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Committee to 'let new A.G. decide what to do'

Child support collections should, for the next two years, remain the responsibility of the attorney general's office, the State Sunset Advisory Commission recommended last week.

Attorney General-elect John Cornyn, who described the agency's collections record as "dismal," will succeed Attorney General Dan Morales in Jan.

"We want to give the new attorney general time to come in and decide what needs to be done," said Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson, chairman of the commission that reviews the operation of state agencies.

Morales' management of the child support division has been criticized for alleged failure to collect and distribute court-ordered support payments.

The Legislature last year asked the Sunset Advisory Commission to study and make a recommendation whether child support enforcement should be stripped from the attorney

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

general's office array of duties and placed under the purview of a separate agency.

Texas had 1.1 million child support cases for which the state collected \$757 million in child support payments in 1997-98, according to the attorney general's office.

Cornyn Wants Tobacco Suit Info

Attorney General-elect Cornyn wants some answers about the deal private lawyers struck to represent the state in its tobacco lawsuit.

Cornyn said he thinks more than \$3 billion is an unreasonable amount of money to be paid. Cigarette makers have agreed to a settlement with the

state for an estimated \$17 billion dollars.

Cornyn also said he'll take a close look at an agreement Attorney General Morales made with Houston lawyer Marc Murr, whose role in the settlement, Morales said, is worth more than \$1 million.

Recycling Info Site Opens

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission recently launched an online interactive system for mapping data on recycling in Texas.

The agency's Recycling Markets Information System (RMIS) allows buyers, sellers and researchers to display data they select on a map and/or in tabular form on this web site: <http://arroyo.geo.swt.edu>.

Comment from the public is encouraged by the agency, with the goal of finding more uses for recyclable material while reducing waste that would otherwise be tossed into landfills.

Other Highlights

•State Farm Insurance, the biggest auto insurance company in Texas, has filed lawsuits seeking \$14 million in damages from nine people accused of staging accidents across the state between 1992 and 1997.

•To compete in the technological marketplace, Texas needs more "flagship" universities to augment the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University. Last week, six Texas university chancellors said the Legislature should do what it takes to

make more schools emerge as top-tier research institutions.

•The Federal Emergency Management Agency has closed or is closing disaster relief centers in cities including San Antonio, New Braunfels, Wharton, Gonzales and Seguin. FEMA accepted almost 23,000 requests for emergency housing aid in the past two months and approved \$21 million in grants to flood victims.

•State officials announced last week the launching of the toll free, 24-hour Texas Youth Hotline (1-800-210-2278) for teens and families to call for counseling and referrals in times of domestic crises.

•University of Texas regent Tom Hicks and his business partner Charles Tate last week revealed themselves as the donors of a manuscript to UT. The memoir by Jose Enrique de la Pena alleges Davy Crockett was executed after the fall of the Alamo.

•Last week, guards combed all 80 state prisons, 26 drug-treated centers and state jails in a Texas prison systemwide lockdown. A perceived increase in contraband, weapons and gang activity, coupled with the recent escape - but subsequent death - of a death row inmate, prompted the intensive, pre-holiday search.

•An internal investigation by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice has concluded that Martin Gurule had no help from the inside during his breakout from death row last month. Gurule was found dead of drowning near the TDCJ's Ellis Unit in Huntsville.

Pennington completes basic

Private First Class Patrick John Pennington Jr. of Wallis, has graduated from the Marine Corps Recruiter Division in San Diego, California.

Pennington completed three months of basic training. Due to his extreme motivation, he was promoted to Private First Class and was then

honored as Battalion Leader of Battalion #2118.

After graduation, Pennington came home to celebrate his 19th birthday on Thanksgiving Day. After his 10-day leave, he returned to Camp Pendleton where it will be determined as to where he will be stationed for the duration of his enlistment.

Pennington is the son of the late Patrick J. Pennington Sr. and wife Maxine of Wallis, and Margarito and Dora (mother) Luna of Houston.

(See Pendleton, Page 3)

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Sept. 4, 1973

Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., announced the appointment of Gardner A. Seaholm of Eagle Lake as a representative in Life, Health and Financial Services in this area.

These pretty young ladies will be leading the Rice Raider cheering section in activities during the 1973-74 school year. They are Debra Parker, Paula Szymanski, Shirley Fajkus, Peggy Stallman and D'Ann Davison. Miss Frances Meyer is sponsor of the Rice High School cheering section and pep squad.

Eagle Lake firemen were called to a rice truck fire on FM 1093 on the eastern edge of the city at 4 p.m., Sunday. A rice truck, loaded with rice and owned by A.W. Kohleffel, was being driven toward Eagle Lake when the clutch apparently began to slip. The clutch caught fire and ignited oil and wiring on the fire wall. Roy Tise was driving the vehicle when it burst into flames, but escaped injury. The main part of the truck and rice escaped damage.

Five students made the University of Texas Honor Roll: Lynn Bailey Wheelless of Eagle Lake; Joe Clement Fling and Harry Edward Priesmeyer of Garwood; Anthony James Adamcik and Judith Marie Hajovsky of Weimar.

Charlie Jochetz of Houston, formerly of Eagle Lake, was taken ill

suddenly in Eagle Lake Saturday after a golf game at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center with his son, David, and son-in-law, Rick Baxter, both of Houston. He suffered a heart attack and was taken to Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Jochetz and the brother of Mrs. Miles Theuman of this city. He is reported to be improving.

Dec. 7, 1950

Thanks to Bill Schneider, Harold Ware and Tom Waddell for the Christmas tree in the park and to the CPL boys for adding the lights.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter F. Meitzen Jr. have purchased the McCarty place from the present owners, Dr. & Mrs. A.S. Tjaden. They plan to occupy the house, one of the finest mansions of Eagle Lake's earlier days, soon after the first of the year. Dr. Tjaden is going to move his chiropractic clinic into the Eagle Hotel, which also belongs to the Tjadens. They plan to occupy an apartment in the hotel.

In the City Council race are W.L. Coffey and A.L. Wahrmond one of which will fill out the unexpired councilman term of C.W. Springfield who resigned.

John Mahaltic Jr. of Eagle Lake will be an exhibitor at the 1951 Houston Fat Stock Show and Livestock Exposition Jan. 31 through Feb. 11 in Sam Houston Coliseum. The entry, one of the first from Colorado County, will be three steers for the boys' show division to be shown by John.

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Ware and children moved this week into the former Mose Thomas rent house on W. Main Street which they have purchased for their home.

The Reese twins, Rosalind and Russell, children of Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Reese Jr., celebrated their third birthdays with a party last Friday when 19 of their friends joined them for fun and refreshment.

Mrs. R. B. Powell was honored at a pink and blue shower Tuesday by Mrs. Alvin Wiese and Mrs. Donald Kolberg.

Mrs. Pearl L. Adams has been advanced to the position of assistant cashier at the First National Bank; Mrs. Willie Maye Terrell will head the bookkeeping department; and Miss Lillian Mae Schindler will be her assistant. When it was mentioned to W.E. Lenhart, president of the bank, that it looks as though the women are taking over (he and "Sunshine" Dipples are the only men in the bank now), he said, "Well, at least maybe we'll be safe from the draft."

Mrs. M.E. Cooper passed away Tuesday, Dec. 5th, making it the third death in the family this year. Miss Cora Bell Cooper, her daughter, passed away Oct. 23rd after a short illness; and a son, Seth C. Cooper, died Jan. 26th of this year after he was injured in an automobile accident.

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

Sponsored by Sons of American Legion
with music by the
Dujka Brothers

8:30 to 12:30
Thurs., Dec. 31
American Legion Hall
East Bernard

Tickets \$8 each or \$15 per couple
For Table Reservations, call Mike
409-335-7501 or 409-335-4118

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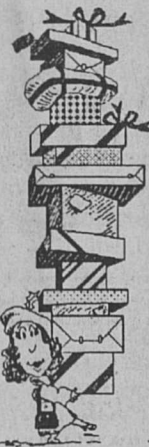


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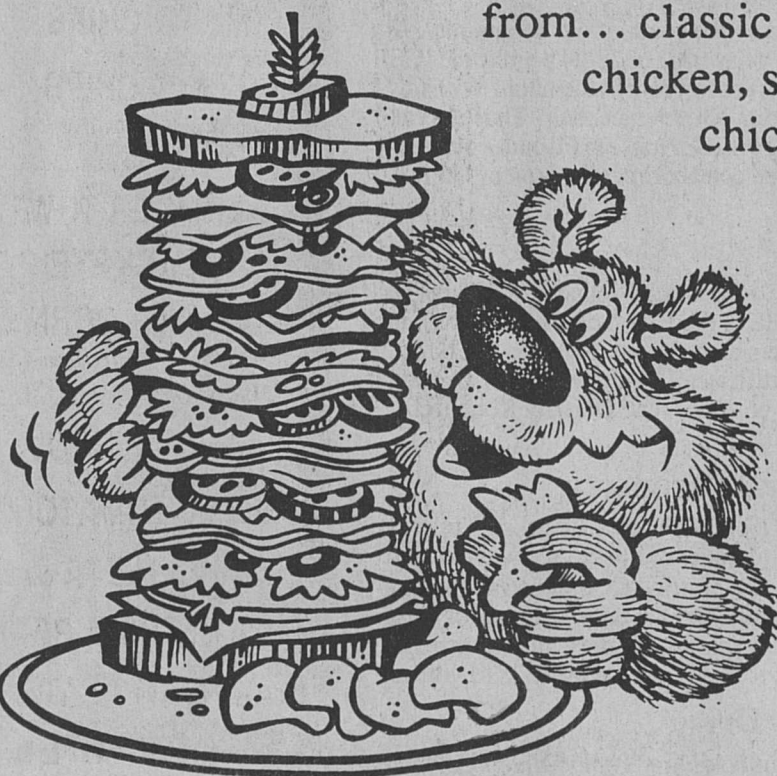
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Sandwiches Galore!

Sometimes only a sandwich will do for lunch or dinner.

And we have so many to choose from... classic club, BLT, grilled chicken, shrimp poor boy or chicken-fried chicken, and so many more, all served just the way you like them!



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