

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Judge Not Punished For Appeal Refusal

AUSTIN -- A state district judge has ruled that Sharon Keller, presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, should not be punished for her part in refusing an appeal from a death row inmate in September 2007.

Although defense attorneys for Michael Richard had tried to file an appeal after hours, Keller said the court closed at 5 p.m. Richard was executed that night.

But District Judge David Berchermann Jr. said in a Jan. 20 decision that Richard's lawyers were to blame for not filing Richard's appeal in time and that Keller "did not violate any written or unwritten laws."

The commission that filed the charge against Keller is not bound by Berchermann's decision. After considering the judge's ruling, the commission can dismiss the charges, reprimand Keller or recommend she be removed from office.

Keller's attorney, Chip Babcock, said he would be surprised if the commission did anything but dismiss the charges after such a resounding decision in his client's favor. The commission will meet to consider Berchermann's decision.

Medina in GOP debate

After the first Republican gubernatorial debate on Jan. 14, long-shot candidate Debra Medina has risen in the polls so much that she has been added to the Jan. 29 debate with Gov. Rick

Perry and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Medina, the former Wharton County Republican chairwoman who carries a 9 mm pistol with her, crashed through the double-digit polling barrier to win a place on the debate stage in Dallas.

Originally, debate sponsor Belo Corp. did not include Medina, which prompted loud outcries from her supporters.

Some observers believe Medina's growing support could throw the March 2 gubernatorial primary into a runoff. Though she has little chance of winning the primary election, she could prove a spoiler for either Perry or Hutchison.

Perry hit for education funds

President Barack Obama and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan slammed Gov. Perry for refusing to apply for up to \$700 million in federal grants to help Texas schools.

Perry has said Texas will not participate because he doesn't want to adopt national curriculum standards for English and math.

Texas and Alaska are the only states to refuse to participate in a standard national curriculum. That non-participation would have cost Texas significant points in the competition for \$4 billion in education grants.

Perry refused to seek the grants, saying the curriculum standards signal a national takeover of public schools. Duncan

said the Obama administration would never require that national standards be mandatory.

Gunshots at Capitol

Some lawmakers are calling for tighter security at the state Capitol after a Houston man fired several shots in the air from the building's steps.

Fausto Cardenas, 24, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety officers as he was trying to reload a pistol. Cardenas had tried unsuccessfully to enter the office of state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston.

That prompted some lawmakers to ask for metal detectors and other security measures at the Capitol. Gov. Perry dismissed those calls, saying he opposed checkpoints and metal detectors in the building.

Legislative leaders said a working group would be appointed to study security measures at the Capitol. Efforts to ban handguns inside the Capitol have failed, in part because so many lawmakers carry concealed weapons.

UT tuition hike urged

A panel studying tuition at the University of Texas has recommended a 3.95 percent tuition increase for 2010-11 and again for the 2011-12 school year.

The higher tuition is necessary to keep UT from cutting staff and programs, according to the panel composed of UT students, faculty and administrators.

Without higher tuition, the school would be forced to trim

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

more than \$30 million from its budget over the next two school years. If adopted, tuition and fees would rise to \$4,709 in 2010-11 and \$4,895 in 2011-12. The report now goes to the UT Board of Regents for consideration.

DMV head named

Edward Serna has been named the first executive director of the new Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Formerly assistant executive director for support operations at the Texas Department of Transportation, Serna headed the team that shifted motor vehicle services from TxDOT to the new DMV.

The bill creating the new department was signed by Gov. Perry last June, and the agency began operations in November. The DMV oversees vehicle registration and titling, motor carrier authority and enforcement, licensing vehicle dealers and awarding grants to reduce auto theft.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Feb. 20, 1986

Three football players on Rice High School's championship football teams the past two years signed scholarships. Tony Hosman signed with Lamar University in Beaumont and Cleve Scott and Rodney Williams signed with Texas A&I University in Kingsville...

R.J. (Jim) Armstrong, 64, of Eagle Lake, passed away Feb. 13 at Southwest Memorial Hospital in Houston...

Mrs. Raymond Jochetz of Eagle Lake celebrated her 95th birthday with 38 family members present...

Eduardo Jaramillo, 60, of Eagle Lake, passed away Feb. 16 in the St. Jude Hospital in Brenham...

The following students were selected by the Eagle Lake Middle School teachers as students of the month. La Wanda Alley, Elizabeth Stiles, Selsa Zarate, Joseph Buitrago, John Hodde, Wendy Valdez, Daniel Bradberry, Yaneth Benavides, Darryl

Anderson, Gracie Llanos, John Tillman and Belinda Alaniz...

Robert Samuel Martin, postmaster of Eagle Lake, announced his retirement from the U.S. Postal Service, after nearly 50 years in the post office.

Feb. 18, 1960

The Eagle Lake School Board of Education in a special meeting hired a new coach and athletic director for Eagle Lake high school. His name is Bobby Anderson who previously coached in Flatonia. He will fill the coaching position here made vacant when former coach Ben W. Cobb was hired as high school principal...

Eagle Lake Rotary Club has named committees for the club's annual hot cake supper to be held March 1 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Tickets are \$1 a plate...

The heaviest snowfall in the lives of most citizens of this area estimated from 5 to 9 inches fell in

the Eagle Lake area last Friday. No records are available on the heaviest snow recorded here, but some oldtimers recall heavy snows of this nature in the years of 1895 and again in 1929...

Rotarians of Eagle Lake will join next week Feb. 23 with nearly half a million of their fellow Rotarians' on six continents as they commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of Rotary...

Henry Joseph Busse, 71, a resident of the Eagle Lake community since 1941, passed away at Laughlin Hospital on Feb. 13...

Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Smith of Edna visited here Tuesday throughout Thursday with Mrs. Grace Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Larson and Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Beane...

In a candlelight ceremony last Friday, Feb. 12 Miss Lydia Mae Marsalia became the bride of Kenneth Allen Perry. The

wedding was held at the bride's parent's home...

Clyde B. Penn, 36, mail carrier at the Eagle Lake post office passed away at Laughlin Hospital after a brief illness...

Mrs. John Clipson was named Sweetheart of Club Montezuma for 1960. She succeeds Mrs. Jacob Zoeller who was club sweetheart during 1959...

Jack Dannels began laying brick last week for the exterior of the new home for the Dannels' family on the corner of Prairie and Stevenson Streets...

Mrs. Blanche Reid is a new employee in the office of the Farmer Equipment Co., Inc....

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Loessin were visitors in Waco during the weekend with their daughters, Misses Evangeline and Pat Loessin. Both are students at Baylor. While there they attended the Baylor Beauty Pageant presented annually at Waco Hall.

February is National Pet Dental Health Month



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COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Twenty-Three Sentenced In County Court

Twenty-three individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, Jan. 20. They included:

Ryan Baker, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to enter drug program.

Mauro Blanco, theft stolen property >=\$20<\$500 by check. Reduced to Class C fined \$100 plus court costs.

Tressell Hawkins, possession of marijuana. Extended four months.

Connie Beyer Sierra, engage in organized criminal activity. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs, eight days in jail as COP.

Cory Townsend, theft >\$500<\$1,500. Sentenced to two years deferred adjudication, fined \$500 plus court costs, \$2,020.00 restitution.

Travis Wilson, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year

deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs, ordered to enter drug program.

Keith Killman, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to five days in jail, six month extension.

Lauren Novak, driving while intoxicated. Extended three months, three days in jail as COP.

Eless Bluntson, driving while intoxicated-2nd. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs.

Mary E. Browne, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to six months deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug class.

Mario Davila, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug class.

Mauro A. Delos Santos, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Rogers W. Fry, assault causes bodily injury family member. Sentenced to 270 days in jail.

Kirk Douglas Glenn, theft >\$50<\$500. Sentenced to three

days in jail, fined \$1,000 plus court costs.

Johnnie Landry Goldberg, fleeing police officer. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs.

Bobby Molano, Jr., possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Britni Payne, interfere with public duties. Sentenced to Jefferson County Restitution Center, drug and alcohol treatment.

Michael Pelosi, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350 plus court costs.

Phillip A. Prause, assault causes bodily injury family member. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350 plus court costs.

Robert Joseph Reyes, criminal mischief >\$50<\$500. Sentenced to 100 days in jail.

David Earl Scott, burglary of vehicle. Sentenced to 90 days in jail.

Leonard Shropshire, burglary of vehicle. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Clarence J. Walker, theft stolen property >=\$20<\$500 by check. Sentenced to 10 days in jail.

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