

**-VOLUME 16, NO. 18, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2000-**

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Despite heated words between Precinct #4 Commissioner Toby Wilburn and others at yesterday's budget workshop, Liberty County Commissioners devised a plan to fix the problem of budget overruns in Precinct #4. Under the plan, money from the county's right-of-way fund would cover the budget shortfall this fiscal year, with the requirement that Commissioner Wilburn will pay back the borrowed funds next fiscal year. County Judge Lloyd Kirkham said the county can borrow \$1.8 million in general obligation bonds to provide more money to each of the four precincts next fiscal year.

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A cut fiber optic cable between Liberty and Dayton left Liberty residents unable to make or receive phone calls from outside the city itself for about four and a half hours yesterday. It was around 2 p.m. when a utility company working on another cable on Commerce Street in Liberty accidentally sliced through the Southwestern Bell phone cable, knocking out phone communications between Liberty and all outside areas. Phone service was restored at around 6:40 p.m. yesterday.

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The Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency Board took another step toward dissolution at yesterday's monthly meeting in Livingston, voting to sell its roughly 5,000 sq. ft building, property and furnishings to the Livingston ISD for approximately \$290,000. Liberty Mayor Bruce Halstead, the SRMPA President, said the board's future meetings will be held at facilities of members cities and the building is not needed.

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According to Librarian Ellen Pickett, the Liberty Municipal Library has received accreditation as a member of the Texas State Library System for the year 2000. Earning accreditation means the library has met all criteria established by the Houston Area Library System. The Liberty Library has qualified for accreditation annually for the past 29 consecutive years.

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**FUNERALS:** Max Hardy, 88, of Liberty, Services at 3 p.m. tomorrow at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church of Liberty. \*\* Bertha Edythe Smith, 82, of Liberty, Services at 2 p.m. today at Sterling Funeral Home in Dayton.\*\*

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\*\* LAKE RELEASE: 1,500 CFS \* LIBERTY BRIDGE: 4.93 ASL\*\*

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