



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Governor Rick Perry To Call Special Session On April 17

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry gave lawmakers a month's notice in calling the third 30-day special session of the 79th Texas Legislature, to begin April 17.

The governor said the main job for lawmakers will be to fix the state's property tax system.

In this case, fix means to find alternate sources of revenue so that local taxing authorities will be able to set local property taxes at something below the \$1.50 per \$100 valuation cap.

The Legislature is under a directive from the Texas Supreme Court to have the matter resolved by June 1.

Former Comptroller John Sharp, chair of the governor's 24-member Texas Tax Reform Commission, suggested lowering property taxes by one third and paying for the tax cut by raising the cigarette tax by \$1 and implementing a new business activity tax that businesses, including most law firms, would have to pay.

Sharp also suggested using \$1 billion from the state's \$4 billion-plus

budget surplus in the current biennium to help make property tax relief possible.

Perry's office formed the Texas Tax Reform Commission last fall to gather input at citizen forums staged across Texas and then make recommendations to the Legislature.

Already, there is resistance to Sharp's business activity tax idea. A coalition of law firms expressed aversion to a flat, across-the-board tax on limited licensed partnerships.

Also, there is pressure on the governor to expand the call to school finance reform because of its inextricable bond with property taxes.

Perry has not yet issued a proclamation specifying other issues for the special session, but Sharp has said the two issues should be considered separately with tax reform up first. His reasoning: if tax reform is accomplished, there will be a platform from which to operate on school finance. If taken together, strong and disparate feelings in the Legislature regarding

school finance likely would doom any progress on tax reform.

Fires char northern expanses

Prairie fires that erupted in the Panhandle and south of Childress killed at least 11 people and more than 10,000 head of cattle and horses.

Total acreage of the fires has been estimated at more than 880,000 acres, or more than 1,375 square miles.

The Texas Forest Service is coordinating firefighting efforts, and volunteers have answered the call from counties across the state. The agency also has received help from other states in the form of personnel and equipment.

Perry, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, U.S. Sens. Kay

Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn and other officials have asked for increased federal aid to the fire-ravaged areas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture reports that more than 10,000 fires have burned about 4 million acres across the state since Dec. 26.

Illegal fires, such as trash-burning, in the drought-stricken areas have been cited as possible causes of the conflagrations.

Campaigners sting each other

Tony Sanchez of Laredo, the Democratic party's candidate for governor in 2002, announced that he would support Carole Keeton Strayhorn's independent candidacy for governor this time around.

The campaign of Democratic candidate Chris Bell expressed "mild disappointment" at Sanchez' decision.

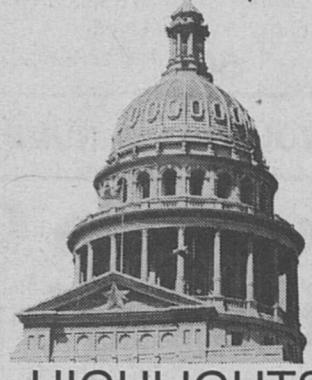
Bell is considered incumbent Republican Gov. Perry's top challenger. Strayhorn and author-entertainer Richard S. "Kinky" Friedman are rapidly gathering signatures for their petitions to be on the ballot in November.

They have until May 11 to collect 45,540 signatures each. The number of signatures is equivalent to 1 percent of the total vote in the 2002 Texas governor's race.

Friedman made headlines for appearing to accept a beer and drink it while riding in a car at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dallas. After being

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

caught but not arrested, Friedman quipped that he drank but did not swallow.

Messiah In
The Passover
Program Set

Messiah in the Passover, a vivid and exciting demonstration showing how Jesus fulfilled the ancient feast of Passover, will be held Sunday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake.

Messiah in the Passover will be conducted by Guy Athia of Chosen People Ministries.

Chosen People Ministries is an over 100-year-old mission that was founded in 1894 by Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian rabbi who came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised by the Hebrew Scriptures.

Messiah in the Passover begins with the traditional Passover Seder table - complete with all the articles of this important Jewish celebration. The speaker will explain the symbolic meanings of the various items of the Passover feast and highlight their relationship to the Last Supper that Messiah celebrated with the disciples, giving special emphasis on the redemptive significance of the crucifixion.

Messiah in the Passover gives the Christian community insight into Jewish traditions so that the Jewish roots of Christianity can be better understood. This program also helps the Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage.

This meeting is open to the public, and the United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake would like to invite the Christian as well as the Jewish community to attend. The church is located at 200 W. Prairie. For more information please call 234-3288.

A love offering will be received.

Let's Look Back...



The Eagle Lake Eagles welcome sign went from downtown to being placed in the Prairie Edge Museum. In the photo are David Ruiz, right, and Gus Kovalick along with Rollin Baker, museum curator.

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

March 18, 1982

A Houstonian found out that he couldn't outrun an Eagle Lake Police Department patrol car driven by Sgt. Gil Steen. The car chase Sunday afternoon reached 130 mph...

Andy Munoz, formerly an officer with the Rosenberg Police Department, began duties last week as a new patrolman for the Eagle Lake Police Department...

Senior Airman Estella J. Leonard, daughter of Isaac T. and Jewel Hewitt of Eagle Lake, has re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after being selected for career status...

Mrs. Mary Campbell Haygood of Houston, sister of Daniel A. Thornton, passed away March 7...

Morgan Rose Causey daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Causey celebrated her second birthday March 6...

Dr. and Mrs. Elbert Whorton wrote the *Headlight* to say they are extremely proud of their daughter, Lise Loessin Whorton, a sophomore at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire who has been selected to study Spanish with Language Study Abroad program for the Spring term, at Puebla, Mexico and also for the Spring in Italy in her major field, architecture and design...

Everett Hart, assistant superintendent for administration and

Vic's TV and Radio observed its 15th anniversary. Owners are Vic and Dorothy Hyek...

Larry Uhlig was officially installed as Postmaster at the Cat Spring Post Office. There to congratulate him was Robert Martin postmaster of Eagle Lake under whom Uhlig served as clerk for more than seven years...

Philip Leopold, a sophomore industrial engineer major at Texas A&M University was chosen to serve as Administrative Sgt. of the Corp of Cadets. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold of Eagle Lake...

Winners in the County Spelling Bee were Tina Grahmann, Delores Soto, Jerry Perrard and runner-up, Melissa Engstrom...

Two sparkling pitching performances by Alex Ramirez guided the Raiders to two victories...

Kim Henske celebrated her 5th birthday March 9 with a party at her home. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Henske...

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Everett Hart, assistant superintendent for administration and

instruction at Highland Park Independent School District, in Dallas, will retire June 30 after 42 years of service as a teacher and administrator. He served as a high school principal in Eagle Lake...

Funeral services for Alma Dayle Pinchback Engstrom of Garwood were held March 13 in El Campo...

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Zimmerman of Eagle Lake proudly announced the birth of their first child, a son, James Daniel born March 14 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Wied of Nada announced the engagement of their daughter, Janet, to Al Mahalite, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mahalite of Eagle Lake. The couple will be married April 24 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

Carolyn Hollas Rosprin bride-elect of Willie Noska Jr. of Columbus was complimented March 14 with a tea at the KC Hall in Columbus...

Hortensia Jaramillo, 1980 graduate of Rice High School and daughter of Prajedes and Nicholasa Jaramillo of Eagle Lake arrived for duty at Fort Hood, Texas. She was previously assigned to Fort Lee, Virginia...

Miss Debbie Newsom, bride-elect of Rusty Cook, was complimented with three pre-nuptial showers...

The lone representative on the first team All-District 22-3A boys' basketball team from Rice was Kenneth Bluntson...

The Sixth Annual Struss Invitational Bass Tournament is scheduled for April 24 and 25 at the Sam Rayburn Reservoir, according to Sid and Barbara Struss of Houston...

RHS students bringing home six trophies from the Katy Speech and Drama Tournament held March 6 were Coby Shorter, Vicky Hernandez, Rachelle Hunt and Ricky Miller...

Rice Cosmetology students who

participated in area contest at Milby High School were Ethel Shorter, Patty Woods, Tracy Soape, Suzanne Fajkus, Ari Lee Spears, Priscilla Dabney, Nina Perez, Arneatha Smith, Lynn Ishee, and Karen Adams...

The Auto Mechanics students also participated at Milby. They were Greg Leopold, Anthony Drlik, Adrian Montemayor, Warren Botard, Glen Janow, Randy Soto, Michael Fichtinger, Glen Dale Payne, David Staff, Joe Medina, Henry Garcia, Brian Woods, Ed Thomas and Robert Layton...

March 20, 1958
Miss Carol Sens was named District Winner in the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship contest...

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Smith announced the arrival of a baby girl, Sheryl Anne, born in El Campo...

Mrs. R.A. Shoop honored Mrs. Henry Parkman with a going away dinner Sunday evening. Mrs. Parkman is leaving for Japan Tuesday to join Lt. Parkman...

Mrs. W.A. Hefner of Garwood was re-elected president of the Garwood Parent-Teacher Association...

Coach Victor Scott escaped serious injury when he was struck in the back of the head by a flying discus. A member of the Eagle team was practicing throwing a discus when one went out of control and struck Scott...

Miss Donna Behrens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Behrens, was honored with a dinner party on her 15th birthday by Miss Wanda Dobson, March 14...

U.S. Marines Ben Behrens and Jimmy Frnka of Eagle Lake were among the Marines in the 1st Marine Division's 5th Regiment to complete a 110-mile march from Camp Pendleton to Camp Elliott, California.

STAR OF THE WEEK

lighthouse

This certifies that

Shak Norris, Grade: 5th.

Has achieved
Star status
for

Good Grades.
Excellent Behavior at lighthouse.
Excellent Can Do Attitude.
Respectful of Others.
Serves others freely.
Will Stand Alone for Right Decisions.
Thinking about His future.

Achievements

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