

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
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Sharp finds more ways to save money

A study released last week by the state comptroller's office and General Services Commission shows how \$52 million can be saved over the next five years by tightening up the state's purchasing practices.

State Comptroller John Sharp said the current system encourages waste, makes state employees' jobs difficult, costs too much and fails to eliminate vendors who sell shoddy goods to the state government.

Some of the recommendations in the report include:

- Implementing automated ordering and invoicing.
- Informing vendors about pending contracts through a computer bulletin board.
- Training and certification of all state purchasers.

• Allowing the state to consider "best value" standard when considering purchases, rather than buying from the low bidder.

• Allowing the General Services Commission to prohibit companies from doing business with the state.

If enacted, the list of proposals would be the "final link" needed to improve the state's purchasing and

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
Texas Press Association

accounting practices, Sharp said.

Sub-Poverty Teacher Pensions
At least 6,000 of Texas' 138,000 retired teachers receive pensions at or below the federal poverty line, according to a study by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, and that's why the matter will be taken up in the upcoming legislative session.

• The poverty line is \$380 a month for a single person.

Although there are no estimates of the number of retired teachers who rely solely on their income from the retirement system, the study shows that 35,000 retired teachers and their survivors receive less than \$1,000 a month in benefits, and thousands more would be close to the poverty line if the pension were their only means of support.

In a report by the Associated Press, Glen Porter, head of the Retired Educator Dividend Association in San Antonio, made this point about the need for a pension boost: "If the free lunch program were available to Texas teachers and school employees, 54,106 retirees would qualify."

The Legislature will consider raising the minimum monthly pension for teachers to \$34 for each year they taught school. A teacher who taught for 30 years would receive at least \$1,020.

Immune or Else

Welfare recipients whose children are not immunized by age 2 may not receive some benefits under a proposal by the Texas Board of Human Services.

The board, which is the governing arm of the Texas Department of Human Services, has asked the federal government to withhold Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits to recipients who ignore or otherwise do not comply with state guidelines for "age-appropriate" immunizations.

Withholding benefits was proposed by board member Bob Geyer, who said data from a November report showed little progress in raising immunization rates among children receiving state and federal assistance.

According to statistics maintained by the Texas Department of Health, about 42% of the state's 2-year-olds have been immunized, and according to the Texas Department of Human Services, about 225,500 children under age 5 are on the state welfare rolls. A maximum AFDC grant for a family of three (which usually consists of a mother and two children) is \$188 a month. Under the board's plan, up to \$92 could be withheld.

The board's proposal was criticized by advocates for low-income families, who said that withholding benefits would only hurt children.

Breast-Feeding Bill

Mothers would be entitled to breast-feed their infants in public places under a bill filed for the 1995 legislative session by state Rep. Debra

Danburg, D-Houston. Danburg said the bill was inspired by an incident in which she and a friend were asked to leave an Austin restaurant because her friend was nursing her baby.

In addition to deeming that breastfeeding should be encouraged for the health of mother and child and for family values, the bill would launch a test project allowing Travis County employees to promote themselves as "baby friendly."

Other Highlights

Gov.-elect George W. Bush has announced that his twin daughters will continue to attend private school when the family moves to Austin from Dallas. According to a *Houston Chronicle* report, Bush said a private school in Austin would give 13-year-old Jana and Barbara a "nurturing" environment and take some of the pressure off them from moving to a new city with a father who will be governor.

Texas, with an estimated 18.4 million people, has edged New York out of second place in population, according to U.S. Bureau estimates released last week. The estimates are based on the number of births and deaths recorded in each of the 50 states between July 1, 1993 and July 1, 1994.

In 1973, Texas outgrew Pennsylvania to become the third largest state. California remains the most populous.

About Town...

"Pat... thanks for the tip last Wednesday. Guess I'm going to have to break down and put some money into a new scanner. Anyway, thanks a lot! Vic Scott brought by an interesting piece of mail he received recently. It was a 13¢ postcard which had been sent to him when he worked at the

Education Coop from an interested job applicant in Huntsville (Texas... not Alabama). The most interesting part was the postmark... June 1984! Vic says he retired from that position in 1987. Just think, with the recent postage increase, maybe they'll cut it to only 5 years for delivery.

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

May 14, 1970

The Eagle Lake Community Hospital passed their goal with the help of the Jaycees Foundation. The hospital is ready for the next step...

Rice CISD will offer free kindergarten classes for 1970-71...

Final rites were held for Mr. Arnold K. Klockman who died May 11, 1970... E.A. Wiese, 74, pioneer rice farmer in the area, died May 12, 1970.

Rice School District hires Russell Todd, for eighth grade coach; Robert Wunderlich for girls basketball coach; and Donna Alley for the high school librarian position...

Eagle Band will give their final performance Friday night... Mrs. J.F. Struss will take on the reporting duties for the *Headlight* in the Garwood, Nada area.

Henry Thomas and Bennie Lopez were winners at the Junior High School art show exhibit. Sandra Bousie was the art teacher...

Mrs. Claude Milton's piano class gave a recital May 8... Bill Beisel of Lissie is to be the new broadcaster at KULP in El Campo...

The Garwood PTA met on the evening of May 7 to elect William Carpenter as president to follow B. F. Turner... Mr. & Mrs. William L. Spalinger attended the Southwestern Life Insurance Convention in Dallas...

Eagle Lake High's Gene Glover brought home a second place medal and Robert Criswell of Sheridan, won a fourth place medal in the State UIL track meet in Austin... The seniors of Rock Island Norma Eaton, Beverly Hruzek, Douglas Jessup, Arleta Means and Jerry Span were honored at a barbecue hayride May 1...

Danklefs, Garwood High School English teacher received the conservation award.

September 20, 1946

The jinx of Friday the 13th fell on Richmond as the Eagles walked off with the game by a score of 13 to 0. John Walker scored the first touchdown and Melvin Selph the second. Selph scored the extra point on a quarter-back sneak...

Leroy Forbes returned home this week on terminal leave from the United States Army. He has been in Japan... Mr. & Mrs. O.L. Mill and daughter, Virginia, entertained this week the family of Mr. Mill's brother, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Mill of Corvallis, Oregon...

L.E. Sanford this week purchased the Epp's Shell Service Station, adjoining the Ramsey Hotel, and has taken over the operation of same... Mr. & Mrs. R.R. Wells Jr., are the proud parents of a baby girl, born at 2:45 o'clock in Tuesday morning at Laughlin Hospital. The little lady who was named Carol Beth weighed seven pounds and eleven ounces...

Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Marx Sr. entertained with a dinner party on Sunday, the occasion being their 15th wedding anniversary... It's a girl with blue eyes and black hair for Mr. & Mrs. Alton New. The baby weighed seven pounds and was named Nora Gene...

Mrs. W.C. Elkins returned last weekend from a two weeks stay in Austin where she went to form the acquaintance of her granddaughter, Jo Ann born to Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Paul in that city on August 25th...

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Marx welcomed home the arrival of a baby daughter on Sept. 2nd at the Albert Schumann Hospital in East Bernard. She has been named Bernadette Ann...

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kolberg of College Station announce the arrival of a son, born at seven o'clock Sunday evening at the Brenham Hospital. The baby was named David Clark and weighed seven pounds, eleven ounces...

Tech. Sgt. & Mrs. R.E. Beane Jr., announce the arrival of a baby daughter, Terrance Darlene born Sept. 14th at Colorado Springs, Colo.

A clear view of what elected officials are doing

By Texas Attorney General Dan Morales

Every Texan has a fundamental right to know how elected and appointed officials are conducting public business. Sunshine laws require governments to both hold open meetings and provide open records to the public. Open government is the very heart and cornerstone of our representative democracy.

Governmental bodies, such as city councils and county commissioners' courts, make extremely important decisions that effect every aspect of our lives. Their actions determine such things as how much property is worth, how much we will have to pay in taxes, or when and where sewage lines and roads will be built.

Is a major corporation planning and lobbying for a possible waste site or prison near you? Will the huge petrochemical plant down the road get a special permit to release waste into the air or water? Will a curfew be imposed on our teenagers? How did the decision to raise electricity and water rates come about? Are those same officials giving themselves a pay raise while spending our tax money in a questionable way?

Two state statutes, the Texas Open Records Act and the Texas Open Meetings Act, specifically provide citizens access to their government. Through these statutes, citizens may attend meetings of the governmental bodies and must be given notice of the time, place and subject matter of those meetings. Citizens can also obtain copies of documents which may reflect local governments' actions.

We are committed to keeping governmental activity open to public scrutiny. Governmental actions and information must be completely open (and at a minimum cost to taxpayers) unless there is a specific law or opinion prohibiting disclosure.

As the Open Records Act states:

For a copy of our Open Meetings or Open Records Handbooks, please write to: The Office of the Attorney General, Research and Legal Support Division, P.O. Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS
Deed: Lenell H. Harbers and Carol A. Harbers to Michael R. Dean and Nancy Dean, 2 tracts of land out of the Howard McElroy League, A-32, filed; 10-26-94.
Deed: Estate of Jesse J. Potter to John B. Tollefson, et ux, 9,670 acres out of the Jos. Hyland Survey, A-258; 10-26-94.
Deed: Mark C. Weisner, et ux to The Texas Falls Corporation, and, int. in tenants-in-common of the Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One, Club Ownership CO 0325; 10-27-94.
Deed: Floyd Ray Terry, et ux to Justine Roland, 15.00 acres out of the H. Austin Five League Survey, A-4; 10-27-94.
Deed: Vergie Lee Ferguson to Maria Guadalupe Mendoza and Miguel Mendoza, Block No. 45 of the City of Eagle Lake; 10-28-94.
Deed: E. Jack Walton to Thomas E. Smity, et ux, 38.00 acres, a part of the Wm. K. Rivier Survey, A-472 and the F. Tapp Survey, A-577; 10-28-94.
Deed: Helmut Schaefer to Randy Carl Schaefer, 6.00 acres, a part of the H. Austin Five League Grant, A-4; 10-28-94.
Deed: Estate of Agnes Sheppard to Louise Sronce, 287 acres, a part of the E. Tumlinson Survey, A-44; 10-28-94.
Deed: Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas to Jerry J. Faldyn, 10.00 acres out of the L. Pickens Survey; 10-28-94.
Deed: Philip L. Gay to Robert R. Gay, 150.00 acres out of the Samuel Kennedy Survey, A-30; 10-31-94.
Deed: Crockett Leyendecker to Donald L. Shirley, 11.48 acres out of the Ed Corbit Survey, A-147; 10-31-94.
Deed: Mid-State Trust II to Jim Walter Homes Inc., Lot 16, Block 11, Sheridan; 11-1-94.
Deed: Mid-State Trust II to Edward L. Gundersch, et ux, Lot 16, Block 11 of the Town of Sheridan; 11-1-94.
Deed: Helen Lena Cullen to Roy Walter Cullen, int. Grant may hold in and to all certain lands in Colorado County; 11-1-94.
Deed: Corvin E. R. Frenzel, et ux to Emilio Aguilar, two tracts in Block No. 59 of the City of Eagle Lake; 11-1-94.
Deed: Vivian L. Smith Testamentary Trust to Jerry W. Nicely, et al, 472.208 acres, out of the James H. Ryan Survey, A-484, et al; 11-2-94.
Deed: Vivian L. Smith Testamentary Trust to Maurice J. Prastik and Ruby A. Prastik, 148.916 acres out of the J.W. Tinkler Survey, A-757; 11-2-94.
Deed: James Roland Schwarz, Trustee under Trust dated Nov. 28, 1990 to James Roland Schwarz and Nina Jeffett Schwarz, Lot 10 in Block 89 in the Town of Sheridan; 11-3-94.

Deed: Adolph Rodriguez, et ux to The Fall Corporation, und. int. as tenants-in-common for The Falls Resort and Club, Resort Section One, Club Ownership CO 0500; 11-3-94.
Gift Deed: Joe J. Kallina, Sr., et ux to Charles R. Drisk, et ux, 0.124 acre tract in the Preston Gilbert League, A-25 in Garwood, Tx.; 11-4-94.
Deed: Kenneth Austin, et ux to Johnnie Wayne Gonzales, et ux, Lot No. 19 of the Austin Estates Subdivision in the P. Reels Survey, A-475; 11-4-94.
Deed: Cumbersome's Investment Corp., to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 0.272 acre situated in the R.B. Dobbins Subdivision, Block No. 29, part or portion of Lot No. 13 of the City of Eagle Lake; 11-4-94.
Deed: William Stanley Cain, et ux to Victor S. Bedford, et ux, two (2) tracts of land out of the F.A. Zimmerscheidt League, A-629; 11-7-94.

OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES
Joe Mattingly, et ux to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 219.62 acres, a part of the Johnson and Stafford Survey, Section 6, A-719, Filed; 11-1-94.
Peter Henry Hahn to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 9.22 acres, out of the Samuel Kennedy League or Survey, A-30; 11-1-94.
Annette Hahn Wilkinson to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 9.22 acres out of the Samuel Kennedy League or Survey, A-30; 11-1-94.
Eileen Ciss Hahn to Enron Oil & Gas Co., 9.22 acres out of the Samuel Kennedy League or Survey, A-30; 11-1-94.
Lease: James J. Hobitzel, et ux to Mayne & Metz, 40 acres out of the Richard Dowdy Survey, A-163; 11-7-94.

COUNTY COURT
CASES FILED
Osborn Ray Cunningham, Eagle Lake, assault causing bodily injury; filed 12-28-94.

Police

Continued from Page 1

to burglary of a building. A report was taken and the case remains under investigation.

Following a routine traffic stop in the 600 Block of Main Street, Officer Baklik arrested Alvaro Hernandez for driving while intoxicated. Hernandez was processed at the police department and transported to the county jail for confinement.

Office Patrick Olivares details the damage done by Frances Koudelka's vehicle did to the garage at Nancy Seaborn's home on S. McCarty last Wednesday afternoon.



Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge... Habitat enhanced by moist-soil management

Managing habitat for several different wildlife species can become very intensive and complicated. Luckily the land manager has several tools at his disposal to help make the job a bit easier and more efficient. Mechanical methods, fire, grazing and water management are just a few techniques used to enhance habitat for many wildlife species. Specifically, water management includes a method called moist-soils management, which is often used to provide desirable habitat for migratory waterfowl.

In a nutshell, the definition of moist-soils management is the seasonal flooding and draining of managed and natural impoundments in order to grow natural plant species and increase invertebrate availability for use by wildlife. The use of this technique is most effective when three major components are taken into consideration—water depth, timing of

drawdowns or drainings, and water quality. When flooding an impoundment, the water depth of the pond will determine the kind of wildlife species that will use the area. For example, American coots enjoy average water depths of about 12 inches; mottled ducks enjoy average water depths of four to five inches; and Virginia rails enjoy average water depths of about one inch. Hypothetically, all three of these bird species could benefit from the same flooding. Coots would use the area when the water is first applied. As the water depth decreases due to evaporation or drawdowns, the mottled ducks would move into the area. Later when the pond is almost dry, the Virginia rails would take advantage of the area.

All of this depends on the timing of drawdowns, another critical factor to consider in moist-soils management. There are two kinds of drawdowns—fast and slow. Fast drawdowns, one to three days, are recommended in areas with brackish or saline waters. Slow drawdowns, two to three weeks, are more desirable for plant establishment and wildlife use. The prolonged period of soil saturation creates favorable conditions for moist-soils plant germination and establishment.

Slow drawdowns also increase invertebrate availability by trapping these protein rich foods for breeding waterfowl and shorebirds.

Water quality is the third important component to consider in moist-soils management. Areas that have very saline or salty water are much more limited than areas with fresher water.

Applying salty water to a field or pond during the hot summer months without drawing the water down quickly results in salts accumulating in the soil, a situation that makes matters worse in trying to grow natural plants. This situation is particularly a problem in the arid regions of several western states.

The use of moist-soils management techniques gives the land manager an extra tool to work with; a tool that allows for a more diverse array of wildlife species.

Although wildlife management can become complicated, moist-soils management allows one to become innovative. It allows the land manager to literally "get his feet wet." At the same time it benefits almost all wildlife species involved.

Kid Safe volunteers who worked for a successful project in Needville last year were honored at the STMC Christmas gala Dec. 10. From left, holding certificates, were Pamela Klavitter, Betty Ford, Jane Lane, Suzanne Perez, Patti Daniel, Lynda Cloud and Mary Ramey. They work at the South Texas Medical Clinics P.A. in Wharton, El Campo, East Bernard and Needville. STMC Photo

Nurses attend NAHN diabetes program

Janie Amador and Cookie Cruz, both LVNs at South Texas Medical Clinic, attended a Diabetes Education Program on Nov. 4 and 5 at Park Plaza Hospital in Houston. They will be working with a support group organizing in Wharton with the help of Valerie Murphy, R.N.

This will be a free program to help the diabetic understand nutrition. Meal planning with foods common to the Mexican American culture is included. For additional information call 533-3492. STMC Photo

Kid Safe volunteers honored

Kid Safe volunteers who worked for a successful project in Needville last year were honored at the STMC Christmas gala Dec. 10. From left, holding certificates, were Pamela Klavitter, Betty Ford, Jane Lane, Suzanne Perez, Patti Daniel, Lynda Cloud and Mary Ramey. They work at the South Texas Medical Clinics P.A. in Wharton, El Campo, East Bernard and Needville. STMC Photo

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