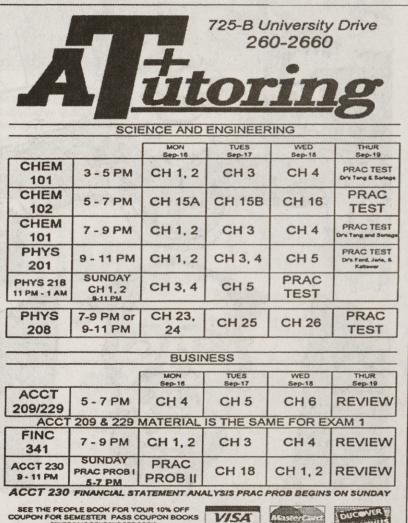
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NEWS

Education improvements considered

- A reading initiative pushed

by Gov. George W. Bush aimed at

ensuring students can read on

grade level by the end of third

While acknowledging the pro-

posed programs' worth, Senate

Finance Committee Chairman

Bill Ratliff commented wryly on

on where it (the funding) should come from?" he asked.

officials still are putting together

estimates on how much the state

will need in the next two-year

budget period to fund the basic

education program and account

During the last school year, the

for enrollment growth.

They didn't pass a resolution

Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, said

AUSTIN (AP) — Recommendations to fund more school programs, raise teacher salaries and improve teacher benefits and training - all at an estimated two-year cost of \$2 billion - have been endorsed by the State Board of Education.

grams.

grade.

the price tag.

'These are of paramount importance," board Chairman Jack Christie of Houston said of Thursday's preliminary recommen-

dations on legislative priorities. The proposals, which will go to the Legislature after receiving final board approval, include state program funding for:

Full-day prekindergarten for students. The state currently funds half-day prekindergarten for disadvantaged students.

Extended-school year pro-

FORCES

Continued from Page 1

aggression against the people of Iraq and an act of war against the Iraqi state.'

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, in Washington, called Aziz's comments "rash" and "totally unacceptable."

"U.S. military forces do not pose a threat to Iraq," he said.

But, noting that American forces moved into the area in force only after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Perry said: "If there is any challenge to those forces, we have the responsibility to protect them. The United States will take all necessary and appropriate actions."

Aziz, in a rambling commentary run by the official Iraqi News Agency, likened the recent turmoil to the period six years ago just before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He said Kuwait's rulers were in "evil collaboration with America in conspiring against Iraq's people."

He did not say if Iraq would take any military action to counter the Kuwaiti move.

The past two weeks have seen Saddam undertake his biggest military venture since the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, sending troops Aug. 31 into the north to help Kurdish allies rout a rival Iranian-backed Kurdish group.

With that victory, Saddam effectively wiped out the Kurdish safe haven that the United States and its allies established at the end of the war, giving him control of the north for the first time in five years.

In response, the Americans showered cruise missiles on Iraqi air defense sites in southern Iraq last week and expanded a southern no-fly zone set up to protect Shiite Muslims.

The expanded zone makes it even more difficult for Saddam to move his troops around the region without attracting notice from the U.S.-led air forces, which fly scores of sorties every day.

The U.S. actions against Iraq received a cool reception in the Arab world, even among partners from the Gulf War coalition. But Kuwait, which still considers Iraq a serious threat, has been fully supportive.

A spokesman for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who met Thursday with a delegation of ambassadors from Persian Gulf countries, said regional support for the U.S. effort remains strong.

"The coalition remains very much in place and remains very much active and engaged," spokesman Glyn Davies.

After the U.S. missile attack, Saddam immediately vowed to no longer honor the "damned imaginary" zones in the north and south and urged his troops to fire on any U.S. or allied aircraft.

state share of school funding reached \$8.1 billion, while local property taxes kicked in \$9.1 billion.

Board member Carolyn Crawford of Beaumont emphasized the importance of programs that extend beyond the regular school year and of teacher training, particularly in teaching reading.

'The kids have to have the time, and the teachers need to have the skills," she said.

The board also reviewed, but didn't vote on, other proposals. One, by board member Jose Garcia De Lara of San Antonio, would use lottery proceeds to fund a free college education for all students who maintain a "B" average in core academic subjects.

The proposal would cost an esti-

THOMPSON

mated \$900 million. woman Leticia Vasquez

Friday • September

chance of passing, but th

'The lottery was tou education," he said, sue that it would be appropr dent vo

need help sending their sublican sters to college. ing 199 Who pays for these lot

ets? The rich folks? I don't mer Co hell I think it's the blue-colla avid that have a dream that wan blican ter themselves," De Larasi

Continued from Page 1

collaboratively produce new programs."

Thompson also unveiled a new program, System, a collaborative education am System universities.

"Students will now be able to attend Texa Commerce for three years, then go to College Station for two years and receive degree from both.'

Dr. Jerry Morris, president of Texas A&M-Con said the TAMC's merger with the A&M Syst new doors for the school.

"We see limitless opportunities from our tive," he said.

The A&M System, Thompson said, will co provide a high quality of education to students "Our System is very efficient," Thompson sa

have difficulty believing anything's been water Thompson did not foresee any further in the future.

The chancellor also discussed the possible post-tenure review at several System schools. Thompson said he supports tenure rev will do all he can to keep incompetent profes of the classroom.

"I support it (post-tenure review) s Thompson said. "The public has the right tob ed from any incompetence. And I do have a with professors who feel they are above the of This week, the Texas A&M Faculty Senatein

a new proposal for post-tenure review.



yielded an estimated \$ for state general revenue cal year that ended Aug. percent increase from the year, according to lotten

De Lara said he didn't By M proposal would have TH

"a moral obligation" to of rmer le w der Fo

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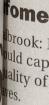
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