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Nation At Crossroads

On Reforms

for 1983. Social Security, entitlements and defense spending now take up three quarters of our budget. I'm not saying we shouldn't continue to spend on waste and abuse in all the domestic programs, and certainly there are some areas where we can cut more.

[By Cong. J. J. Pickle]

As this new year begins to unfold, we find ourselves at a crossroads. We have changed the direction of government, and now we must choose exactly which path of reform to follow.

Rotary Sees Slides On Rice Farming

Eagle Lake Rotarians and guests enjoyed a slide film presentation showing the production of rice from the field to the bank. Donald Oberhaus was program chairman for the day and the program was presented by William H. Harrison.

Harrison commented on scenes in ricefields where rice was being combined and at rice dryers. Oberhaus took up the comments when the scenes shifted to the offices of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association where methods of grading and eventually selling of the rice on bids takes place.

Texas Confederate Heroes Day Is Tues., Jan. 19th

On Tuesday, January 19, Texas Confederate Heroes Day. Texans will be remembering the 90,000 who served from their state in the Civil War. State wide ceremonies at Austin will begin at 10:30 at the Texas Confederate Museum, 112 E. 11th St.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Howard Miller, associate professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. He will speak on Texas in the Civil War. Mrs. John M. Wilcox of Houston, ex-president general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, will speak on memories of the Civil War veteran.

Many counties around the state will be participating in local ceremonies. Pilgrimages to Civil War battle sites, graves, monuments and other sites are being sponsored.

This program is sponsored by the Texas Heritage Project of the Texas Historical Foundation and the Texas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

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COLORADO COUNTY Sheriff's Report

A Weekly Report of Activities by Sheriff Jim Brossard

Sheriff's Office Seeks Volunteers For Volunteer Posse

The Sheriff's Office will start a drive to establish volunteers to assist the sheriff and other agencies during searches. At various times we have had searches of various nature in Colorado County. We can not afford to wait until the need arises before we ask for assistance. We will be checking the possibility of having a Sheriff's Posse in the county. If anyone is interested in joining a posse, please contact the Sheriff's Office and leave your name and phone number. A meeting will be held at a later date and then the posse can be established. We especially ask that people with horses or four wheel drive vehicles participate. This type of operation is very useful when we may have a lost child or anyone might be lost out in the woods or things of that nature. The posse could also be active in activities in Colorado County, such as parades, etc. If enough people are interested, a meeting will be held to explain the functions and type of searches the posse would be used for. This type of organization can be of great value to the community throughout the county.

Former Nada Resident Mary Braden Dies

Funeral services for Mrs. Walter (Mary C.) Braden, Sr., who was a former long-time resident of Nada, were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8th in St. Philip's Catholic Church in El Campo with the Rev. James Brunner officiating.

Mrs. Braden died at her home in El Campo Wednesday, Jan. 6, following an extended illness.

Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Nada under the direction of Triska Funeral Home.

A parish rosary was recited Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Triska Chapel and a rosary by the Catholic Daughters of America and Christian Mothers was recited at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8 prior to the service.

A retired business woman, Mrs. Braden was a member of the Catholic Church.

Jan. 4: Had District Court this date. Checked on a low flying aircraft near Garwood. Assisted in a burglary investigation in Weimar. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Checked on a suspicious vehicle in the Bernardo area. Issued seven traffic citations and served four civil citations.

Jan. 5: Assisted stranded motorist on Hwy. 71. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Assisted Eagle Lake Police in burglary investigations. Had JP Court in the AM. Removed livestock from the roadway near Metz. Checked on a stray dog in the Glidden area. Held a Sheriff's Sale at the Court House. Issued 10 traffic citations and served seven civil citations.

Jan. 6: Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Had JP Court. Arrested one for burglary. Assisted Eagle Lake Police in burglary investigations. Assisted with traffic at the scene of an accident on 71 North. Checked on a suspicious subject east of Columbus. Issued seven traffic citations and served six civil citations.

Jan. 7: Had County Court this date. Assisted with disturbance in Eagle Lake. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Post-ed citation in Court House. Assisted with traffic at the scene of an accident in Columbus. Issued 12 traffic citations and served three civil citations.

Jan. 8: Had County Court. Removed livestock from roadway on FM 948. Checked on two suspicious vehicles in the Garwood area. Checked on a suspicious vehicle on Hwy. 90A. Checked on a suspicious vehicle near Columbus. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Assisted with a funeral procession in Columbus. Issued six traffic citations and served five civil citations.

Jan. 9: Investigated

Market Report

Marriage Speaker At First Baptist Church Next Tuesday

How to be Happy tho' Married" is one of the many topics that Mrs. Marge Caldwell addresses as she leads seminars on home life. Mrs. Caldwell is a wife and mother from Houston whom God has given dynamic insights and a contagious sense of humor.

Mrs. Caldwell is scheduled to speak at First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. with the public invited. She is sponsored by the Koinonia Sunday School Class of Adult I Department.

Among many credits Mrs. Caldwell was named "Woman of the Year" by Houston Baptist University, she hosted a weekly radio program in Houston for eight years, and has spoken to such groups as the wives of the Miami Dolphins and Minnesota Vikings during Super Bowl weekend. She has authored three books, is a professional modeling and charm teacher, and has been involved in marriage counseling for twelve years. Mrs. Caldwell has spoken on over five hundred college and high school campuses in the last eight years.

A community invitation is extended. There will be no attendance charge.

Army Pvt. Marine Aguilar Completes Specialist's Course

Army Pvt. Marina Aguilar, daughter of Joe Aguilar of East Bernard, has completed a unit and organization supply specialist course at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va. Students were trained in the Army supply system, unit and organization supply, fitting of clothing, packaging and storing of supplies, and organizational maintenance of small arms.

She is a 1981 graduate of Wharton High School.

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No One Wants To Write County Payroll Checks

The writing of payroll checks for county officials and employees has created a problem for the Commissioners Court and the court is having a difficult time deciding who should be assigned this function.

The payroll checks were previously written in the county clerk's office, and County Clerk Lester Schreiner asked that this function be removed from his office since this is not normally among the duties required of the county clerk's office and he says that additional work requires more time by his staff members.

County Judge Lester Crank and County Auditor Lee Briscoe were appointed to a committee of two to look into the situation and come up with some possible solution. Judge Crank said, in Monday's session of the commissioners court, "that this function is normally handled in the offices of county auditors, but agreed that Briscoe just did not have the staff to carry out such additional duties. Briscoe said he thought the writing of checks in the auditor's office might create a conflict of interest since it is his duty to watch out for possible incorrect operations."

The committee reported that since the Central Appraisal District's new computer will be used to only 50% of total capacity, one solution would be to buy a terminal to connect to this computer to handle the writing of payroll checks as well as other bookkeeping and record keeping processes. It was estimated that the cost of the terminal would be around \$2000 plus \$1.37 per foot for cable required, plus interest in the county's figures. It was indicated that the appraisal district probably wouldn't charge for use of the computer, when its employees are not using the system.

The committee estimated that costs for the terminal, cable and for proven software capable of handling all of the county's record and bookkeeping would require an initial investment of around \$12,500.

Judge Crank noted, however, that Chief Appraiser Billy Yoens has indicated that he will add a second person to operate the terminals in the appraisal office (two purchased with the machine and one rented) in order to get all of the new appraisal tax figures into the machine.

Briscoe said that Larry Solansky and Ruthven Tolliver, both of Columbus and associated with IBM which made the computer in the appraisal office, offered to write the checks on another computer system for \$1.25 per check or about \$150 per month.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles suggested that the writing of payroll checks was not that big an issue and suggested further that each department head write checks for his employees to have them signed by the county auditor and the county treasurer.

Judge Crank said that wherever the function is moved, to the auditor's office or the county treasurer's office, that additional help will have to be hired.

Stiles asked the judge to check constitutional statutes to determine if the constitution states where this function legally should go.

Judge Crank and Auditor Briscoe will continue to investigate the best route to follow. Meanwhile the normal payroll on the first of the month is nearing and several of the commissioners expressed concern for circumstances which may arise if the employees don't get their checks on time Feb. 1st.

County Clerk Schneider did indicate that he would continue to write warrants for accounts until some arrangements can be made but felt the writing of payroll checks should begin with the first month of the year in order that all records on withholding items can be kept in a computer in order to have accurate year-end W-2 reports ready for the officials and employees.

Senate Redistricting Plan Passes First Major Test

Resurfacing Of Hwy. 90A To Altair Planned

AUSTIN — The Texas Senate redistricting plan has survived its first major challenge with State District Judge Herman Jones rejecting arguments by a group of leading Republicans that the reapportionment plan was drafted on the wrong basis.

Jones upheld the plan, drawn by the Legislative Redistricting Board, stating he wasn't convinced it violated either the state or federal constitutions.

State GOP Chairman Chester R. Uppham and six other Republicans challenged the Senate map on grounds the state constitution required that districts be drawn on the basis of "qualified electors" rather than a strict population count used by the LRB. Attorneys for the state, however, argued that the LRB couldn't ignore a 1965 federal court ruling they felt invalidated the Texas constitutional provision.

E. J. Blaschke of Yoakum is DHT's engineer supervising the project. Work will be accomplished in sections to insure a minimum of inconvenience to the traveling public.

Bids to rehabilitate nearly 42 miles of highways in Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette and Lavaca Counties are scheduled to be received January 19 by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Yoakum District Engineer Carl Hamert said work involves applying asphaltic concrete pavement overlay to the following highway in Colorado County: U.S. 90A, from the west city limit of Eagle Lake to near SH 71 at Altair, a distance of 7.0 miles.

The overlay work will improve the riding qualities of the pavement, restore skid resistance and extend the useful life of the highways.

E. J. Blaschke of Yoakum is DHT's engineer supervising the project. Work will be accomplished in sections to insure a minimum of inconvenience to the traveling public.

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Atty. Fees To Be Added To Delinquent County Taxes

Comm. Court Votes To Drop Delinquent Taxes Past 20 Yrs.

Colorado County Commissioners' Court, in session Monday, voted to take advantage of two provisions which became effective January 1, 1982, relative to delinquent county taxes.

Under state statutes which became effective January 1st, the county can now add attorney's fees to delinquent taxes owed by county taxpayers. Previously the attorney's fees (maximum of 15% of the total owed) were taken from delinquent tax collections.

Also a new regulation, which became effective January 1st, permits the county to drop all delinquent taxes in excess of 20-years from the current collection year.

County Judge Lester Crank explained that most of the delinquent taxes owed after 20 years are of a personal nature and few, if any are collectible. It costs the county so much a line to list the delinquent taxes and the judge said that these costs often total up to more than the minor delinquencies.

The court voted unanimously to take advantage of both of the new provisions of the State's Tax Code.

The action on dropping delinquent taxes beyond the 20-year period was recommended by both the County Tax Assessor and Collector Henry J. Hajovsky and the Central Appraisal District's chief appraiser Billy Yoens.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Senate Redistricting Plan Passes First Major Test

West Texas State University president Max Sherman has added his name to the list of candidates for attorney general. He will face former U.S. Attorney John Hannah for the Democratic nomination.

Sherman, a former state senator, entered the race as Secretary of State David Deap was bowing out of a GOP bid for that position. Deap says he doesn't feel he can abandon his post as the state's top election official with the primary election only a few months away.

Meanwhile, a Richardson appliance salesman became the first candidate to pay his filing fee in the governor's race.

David L. Young became the first official candidate in that contest by paying the \$1,500 filing fee to enter the Democratic primary. He will challenge Tyler Sen. Peyton McKnight, Attorney

Accelerated Program To Help Texas Rice Growers Prosper

As Per CWT Checkoff

According to the trustees, the TRRF will be a \$1 million a year program which will be funded by a five cents per hundredweight voluntary checkoff from growers.

The second part of the economic survival package is a research program called ECONO-RICE (Economic Rice Production) which is aimed at reducing rice production costs.

"Texas rice farmers have higher production costs than those in the other rice-growing areas, and this is pricing Texas rice out of the market," said Stanel. "The immediate concern is to reduce the unit costs for rice production, and this is where ECONO-RICE comes in. Rice farmers will need to use energy, water and other resources more efficiently if they expect to stay in business."

Costs Escalating

Research indicates that the cost of growing rice in 1981 came to about \$13 per hundredweight, but the selling price for the crop is only \$9 to \$11.25 per hundredweight, making it a money-losing situation, said Wintermann.

The goals of ECONO-RICE include finding ways to keep the growing costs down to \$11 per hundredweight through 1986, plus increasing yields by 1,000 pounds per acre, said Stanel. "Because trends were allowed to continue, it would cost \$21 per hundredweight by 1986, he added.

The accelerated portion of a total \$2.9 million budget for rice research would come to \$651,000 this year and grow to \$1.4 million by '86. Because the funds would not start coming in until this fall, the ARI board has authorized the negotiation of a loan to the foundation not to exceed \$661,000, said Hunt.

A major part of the effort will be to try to cut three to four years off the 10 years it normally takes to develop a new variety of rice, said Stanel. The total research effort will involve some 25 scientists, principally at Texas A&M University's Agricultural Research and Extension Center near Beaumont, plus its western division near Eagle Lake.

To Seek Higher Yields

Dr. Charles Bolich, the U.S. Department of Agriculture plant breeder stationed at the center, said more rice crosses will be made and they will be evaluated faster through more extensive use of winter growing facilities in Puerto Rico.

The Texas effort would follow California, which has had a five-cent checkoff for a few years, and Louisiana, which went to three cents last year.

To inform rice growers about the TRRF and ECONO-RICE, a series of seven meetings will be held throughout the Texas Rice Belt in February. Farmers also will receive the latest information on the new farm bill and how it will affect their operations in the year ahead.

Meetings to discuss the program have been scheduled for Feb. 9 in Katy, Feb. 10 in Altair, Feb. 11 in El Campo, Feb. 16 in Angleton, Feb. 19 in Bay City, Feb. 26 in Liberty, and Feb. 28 in Winnie.

TRRF trustees encouraged producers to become informed about the program that is being launched because their economic survival depends on it.

Soldier Of The Month



Shown above at right is Sp. 4 Melvin E. Carter, son of Mrs. Melvin Rowe of Garwood. He is being congratulated for being soldier of the month in his company and battalion.

Sgt. Carter has been in the service since August of 1980 and stationed in Kitzinger, Germany since December of 1980.

Mrs. Rowe and her son Byron flew to Germany to visit their son and brother during the Christmas holidays, December 18 through January 2.

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Q: You mean it cools as well as heats? Just what is a heat pump, anyway?

A: A heat pump is a year-round home heating-and-cooling system that runs entirely on electricity — the most flexible and available form of energy we have. Moreover, it is more energy efficient than any other combination heating/cooling unit currently available. It is called a heat pump because it "pumps" or moves heat from where it is not needed to where it is needed.

Q: How does a heat pump work?

A: In winter, it absorbs heat that exists naturally outside — even in very cold weather — and moves it inside to warm the house. In hot weather, it works like an air conditioner, moving the heat from indoors to outdoors to keep the house comfortably cool. The heat pump also dehumidifies as it cools.

Q: What accounts for the heat pump's superior efficiency?

A: There's a simple explanation: It's easier and less expensive to move heat than to make it. The heat taken out of the air by the heat pump is free — put there by the sun. Gas and other conventional systems must generate new heat — and consume costly fuels in the process.

Q: Is the heat pump a good choice for homes in our part of the country?

A: Absolutely! Although it works well in colder places, the heat pump performs best in regions with a relatively mild climate like ours.

Q: What are the heat pump's chief advantages?

A: The chief one is that its great efficiency results in more economical operation — and you save money on electricity bills. Electric resistance heat, for example, gives one unit of heat for each unit of energy, so you get a dollar's worth of heat for each dollar's worth of power. But a properly installed heat pump in a South Texas home can produce at least 2 1/2 units of heat for each unit of energy required to run it. That means you get \$2.50 worth of heat for every dollar you spend to operate your heat pump. In addition, a heat pump is clean and safe (no fuels burn inside your house), and it is a wise investment because it enhances the value of your home.

Q: Where can I get more information about the heat pump?

A: Just ask at your nearest CPL office. We welcome inquiries about heat pumps and all other devices that help you use energy wisely.

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