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Senator wants school districts to select textbooks

State Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, filed legislation last week which would allow local school districts to buy whatever textbooks they please with state money.

Ratliff, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, said elimination of the state textbook adoption process is part of his 1,088-page proposal to overhaul the Texas Education Code.



State Capitol Highlights
 By Lyndell Williams
 and Ed Sterling
 Texas Press Association

"I think there are about four or five textbook companies in the world large enough to go through the long, arduous expensive process of being approved for a textbook," Ratliff said.

"There's millions of dollars spent in that process, and small publishing houses can't afford to try to get a textbook approved," he said.

But Jack Christie, chairman of the State Board of Education, voiced concern about doing away with the present method of adopting textbooks.

members, who are drafting their own proposal to make schools more accountable to local communities.

Other provisions of the education bill include:

- Teacher's minimum pay scale would be increased and tied to growth in per-pupil spending;
- A new State Board of Certification would give educators the same right of self-regulation that most other professions have;
- School district superintendents rather than school boards would develop district budgets, which then would be approved by the boards; and
- Limit school superintendents to 12 months of severance pay.

"Sen. Ratliff's proposals show a clear movement toward innovation and expanded local control of our Texas schools," said Gov. George W. Bush.

Under the current system, school districts can use the state funds to buy books approved by the state. They can use local funds to buy other books if they choose.

State legislators would be prohibited from representing paying clients before state agencies under an ethics reform bill approved last week by a Senate committee.

The measure, approved by the

"My basic feeling is textbook selection still should be a statewide function because half the districts don't have the experts to pursue those books and choose what's best for the kids," Christie said.

Ratliff said that under his proposal, regional education service centers would be given authority to create panels of educators to review available textbooks and make recommendations.

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Education Commissioner Lionel "Skip" Mena said shifting textbook adoption to local districts would cut 46 members of the TEA's staff, out to a total 1,133 employees. He said about 30 states have local textbook adoption.

Ratliff's bill is considered a starting point for senators and House

Richardson Joins Law Firm
 Former Gov. Ann Richards last week became the senior advisor to the Washington-based law firm of Verner, Lipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand in its newly opened Austin office.

Rosemary Freeman, director of

the firm's public affairs, said Richards, who is not a lawyer, would advise both public and private clients with the firm in areas of public policy and comprehensive business strategy.

The firm recently hired former U.S. Sens. Lloyd Bentsen and George Mitchell.

Lottery Funds to Schools
 A major portion of the lottery revenues would be dedicated to public education under a bill proposed by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio.

Under the measure, 80% of lottery revenues would go toward funding public education and the remainder to the state's General Revenue Fund.

Wentworth said the bill would do "what most voters believed more than three years ago would happen when they voted in favor of a lottery."

Bill Limits Side Jobs
 State legislators would be prohibited from representing paying clients before state agencies under an ethics reform bill approved last week by a Senate committee.

The measure, approved by the

On another subject, Sen. Ratliff said he has pledges of 11 "hard no votes" against casino gambling, the exact number to defeat the proposal. He also vowed to filibuster a casino bill if it reaches the Senate floor.

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Senate State Affairs Committee on a 7-4 vote, would halt legal activities that earned certain lawmakers \$680,000 in fees during a recent three-year period.

"I think there is a widespread perception that state legislators represent clients before state agencies for pay and have undue influence on those agencies," said Tom Bivins, R-Amarillo, author of the bill.

Other Highlights
 •State Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give Texas voters the power to approve measures by petition. Under the proposed amendment, voters also could petition to repeal laws passed by the Legislature. "The power of the people should not be limited to the name they check at the ballot box," Nelson said.

•Gov. Bush nominated Houston businessman Brenda Arnett to be executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce. He announced the nomination after Deborah Kastrian, an appointee of former-Gov. Richardson, resigned.

Funeral services were held Monday June 29 for Mrs. Louise Hennecke of Alleyton, aunt of Miles Theuman and Mrs. Ben McElhinney of this city. Attending the funeral from Eagle Lake were Mr. & Mrs. Miles Theuman, Mr. & Mrs. Ben McElhinney and Mrs. Johnny Kaluzna.

Mrs. LaVerne Ruth Tesch became the bride of Daniel George Mazoch at St. Roch's Catholic Church in Menz at 2 p.m. Sunday June 21. The brides parents are Mr. & Mrs. Lester Tesch of Sheridan, and the groom's parents are Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mazoch of Cat Spring.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Raymond L. Pustejovsky, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey L. Pustejovsky of Eagle Lake, was graduated from Naval Submarine School during ceremonies at Naval Submarine Basic New London, Groton, Conn.

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

July 2, 1970
 Eagle Lake and Colorado County lost one of its most beloved and respected citizens last week, J.O. (Boyche) Waller, Sheriff of Colorado County for 18 years. He died in the M.D. Anderson Hospital at 5:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 25th.

Miss Carol Birdwell has been named the recipient of a \$400 scholarship to Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Texas. In May, she was named to receive the annual D.R. and Eula Wintermann Scholarship to the college of her choice in the amount of \$500 per year for four years. Miss Birdwell is employed this summer at the Eagle Lake Headlight.

Miss Judy Emmel and William Lloyd Walker wed at Our lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on June 14. Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Thomas, their daughter Marsha and her friend Annette Hengst, returned June 25 from a 7 day plane trip in the Thomas' twin-engine plane, to Wyoming, New Mexico and California.

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P.P. Gonzales Sr., a four year employee of Lake Motors Inc., has been certified as a Chevrolet Technician... Robert Lee Finney Jr. writes that he will graduate from basic training with the U.S. Army at Fort Ord, Calif., on Aug. 14. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Finney Sr. and a 1969 graduate of Eagle Lake High School.

Debra Ann Vacek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Vacek of East Bernard has announced her engagement to David Guthman son of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Guthman of Lissie... Cadet Wayne A. Beck, son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Beck of Garwood, is receiving six weeks practical application in military leadership at Army Reserve Training Corps in Fort Sill Okla.

Mr. & Mrs. Quinto Bottino have the hosts for a barbecue at their home on Austin Road in Eagle Lake last Sunday to celebrate their 17th Anniversary... Harold Thomas of Eagle Lake met with Congressman George Bush during the June 13 Bush for U.S. Senate Campaign in Houston.

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Nov. 8, 1946
 The Eagles outplayed the Halletsville Brahmas all evening, never even giving their opponents a chance to score, chalking up a 27 to 0 victory on two touchdowns by Harold Lloyd Williams, one by John Walker and one by Melvin Selph, Williams converted for an extra point and the Eagles picked up two more points on a safety.

Thomas files for Rice CISD School Board

Tuesday, Feb. 21, was the first day interested individuals could file for the 1995 school board election.

In the Rice School District, two positions are to be filled. One is held by Jack Vanter of Sheridan and the other was recently vacated by Sam Center, formerly of Eagle Lake.

The first person to file for the seat vacated by Center was Robin Engstrom Thomas of Eagle Lake.

Mrs. Thomas is a lifelong resident of Colorado County having attended Garwood schools until the Rice District Consolidation.

She is a 1973 graduate of Rice High School and subsequently received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas - Arlington.

From 1978-1980, she was employed as a critical care nurse in Dallas and Houston. After returning to Eagle Lake, she was employed as a home health nurse.

When asked why she was running for the board, Thomas stated, "I've got two children in this district and I want to do what I can to assure that they, as well as other kids, get as good an education as anyone, anywhere!"

Miss Ruth Thomas has resigned her position with the offices of Drs. J.R. and J.C. Laughlin and left for Galveston where she has taken a position at John Sealy Hospital...

Mr. & Mrs. Victor Richter are receiving congratulations on the arrival (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

Habitat coming to county

"Isn't that the Jimmy Carter thing?" you say. Well, he is part of it. However, he is only one of the thousands of volunteers in this Christian organization that builds homes for working low-income families, and their battle cry is "NO MORE SHACKS!" Sounds like something Colorado County could use?

Habitat for Humanity International (international because the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and 40+ other countries are actively involved) was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. Since that time, Habitat for Humanity (HFH), through its volunteers, has constructed or rehabilitated more than 30,000 houses throughout the world.

Low-income working families in substandard housing (or in overcrowded conditions) are eligible to purchase these houses from HFH at a cost that does not include profit or interest. The mortgage they pay to HFH is then turned around and used to finance another home. And so, another house is built and the cycle continues.

Habitat accepts no funding from the government for either operations or construction. Funds are supplied by individuals, churches, corporations, businesses, etc.

Volunteers from all aspects of life make up the organization. Lawyers work with fast-food employees to roof the house. A retiree paints alongside throughout the world.

Auxiliary holds chili cook-off

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department held its First Annual Chili Cook-Off Sunday, Jan. 29.

The event was a department "get together" as well as a fund raiser for the Auxiliary "Pager Fund" project which will allow each firemen to have a pager for fire calls.



First place went to Michael and John Michael Rucka and Butch Broesche (not pictured).

Sixteen teams, consisting of firemen with members of their family and friends, turned out for the cook-off.

First place went to Michael and John Michael Rucka and Butch Broesche.

Second place was so close there that it was a tie in the taste-off by the judges. Finally, a coin was flipped to determine second and third place.

The team of five judges commented that all the chili was good, making their job very difficult.

The Auxiliary would like to thank Gretchen Wilkerson, Gail Gertson, Betty Marsalia, Mickey Kochweg and Sonny Spanihel for their hard work as judges. The ladies would also like to give a very special thank you to Annie and Frank Broesche for the gracious hospitality. Also, thanks to Charlotte and Annie Broesche for their help in organizing the event.

Donations for the Auxiliary Pager Fund are welcomed from anyone who would like to contribute.



Third, by the flip of a coin only, were Joe Lee Perez and Howard Wilkerson.

Primary School now having 'Black History Festival'

In celebration of Black History, Eagle Lake Primary School is presenting a "Black History Festival of Events" during the week of Feb. 20.

It's theme, "Have Determination to Fulfill Your Dreams", focuses on the importance for our youth to prepare themselves early for their leadership roles as we move into the 21st century.



Taking second was the team of Buddy Mascheck and Pinto Broesche. Headlight Photos by Carolyn Baird

The festival began Tuesday morning with a Black History Bookfair. Rhonda Richardson, owner of Nia's Bookshop and Gallery in Houston, gave highlights of material on display.

Creed Henry, the grandson of the late professor E.H. Henry Sr., was scheduled to visit with students on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Friday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m., William "Fireball" Beverly, a former player of the National Negro League, will address the students.

The festival, including works by Tony Tyler, will be a week of black art discovery. Other events this week have or will include local citizens demonstrating soul cooking, displaying old-fashioned items and serving samples of soul food.

Prairie Edge Museum Notes

By Elizabeth Boothe, Reporter

Baker.

On March 25 in the evening at the Community Center a drawing will be held to determine the winners of the Chamber of Commerce secretary. The C. of C. office has been located at the museum building for several years and Linda has been so very cooperative in greeting visitors to the museum as well as being helpful in many other ways. Linda is leaving to join her husband Wayne Lippert in his new business venture. We welcome the Wanda Gott, the new C. of C. secretary, and hope she will enjoy her association with Prairie Edge.

Lake. I recall being given the privilege of meeting with one of the groups and instructing the girls on how to write thank-you notes. I had an interesting telephone "visit" with Dr. Sandra C. Thomas Sunday evening. She continues to be interested in this wonderful organization which is now called The Girl Scouts if the U.S.A. I hope you will see the Girl Scout exhibit at the museum.

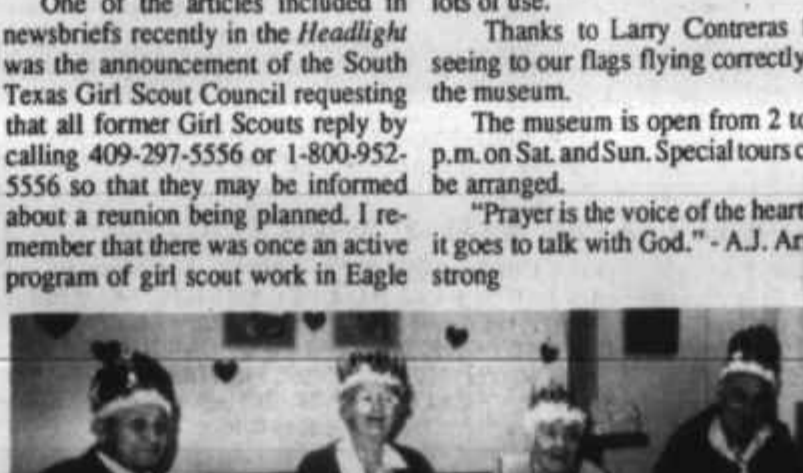
Prairie Edge would like to thank Rice Industries Inc., for the recent donation of a copier which should see lots of use.

Thanks to Larry Contreras for seeing to our flags flying correctly at the museum.

The museum is open from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sat. and Sun. Special tours can be arranged.

"Prayer is the voice of the heart as it goes to talk with God." - A.J. Armstrong

One of the articles included in newsletters recently in the Headlight was the announcement of the South Texas Girl Scout Council requesting that all former Girl Scouts reply by calling 409-297-5556 or 1-800-952-5556 so that they may be informed about a reunion being planned. I remember that there was once an active program of girl scout work in Eagle



Kings and Queens at Heritage House

Kings and Queens were recently chosen at the Heritage House in Eagle Lake. The winners were chosen by the staff at Heritage House. Along with the crowning of King and Queen a Valentine Party was given for all the residents. Chosen from the Alzheimer's Unit were (l to r), Edward Briesa and Lavada McCoy; from the Geriatric Unit, Rosie Clemmens and Arnold Hibbler.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS
 Deed: Estate of Vetrico June Koenig to Frank S. Harris et ux, Lots Nos. 19 and 20 in Block No. 78 of the Seifer Addition to the City of Weimar; filed 12-29-94.

COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS
 Jenny Le Griffin, Columbus, driving while intoxicated (DWI); defendant pled nolo contendere. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$750, \$150 court appointed attorney, 40 hours of community service, court costs and 1 year probation.

Deed: Lorine C. Babela to Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas, 20,012 acres out of the T.J. Smith Survey, A-500 et al; 12-29-94.

DISTRICT COURT SUITS FILED
 Sheila Fowler vs Columbus State Bank, damages; filed 2-10-95.

Deed: Keith Popp, et al to Carol Sepeda, Lots Nos. Thirteen (13) Fourteen (14) in Block Sixteen (16) in the Town of Garwood; 12-29-94.

DIVORCES FILED
 Soledad Hernandez Rios and Benjamin Rios; filed 2-9-95.

Deed: Vivia L. Smith Testamentary Trusts to Diamond Meadows Ranch, 315,712 acres, out of the J.W. Tinkler Survey, A-777; 12-29-94.

DIVORCES GRANTED
 Lupe Almanza and Maryrose Almanza; granted 2-9-95.

Deed: Nationalwide Health Properties Inc. to MLD Texas Trust, 2.16 acres situated in the Patrick Reels Survey, A-475; 12-29-94.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
 Joseph Wayne Owens, 21, and Jennifer Torrez, 21, both of Eagle Lake. Peter Daniel Camaris, 27, and Karl Renee Sealhorn, 20, both of Eagle Lake. Brian Joseph Semora, 21, and Katherine Melissa Blevins, 19, both of Eagle Lake.

Deed: Estate of Elma Hayward White to Gale White, et al, 188,593 acres, out of the Jesse Burnham Survey, A-9; 12-30-94.

Ring Services, Jewelry Repair Services, Ring Sizing, Ring Repair, Chain Repair, Bracelet Repair, Diamond & Colored Stone Replacing, Reproving, Retipping, Latch & Loop Buildup, Watch Batteries Changed

Deed: Gale White and Victoria Bank and Trust Co. as Co-Trustees to the Jesse Burnham Survey, A-9; 12-30-94.

K-D JEWELRY
 704-B S. McCarty, Eagle Lake
 234-5717

Deed: Estate of Elma Hayward White to Gale White, et al, 188,593 acres, out of the Jesse Burnham Survey, A-9; 12-30-94.

Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease
 The Leon and Beatrice Obenshau Foundation to Aztec Oil & Gas Inc., 347.5 acres, being out of and part of the Mirah

Deed: Gale White to Marlys Hayward Sampson, Trustee, 188,593 acres out of the Jesse Burnham Survey, A-9; 12-30-94.

Holy Mass Schedule:
 Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 7 & 10 a.m.

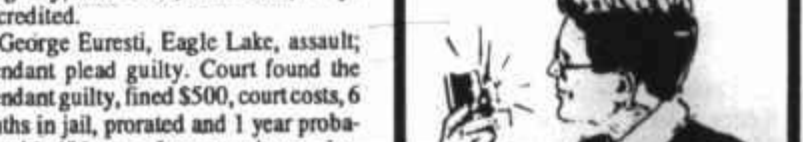
Deed: Elma Hayward White, Estate to Gale White and Victoria Bank and Trust Co. as Co-Trustees, all oil, gas sulfur and other minerals, etc. in the 188,593 acres out of the Jesse Burnham Survey, A-9; 12-30-94.

BBQ Chicken & Sausage Dinner
 with trimmings
 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. All Plates \$5.00
 Seating available • Fast drive thru for plates-to-go
GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT
 Auction • Silent Auction • Drawing
 Pastry & Bazaar Booths • Superplay for Kids

Deed: Leonard Davis to Clarence Davis III, 1.00 acre in the James Earl BBBAC Tr. Co. et al; 12-20-94.

ST. MARY'S 4TH ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL
 Nada Community Center
 Sunday, March 5, 1995
 Holy Mass Schedule:
 Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 7 & 10 a.m.

Gift Deed: Sue Briscoe to The Lake Preservation Society Inc., 6.0467 acres in the James Earl Survey, A-189; 12-30-94.



Deed: Elora Slack to Wilfred Slack, 0.25 acre in the N.E. Part of Weimar; 12-30-94.

George Euresi, Eagle Lake, assault; defendant pled guilty. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$500, court costs, 6 months in jail, prorated and 1 year probation with 40 hours of community service.

Deed: Myrah Jane Draper to Stephen E. Draper et ux, in ground lease tract in the E. Tumlison League; 12-30-94.

Edward Demont Holloway, Eagle Lake, resisting arrest; fined \$500 plus court costs, 6 months jail, prorated, 1 year probation and 40 hours of community

Deed: Myrah Jane Draper to Stephen E. Draper, 3,0551 acres in the E. Tumlison Survey, A-44; 12-30-94.

Deed: Lorette Stech Schoeneberg to Carolyn G. Stech, et ux, 20.00 acres, being in the Wm. W. Thompson League, A-43; 12-30-94.

Deed: Lorette Stech Schoeneberg to Leonard Stech, et ux, 37.46 acres being in the Wm. E. Thompson League, A-43; 12-30-94.

Deed: L.D. Schilling, et ux to Charles Craig Schilling, et al, 97.59 acres in the I&GNRR Co. Survey No. 13, A-319; 12-30-94.

Deed: Janelle Bauer Hooper to Walter Lee Bauer, et ux, 0.0994 (und. int.) out of the James Ross Survey, A-39; 1-3-95.

Deed: Theresa Ann Zajick to Bennie Joe Zajick, 5.00 acres.

Persian Gulf War Veterans . . .

Help Is Available.

FOR INFORMATION ON

- medical care
- disability compensation
- research findings about Gulf veterans' health concerns

Call VA's Persian Gulf War Information Center Help Line

1-800-PGW-VETS

Specialists available 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., CT
 Recorded messages provide requested materials around the clock.

TDD (for hearing impaired): 1-800-829-4833
 For computer access to VA's Bulletin Board, "VA Online," call: 1-800-US1-VETS

Department of Veterans Affairs
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OUR HOMETOWN II

A down home production featuring Columbus folks in a tribute to small town life.

7:30 p.m. • Saturday • Feb. 25th
 Stafford Opera House, Columbus, Texas

Tickets: \$8 adults \$4 children/students 18 & under
 Tickets available at The Style Shop in Columbus
 or at Stafford Opera House Theatre — (409) 732-5135 to charge VISA/Mastercard