

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Straus Announces House Committee Assignments

AUSTIN - Texas House Speaker Joe Straus on Feb. 12 exercised one of his most important duties in naming standing House committees.

Straus, R-San Antonio, assigned leadership roles and responsibilities in an egalitarian fashion, reflecting a near balance of 76 Republican seats to the Democrats' 74.

Straus said 15 of his 34 new chairs have not chaired standing committees in prior sessions, and of the 34, 18 are Republicans and 16 are Democrats.

Here are just a few committees and chairs:

Appropriations, Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie; Ways & Means, Rene Oliveira, D-McAllen; State Affairs, Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton; Calendars, Brian McCall, R-Plano; Human Services, Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs; Criminal Jurisprudence, Pete Gallego, D-Alpine; and Public Education, Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands.

Straus also named Rep. Craig Eiland, D-Galveston, as speaker pro tempore.

As for the state Senate, Lt.

Gov. David Dewhurst stuck with his chairs from the 2007 session, with the exception of the Administration Committee. Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth, former chair of the committee, lost his re-election bid last fall, so Dewhurst named Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, as the committee's new chair.

Stimulus money will flow to Texas

On Feb. 13, Congress passed the conference report of House Resolution 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, without a "yea" vote from any Republican member of the Texas congressional delegation.

H.R. 1, President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus package, got a thumbs-down earlier this month from Gov. Rick Perry, who said he would be against the package unless it offered more tax cuts and less spending.

But the president got all the support he needed in a 60-38 filibuster-proof vote in the Senate and 246-183 vote in the House that

included "yeas" from Texas' 12 Democratic reps.

Texas' share of the stimulus spending has been estimated at \$16 billion, but the money must be used as directed. Details on that will come.

As finally passed, H.R. 1 is about two-thirds stimulus spending and one-third tax cuts.

Water must play increasing role

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' new report, "Liquid Assets: The State of Texas' Water Resources" studies Texas' current and future water resources, the issues facing water planners and funding methods that could be used to develop water resources.

Combs said, "By 2060, more than 46 million people could be living in Texas, and demand for water will increase by an estimated 27 percent.

"According to the Texas Water Development Board, failing to meet this demand could cost businesses and workers in the state approximately \$9.1 billion per year by 2010 and \$98.4 billion

per year by 2060."

AG launches restitution program

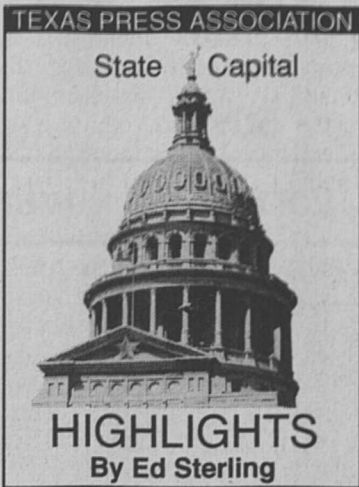
Attorney General Greg Abbott on Feb. 11 made public a restitution program he said is for eligible Countrywide Financial Corp. residential mortgage customers who lost their homes to foreclosure.

In 2008, Abbott initiated an investigation into allegations that Countrywide encouraged homeowners to accept loans they could not afford, failed to fully disclose risky loan terms to borrowers and wrote loans for unqualified borrowers in an effort to increase market share.

AG halts 2 retirement schemes

On Feb. 13, Attorney General Abbott charged the owners of two investment plans with orchestrating a fraudulent scheme that targeted retirees and teachers.

Howard G. Judah Jr. of Houston and Gregory F. Jablonski of Castle Rock, Colo., falsely guaranteed lucrative investment returns, misrepresented their "life settlement" policy invest-



ment offerings, failed to disclose material information to investors and committed multiple violations of the Texas Securities Act.

Travis County District Judge Suzanne Covington granted the attorney general's request for receivership and issued an order seizing more than \$19 million held in several bank accounts under the defendants' control.

Abbott's office said the enforcement action charges the defendants with failing to make required disclosures, selling unregistered securities and other violations of the Texas Securities Act.

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

March 14, 1985
Mary Katherine Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Young, received her license from Texas State Board of Pharmacy on March 9. She graduated from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy with honors on December 15...

Ernest Harold Lawrence, 72, of Columbus passed away at the Columbus Community Hospital on Sunday, February 24 at 6 p.m. after a lengthy illness. Services were held Tuesday, February 26 at 2 p.m. from the St. Anthony's Catholic Church with Bishop Gerbermann officiating...

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Zimmerhanel, of Sealy, announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, born on Saturday, March 9 at 5:50 a.m. at Eagle

Lake Community Hospital in Eagle Lake. The baby was named Kasey Carroll and weighed eight pounds, two ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches long...

Randy and Denise Sanders welcomes their third son, Rodney Allen, born March 2 at 9:46 a.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Rodney tipped the scales at seven pounds, four ounces, and measured 20 inches in length. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Rex Sanders of Eagle Lake...

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Phillips, of Rosenberg, announce the birth of their second child, a son, born on March 9 at 2:26 a.m. at

Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The baby was named James Byron Phillips Jr., weighed six pounds, 15 1/2 ounces...

Mr. and Mrs. William Frnka Raley are making their home in Rosenberg following their wedding January 27 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

Library Now Offering Coffee

What's New At Your Local Library?

Coffee - that's what's new!! For 25¢ a cup, you can sit in the comfort of the periodical section of the library, peruse the newspapers or magazines and enjoy a cup of coffee.

This is the new "thing" for libraries. They are trying to create an atmosphere similar to some of the bookstores.

Libraries are no longer the absolute quietest place that you can go. In today's time, they seem to be a good place to meet friends and visit.

Wintermann Library has started offering this comfort. If there are people trying to study or doing research, however, we will still

enforce the rule that the buzz be kept to a minimum.

There is one restriction - that you stay in the periodical section while drinking the coffee.

Another upcoming addition will be electric doors in the front of the building.

The Board of Directors is looking into having these installed. They have taken bids and are working with the companies to begin work on the doors.

If you would like to donate to this cause, you can mail in your donation or leave it at the front desk of the library.

We really appreciate the support our community gives to our

library. With the library being a non-profit organization, we depend on our local patrons to keep us going along with the help of the Wintermann Foundation.

Thanks to each one of you and we look forward to seeing you in our coffee and periodical area.



Habitat Getting Ready For Build Here

Two happily-housed families are currently living in Eagle Lake homes that were built for them through Habitat for Humanity.

Within a few weeks there will be a groundbreaking, foundation-dedicating ceremony for a house in Alleyton, and plans are underway for Another house to be built in Eagle Lake, with construction to commence possibly within a mere few months.

Concern for humanity is alive and well in our city and county!

On January 17, sixteen families attended an information meeting at the Wintermann Library on how to become a Partner Family with Habitat for Humanity.

Through the Habitat's local Colorado County affiliate, a family selection committee is currently busy interviewing and qualifying applicants for the newest Eagle Lake house to be constructed.

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 300,000 houses worldwide.

A nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, its mission is to seek to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness.

Its initial concept, followed to this day, is "housing built with no profit added and no interest charged, financed by a revolving Fund for Humanity. The Funds money comes from the new homeowner's house payments, donations and no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fund-raising activities. Monies in the Fund for Humanity are used to build more houses."

Habitat for Humanity is quick to tell you they are "not a give-away program." In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, home owners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor into building their house and houses of others."

The two houses already built in Eagle Lake had lots of volunteer manpower from area churches, civic organizations, and individuals.

More will be needed for the new house to be built. Currently, there are four property sites in Eagle Lake that are being considered for the new construction.

Habitat for Humanity affiliate workers also assist in fund-raising activities, with monies going directly to home construction. Support the upcoming local construction by visiting or contributing to:

The Second Annual Habitat for Humanity GARAGE SALE
King Drive
Columbus, Tx.
(Intersection of King and Montezuma Streets)
Saturday, Feb. 28th
8:00 am - 2:00 p.m.

Taco Tony's Mexican Restaurant
20 Calhoun Road • Eagle Lake
979-234-3984
Breakfast Specials: Mon.-Fri., 8 to 11:30 a.m.
Lunch and Dinner Specials
Mon.-Fri. Beginning at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Buffet Tuesdays and Thursdays
11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Hours:
Mon.-Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
and 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Fri. and Sat.: 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

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