

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Texas Public Schools to Receive Federal Stimulus Funds

AUSTIN — The U.S. Department of Education has approved Texas' plan for spending \$3.2 billion in federal stimulus funds.

Of that amount, \$2 billion must be used for elementary, secondary, post-secondary, early childhood education and for other

services to improve student achievement.

Those funds, along with more than \$30 billion from other sources, will finance the non-local portion of funding for about 1,200 school districts and charter schools.

School districts must spend

the stabilization funds and other funds in accordance with state and federal law, and they also must provide an \$800 across-the-board pay raise to all teachers and professional school district employees.

"The \$2 billion Texas will receive today [July 24] is part of the single largest boost in education funding in recent history," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

"Texas can now utilize these funds to save jobs and lay the groundwork for a generation of education reform."

The \$2 billion is in addition to \$1.7 billion in federal education stimulus funds already allocated to Texas. In the fall, Texas plans to request another \$1 billion in federal stabilization funds for education, Texas Commissioner of Education Robert Scott said.

Perry opts for 'no-strings' money

Gov. Rick Perry on July 24, in explaining his decision to turn down \$555 million in federal stimulus dollars that would have buttressed the state's dwindling unemployment compensation fund, said there is some "no-strings" funding available in the federal stimulus package that he would accept.

He said the funding would pro-

vide an additional \$25 per week in benefits to qualified unemployed Texans, resulting in an additional \$161 million for the program and weeks of extended benefits for Texas workers.

Source sought in tar ball episode

Sludgy balls of tar washed up on a stretch of beach on South Padre Island on July 22, in the height of tourist season.

The General Land Office is using current-tracking buoys, chemical analysis and assistance from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to identify the origin of an oil spill that likely caused the tar balls.

And, the agencies are working together to determine where the pollution might go next.

State oil spill crews worked with the U.S. Coast Guard on the cleanup, filling 50 fifty-five gallon barrels with tar ball material.

Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said the cleanup was completed on July 24.

Law: bloodspot destruction OK

Parents of children born in Texas may direct the Texas Department of State Health Services to destroy dried bloodspot samples collected as part of a routine heel-stick screening of newborns.

The department said it began

saving all newborn screening samples in July 2002 for quality control purposes and for their potential value in approved research to find ways to prevent, diagnose, treat or cure leukemia, birth defects, brain cancer or other serious medical conditions in children.

Two samples are collected from each newborn, one at birth and the other one to two weeks later.

No resolution on tuition question

Attorney General Greg Abbott released an opinion addressing a legislator's question as to the legality of offering in-state college tuition rates to undocumented Texas residents.

The opinion, GA-0732, says the fact that the key terms "residence" and "postsecondary education benefit" are not defined in federal law presents a problem, plus, there are no relevant state or federal court rulings for guidance.

So, the question remains.

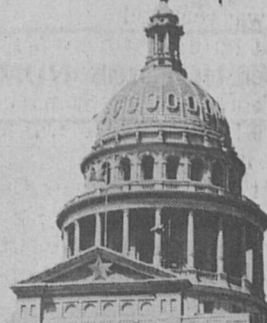
Senate rejects gun amendment

The U.S. Senate on July 22 voted down legislation that would have allowed state-issued concealed handgun permits to be legal in other states that issue that type of permit.

The legislation by Sen. John

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

Thune, R-S.D., was a proposed amendment to S. 1390, the fiscal year 2010 Defense Authorization bill.

The vote was 58-42 in favor, two votes short of the 60 votes needed to prevent a filibuster. Texas' two U.S. senators, Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn, voted in favor.

TxDOT pre-applies for rail grants

The Texas Department of Transportation on July 10 submitted 17 grant "pre-applications" to the Federal Railroad Administration for rail projects across the state.

Grants would come through the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes \$8 billion for high-speed intercity passenger rail projects throughout the nation.

One Suit Filed In District Court

One suit was filed in Colorado County District court in the past week.

On July 27, Colorado Gulf, LP, filed suit against Houston Gunite,

Inc. in a dispute over payment of a note.

The suit claims that Gunite was in default on payment on the note and that \$16,476 was due.

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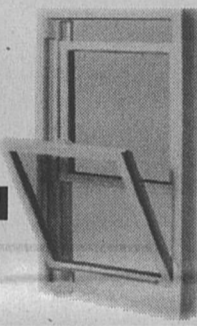
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Fifteen Sentenced in District Court July 24

Fifteen individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Friday, July 24. They included:

Carolyn Elaine Brooks, aggravated assault date/family/house with weapon. Sentenced to 365 days county jail, 20 days in jail credit.

Timothy J. Brown, criminal mischief. Probation conditions modified. Sentenced to ninety days in jail.

Brandon J. Burley, forgery financial instrument. Sentenced to 15 months state jail.

Brandon J. Burley, burglary of building. Sentenced to 15 months state jail.

Brenda Cunningham Byrd, forgery financial instrument. Probation conditions modified to SAFFP.

Luis E. Cabrera, driving while intoxicated 3rd or more. Sentenced to five years ID-TDCJ.

Vincent Estrada, III, evading arrest/detention using vehicle. Sentenced to 180 days in jail.

John G. Leissner, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 10 years deferred adjudication.

John G. Leissner, driving while intoxicated 3rd or more. Sentenced to 10 ID-TDCJ probated five years; fined \$1,000, SAFFP, 10 days in jail as condition of

probation.

Carlos Luis Llorca, burglary of building. Sentenced to nine months state jail.

Humverto Luviano, unauthorized use of vehicle. Sentenced to 12 months state jail.

Humverto Luviano, evading arrest/detention using vehicle. Sentenced to 12 months state jail.

Charles L. Mullan, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 365 days in jail.

Charles L. Mullan, bail jumping and fail to appear felony. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ.

Dwayne Oltz, burglary of habitation. Sentenced to four years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000, restitution.

Kenneth Earl Simmons, Jr.,

burglary of habitation. Probation conditions modified, extended to one year.

Savannah Rae Spears, obstruct retaliation. Sentenced to three years ID-TDCJ, probated three years, SAFFP as a condition of probation.

Datron R. Washington, bail jumping and fail to appear felony. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ.

Datron R. Washington, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ.

Gustavo Zavala, driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container, 3rd or more. Sentenced to five years ID-TDCJ; probated five years, fined \$1,000, 10 days in jail as condition of probation.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

August 22, 1985

Oliver Wegenhoft, 76, of Columbus passed away on August 18 at Memorial City Hospital in Houston. Funeral services were conducted at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20 at the First Baptist Church in Columbus under the direction of Henneke Funeral Home. Burial was in Odd Fellows Rest in Columbus...

Ralph Lee Payne, 54, of Eagle Lake passed away on August 17 at Veterans Administration Funeral Services were conducted at 3 p.m. on Wednesday Aug 21 from Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Albert E. Flat Hanana officiating...

Monica Ross Bubela and James Steve Stock were united in marriage at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 3 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. The Rev. John Peters, performed the

double ring ceremony.

August 24, 1961

Harvesting of cotton and rice crops in the area is well underway...

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Loefler announce the birth of their twin daughters, born at Laughlin Hospital is Eagle Lake on Monday, August 21. They were named Marcian Denise and Darcian Jenise...

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kretschmar will hold a grand opening of their new store, Kretschmar Radio and TV services, this Saturday...

Dale Ethridge, son of Supt. and Mrs. Willard Ethridge, and Craig Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Adams, will graduate from Southwest Texas State College Friday...

Dove season opens in South Zone, this area on October 7 and

runs through December 5. Daily bag limit is 15 birds...

G.H. Crane, president of First National Bank of Eagle Lake, and Sherman Tryon, vice president, were in Austin last week attending the 20th annual session of the Texas Bankers Association.

Janette Frnka of Garwood, a graduate of the Baptist Memorial Hospital school of nursing, tied for the second highest scholastic achievement in the school...

E.A. Krivacka of Eagle Lake will receive his diploma from University of Houston August 26...

William Farris president of Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and Clyde P. Nispel and Rev. A.W. Didner attended the Agri Business conference, sponsored by the South Texas Chamber of Commerce in Rosenberg last Wednesday.

LCRA Encourages Water Conservation

A July 15 meeting between LCRA and water customers focused on serious drought conditions, importance of water conservation, and the potential for mandatory watering restrictions by August.

LCRA staff met with more than 50 people who represent many of LCRA's municipal and industrial raw water customers. Presentations included updates on the ongoing drought conditions that are classified as "extreme" to "exceptional" throughout the lower Colorado River watershed, water storage projections, water conservation, and measures that LCRA has taken and will take under its state-approved plan if conditions persist.

"Our region is experiencing a very serious drought. The customer meeting was an important opportunity to share information and ideas with our customers. We all must work together to manage through these challenging times," said Mark Jordan, LCRA manager of River Management.

"The current drought has lasted more than 22 months," Jordan said. "During this time, we have seen record high temperatures in many areas, a rainfall deficit of more than two feet here in Austin, and record low inflows into the Highland Lakes." We haven't been this dry since the worst drought on record, which occurred during the 1950s.

LCRA and its water customers discussed LCRA's state-approved Water Management Plan. LCRA follows the plan to ensure adequate supplies during droughts and already has taken actions required by the plan.

The plan calls for LCRA to take actions when water storage levels fall below set triggers, including reducing releases for environmental needs, cutting back water for agricultural customers, and working with its wholesale municipal and industrial customers to implement mandatory water-use restrictions.

Projections show that the combined water storage level

in lakes Buchanan and Travis could fall below 900,000 acre-feet by mid- to late August, which would trigger LCRA to ask its water customers to implement mandatory water-use restrictions under their drought contingency plans. Mandatory restrictions could include measures such as limiting car washing, pool filling and lawn watering to certain days and limiting the use of ornamental fountains.

The water storage level on July 24 was below 1 million acre-feet. An acre-foot is equal to about 326,000 gallons of water.

LCRA also anticipates cutting back water supplies next year for agricultural irrigation customers under provisions of the Water Management Plan if water storage levels remain below 1.1 million acre-feet on Jan. 1, 2010.

LCRA urges all water users to use water wisely. Residents should water their lawns no more than twice a week, check sprinkler systems for leaks, and add mulch to flower beds.

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