

# Governor calls special session to begin July 1

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry on June 25 summoned the 81st Texas Legislature back to Austin for a special session to begin July 1.

"After speaking with legislators I am calling a special session to extend the operation of five critical agencies and help reduce gridlock by continuing to provide options for financing our state's highways," Perry said.

Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst share an optimistic goal for the special session to last only a couple of days. The governor's call includes three goals for lawmakers. He wants them to pass legislation:

1. Extending the life of the five state agencies close to expiration: Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Insurance, Texas Racing Commission, Office of Public Insurance Counsel and Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

2. Allowing the Texas Department of Transportation to issue

\$5 billion in general obligation bonds to build roads.

3. Extending the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation and a regional mobility authority to use "comprehensive development agreements" to design, finance, build and maintain transportation infrastructure.

Perry lauded work done by lawmakers during the Legislature's regular session that ended June 1. He expressed satisfaction with the profit-margin tax cut given to 40,000 small businesses and the 40 percent increase in financial aid for college students "all without touching our state's rainy day fund." The rainy day fund, about \$7 billion set aside for emergency needs, was left untouched because lawmakers plugged gaps in the 2010-2011 state budget with \$12 billion in federal stimulus funding.

Back to the special session: Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, filed SB 1 on June 26.

SB 1, if passed, would give the Texas Transportation Commission statutory authorization to issue road-building bonds that voters approved by constitutional amendment in 2007. It also would create a revolving transportation fund for local governments to borrow from.

**Road project is federally funded**

Texas will break ground June 30 on a local highway project on FM 60 in Burleson County, near Bryan. Funding comes from the federal government's new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The \$7.5 million, 2.8-mile project, is the first of 29 ARRA-funded mobility projects approved in March by the Texas Transportation Commission, the governmental body that oversees the Texas Department of Transportation.

**Tax break for disabled veterans**

Military veterans who reside in Texas and who have a 100 percent disability rating or are considered unemployable by

the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are temporarily exempt from paying property tax on the total appraised value of their homestead, thanks to the passage of HB 3613.

The legislation, authored by Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, and signed by the governor on June 19, makes the exemption effective for the 2009 tax year. Comptroller Susan Combs on June 26 prompted local tax assessors to update property tax rolls to ensure eligible veterans receive the new tax break.

**TEA rejects standardization**

The Texas Education Agency has decided not to join 46 other states in adopting the Common

Core curriculum, a set of voluntary national standards for math and English textbooks and curriculum. Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott's reasons for not joining: loss of local control, increased costs, and Texas has its own standards.

**Schieffer announces candidacy**

Democrat John Thomas "Tom" Schieffer of Fort Worth, a 61-year-old gas and oil industry lawyer, businessman, former Texas House member, former president of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club and former U.S. ambassador on June 24 announced his candidacy for governor. Party

primaries will be held in March 2010.

**Former speaker arrested for DWI**

Former state Rep. Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, who served as speaker of the Texas House from 1983 to 1993, was charged with drunken driving after being arrested June 26 in downtown Austin.

**Marriage of Lt. Coy, is reported**

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst reportedly married Houston attorney Patricia Bivins, former wife of former state Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, in Houston, on June 27.

## Police say 334 bunnies found in US woman's yard

RIO RANCHO, New Mexico (AP) A New Mexico woman with an affinity for rabbits has run afoul of the law after her rascally pets started multiplying like, well, rabbits.

Rio Rancho police said Monday that Nancy Haseman was cited under an ordinance that allows five pets per household after an animal control officer

found 334 bunnies hopping around in her yard, the local KRQE-TV reported.

The officer spotted the animals last month after a neighbor complained about rabbits eating her garden.

Haseman says her husband rescued a rabbit 12 years ago after a neighbor abandoned it, then the couple began rescuing more

bunnies.

She says they kept the males separate from the females, but the males hopped the fence and things got "out of control."

Haseman says the couple hoped to help the animals.

Rescue groups have found homes for about half the Haseman rabbits.

## Texas-bound plane that crashed had drugs, cash

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) A private plane that crashed on takeoff from Arizona on a flight to the Austin area carried more than 12 pounds of marijuana and a suitcase with cash.

Cmdr. Bob Sutton of the Navajo County, Ariz., Sheriff's Office says the drugs and money were in the

rear of the wreckage.

Wednesday's fiery crash outside Holbrook, Ariz., killed all four people on board.

The Austin American-Statesman on Friday reported Sutton said the pilot and owner of the Beechcraft Bonanza, 45-year-old David Tuntland of Cedar Park, was killed.

Sutton identified other victims as 42-year-old Catherine A. Gordon of Cedar Park and 21-year-old Kyle Peters of Santa Rosa, Calif. The name of the fourth victim was not immediately released.

The twin-engine plane was returning from California to a Lago Vista airport.

## William & Mary mascot ideas include an asparagus

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) The College of William & Mary in Virginia is looking for a mascot and ideas have ranged from a feathered horse to an asparagus stalk.

The school said Monday more than 400 nominations have been submitted. William & Mary for

decades was known as the Indians, but the school changed its nickname to Tribe in the 1980s.

The NCAA ruled in 2006 that the college could keep the Tribe nickname but its feathered logo was demeaning to Native Americans and had to go.

The school's athletic teams will

still be called the Tribe, but the college wants a mascot that may or may not match the nickname.

The asparagus stalk supporter notes that if served with cheese, the vegetable represents the school colors.

The school's president will make the final decision.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING LRGVDC

### FY 2010-2011 SOLID WASTE GRANTS

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) will be holding a public meeting to discuss the current solid waste program and activities of the LRGVDC, and the proposed regional funding priorities/categories.

The discussion will focus on implementation of priorities with the proposed regional plan priorities. The Regional Plan addresses all solid waste activities within the region and the impact upon municipal operations, systems, or facilities. The LRGVDC's standard Request for Proposal process will be explained. Both oral and written public comments will be allowed. A **DRAFT** Regional Funding Plan can be viewed at the LRGVDC web site ([www.lrgvdc.org](http://www.lrgvdc.org)).

Written comments concerning the solid waste grants may be submitted to: Mr. Kenneth N. Jones, Jr. Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, 311 N. 15th Street, McAllen, Texas 78501.

Comments must be in written form and will be received no later than 5:00 p.m., July 22, 2009. The Public Meeting will be held as follows:

**DATE:** Thursday, July 09, 2009  
**TIME:** 10:00 - 12:00 noon  
**PLACE:** LRGVDC Transportation Center  
510 S. Pleasantview Dr.  
Weslaco, Texas

## NOTICE CITY OF RAYMONDVILLE

### WATER SYSTEM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all community water systems to deliver an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to all their water customers. The City of Raymondville has complied with this requirement by mailing a CCR to all of its water customers. Also, in line with the City's "good faith" efforts, the City is publishing this notice in order to reach customers who might not have received a notice through the mail.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is assisting water systems in meeting this EPA requirement by merging data from the City's chemical monitoring reports sent to the TCEQ. The analysis was made by using the tables that are part of the CCR. The CCR also contains educational information, a notice of hearing for public participation regarding the CCR, and a list of contaminants.

The City of Raymondville will be conducting a public hearing regarding the Consumer Confidence Report on July 14, 2009, at 5:00 PM in the City of Raymondville Commissioners' Meeting Room, located at Raymondville City Hall 2nd Floor, 142 S. 7th, Raymondville, Texas, 78580. The public is invited to participate and comment on the provided information in the Consumer Confidence Report.

Copies of the complete detailed City of Raymondville's Consumer Confidence Report are available at Raymondville City Hall, 142 S. 7th Street, Raymondville, Texas, 78580. Also, any questions regarding the Consumer Confidence Report may be directed to the Raymondville City Hall Water Department at (956) 689-2443.

Eleazar Garcia, Jr.  
City Manager

25-2TC

## Request for Qualifications Statements For Engineering Consulting Services

The City of Lyford will conduct a project, assisted by the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission, North American Development Bank, Texas Water Development Board, and other funding agencies for water and wastewater system improvements in the City service area. Accordingly, the City of Lyford is seeking to contract with a qualified Professional Engineering Firm to provide planning to include all aspects relating to project certification by the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission, preliminary engineering final design and construction services for improvements. The Engineering Consultant will direct and coordinate all programs of engineering as may be necessary related to certain improvements projects undertaken in the city's service area and perform the duties normally performed by engineering consultants and such other related duties as may be deemed necessary or advisable by the City Council. Work will begin with BECC technical assistance.

Interested Consultants should submit seven (7) copies of the Statement of Qualifications to the attention of: Lydia Moreno, City Secretary, City of Lyford, P.O. Box 310, Lyford, Texas 78569. A Copy of the proposed format may be obtained from the City Secretary or may be requested by telephone at (956) 347-3512 or email address [Clyford@granderiver.net](mailto:Clyford@granderiver.net). Proposals must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on July 8, 2009 to be considered. The City of Lyford reserves the right to negotiate with any and all engineering consultants submitting proposals. The Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services is made under Title 10, Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code (Professional Services Procurement Act) and Title 40 CFR Part 31, Code of Federal Regulations (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments).

The City of Lyford is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. Small Minority and Women-owned firms are encouraged to submit proposals. This project is subject to EPA established MBE/WBE goals: MBE: Construction 10.3% Supplies 5%, Services 11.5%, Equipment 5%, WBE: Construction 5.9%, Supplies 7.6%, Services 14.5%, Equipment 7.6%.

Lydia Moreno  
City Secretary

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