

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**  
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**Produced By:**  
Carol Cardenas • Leslie Risk  
Jeannine Fearing  
Shirley Lueddecke • Betty Drymala

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## Republicans have first-time majority in Texas Senate

Republicans won a majority in the state Senate last week when state Rep. Robert Duncan of Lubbock was elected to a vacant seat representing 21 counties in West Texas.



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

The Dec. 10 run-off victory gave the GOP its first majority in a Texas legislative chamber since 1872, and a 16-14 seat edge.

Sen-elect Duncan will fill the seat vacated by John Montford, a Democrat who left the Senate to take a position as chancellor of Texas Tech University.

One seat remains to be filled - that of Sen. Jim Turner, D-Crocket. Turner won a U.S. House seat in Nov., so a special election will be held next year to fill his state Senate seat.

While the new majority gives the GOP power in numbers, the Senate is still ruled by Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, whose authority it is to appoint committee chairmen and make committee assignments.

In welcoming Duncan to the Senate, Bullock said, "The most important thing now is to focus on the state's business in the upcoming session without regard to political party labels or party agendas."

**Brown Files No-Reversal Bill**  
Texas appellate courts would not be able to use technical errors as the basis for throwing out valid criminal convictions under a bill filed by state Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson.

Brown's bill would prohibit convictions from being reversed for so-called harmless errors. He filed similar legislation in 1995 that died in the House.

John Boston of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association called the bill unnecessary, saying less than 1% of criminal convictions are overturned on appeal.

**Mauro Hints at Run**  
At a Democratic fund-raiser in Austin last week, Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said, "As Texas races toward the future, I promise you I will be in the race."

His comment has been interpreted to mean that he plans on running for governor in 1998.

Mauro also said he had "no plans to go to Washington," downplaying speculation that he might seek a post in the Clinton administration or as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

**Other Capital Highlights**  
"Seventeen Texans licensed to carry concealed handguns have had their licenses revoked, the Texas Department of Public Safety announced. According to the DPS, 112,483 Texans had been granted licenses as of Dec. 3. Sixteen men and one woman had their licenses revoked. Seven licenses were taken because of criminal activities."

"The Texas Transportation Institute released a report ranking Austin as the third most congested city in Texas, behind Houston and Dallas. Austin's congestion index was 33rd-worst in the nation, based on 1993 figures."

"Associates of Texas Republican Party Chairman Tom Panken, a Dallas lawyer, say he will decide this week his candidacy for the national GOP chairmanship. The new chairman will be elected by the 165-member Republican National Committee at a Jan. 17 meeting."

"Austin's annual cedar fever epidemic was featured in a Dec. 10 *Wall Street Journal* article. Mountain cedar 'explosions' with allergen-laden pollen from Dec. through Feb."

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**Bomer Blasts Settlement**  
"Consumer rip-off" is what Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer called a proposed class-action settlement for millions of Allstate and Farmers insurance policyholders who were over-charged for automobile insurance.

Bomer asked Attorney General Dan Morales to intervene in a lawsuit against the two companies because a

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

Feb. 24, 1972  
Word was received by Mrs. Robert R. Wells Jr. that her cousin, William T. Beard Jr., passed away Monday night, Feb. 21.

March 2, 1972  
Billy Amos of Eagle Lake, a member of the Rice High School Future Farmers of America, showed the grand champion Poland China sow at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Odell Floyd, 61, a retired school teacher, residing in East Bernard but formerly a teacher in Rock Island school, was killed in an automobile-pickup truck accident on Hwy. 59 near Rosenberg Monday afternoon. Mrs. Floyd is a first grade teacher in the Eagle Lake Primary School.

The Skull Creek Lodge complex was sold this week by Parker Bros. Gravel Co. of Houston to Herb Graham and Chuck Weathers and the new owners took over management of the facilities Monday of this week.

Mrs. Estella Peebles of the Sheridan Elementary School was given approval of her request for retirement due to medical disability by the Board of Trustees of the Rice CISD on Feb. 15.

Gerald Trahan, 36, formerly of Ottowa, Ill., assumed duties Monday, Feb. 28, as the new administrator for the Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

Four men from Eagle Lake and Garwood have completed eight weeks of basic training with the U.S. Army at Fort Jackson, S.C. They are, from Garwood, Army Privates Ervin Stenke, William P. Lehrer and Jerry W. Krenek and from Eagle Lake, William Shorter Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Loret Howard Dye of Eagle Lake announced the marriage of their daughter, Carol Elaine, to Frederick Burton Claassen. The vows were exchanged in a candlelight

Mrs. Kathryn Woytek of Sheridan Elementary School has resigned effective March 4. She has been a kindergarten teacher in the Sheridan system for seven years.

Oct. 22, 1948  
E.F. Ambercrombie, President of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club, was advised this week by Sam K. Seymour Jr. of Columbus that he and his brother, J.D. Seymour, and their company would donate the cement, windows and the doors for the new

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

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## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

**DEEDS**  
Deed: Walter E. Deitcher Sr. to Walter Meitzen et al., 9.0 acres, S. Strawschneider Survey, A-40; filed 9-23-96.

Deed: David Leyendecker to Lester O. Lehman, 10.00 acres, Joseph Duty League Survey, A-20; 9-25-96.

Deed: Billie Jo Knight to William J. Seba et al., Tract 17, Winslow Hills Subdivision, Colorado County, 9-25-96.

Deed: Jeff Struch to Rebecca Schneider, interest in oil, gas, sulfur and all other minerals and royalty in acres out of the SAMRG RR Survey 11, A-527, et al; 9-26-96.

Deed: The Leona Stollé Spenndrift Trust to Kernal Stollé et al., 138.079 acres, Leo L. Werland Estate, A-25-96.

Deed: Patrick K. Bubela to Michael G. Hollman et al., 9.006 acres, R. Alley League, A-1; 9-26-96.

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