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Gov. Bush offers 'home rule' to schools, again

Gov. George W. Bush once again has offered to free any Texas school district from state regulations.

Not one of the state's 1,040 school districts is expected to take the governor up on his offer, *The Dallas Morning News* reported last week.

Four years ago, Bush persuaded the Legislature to give school districts a way for maximum local control by becoming a "home rule" district. There were no takers then, either.

Linda Edwards, the governor's press secretary, suggested why the idea hasn't caught on.

"If school districts are choosing



State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

not to turn to home rule, it means the state has been successful in giving districts more freedom in teaching their students," she told *The News* last week.

"Home rule is a protection against too much regulation by the state."

Edwards said it is important that

the option remain available because it "keeps the state honest" when pledges to reduce regulations are made.

To achieve home rule status, a school district must have the approval of 25% of its voters.

Short of doing that, school districts have the option of requesting waivers of certain state regulations, such as limits on class size, the shortening of school calendars and more days for teacher training.

UT Plans to Improve Schools

The University of Texas System last week announced a plan to im-

prove its own elementary and secondary teacher-preparation programs.

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Ed Sharpe also told a panel of university regents he is creating a commission to find ways for UT's nine campuses to expand the system's reach into schools.

"This isn't a study commission. Our office is going to take this on as a primary initiative," Sharpe said in a report published by the *Austin American Statesman*.

Data compiled by UT Chancellor William Cunningham show the por-

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To THE EDITOR & You

Destroying a good thing

I am writing this in reference to something I heard recently about the ICE House in Eagle Lake.

I heard that a minister in Eagle Lake suggested that the Board of the ICE House ask for Eric Cameron's resignation.

In today's society where all are concerned for the youth I find it disturbing that a minister of the community would suggest such a thing from a man who helped bring the ICE House into Eagle Lake, especially designed for the youth of that community.

If more people took it upon themselves to create a place for the youth of today to go, there would be less youth on the streets and in trouble with the law.

I have known Mr. Cameron for a while now and he has helped me with my children and been there for them in many ways.

I attended a Christian concert at the Methodist Church in Eagle Lake and witnessed his interaction with the youth he brought with him that evening. They were all very polite and a very happy bunch of young children ranging in various ages. It brought tears to my eyes to witness an adult

taking time out for the youth and bringing them to something that could only be described as inspirational. I saw and heard all the children singing Christian songs and enjoying themselves in a positive manner.

If we as society took more time out of our busy schedules to spend more time creating places and activities for our youth to enjoy, we would surely be surprised of the outcome.

Why is it that everytime something good comes around for our youth there is always someone who comes right along behind to tear it down?

Ask yourselves what kind of message we are sending to the children when even a minister starts the downfall of someone trying to improve our youths' lives.

I for one could not attend a church where something like this is done by its minister.

I realize that there are more involved in the resignation of Mr. Cameron, but it was the fact that a minister suggested it that bothered me the most.

Faith E. Scarbrough
Sealy

Please continue support

To the Editor:

John F. Kennedy was quoted as saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." I would like to pose this question to those of you in the community who share an interest in the ICE House. If you have a desire to make a difference in the lives of the youth of our community, please attend the board meeting, July 18 at 3 p.m.

The question has been asked of me recently, "Did you quit the ICE House?" and "How are things going at the ICE House?"

I must say that I am no longer sure how to answer those questions. June 25, I received a letter from the Board of Directors demanding my immediate resignation. The letter caught me completely by surprise and shock. With much regret and many tears, I resigned my position as Director of the ICE House.

When it comes to working with

youth, especially at-risk youth, I feel I am not only qualified to do the job, but well able to use the gift God has given me to reach them!

I have enjoyed my time with the ICE House youth and feel that I did my best to do all that was asked of me.

Many of the reasons given by the Board in asking my resignation seemed petty to me when looking at all I had accomplished in so short a time, but I trusted their decision (as hurtful as it was) to be the best for all involved. My sole desire at the beginning, and yet remains, that our youth are given the opportunity to learn, grow and have fun in a recreational and faith based atmosphere.

I want to thank those of you who know me best. For believing in me and supporting my efforts in your prayers. Please continue to pray for the ICE House and consider your position in making it a success.

Erik Cameron

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Dec. 18, 1973

Mayor Elmer Struss gave the official welcome to Santa Claus on his annual visit to Eagle Lake...

Effective Jan. 9, 1974 the *Eagle Lake Headlight* will return to a once a week publication, announced by Publisher Fred R. Frnka. He cited the shortage of newsprint, rapidly rising costs of production materials, postage and the impact of the energy crisis as reasons for the return to a weekly publication...

Henry Sunderman, a well-known rice farmer and stockman from Eagle Lake, was elected to the Colorado County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee by popular vote for a three year term in a recent election held Dec. 3...

David S. Lobpries, a May graduate of Texas A&M, has been selected by the Texas Parks and Wildlife as a biologist technician and assigned to duty in Silsbee as of Dec. 1...

Basketball players Lawrence Dancy of the Rice varsity team and Darrell Dancy of the Rice JV team were named All-Tournament at the conclusion of the Rice High School basketball tourney Saturday night...

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Dostal and Bubba entertained Miss Theresa Theuman and Joe Laughlin at the Holiday Inn in Columbus, on Friday, December 14 at eight o'clock...

A miscellaneous shower honoring

Miss Janet Frnka, bride-elect of John Grigar III, was held in the pretty home of Mrs. Willie Graves Jr. in East Bernard Sunday afternoon, December 16, from 2-4 pm.

Sandy Grammer was chosen as the Daughter of the Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen from Rice High School. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Grammer of Eagle Lake...

Two former students from Garwood earned degrees from Sam Houston State University on Wednesday, December 19. They are Karen Irene Becak, psychology major; and Glenn Anthony Boenisch, general business administration major...

The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association announced Saturday, Dec. 8, at the winter Board meeting that Bud Seaholm, representative from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, is the new Student Director for the Southern Region of approved college rodeos. Bud is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Gardner Seaholm of Eagle Lake.

June 28, 1951

Shad E. Graham, 20th Century Fox Movietone Telenews and Texas News Reel cameraman and Houston television producer, is in town this week to produce one of his Texas State series of shorts entitled "Our Home Town of Eagle Lake". He has been here for the past week shooting

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To Our Customers and Friends:

The employees of First National Bank have been working diligently to ensure that our electronic banking system will work properly when the Year 2000 arrives.

Our core banking hardware and software was created to be Year 2000 compliant and it carries Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) Year 2000 certification. Our major vendors, IBM for computer hardware and operating software and Kirchman Corporation for banking software, certify their products to be compliant. In addition, we have actively participated, in conjunction with other users of these systems, in extensive independent tests which validated readiness.

Although we expect the transition to the new year to proceed routinely, we have contingency plans to be used in the event of a disruption. Our goal is to provide reliable and trustworthy banking service for all of our customers and to assure you that your money will be accessible and "Y2K safe" with us.

We would appreciate hearing from you to address any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

W.H. Harrison, Jr.

President

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