railroad collection.

This painting shows a steam locomotive at the front of a passenger and a freight train as both are at a station stop. I hope you will see it at the museum.

The PJs are preparing to entertain us with their presentation of The Show Must Go On on Nov. 18 and 20. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The time for the first performance will be at 7 p.m. Friday and the latter at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The museum is open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. "O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward

us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 117:1-2

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Sheridan Library News

By Librarian Lillian Gohlke

The Sheridan Memorial Library hosted an appreciation dinner for the 76 charter members of the Friends of the Library, Friday night at the Sheridan Community Center at 6 p.m.

Eddie Ray Taylor gave the blessing before the meal of barbecued brisket, potatoes, green beans, and crescent rolls.

Certificates of recognition were presented to 45 members and volunteers for their support and services to the library.

Zelda Walker, board chairman, recognized Mary Reinhardt, a former resident of Sheridan now residing in Odem, for her work in opening the library doors in 1971. The library was sponsored and founded by the Sheridan Parents and Teachers and funded by concerned citizens of the community.

Walker also gave a brief history of the library over the past 23 years. She recognized the library board: Natalie Dupre, Ed Parham, Ruth Brisco, Carolyn Brisco and Lillian Gohlke. Jenavee Peterson is the library's STEP employee.

Walker recognized the volunteers who are in charge of the story hour and summer reading program: Ruth Brisco, Alice Hinz, Betty Kazmir and Beverly Houser. Other library volunteers are Mary Lou Criswell, Omi Kinchele, Jeanne McClain, Nancy Chabreck, Ora Tesch, Gladys Nay, Betty Varley, Martha Polach, Violet

Herrington and Barbara Brisco. Lillian Gohlke, librarian, explained the function of Friends of the Library. Next year's president will be Joyce Ohm, who will be in charge of fundraising for the library. The membership money will go toward a Polaroid camera and a typewriter.

Door prizes were won by Mary Reinhardt, Lloyd and Celia Spittler, Clarence Flippin, Tricia and Brandy Walker and Ora Tesch.

The final roster of the 76 charter members of the Sheridan Friends of the Library includes: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Board, Dollie Board, Louise Brandenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brisco, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brisco Jr., (See Library, Page 6)

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