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Senate puts 'teeth' in zero tolerance law

The Texas Senate passed a bill that puts teeth in a 1995 "zero tolerance" law designed to rid public school campuses of drugs, alcohol and violent and disruptive students while guaranteeing due process.

The legislation is one of three "safe school" bills by Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, passed by the Senate last week. The bills move on to the House for consideration.

Under Bivins zero tolerance legislation, school officials would have the authority to expel students for misdemeanor alcohol and drug offenses committed on campus or at school events. Current law requires schools to expel for felony offenses.

Reacting to concerns that in districts that have no alternative education programs, zero tolerance would turn students out into the streets, Bivins said, "...It is worse to tell a school district you've got to keep the kid in school even though he may bring



cocaine to school."

Only 22 of Texas 254 counties would be required to offer expelled students an alternative education program operated by the school district or a county-run juvenile justice facility. Those 22 counties have a population of 125,000 or more.

Panel OKs \$83.3 Billion Budget

The House Appropriations Committee has approved, 25-0, an \$83.3 billion budget for the next two-year budget cycle that begins Sept. 1.

The budget does not include funds for Gov. George W. Bush's proposed spending for elementary school read-

ing programs, a pay raise for state employees, money to keep more prisoners in jail longer and funds for a state water conservation program.

"I hope that when (this process is done) we will have been able to address those issues," said Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, chairman of the committee.

But a one-time, \$100-a-month pay raise for state agency workers is included in a budget package by Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Higher education employees would not receive the pay raise.

"I put the \$100 per month for each employee in as a kind of a floor," Ratliff said. "We ought to start here. I hope we can do a little more than that."

State employee groups say they will continue to push for a \$200-a-month raise in 1998 and another \$200 raise in 1999.

Water Legislation Urged

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock last week underscored the need to pass water management legislation, saying, "To me, there's no bill more important to our state."

Bullock, who presides over the Senate, testified at a Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing for a water conservation bill filed by Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson.

Bullock said Texas has had five major droughts in the last 60 years, and five failed water management bills. And he warned of future water shortages that could hit every county in the state.

Brown's bill would create a statewide drought management plan combining existing city and county plans and includes provisions for the sale or lease of a property owner's water rights.

Brown said 95 Texas counties sought federal disaster assistance for last summer's drought, and the drought cost Texas farmers \$2.1 billion and the entire state \$5 billion.

Tax Panel Lists Targets

The House Committee on Revenue and Public School Funding continues its mission of drafting legislation that would expand the reach of state sales taxes in order to cut school property taxes.

On the table are new taxes on trips to the barber shop and beauty shop, gasoline, aviation fuel, legal fees and many other goods and services. Sacred cows that are expected to remain untaxable are food, medicine and medical care.

"You'll pay a sales tax if you get your tooth filled or a will written, but if your child gets the measles, you won't have to pay it," committee chairman Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, said.

Other Capital Highlights

Gov. Bush underwent arthroscopic surgery last week to repair loosened cartilage in his left knee. The injury was aggravated by age and years of jogging. "I turned 50 years old in July, and that's what happens," Bush said.

A national search is under way for a new commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Kenneth Ashworth, who has held the post for 21 years, is retiring Aug. 1.

State Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin, introduced legislation that would require people who care for three or fewer children in their homes to undergo criminal background checks and be listed with the state.

The Texas Senate has approved a bill that would stiffen penalties for employees of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation who fail to report abuse of the elderly or disabled. The bill by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, would make it a Class A misdemeanor when MHMR and nursing home employees fail to report abuse.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

June 1, 1972

A tragic one-car accident a few minutes before the beginning of their day of graduation from Rice High School claimed the lives of three of the most popular students in the Class of 1972 and seriously injured another.

Pronounced dead at the scene were Cheryl Marie Kallina, known to all her schoolmates as GiGi, and Laura Lee Turner, salutatorian of the Class of 1972, both from Garwood. The third fatality was Robert O. Criswell, one of the school's outstanding athletes from Sheridan.

Seriously injured in the accident was Patrick Mascheck of Eagle Lake who was taken to Nightingale Hospital in El Campo with severe injuries to the head and face...

Ervin Rucka and Robert Owen, both employees of Eagle Lake Iron Works, have purchased the firm from Wilfred Luedecke and will take over operation today, Thursday, June 1...

Most Improved TOPS members, over and under 40 years, were crowned at the recent anniversary meeting of the TOPS chapter. Mrs. Laura Finney and Mrs. Eleanor Dostal were presented with awards by June Mahalic...

Miss Elizabeth Seaholm, a junior math major at Sam Houston State University, was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gardner Seaholm...

Two local young men graduating from Austin High School were Mark Burke, son of Mr. & Mrs. George Burke Jr., and Eugene Guyon, grandson of Mrs. S.H. Broyles...

Mr. & Mrs. William Farris and Mrs. Jack Mann entertained with a Sunday brunch honoring Miss Ernie Walton and Dick Waddell on May

28th...

Wesley Zboril, son of Mr. & Mrs. William R. Zboril of Garwood and a sophomore at Subiaco Academy (a college prep school in Western Arkansas), won the gold medal for Excellence in Foreign Languages during commencement exercises held Wednesday, May 24...

The drum major and twirlers for the Garwood Junior High School for the 1972-73 year were selected and will include: Crystal Jones, drum major; Anna Rohwer, Nina Zbranek and Laura Rohwer as twirlers. Miss Pat Isabell is director of the Garwood band...

State Game Management Officer & Mrs. Sam E. Center became the proud parents of a baby boy born at 12:24 p.m., Wednesday, May 24, in the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. The young man weighed six pounds, 14 ounces and has been named Brian Scott...

Army Pvt. David R. Fuller, 18 year-old-son of Mr. & Mrs. I.W. Fuller of Sheridan, has completed eight-weeks of basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry, Ft. Polk, La.

Feb. 4, 1949

Cubmaster L.J. Rosprism plans to meet next week with Cub Den Mothers Mrs. J.W. Brisbois, Mrs. V.T. Matthews and Mrs. Joe D. Luna to make plans for the observance of the Scouts 39th birthday which is this month...

M.M. Jones, local Dodge and Plymouth dealer, and Maurice Goodson of Eagle Lake are in Galveston today for a dealers' preview of the 1949 Dodge automobile. The advance showing is being held on the Pleasure Pier...

Mr. & Mrs. V.T. Matthews and Mr. & Mrs. J.H. McCreary returned Monday night from a two-week Mexican holiday. The party spent most of the time in Acapulco...

Fred R. Frnka of the Headlight staff will combine his job as intertype operator with that of Sports Editor. Planning a correspondence course in journalism, Fred will add the practical experience in writing for the Headlight to the knowledge obtained in this course to bring you the sports news...

Miss Edna Mae Willis from A&I College came in for a visit with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Willis Sr., last Thursday...

Friedrich Hoeninghaus, son of Mr. & Mrs. F.A. Hoeninghaus, arrived home Monday from the University of Texas where he received a Bachelor of Science degree Jan. 31. He has accepted a position with the Humble Oil and Refining Company and will leave Monday for Ozone, Texas, where he will be located...

In a quiet ceremony at the Lutheran parsonage in Columbus, Mrs. Merle Miller became the bride of Clarence Gist, both of Lissie...

Curtis Laughlin and Mary Agnes Dromgoole will appear in the Shrine Ball Floor Show in the high school gymnasium on Thursday, Feb. 10...

Mr. & Mrs. H.S. Johnson chose this past Sunday to celebrate the occasion of her birthday and their 37th wedding anniversary...

Jack Hahn of Chicago and the University of Texas spent the weekend here with his cousin and family, Draper and Mr. & Mrs. Chas. D. Stephens...

Miss Jane Sunderman, who has been attending S.W.T.S.C. in San Marcos, has returned home and accepted a position as clerk in the Sokol Jewelry Company. Miss Sunderman, daughter of Mrs. Glen Sunderman, graduated from the local high school in 1948.

Bible Verse of the Week

"Children obey your parents, Honor thy Father and Mother that it may be well with thee and though mayest live long on the earth."

— Ephesians 6: 1, 2, 3
Submitted by
Neddy Phillips

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Help Celebrate the Easter Holy Season

with

Eagle Lake Methodist Church

Attend Our Lenten Luncheons

beginning

Monday, February 17

11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

through

Monday, March 24

Enjoy soup, sandwiches and desserts along with singing and fellowship

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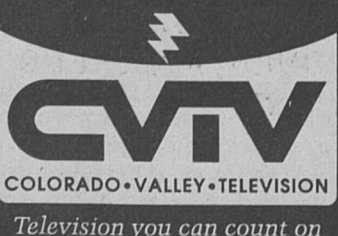
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Just a few of the new channels available, starting April 10th!

CHANNEL	DESCRIPTION
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MOST REQUESTED SERVICE

QVC	Shop for quality, name-brand merchandise
Trinity Broadcasting	Positive Christian Network (TBN) programs offering hope
WGN	Chicago's superstation offers movies, sports

BEST OF NEW SERVICE

Animal Planet	Explore the fascinating world of animals
Channel Earth	Emphasis on farmers, ranchers, agribusiness
Romance Classics	Mix of classic films and musicals

IMPROVED/EXPANDED SERVICE

Encore 1 West	Hit movies from the '60's, '70's and '80's
Music Choice Song Titles	Offering commercial-free music, display the name of the song, artist and album title
FS Midwest SC Florida FS Arizona	Three new regional sports networks bring more college sports to the RSN out-of-market line-up

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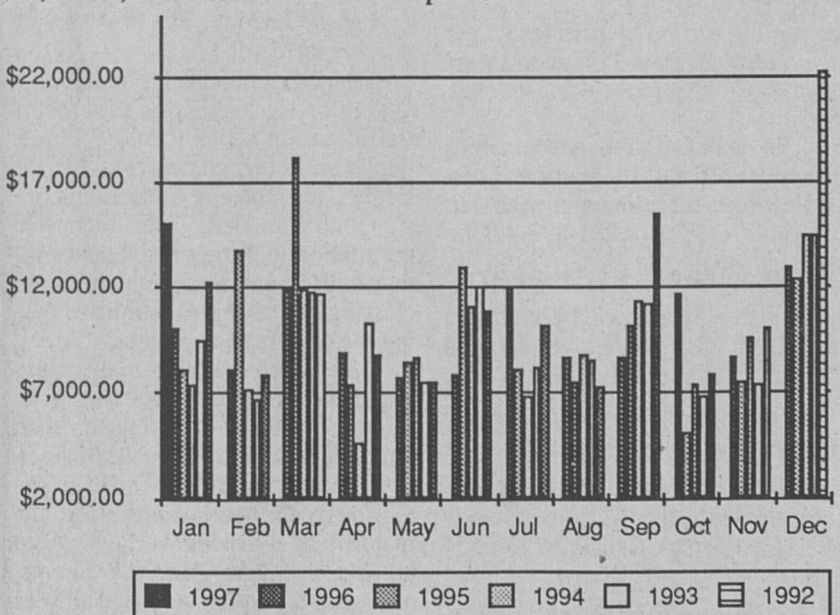
Continued from Page 1

52.31%*, Weimar, \$28,925.55, down 8.27%; Sealy, \$181,482.48, down 1.21%; Bellville, \$59,537.29, even; El Campo, \$405,981.33, up 1.52%; and Wharton, \$264,704.07, +14.14%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$42,794.72, down 0.91% from last year's payment of \$43,191.03. Austin County received \$59,839.90, +13.57%. Wharton County received \$83,328.47, up 0.26%.

Year-to-date figures for the above counties are, Colorado County, \$143,542.36, +10.71%; Austin County, \$196,355.17, +7.66%; and Wharton County, \$275,560.47, -1.51%.

*Columbus increased its portion from 1% to 1.5% effective 4-1-96, therefore, these are not accurate comparisons.



City of Eagle Lake sales tax rebates charted by the month the tax was collected by local merchants over the last six years.

Views On Dental Health

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.

234-3525

Located Next to
Eagle Lake Drugs

IF YOU'RE BLEEDING

Extensive, uncontrolled bleeding from the gums or other mouth tissue is a serious dental emergency. If you can't get in touch with a dentist, call your physician, or go to a hospital emergency room.

If you have had bleeding problems previously, or if you have diabetes or high blood pressure, or if you are taking medication, be sure to tell your dentist BEFORE any surgery. Then he or she can decide what precautions to take, and whether to go ahead with the surgery.

If you have none of these problems, some slight bleeding after dental

surgery is neither serious nor abnormal. Until you can get in touch with your dentist, apply a small square of gauze to the area and bite or press down on it for about half an hour. If this doesn't work, try biting on a wet teabag for a while. The tannic acid usually stops bleeding. Also, you can rinse with a 2% solution of hydrogen peroxide for three minutes. Still bleeding? See your dentist.

Presented as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S., 704 S. McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, 234-3525.

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