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STATE & LOCAL

Vednesday, June 14, 1989

Trustees nix name of Alamo hero

Bryan board to name school for black educator, not slaveholder

ROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

chool after, Bryan school trustees decided Mon-

Trustees voted against naming the school after lliam Barret Travis when questions arose out Travis' morals and beliefs.

Instead, black educator Mary Branch will be-ome the school's namesake. Travis, an Alamo ommander, was rejected after it was pointed out sustained. I'm going to vote for him, hat he had abandoned his wife and child in Ala-even if everybody votes against me." ma and owned slaves.

Bob Calvert of the Texas State Historical So-tiety told trustees that Travis was "a ne'er-do-well ho in two weeks time happened to do some-1cBurnett

Branch would be a better choice.

Branch, who was born in 1881 in Virginia, worked her way up from a job as a maid to give herself an education, eventually becoming the irst woman college president in Texas, Walker

said. She served as head of Austin's Huston-Till- namesake because Travis "is Texas' greatest

otson College from 1930-44. The current Travis Elementary School will be A hero who was good enough for the Alamo is closed in 1990 and be replaced by the school named for Branch.

> No power on earth can convince me he's not (a hero) The name of William Barret Travis must be sustained. I'm going to vote for him,

> > — Travis Bryan Jr.

hing wonderful."

Calvert and Carey Cauley, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, both said staunch support from trustees Travis Bryan Jr.

But the vote went against Travis after trustee Wendy Costa questioned Travis' morals.

Bryan said he supported continuing the even if everybody votes against me.'

hero, in my opinion.

It was then that Costa asked Bryan, "What about Travis' life was exemplary, that we need to

He was a commander of the Alamo," Bryan said. "He was selected to die for Texas. He wrote the letter, he drew the line. He was the main man at the Alamo.

During the siege of the Alamo, Travis wrote a letter describing his plight and appealing for

Noting that the city's population is 22 percent black, Costa asked, "How can we even consider naming a school after someone who was so strongly in favor of slavery?'

"All of my life I've been told that William Barret Travis is the greatest Texas hero," Bryan said. 'Now Mrs. Costa tells me he left his wife and chil-

"No power on earth can convince me he's not (a hero), not even Wendy Costa." he said.

"The name of William Barret Travis must be sustained," he said. "I'm going to vote for him,

State balances budget without increasing taxes

AUSTIN (AP) — State Comptroller Bob Bullock certified the \$47.4 billion state budget as balanced Tuesday and sent it to Gov. Bill Clements with a note: "No

new taxes Governor!"

Even with a 12 percent increase in spending, state lawmakers were able to balance the budget without a general tax increase because of projected revenue growth tied to the improving economy, and a series of tax adjustments and bookkeeping mea-

After signing a record \$5.7 billion tax increase in 1987, Clements told lawmakers this year he would reject any new taxes.

Bullock had proposed an increase in the cigarette tax that would have also attracted federal funds for health care programs for the poor, but legislators backed off the plan under the threat of a Clements veto.

Clements has until midnight Sunday to sign the appropriations bill, or it automatically becomes law. The governor has the authority to veto specific items from the budget.

'The staff is currently reviewing the appropriations bill and discussing various issues with the governor," Jay Rosser, Clements' deputy press secretary, said. "The governor takes his constitutional power regarding the appropriations bill very, very seriously

In 1987, after an special session on the budget, Clements, a Republican, vetoed \$167.4 million from the budget, including funds for several Democratic offi-

ceholders' aircraft budgets.

The budget before him now represents a 12 percent increase from overall current spending and is 14.7 percent, or \$3.6 bil-



Bob Bullock

lion, more in general revenue

spending, which are tax funds.
Under the two-year budget, criminal justice spending would increase 21 percent, or \$1.8 billion, for prison expansion and reforms to divert inmates from the state prison system, which is under a federal court order prohibiting overcrowding.

In health and human services,

the budget would expand Medicaid programs for the poor and would allocate about \$18.4 million for AIDS services, a \$15 million increase from the last two-

year budget appropriation.

The budget also calls for increasing public school spending by 6.4 percent, or \$655 million, with \$450 million of that going toward equalizing funding to poor school districts. Poor schools have sued the state, saying Texas' school financing method is dis-criminatory. The case is pending before the Texas Supreme Court.

State employees would receive a 5 percent pay raise.

Airport plans ridiculed by environmentalists

KATY (AP) — Proponents of a smashed by a bird. west Houston airport sang its praises in-1,000 care during a public hearing, but envi-the safety of ronmentalists ridiculed the place-nuclear rear ment of the facility at a wintering nuclear read area for waterfowl. live. In fact.

Representatives of the city of Houston Aviation Department, which plans to build the general avi ation facility in Waller County, and the Federal Aviation Administration, which must approve it, listened to the testimony from dozens of speakers Monday night.

Pilot Phil Hanneman of Sugar Land demonstrated his opposition by addressing the hearing from be-

from his small plane, which was struck by a duck as he was flying 2,000 feet over the Katy area at night in 1984. The incident knocked him unconscious briefly, but he landed safely at a private airport.

The city says the site would have minimal environmental impact, and the FAA says the problem of birds being harmed, or harming airplanes in flight, is "manageable." Jacquelyne Bowman of the Cy-

Fair Chamber of Commerce said the "Everywhere I've been where proposed Westside Airport "would there's birds, the airplanes make out pretty bad," Hanneman said.

"Everywhere I've been where proposed Westside Airport "would greatly enhance our economic development." Her remarks were typical of pro-airport presentations given at Hanneman said the window was the hearing at Katy High School.

Katy Councilman Paulette Nelson said, "Don't let the loudness of a few disturb the future of our area."

Local officials said a third major ing the agend airport for Houston would enrich about the site. the tax base of the expanding west side and improve the Katy Independent School District's financial situation as it grapples with growing en-

But environmental groups and port the plan, the statement said.

others say the bird hazard problem in the area has been purposely understated, and they are calling for a full Environmental Impact Statement that would be conducted with input from federal agencies.

Fred LeBlanc, a biologist with the state Parks and Wildlife Department, delivered a statement indicating the agency has serious doubts

Because the city's "environmental assessment" does not include enough details about environmental impact, the agency cannot now sup-

Officials say global warming will cause more frequent droughts

AUSTIN (AP) — More frequent and mer droughts are the future weather warmer temperatures on the climate, water and agriculture. severity of droughts as a result of an overall reduction in rainfall," the study said. onger droughts are the future weather forecast for the state if global warming tends continue unabated, the Texas Department of Agriculture said Tuesday.

"We know that a warmer globe means that human, animal and plant life will change," he said. "As our ecosystems change, so must we. The dinosaurs couldn't learn that lesson, but we must.'

Hightower released his department's study at a briefing on the impacts of

The study said that atmospheric changes "We are fouling our nest," Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said. this could result in an average increase in temperature of as much as 7 degrees over temperature of as much as 7 degrees over the next 100 years, the study said.

While the study said it is impossible to accurately predict regional changes in rainfall, higher rates of evaporation and other effects likely will reduce the availability of water in much of Texas.

"In inland areas this could be exacer-

"In contrast, coastal regions are expected from industrialization are causing an over-all warming trend on the planet. In Texas, quent storms during summer months. This would heighten the risk of flooding that will result from sea level rise," the report said.

Hightower said the impact of the world-wide "greenhouse effect" is pervasive and will have "some very sobering consequences for Texas water resources, agriculture, forests, grasslands, wetlands, economic activity and recreation.'

Among the effects, he said, could be inbated by an increase in the frequency and creased risks in farming caused by an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events; reduced rainfall and reduced groundwater levels; increased plant demand for water due to heat stress; lower rates of weight gain in cattle, and increased pest control problems.

Hightower and the study said there are actions that can be taken now to help offset the warming trend.

"Reversing or slowing the rate of global warming will entail a serious commitment to change our patterns of energy consumption, to use our cleanest burning fuels and to increase energy efficiency," Hightower

Among the study's recommendations: Encourage use of conventional fuels such as natural gas. • Improve efficiency of electric power

• Improve the energy efficiency of

buildings and appliances.Phase in the use of renewable energy

• Reduce amounts of waste generated

and increase recycling.

• Reduce the energy intensity of agricul-

ture and the use of nitrogen fertilizers.

• Reduce the impact of direct sunlight

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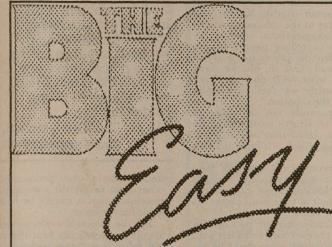
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