



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Spending plan passes committee, part of \$218 billion

A six-year spending plan that would give Texas \$1.9 billion for highways, bridges, buses and rail systems was unanimously approved by the House Transportation Committee last week.

It is part of a total spending plan of \$218 billion that is expected to win approval from the full House next week, but still must be merged with a similar bill passed earlier by the Senate.

"This bill is a major victory for the people of Texas. The committee vote means that Texas should finally get its fair share of funding for badly needed infrastructure projects," said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land.

Both bills give states much more money than they received under the previous six-year plan, primarily because a 4.3¢ gasoline tax would be dedicated to highway construction rather than general government spending.

And, both bills offer new formulas for disbursing the tax money so that Texas receives a greater share.

"For years, Texans have dutifully paid federal gas taxes, and for years we have not received our fair share of highway funds - only 77¢ on the dollar," said Max Sandlin, D-Marshall, a member of the House Transportation Committee.



State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Under the committee's new plan, Sandlin said, every state would receive at least 90¢ for every dollar they send to Washington in federal gasoline taxes.

Utility Hearings Under Way

The state Senate Interim Committee on Electric Utility Restructuring is holding a series of public hearings across Texas and will issue a report on electric utility deregulation to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock in Oct.

Last week, at a hearing in Grapevine, electric cooperatives urged the committee not to move too quickly toward opening the industry to competition.

Libby Lineberger, a former state representative from the Austin suburb of Manchaca who is now a director of the Pedernales Electric Cooperative, said co-op customers "are not beating down our doors now asking for choice," according to a report in the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Other co-op representatives made statements similar to Lineberger's at

the hearing, and some predicted deregulations would increase costs to residential customers, rather than force electricity prices down, as proponents of deregulation have asserted.

Mike Williams, president of the Texas Electric Cooperatives Association, said co-ops doubted all customers would benefit from competition. "One of the ways you keep rates low for everybody is not letting everyone come and go as they please," Williams said.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration is supporting efforts to bring nationwide competition to the industry with the promise of saving electricity consumers \$20 billion a year and helping the environment.

EnviroMedia Wins Contract

The Austin-based firm, Tuerff-Davis EnviroMedia Inc., beat out eight Austin-area and national advertising agencies for the Texas Department of Transportation's \$1.5 million "Don't Mess With Texas" anti-litter campaign.

Doris Howdeshell, director of the travel division for the highway department, said she was impressed with EnviroMedia's plan to recycle the existing campaign and improve it. Although most Texans have heard the "Don't Mess With Texas" slogan, some think the ads are about Texas pride, not litter prevention, Howdeshell said.

"Our ads will focus on the remaining litter that's out there," she said.

The year-old agency, which specializes in environmental advertising,

take over the campaign created by GSD&M Advertising of Austin.

Last year, EnviroMedia organized the first national "America Recycles Day." Its clients include the Recycling Coalition of Texas, H-E-B Food Stores Inc. and the City of Fort Worth.

Other Capital Highlights

The 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin is scheduled to hear a case in May that could affect the ability of the public to watchdog agencies that regulate the insurance industry and many other industries. The case stems from insurance industry efforts to keep confidential certain reports it gives to the Texas Department of Insurance. The reports allegedly contain information identifying neighborhoods where insurers award or deny auto coverage.

About \$500,000 in refunds from Farmers Insurance will be split among about 8,000 Texans under an agreement between the company and state regulators. The Texas Department of Insurance accused Farmers of overcharging from July 1996 to Jan. 1997 based on how long policyholders had insurance before applying for coverage from Farmers.

Former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros' one-time mistress Linda Jones was sentenced last week to 3 and a half years in federal prison for obstruction of justice and bank fraud. Jones, a star witness in an independent counsel investigation of Cisneros, became a target herself in 1996 when prosecutors caught her in a series of lies about evidence.

For April 14 runoff...

Qualifications for voting by mail

The law requires that the address to which the ballot is going to be mailed must be the residence address of the voter indicated on the mailing address of record with the voter registrar. The exceptions to these rules are:

1. The voter is 65 or older, or disabled.

If the grounds for voting by mail is either 65 or over or disability, the application must give the address of a hospital, nursing home, long term care facility, or retirement center, or the address of a relative within the second degree of affinity or third degree of consanguinity, with whom the applicant is living.

2. If the voter is confined in jail. If the reason is confinement to jail, the application must give the address

of the jail facility at which the voter is confined, or the address of a relative within the second degree of affinity or third degree of consanguinity.

3. If the voter is expected to be absent from the county on election day and during clerk's regular office hours for the remainder of the early voting period, the application must give an out of county address to mail the ballot, if submitted after early voting in person has begun. Early voting by personal appearance begins April 6, 1998.

Persons voting by mail must have their applications in the County Clerk's office by the close of regular business hours April 7, 1998.

Persons voting early by personal appearance may vote at the County Clerk's office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 6 through April 9, 1998.

The County Clerk's office will be closed Friday, April 10, in observance of Good Friday (County holiday).

Limited Ballot

1. The election code authorizes

Bible Verse of the Week

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." - Proverbs 3:6

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

voting a limited ballot after changing county of residence.

2. The person voting a limited ballot under section 112.001 of the Texas Election Code is entitled to vote only on each office of measure to be voted in a territorial unit, State or District of which the person was a resident both before changing their county of residence and after the change.

Eligibility

1. After changing residence to another county, a person is eligible to vote a limited ballot by personal appearance or by mail if:

a. The person would have been eligible to vote in the county of former residence on election day if still residing in that county.

b. The date of election is not more than 90 days after the new residence was established.

A voter registration for the person in the county of new residence is not effective on or before election day.

2. A person is not eligible to vote a limited ballot by mail unless in addition to satisfying the eligibility requirements prescribed above, the person is eligible to vote early by mail under the standard early mail rules.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Colorado County Clerk Darlene Hayek at 409-732-2155.

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Views On Dental Health

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As the bone resorbs (particularly under a lower denture), more pressure will be transferred through the denture base which can hasten the shrinking

process and irritate the nerves which were previously well protected. The resulting pain while chewing can be severe.

It is sometimes possible to smooth an uneven ridge surgically, or to build up a severely resorbed ridge with grafts of natural or artificial bone. Since resorption is likely to continue, dentures may have to be periodically relined or even completely replaced.

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April 20, 1973

First place winners in the racing competition of the annual Pine Wood Derby held in Eagle Lake Cub Scout Tuesday night are Jeff Lang, Michael Parson and Michael Faichtinger...

A dramatic air and ground rescue operation in which five persons, stranded by high water southwest of Rock Island, was successfully completed Tuesday morning around 11:30 when the five were evacuated by helicopter. Lakeside Irrigation Company personnel Dan Thornton and Tommy Pilkington airlifted Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Redditt and son, along with Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brennan of Houston...

The Board of Directors of Eagle Lake Community Hospital announced this week the appointment of Donald R. Reed, 35, as the new administrator for the Hospital. Reed will assume duties at the hospital May 1st...

Three pledges were welcomed into official membership in Beta Sigma Phi at the Beautiful Ritual of Jewels was bestowed upon Frances Dromgoole, Michele Isenhower and Diana Brunner at a regular chapter meeting on April 12. President Ernie Sommerlatte conducted the ceremony...

Mark Burke, son of Mr. & Mrs. George Burke, is attending a six-month Stanford University (Calif.) Overseas Campus in Vienna, Austria...

Thirty outstanding University of

Texas students recently were given honors by the University of Texas publication, the *Cactus*, as "Outstanding Students for 1973". Included among the honorees was Miss Elizabeth Ann Reed, senior education major and daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe S. Reed Jr. of Eagle Lake...

Graveside services were held at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, for H.E. Terrell, 83, of San Marcos and a one-time resident of Eagle Lake.

March 3, 1950

Elmer Struss, local Rotary president, welcomed seven out-of-town clubs to the Inter-City Forum of Rotary Clubs held here Monday afternoon and night...

Sticks, string and paper will be valuable items to Eagle Lake's Cub Scouts as they start work this week on kites to be entered in the 3rd Annual Kite Tournament to be held on Sunday, March 26. Cub master is L.J. Rosprim and Den Mothers are Mrs. V.T. Matthews, Mrs. LeRoy Briggs and Mrs. J.C. Lockwood...

A "mad dog" scare cropped up here Monday afternoon when Jerry Birdwell, son of Mrs. & Mrs. Gordon Birdwell, was bitten on the arm on the schoolground. Thankfully, the injury was only slight...

Only by the skin of their teeth did the Eagle Lake Independents reach the finals of the 4th Annual Independent Tournaments. After holding a safe 10 to 20 points margin throughout the game, the locals got to kicking the ball around and that's just what the Cards needed. They came back like a house afire and nearly won themselves a ball game. Score at the end of the third period was 39 to 24 and it looked in the bag for Eagle Lake. However, Spence of Columbus looped a field goal in the last 30 seconds to bring the score to 47 to 46 and the locals held on for dear life in the remaining seconds...

B.D. Fussell's quarter horse gelding, George T., placed first in his halter class and won Grand Champion at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition...

Fred D. Labay, life-long resident of Nada, died of heart failure last Friday, bringing sorrow to many relatives and friends...

Supt. W.C. Reed is one among 300 attending the Atlantic City Convention and then planning on going to Washington to tell Congress and President Truman the history of Texas tidelands and why they should remain the property of the Texas public school fund...

Kolberg's Creamilk Dairy has added homogenized milk to the list of dairy product announced Donald C. Kolberg, operator...

Mr. & Mrs. H.B. Niemeyer have bought partnership in Columbus grocery...

One of the most important steps to be taken in the City of Eagle Lake in the interest of sanitation and health is (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

Farmers Insurance to refund \$500K

Farmers Insurance Group agreed March 25 to refund excess premiums paid by about 8,000 Texans who allegedly were overcharged for car insurance because they did not meet Farmers' prior insurance requirements.

Commissioner Elton Bomer and officials of Farmers Insurance signed a consent order that Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) staff attorneys said would return more than \$500,000 to consumers.

"This order brings full restitution to people who were Farmers policyholders for at least 90 days and overpaid because of the prior insurance requirement," Bomer said. "This order is a good deal for those consumers because they get back 100% of their overpayments."

In consenting to the restitution, Farmers denied violating Texas insurance laws. Because of the consent order, TDI attorneys asked the State Office of Administrative Hearings to cancel a scheduled April 1 hearing on allegations that Farmers had violated TDI's "no prior" rule.

The rule prohibits insurance companies from considering applicants' (See Farmers, Page 7)

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