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School financing could go to court... again!

Over the past decade, the Texas Legislature and state courts have gone around and around to make the financing of public education as fair as possible, but a number of poorer school districts want a better deal.

Last week, a group called, "Plaintiff Intervenors Committee" filed a petition in state district court to readdress the issue of public school finance. The committee released a statement alleging "persistent and efficiency standards" set forth in a 1995 Texas Supreme Court ruling on school finance.

State lawmakers expressed chagrin over the likelihood of another long court battle.

"It's frustrating. I don't think it shows good faith on the part of those school districts who are once again biting the hand that feeds them," Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, told the Associated Press.

Sen. Bill Ratliff, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said that if the Plaintiff Intervenors Committee's lawsuit is in court when the Legislature meets in Jan., initiatives for public education could be stalled.

"We tried to do a lot of things for these districts. We don't expect anybody to toss any bouquets at us, but yeah, I'm disappointed in it. It makes a person like me look at it and say, "Why should I try again?" Maybe we should just sit on our hands and wait for the court to tell us whether we've done enough," said Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant.

Insurers Agree to Rate Cuts

Southern Farm Bureau Group, the state's fifth largest rate-regulated car insurer, and Amica Mutual Group, the state's 15th largest, agreed to greater reductions in their premiums after the Texas Department of Insurance challenged their rates.

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

Southern Farm Bureau will cut its rates an average of 6.25% after originally filing a 4.25% reduction. Amica progressive erosion of the equity and Mutual will cut its rates 12.5% after Illiteracy Rate High in Texas filing a 6.5% reduction.

will take effect July 1, affect nearly a quarter of a million Texas drivers.

"Companies knew we were determined that rates should follow the downward trend of car insurance claim payments, so nobody should be surprised that we've looked hard at this year's rate filings," said Insurance street intersection on a map. Commissioner Elton Bomer.

Pharmacy Proposal Pending

Texans would find it harder to obtain nine types of prescription drugs under a proposal pending before the State Board of Pharmacy, the Association Press reported last week.

The proposed rule would require pharmacists to inform physicians and customers when changing their prescriptions from one drug to another or to the brand-name drug.

Proponents of the rule say it would prevent patients from having their prescriptions changed without their doctor's knowledge.

But some pharmacists and representatives from generic drug companies say generic drugs have been deemed to be exact copies of brandname drugs.

These are the types of generic drugs named in the proposal:

Digoxin, used to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the heart and to control the rate and rhythm of the

·Theophylline, for asthma; ·Leothyroxine, for thyroid dys-

·Carbamazepine, for epilepsy and

other problems; ·Valproic acid, for epilepsy;

·Lithium, for depression; and ·Divalproez sodium, an anticon-

The reduced premiums, which adults - more than 3 million people perform at only the most basic reading level, according to a study by the National Institute for Literacy.

Those who are performing at the "most basic level" have trouble with reading tasks such as understanding a

In acknowledging the need for sor and literacy expert, said, "One in last year on charges of driving while keep from harming their child. Now

•Warfarin sodium, a blood thin- woman for the Texas Education Agency, said more than 230,000 adults receive assistance through publicly funded programs annually. She estimated that \$24 million in state and federal funds was available in 1997 for literacy programs in Texas.

Other Capital Highlights

•The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports that the rate of teen-age pregnancy in Texas is the second-highest in the nation, with Twenty-four percent of Texas one out of every 13 girls getting preg-

•Starting this fall, the Texas Department of Public Safety will begin testing a laser monitoring system to identify air-fouling vehicles driven by suburban residents who aren't bound newspaper article or picking out a by clean-air laws to get their exhaust systems checked.

more adult literacy programs, Dr.

•Austin police have arrested JoAnn Martin, a Texas A&M profesnearly 45% more people this year than Austin police have arrested every four people can't read the pre- intoxicated. Through April, police scription information well enough to had arrested 1,277 people on a charge of driving while intoxicated, up from 884 a year ago.



VFW kicks off 1998-99 United Way Campaign

YFW Post #8783 Commander Len Matula presented a check for \$50 to the Eagle Lake United Way to kick off their 1998-99 campaign recently. Pictured with Matula, center, are, from left, Jerry McNeely and Mike Duarte, members of the United Way Board of Directors.

409-865-8788

Pager: 281-490-0075

Headlight Photo By Jeannine Fearing

Citywide Mortgage Company

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24 & 48 YEARS AGO

May 15, 1973 Rice Consolidated Independent School District will experience changes in some key administration personnel for the 1973-74 school year. Victor Scott will vacate the principalship at Eagle Lake Middle School to nio.. assume the Directorship of the Colo-Cooperative. The principalship at Eagle Lake Middle School will be filled by James Crabb. He joined the district in 1970 as a counselor. The staffed by W.P. Carpenter of Gar-

Let's Look Back...

Outstanding FFA members were named at the Annual Parent & Son Banquet at the Rice High School Commons last Thursday night. FFA Chapter President Timothy Rees presented the award to the Star Greenhand member Gregory Lobpries; and FFA chapter sweetheart Janice Popp presented the Star Chapter Farmer award to Kenneth Leopold...

Karen Kay Euers and Russell Alan Konesheck of Eagle Lake were among 805 provisional candidates for degrees at the 21st annual Spring commencement of Lamar University Saturday, May 12...

Mr. & Mrs. Domingo Castillo announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Michelle, to Eloyed Gutierrez, son of Mr. & Mrs Manuel Gutierrez, also of Eagle Lake. The wedding has been set for July 21, 1973, 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake...

Mrs. J. Harland Bell accepted a plaque honoring her late husband for his outstanding work on behalf of men's and women's bowling associations. The plaque was presented by Lee Briscoe. Mrs. Bell in turn presented the plaque to Mrs. Herb Graham to place in the Skull Creek Lanes as a tribute to Mr. Bell...

The Mexican-American Youth Council of Eagle Lake presented six scholarships to graduating Rice High School seniors at the awards program last Friday. Presenting the awards were Mike Duarte, director, and Joe Barela, president. Recipients were Danny Munoz, Victor Cordova, Ruben Salinas, Daniel Contreras, James Moreno and Mary Alice Perez...

Friends in the community were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Dan (Evagelia) Canaris in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital at 10:20 a.m. last Friday, May 11th.

Aug. 21, 1950

Funeral services were held in Houston Monday afternoon for Wallace M. Lindsay, who died of a heart attack Saturday, April 8, in San Anto-

Fritz Englehard has handed the rado County Plan A Special Education Headlight an announcement of his candidacy for Representative to the Texas Legislature from Colorado and Austin Counties...

Biggest development to date in academic counselor vacancy will be Eagle Lake's Community Center project came during the past week with the announcement at the Garden Club meeting that Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Stephens are donating the land on which to build a community hall...

The famous comedy success, Aunt Silly, is to be presented in this community under the sponsorship of the American Legion Post 108. The leading roles in this show are played by the following: Dan Thornton as Al Brady; Harriet McLellan as Angelina; Fred R. Frnka as Mayor Fred Harney; Grace Spanihel as Lotta Loffus; Roland Campbell as Aunt Silly; E.J. Parma as Senator Pendennis Pompous; Mrs. T.P. Dowdy as Cecelia Dill; Betty Kay Meitzen as Marianna McCoy...

Ruth T. Moore, a 30 year old woman, was struck by lightning and killed instantly about 5:30 p.m. Sunday during the heavy rainstorm...

'Million Dollar" rains were reported all over the state last weekend, and Eagle Lake is no exception...

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Waddell, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Grieves and Mr. & Mrs. Joe Reed Jr. celebrated their wedding anniversaries last night with a dinner party at the Balinese Room in

Mrs. V.T. Matthews was voted the most valuable and talented member of the Eagle Lake Garden Club. She will be among those honored at a Talent Coffee to be held at the Shamrock Hotel's Grecian Room April 25th...

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Petrosky of Columbus announced the engage ment of their daughter, Lillie Katherine of Houston, to Bennie A. Sladecek, also of Houston...

G.E. Thomas Sr., affectionately known as "Grandpa" Thomas, celebrated his 93rd birthday last Sunday...

Mrs. R.H. Towell, who underwent an operation at Laughlin Hospital last week, is reported "doing wonderfully well" this week. She is superintendent of nurses at the hospital...

Pvt. Eugene Gibbs, son of Rev. and Mrs. W.L. Gibbs, has recently left Company H, 24th Infantry, now stationed at Gifu, Japan, for return to the U.S. for reassignment...

Mrs. Virginia Snelling is again employed at the Universal Motor Company, having returned there after being associated with the Shell Oil Company...

Mrs. F.A. Hoeninghaus spent last weekend in San Antonio with her (See 24 & 48, Page 8)



Rice High School UIL One-Act Company Presents

Fax: 409-865-2292

1-800-210-8788

In The Shadow Of The Glen

By John Millington Synge Directed by Robbin Clipson

Sunday, May17

1:30 p.m.

Prairie Edge Museum Theatre

408 E. Main, Eagle Lake



With Valerie Galvan as Nora Burke; S. Silva as the Tramp; James Aviles as Daniel Burke; and Ben Turner as Michael Dara

Production Crew: Chrissy Leopold • Namita Verma Delana Smith . Amy Fearing

Alternates: Kim Axel, Fulton Dromgoole & Debbie Leopold

Tickets Available from Any Member of the Cast or Crew \$10 for lunch* plus performance \$5 for performance only

*Sportsman's Restaurant Sunday lunch buffet

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