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Tax relief could affect education funding, says Bullock

Gov. George W. Bush's call for property tax relief could negatively affect funding of public education in Texas, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and House Speaker Pete Laney said last week.

Bullock compared the present funding system, in which property-rich school districts send money to property-poor districts, to a house of cards.

"You move one card and the whole house may fall down," he said.

"Property taxes and (the school-funding formula) are joined at the brain. Any changes in one will unquestionably change the formula itself," Bullock told incoming legislators at an orientation meeting.

Laney agreed with Bullock and said he is waiting for Bush to release a plan that can be studied and assessed.

The governor has made cutting the \$10 billion homeowners and businesses pay in school property taxes a priority for the 1997 legislative session, which will convene Jan. 14.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Sharp Calls for Cuts, Savings
State Comptroller John Sharp last week delivered his fourth Texas Performance Review report, calling for more than \$3.5 billion in taxpayer savings over the next five years.

"Once again," Sharp said, "we've scoured state government for outdated programs and new ways to save Texas money."

The report, titled "Distributing the Peace: The Challenge of Change in Texas Government," presents 428 detailed proposals for saving taxpayers more than \$1.2 billion during the 1998-99 biennium and more than \$3.5 billion by the end of 2002.

Sharp proposed cutting 6,600 fully funded but unfilled state jobs, saving more than \$470 million during the next biennium.

He proposed cutting 1,720 current state jobs over the next two-year period through an early retirement incentive plan and other measures.

And among other proposals, he called for:

- Abolishing the Texas Department of Commerce and shifting the agency's duties to a new non-profit public/private entity; and
- Issuing Texas lifetime driver's licenses, with free-to-charge updates required every 12 years.

Private Schools, Public Funds
Lake Travis Independent School District board member Fred Walker, who sponsored a proposal to use tax-

payer dollars to pay for private school tuition, is busy with plans to open a new private school that could benefit from the plan.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Walker is proposing the Parents as Partners Scholarship Program, a tuition reimbursement plan for the district of 2,900 students.

At the same time, he and his pastor at the Lakeway Ecumenical Church are working to build support for the construction of a Roman Catholic school adjacent to a 20-acre site where a new Catholic church is to be built next year in this community a few minutes west of Austin.

Supporters say vouchers would give parents more control over their children's education, but critics say a voucher system would take tax dollars away from public schools.

Annette Cootes, a spokeswoman for the Texas State Teachers Association, told the American-Statesman, "There will definitely be a lawsuit filed if (Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses) allows it to proceed."

Other Capital Highlights
• Texas Banking Commissioner Catherine Ghiglieri said 24 state banks in Texas will be examined less frequently beginning in 1997. She said the resulting reduction in regulatory costs will be passed along to the affected banks through a decrease in their assessments for examinations.

Texans of Czech Ancestry (TOCA) and the Interim Board of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center recently announced that La Grange will be the site for the proposed center, a multi-million dollar facility that will exhibit, demonstrate and preserve the culture and heritage of Czech Texans.

In addition to La Grange, Ennis, Caldwell and Temple were bidding.

A site selection committee comprised of a representative from each of nine chartered, incorporated Czech organizations heard presentations from the four communities in Aug. at the KUT State Headquarters in La Grange. The committee visited all of the proposed sites prior to making their selection.

Fayette County has the largest Czech population per capita and the most Czech communities in Texas.

Known as the "Cradle of Czech Immigration," it has the distinction of having had more immigrants from the Czech lands of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire settle there before spreading out throughout the state.

Fayette County, one of the oldest counties in Texas, has a diverse and rich heritage, beautiful topography and numerous persons of historical significance to Czech Texans can be linked to Fayette County.

The reduction in examinations for the 24 banks will be from once every 12 months to every 18 months for well-run banks with assets of \$100 million to \$500 million.

"Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro has suggested that Gov. Bush call out the National Guard or get prison inmates to help fight beach erosion in Southeast Texas. Unusually high tides have eaten away more than 50 feet of beach on the Gulf of Mexico in Galveston and Brazoria counties, Mauro wrote in a letter to the governor. Bush spokesman Ray Sullivan said the governor's office is reviewing Mauro's plan.

"A Christmas tree is to go up this week at the south end of the Capitol's Great Walk, where a permanent underground tree stand and tree anchors were designed into the sidewalk. The 30 foot Eastern Red Cedar came from land adjacent to Bastrop State Park, southeast of Austin.

"A state audit released last week said the Lone Star Card, which debuted about a year ago, is working well. More than a million Texas welfare recipients use the plastic cards, which resemble credit cards, to receive welfare benefits electronically.

"Regulators at the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission are considering a crackdown on industrial polluters that have operated under a "grandfather" clause in the 1971 Texas clean air law. A report is expected in about a week.

Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Horton of Eagle Lake celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary Sunday, Feb. 13, at the home of her daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Miller.

Relatives and friends gathered at the chapel of Mill-Bauer Funeral Home in Eagle Lake at 3 p.m. for Louie Alvin Paschall who died at 6 a.m. last Wednesday, Feb. 16, in Altair after a lengthy illness.

Funeral services were held from the chapel of Mill-Bauer Funeral Home in Eagle Lake at 3 p.m. for Louie Alvin Paschall who died at 6 a.m. last Wednesday, Feb. 16, in Altair after a lengthy illness.

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS

Feb. 24, 1972

Eagle Lake firemen battled one of the worst smoke and house fires in quite some time Sunday morning. The blaze was in a rent house owned by Mrs. Letha Crenshaw on State Street occupied by Mrs. Virginia Munro and children when the blaze erupted.

Mr. & Mrs. Roland Marcoux, former owners of the Eagle Cafe, have opened their new Big B Drive In at the former cafe site on Hwy. 90A, just west of the city limits.

Former Texas A&M quarterback Don Watson was the guest speaker for the First Annual Rice High School football banquet. Watson was introduced by Athletic Director and Coach Bill Appelt.

Lloyd Spalinger, Southwest Life Insurance Company representative in Eagle Lake, has earned his company's Advanced Life Insurance diploma for high achievement in special studies.

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Fred Broesche and Jim Mathis were chosen to be on the Wharton County Junior College baseball team. Mathis will serve as relief pitcher while Broesche will help the team out in center field.

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Henske are pleased over the arrival of a son at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 10:10 a.m. At birth he weighed eight pounds and measured 20 inches in length. His name is Kevin Michael.

Eagle Lake Future Farmer of America members Anthony Mathis and Mark Henske will participate in the world's largest call scramble during the 1972 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Mathis on March 1 and Henske on March 6.

Mrs. Pola Ebarra, a resident of Eagle Lake for the past 35 years, passed away at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital on Saturday, Feb. 12. Mr. & Mrs. Frank Merta of Louise announced the arrival of a daughter weighing nine pounds, 10 ounces. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kowek of Nade are the paternal grandparents.

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ELMS Cheerleaders are tops in Lighted Parade

Citizens lined Hwy. 90-A from Beaks all the way to the Square to watch the Annual Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas parade last Saturday, Dec. 7.

Forty-six citizens spread Christmas spirit for the eighth year to all who watched and participated.

Best overall went to the Eagle Lake Middle School cheerleaders' float, "Kissing Up to Santa", with all the girls, sponsor Jeanne Young and Allyssa and Logan Young dressed as Hershey's Kisses.

The parade kicked off with the VFW Post #873 and Boy Scouts presenting the colors in front of the reviewing stand followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

Parade Marshal T.J. Smith and family led the parade. Smith was riding in a 1966 Pontiac GTO converted owned by Dan Canaris and driven by Trey Kell. T.J.'s family was riding in a 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass convertible driven by Laura Appelt and "Kylie".

Judges for the parade were Lee and Dora Brisco and Ronnie and Susan Rodgers.

The top finishers in the parade were:

First place in the service division was Fayette County County Fair; second went to Eagle Lake Lions Club (Shirley Train); and third, Wharton County Youth Fair. Honorable mention went to Santa Claus and Colorado County Habitat For Humanity.

In the chambers of commerce division, first place went to Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce; second to Ellinger; and third to the newly refurbished Eagle Lake float.

Winning first place in commercial was Thomas Clinic with their float, "We're 'Nuts' about Christmas and Happy New Year 'Too-To' You!"

Dr. Raymond and Russell Thomas and Leonard Borstein were dressed as "Sugar Plum Fairies".

Second place went to the Heritage House. There was a tie for third between Pegl Trucking and LCRA. Honorable mention was awarded to Traffic Industries' entry.

In the decorated vehicle division, first place honors went to the Latin's Car Club; second to Miss W.O.F.F. Vanessa Rodgers who was riding in a Mazda Miata belonging to Jerry Capps. Third was Miss Go Texan Robin Shavers riding in a 1967 Camaro owned by Dan Canaris.

Lutheran Church won first place among the churches again this year with the theme "Greatest Gift". Second place went to the Greater Union float and third to Vine of The Lord.

The marching division first place went to Becky Moulder's Super Strutter's; and second to Rice High School Mighty Rider Marching Band.

In the school division, first place and best overall went to Eagle Lake Middle School cheerleaders; second to ELMS Student Council; and third, Rice High School Junior Varsity cheerleaders. Honorable mention was awarded the Rice High School Cosmology entry.

And last, but not least, the first place individual-family division went to "Community Entry with a theme of 'An Old Fashion Christmas'." Riders were parents and children from all over the community. Second place went to Crown Royal and third to State Rep. Elect Robby Cook. Honorable mention went to Judge Vince Slominski and his wife, Carol.

We hope that next year's parade will be even bigger and better. Thanks to those who participated to make the parade such a huge success!

Last time, we left the elves as they were about to embark on an adventure with the newly discovered elves in Australia.

Hermia started the new-comers down a trail to the west through the shrubs or wattle, as perhaps an Australian would say.

"Look," said Aesop to Hubert, "she's taking that path where we saw the human foot prints!"

When the elves rounded the low hill, they heard sounds - strums coming from a stringed instrument and occasional rhythmic toots produced by blowing of large conch shells.

Since the elves possessed their cloaks of invisibility, Hermia led them where all could see that a tribal ritual was under way.

"Over there," Hermia pointed once again, "you can catch a glimpse of some of our favorite people, the tall, elegant, native Australians who live in the Outback."

The scantily-clad people seemed fully-clothed by having their bodies adorned with spots and stripes of bright white or clay-colored decorations.

"My, but these are interesting people," said Hubert. "Besides their wavy hair, their handsome chocolate brown skin, their impressive broad noses, and their heavily-ridge eyebrows give these tall, slender people a look of friendly reverence and dignity rather than respectful dread."

"Look," added Aesop, "even their weapons are ornate. I can see practical use for those brightly-painted shields and feathered spears, but the need for those curved and flattened wooden devices puzzles me."

"Those curved sticks," said Hermia, "are actually throwing implements called boomerangs. Those ingenious people can throw them with great accuracy and are able to down small animals with these efficient gadgets. Notice all those plain sticks. The women use those to dig-up such edibles as insect grubs, fleshy roots, and seeds. These people are skilled as

In no time at all, the southern elves returned to their camp and packed and stored their equipment in their nearby flight vehicle. Finally they carefully extinguished and covered over their camp fire and tidied the entire site.

The northern elves and elves waited only a few minutes before they glimpsed the flight vehicle of their hosts hovering overhead.

"Look at their aircraft," called one elf, "I find it difficult to believe that their ship and ours look so much alike."

At last, the two carriers, in single file following the always reliable Arctic Terns, headed southward against a bright sky. The northern sightseers watched as the landscape became almost desert-like in appearance. Before reaching land's end, the countryside began to take on a green look with forests and grasslands.

"I see," chuckled Hermia, "that the Arctic Terns have served you as guides. Sinbad and his fellows have been our friends as well."

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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS
Deeds: Jerry Lee Henneke et al to C.F. Kollman et ux, 25.295 acres, Howard McElroy League, A-32; filed 9-16-96.
Deed: David Myers et ux to John A. Strich, 50.973 acres, Leiman Witte Jr. Survey, A-934, et al; 9-16-96.
Deed: Sean Lee Schobel et al to William W. Schobel et ux, 94.339 acres, James Tomlinson League, A-46; 9-17-96.
Deed: Lillian Walters et al to Vera Teach, 48.738 acres, Miguel Maldon Survey, A-647; 9-18-96.
Deed: James E. Buckner Jr. et ux to James Jenkins et ux, 1.1605 acre, P. Reel's Survey, A-475, Eagle Lake; 9-18-96.
Deed: Joe Herbert McCrory et ux to Brookshire Investment Company, 2.4884 acres, James Earl Survey, A-189; 9-20-96.
Deed: Charles A. Leamons et ux to John H. Gibson et ux, land out of Block 11, City of Columbus; 9-20-96.
Deed: William L. Adkins et ux to Ervin Ritter et ux, 0.54 acre, Preston Gilbert League, A-25; 9-20-96.
Deed: Lori Jean Dutcher Freeman et ux to Walter E. Dutcher Sr., 0.0 acre, G. Strawsholder Survey, A-40; 9-23-96.
Deed: Sabine Investment Company of Texas Inc., to Rodney J. Walz and Kenneth R. Walz, Tracts 10-12, Oakridge Ranch Section Two, G.W. Brown Survey, A-96, et al; 9-23-96.
Deed: Vera Teach to Lillian Walters et al, 82.500 acres, Miguel Maldon Survey, A-647; 9-23-96.
Deed: Thomas J. Reynolds et ux to John L. Barta et ux, Lot 28, Shirley Oaks Subdivision, W.B. Dewees Survey, A-18; 9-23-96.
Deed: Lillian Dixon to Mary Ann Redus, 5925 Sq. Ft. of land, SW side of Lots 10, 11 and 12, Jones Estate, P. Reel's Survey; 9-24-96.
Deed: Dittman W. Harrison et ux to Dittman Webster Harrison, Trustee, 22 acres, R. Alley Survey, A-1, et al; 9-25-96.
Deed: James C. Kearney et al to Carl A. Blomquist et ux, 0.3138 acres, Robert Cunningham Survey, A-16; 9-25-96.
Gift Deed: Charles DeHaven Coy to Gail Eugenia Coy, 10.0 acres, John H.

Dabney League, A-17; 9-25-96.
Deed: Debra Ann Weishum to Harold O. Schriefer and Erna Mac Schriefer, 0.560 acre, G. Strawsholder League, A-40; 9-25-96.

OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES
Estate of Elbert B. Olsen to Middleton Oil Co., 20 acres, I&GN RR Survey, Section 34, et al; filed 9-19-96.
Ira M. Pickett and Susan K. Bruner to Middleton Oil Co., 20 acres, I&GN RR Survey, Section 34, A-282; 9-19-96.
William Michael Sims to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 62 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
Martha Kay Reese to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 62 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
Donna Rae Bodman to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 62 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
Bary Allen Boush to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 62 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
Nancy Hayden McGaughey to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 2 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
Connie Lin Hayden Gayton to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 2 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
David Aaron Sims Jr. to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 62 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
David Aaron Sims to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 62 acres, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.
Nancy Elizabeth Hainbach to United Oil & Mineral Inc., 2 tracts, George Singleton Survey, Section 18, A-689, et al; 9-20-96.

COUNTY COURT CASES FILED
(All cases filed 11-25-96 unless otherwise noted)
Brian J. Amoro, Brandon, Fla.,

possession of marijuana; occurred 11-21-96 on Hwy. 71.
Deandre Capri Carter, Columbus, evading arrest; occurred 10-12-96.
Carlos Edward Cruz, San Marcos, driving while intoxicated (DWI), 2nd offense; 1-21-95 on Interstate 10.
Kyle Dockery, Kyle, DWI, 2nd offense; 7-8-96 on Hwy. 71.
Gary Ferguson, Eagle Lake, possession of marijuana; 6-12-95 in Eagle Lake.
Jeremy Ferguson, theft; 4-15-95 in Eagle Lake.
Earnest Lee Fields Jr., Eagle Lake, assault; 10-31-96 in Eagle Lake.
Maulida Garcia, Rosenberg, theft; 6-3-95 in Eagle Lake.
Walter George Gordon, Edinburg, possession of marijuana; 11-13-96 in Eagle Lake.
Ramona Guarray, Eagle Lake, criminal mischief; 5-29-95 in Eagle Lake.
Ramona Guarray, Eagle Lake, criminal trespass; 7-2-95 in Eagle Lake.
Tracy Mae Grumbles, Columbus, DWI; 9-22-96 on Hwy. 71.
Frederick James Hebert, Weimar, evading arrest; 6