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(3 11 1t)

Chief Appraiser Discusses Open Space Tax Applications

Residential Homestead Exemptions Can Result In Tax Savings, Too

Colorado County Central Appraisal District's Chief Appraiser Billy Youens announces a new schedule of visits in Weimar, Garwood and Eagle Lake to accept rendition and exemption applications. In the article following announcement of the schedule is a discussion of the important "Open Space Agricultural Application" and the "Residential Homestead Exemption."

Employees of the Colorado County Appraisal District will be in various areas of the county on one of the following dates to accept renditions and exemption applications. This one exemption application will be used for all taxing jurisdictions in Colorado County:

Weimar City Hall - Friday, March 12, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Garwood - Hopkins Rice Sales Office - Monday, March 15, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Eagle Lake City Hall - Friday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Open Space Agri. Application

In the past, most taxing jurisdictions assessed rural ag land at values that were much lower than market value. There may have been no benefit to filing for an open space ag valuation because the ag values were very similar to existing values. Most rural properties will benefit now because the market values now used in most cases will be much greater than the ag value.

A] What Land Qualifies?

Land used for the production of crops, raising livestock, floriculture, viticulture, and horticulture.

B] How long must this land have been used in agriculture to qualify?

Presently, and have a five or seven year history.

C] Does the owner necessarily have to be engaged in this agricultural endeavor?

No. The actual use determines whether or not the land qualifies and at what level of usage. Example: Leased grazing land owned by a Harris County-resident will be taxed identically to those acres owned by local people that own and operate their own cattle operation.

D] Do lands owned by non-resident foreign aliens qualify?

No.

E] Will qualifying land be subject to future rollback penalties?

The sale or gift of qualifying land will not make this land subject to a penalty. Diverting qualifying ag land to a non-ag use will trigger a rollback penalty for the five previous qualifying years for only those acres taken out of ag. Example: A couple owns 100 acres of qualifying native pasture grazing land. 50 acres is gift deeded to his or her children, 45 acres is retained by the husband and wife, and 5 acres is sold for a commercial business site. (95 acres is still stocked with cattle).

The gift deeded 50 acres and the 45 retained acres still qualify and there is no penalty. Five acres is taken out of agriculture, and a penalty will be due. The penalty will be assessed against the land because of change in use, and not the previous owner. The amount of the rollback will be for the previous 5 qualifying years difference of market value and ag value plus 7% interest. The penalty will only be against the 5 acres that changed to a non-ag use.

F] How is ag value determined?

Basically, qualifying land is eligible to receive this lower than market value because it is used in agriculture. This valuation is determined by the average dollar income per acre and not its market value. Example: $4.00/acre land may have an ag value of $100 because the average dollar income/acre would be $10-12/acre. The ag value will increase as the average net dollar income increases. Land that yields approximately $40/acre will have an ag value of $300.

G] How much difference will there be if land qualifies vs. non-qualifying land in 1982?

Qualifying grazing land at $100 will pay an estimated $1.20/acre combined county and school taxes assuming an estimated combined county and school rate of $1.20/$100 Valuation. Land that does not qualify or the land that the owner fails to sign his application for will pay $9.60/acre assuming a $1.20 rate and a minimum $800 market value. Resulting difference: Penalty of $8.40/-acre.

"It is very important this year to get qualifying land applications filed. These will automatically be granted in coming years assuming no change in use," added the chief appraiser.

Resid. Homestead Exemp.

How much tax money is saved by filing for a residential homestead?

Each person or couple is entitled to claim one residential homestead in the state of Texas regardless of age. Persons that are 65 years of age by January 1 are entitled to a greater amount of tax savings. This residence must be used or have been used in the past as your residence. It is not necessary that you currently reside at the above residence, but that you have resided in the past and don't claim a homestead elsewhere.

Various partial exemptions are granted by the taxing jurisdictions of Colorado County ranging from $3,000 to $15,000. This may save as much as $203.06 or as little as $36.34 depending on one's age and taxing jurisdiction.

The most important aspect signing the over 65 homestead exemption is the fact that the actual tax dollars of school taxes is frozen for a lifetime at the then existing amount. Example: If an over 65 homestead paid $3.23 of school taxes in 1981 – the total school taxes may never exceed $3.23 unless an addition is made at a later date.

"Residential homesteads will be honored automatically after they are processed in 1982. So it is very important to sign your homestead for 1982. (Especially if you are over 65 years of age by January 1, 1982), concluded Youens.

Happy Hoofers Donate To Four Charities

One thousand dollar checks were presented Saturday night by J. T. [Tommy] Pilkington, second from right, president of the Happy Hoofers Dance Club, to charities which benefitted from the club's Sixth Annual Charity Ball held in the Community Center. Left to right are, Earl H. Rodgers who accepted a $1000 check in behalf of the Colorado Valley Shrine Club for the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital; Mrs. Helen Pilkington, who accepted a $1000 check in behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Fund; Mr. Pilkington; and Chuck Stephens, Grand Knight, who accepted a $1000 check in behalf of the Eagle Lake Council of the Knights of Columbus for the KC's Deaf Community Fund. Also the club presented an additional check to the Community Center.

4 Organizations Benefit From 6th Charity Ball

The Sixth Annual Happy Hoofers Dance Club's Charity Ball was held last Saturday night in the Eagle Lake Community Center and was another outstanding success, resulting in $1,000 checks being presented to each of the benefitting charities and a sizeable check to the Community Center.

Although the crowd attending was not as large as in the past, pre-sale tickets enabled the sponsoring dance club to make its usual $1,000 donations to the Knights of Columbus Deaf Community Fund, the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, with the remainder of the profits going to the Community Center.

Ray Jurecka's Orchestra provided some fine music for the gala occasion. Drinks and snacks were served throughout the dance from eight p.m. to twelve midnight and following the dance Mrs. Frank Broesche catered a breakfast to conclude the event.

Checks Presented

The $1,000 checks were presented during the first intermission of the dance by the club's president, J. T. (Tommy) Pilkington, to: Earl H. Rodgers who represented the Colorado Valley Shrine Club in accepting the check for the Shriner's Hospital; to Mrs. Helen Pilkington who accepted the check for the Cystic Fibrosis Fund; and Chuck Stephens, Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council's Grand Knight, for the KC's Deaf Community Fund.

Pilkington expressed appreciation in behalf of the club and the benefitting agencies for the $25 per person contributions and support of the citizens of the area. He also thanked co-chairmen of the event L. J. (Sonny) Spanihel and Brig. Gen. Joe N. Frazar for their assistance; and to the ladies of the club who provided decorations for the event and items for the buffet served throughout the evening. He also extended thanks to "all others who helped to make the event a great success both socially and financially."

Fellow co-chairmen of the event, Spanihel and Frazar, presided at the presentation of a "king's crown" to Pilkington for his leadership in the club and his hard work in making arrangements for the annual charity ball.

County 4-Hers Participate In Houston Show

[By Leroy J. Hajdik, County Extension Agent]

Colorado County 4-Hers participated in the Houston Livestock Show last week and all acknowledged that they had a good learning experience. Competition in the Houston Show is some of the keenest in the world.

Butch Henneke, son of Jerry Henneke, and a member of the Live Oak 4-H Club competed in the Brown Swiss division of the dairy show. His dairy cattle placed first, second, fifth, and three sixth places.

Chandra Faldyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Faldyn of Columbus, and a member of the Colorado 4-H Club, entered a pen of five broilers but failed to place in the top 200 pens. There were approximately 1300 pens entered in the broiler show.

DeWayne and DeWight Dopslauf, sons of Mrs. Lawrence Dopslauf of Sheridan, and members of the Sheridan 4-H Club, failed to place in the top fifteen of their respective Maine-Anjou steer classes.

Coping With Wayward Children

[By Ron Ebert, pastor of Bonus Baptist Church]

Ron Ebert

Children are one of our most prized and endearing treasures. But when the parental agony and sorrow comes with watching our children grow up to be wayward, our thoughts, prayers and attention are turned to them more often than to our children who have grown up to our admiration and respect. George Eliot expresses the feeling of parental sorrow when she says, "Childhood has no forebodings; but then it is soothed by no memories of outlived sorrow." Coping with a wayward child is no easy task. For the parent, it demands a lot of love, understanding, patience and the courage to carry on no matter what the outcome may be.

The first step in coping with a wayward child is to be thankful. In I Thessalonians 5:18, the Living Bible says, "No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." Although it may be the remotest thing from your mind, giving thanks helps to control our perspective of the situation.

Second, acknowledge the problem. A reluctance to talk about it will result in a very real and serious threat to your personal well-being. Acknowledging it will not make you less of a person. There are many people who care about you and would be willing to assist you.

Third, regardless of how much he has disappointed you, continue to love him. To love him means to want the highest and best for him. It does not mean that he can ruin your family at the expense of your love. He must be aware of where you take a stand. In addition, he needs to know that however much you may disapprove of his actions and lifestyle, you still love him as an individual.

Fourth, you must not blame yourself, even though you are a model parent. Some children have different temperaments and needs. The class favorite and apple of daddy's eye today may be tomorrow's heroin addict and "thorn in the flesh." Blaming yourself will not help matters at all.

Children are one of the best investments you will ever make. Spend a lifetime of love for them. Abraham Lincoln said, "A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations...the fate of humanity is in his hands."

-Pd. Advt.

John Chisholms Moving Soon To Hamilton, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. John Chisholm, he is the former Eagle Lake Community Hospital administrator, and family plan to move to Hamilton on March 24 where he has accepted a position as vice president of Methodist Affiliated Hospitals, Inc. out of Arlington. He will be in charge of nine hospitals, among those are Stevenville, Hurst Eulers, Eagle Mountain and is incorporate manager in the developing of the Hamilton Hospital.

The Chisholms have purchased a large Historical Society home, recently renovated, that will be one hundred years old in 1984. They are looking forward to moving in.

Best wishes to the Chisholms in their new location.

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(3 4 2t)

Friendship Club Meets In Briggs Home

The Eagle Lake Women's Friendship Club met February 17, 1982 in the home of hospitable Mr. and Mrs. Warren Briggs for the regular monthly meeting. As it was near George Washington's birthday, the theme was carried out in the program and refreshments.

There was a business meeting led by president Tommie Neiswender. Secretary-treasurer Hazel Havens read minutes of the last meeting which were approved as read.

Ada and Warren showed slides of a Washington, D.C. tour, including one of George Washington's home on the Potomac River. Then the group enjoyed games of "84" and Tile Rummy.

Mrs. Briggs and daughter, Mrs. Betty Campbell of Hallettsville, served a delicious luncheon of apple pie and cherry pie, coffee, soda water and mixed crackers. All enjoyed the afternoon very much.

In attendance at the meeting were Mesdames Elsie Beane, Charlotte Crutchfield, Ada Briggs, Warren Briggs, Esther Sunderman, Cecil Austin, Emma Thomas, Avis Goolsby, Tommie Neiswender, Betty Campbell, Jessie Arnett, Dora Larson, Donna Wiese and Hazel Havens, and Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Hollas. Reporter.

Miss Marcy Ann McInteer Weds Harvey W. Popp Feb. 18

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Popp

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McInteer announce the marriage of their daughter, Marcy Ann to Harvey W. Popp on February 18th at the home of the bride's parents. The groom is the son of Mrs. Mike Beard of Garwood and the late Erwin Popp.

Officiating at the double-ring ceremony was Darrell Wilson, uncle of the bride. Julee McInteer was maid of honor for her sister. Attending the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. E. C. McInteer of McAllen, paternal grandparents of the bride; Mrs. P. S. McNally and Stephen of Corpus Christi and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Aiken and Heath of Colleyville, sisters of the bride; Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Wilson of McAllen, aunt of the bride, and Bill Wilson of College Station; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Beard and sister of the groom, Mrs. Ray Obenhaus, Mr. Obenhaus, Donnie and Amy.

Mrs. Popp is attending Wharton County Junior College where she is finishing her course in medical record technician and Mr. Popp works for Shell Pipeline in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Popp and Brandyn Popp reside in Katy.

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Lt. John Moore On Dean's List At Naval Grad School

Lt. John S. Moore, U.S.N., has been listed on the Dean's List for the fall semester at the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, California.

Moore, a 1972 graduate of Rice High School, is working on his Master of Science degree in Operation Research – System Analysis.

Before entering the Naval Post-Graduate School, Lt. Moore and his wife Nancy were stationed for two years in Newport News, Virginia, where he did extensive work in the "shipyards", overhauling and updating submarines and also installing the new Trident missile system on submarines.

Moore is expecting to complete his schooling in California in two years. His address is 116 Moran Circle, Monterey, California 93940.

Moore is the son of Mayor and Mrs. Elmer Struss of Eagle Lake.

Call Medicare Toll-Free For Overdue Accts

Congressman J. J. Pickle, D-Austin, announced this week that Medicare patients in his district waiting on overdue claims can call a new toll-free hotline to check the status of their individual cases.

The number at Medicare Division of Texas Blue Cross Blue Shield is 1-800-442-2620.

Pickle, chairman of the House Social Security Subcommittee, suggested that callers have ready in advance their health insurance number, dates of doctors' appointments if possible, and any special information they think might be needed to process their claim.

Pickle said he realized many recipients and many physicians have been subjected to long delays on Part B Medicare claims recently. Those delays were caused in part, he said, when Blue Cross Blue Shield switched from old claims processing system to a new one.

PUC Staff Supports LCRA FPP Addition

The Public Utility Commission staff supports the Lower Colorado River Authority's plan to build a lignite-fired unit at the Fayette Power Project.

The staff position was voiced by PUC counsel Mark Zeppa during opening remarks Wednesday (March 3) as the Commission began hearings to examine competing proposals by LCRA and Texland Electric Company.

LCRA plans to add a 400-megawatt third unit at the FPP site near La Grange, while Texland proposes to build three 500-MW units in Milam County.

"There is a public need for the Fayette 3 plant," said Zeppa. "The evidence will prove that."

He also added the staff's contention that "There is no need for the certification of any Texland units."

Zeppa's main comments came at the end of a round of opening statements by LCRA, Texland, Shell Oil Company, Houston Lighting & Power and the Association of LCRA Wholesale Customers, which saw the introduction of a signed power-sales contract between Texland and HL&P, which revealed Texland's recent change as an investor-owned utility.

The Commission also heard concerns voiced by Texland for cheaper power and independence from LCRA and warnings from HL&P that the entire state is running out of electricity.

Noting the PUC staff was aware of the needs of electric customers, utilities and emergency-power networks, Zeppa emphasized that any plans to meet those needs must be supported by the ratepaying public.

"LCRA has presented a package that fulfills the (PUC's) statutory requirements," he said. "At this time, Texland presents a premature application...they can't meet their burden of proof."

Zeppa dismissed Texland's claims of being at LCRA's mercy in buying overpriced power as "a specious argument."

"LCRA produces some of the cheapest power in the state," he said. "They have in the past, and we believe they'll continue to do so."

In his opening remarks, Texland counsel Walter Demond said his client was offended by LCRA's "arrogance" in calling Texland "unsophisticated." He warned the PUC against setting new policy. "Are you going to tell the co-ops they can never form their own generating company?" He also said his client was tired of paying for LCRA's past mistakes.

Mark Perlmutter, speaking for the Wholesale Customers Assn., said that regardless of whether the LCRA or Texland project is built, "ratepayers will suffer billion-dollar hickeys." While the Association may not support either LCRA or Texland, its own analysis has shown that the LCRA plan carries less risk for customers, Perlmutter said.

Final Rites Held For Mrs. M. L. Matthews

Friends in the community learned with sadness that Mrs. M. L. (Berttie Stockton) Matthews passed away Tuesday evening, March 2, 1982 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital in Eagle Lake, Texas.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 4, 1982 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hubbard Funeral Home in Weimar with interment following in the Weimar Masonic Cemetery. The Rev. Melburn J. Sibley, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake, officiated at the services. Serving as pallbearers were Donnie Head, Henry Herder, Raymond Koller, Royce Miller and Buck Wanjura, all of Weimar and Harry Cliffe of San Antonio.

Berttie Stockton was born on February 22, 1914, near Hallettsville in Lavaca County, Texas. She was the only daughter of Lena Pagel and Thomas Fletcher Stockton. Mrs. Matthews grew up in the Hallettsville area and on December 27, 1934, she was united in marriage to Milton Lee Matthews in Weimar. The family lived in the Weimar area until 1941 when they moved to the Mose Thomas Farm near Eagle Lake where they resided for 36 years. In December, 1977, Mr. Matthews retired from active farming for the Thomas family at which time Mitt and Berttie returned to Weimar for their retirement years. Mr. Matthews passed away on October 3, 1978.

Mrs. Matthews is survived by two daughters, Joyce Marie and husband, Melvin J. Stancik of Eagle Lake and Ruby Ann and husband, Charles L. Darnell of Eagle Lake; one son, John Thomas and wife Lee Ann of Austin. Seven grandchildren also survive: Johnnie Lee Darnell of Eagle Lake; Darlene Marie and Darrell Milton Stancik of Eagle Lake; and Jodie Lee, Julie Ann, Sharon Elizabeth and John Stockton Matthews of Austin. One brother survives, Dock Lee Stockton of California; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Barbara Sue Stockton of Tucson, Arizona; two nieces, Mrs. Paula Gail Gutzmer, Suzanne Stockton; and one nephew, David Christopher Stockton, all of Tucson, Arizona. Also surviving are a number of cousins.

Mrs. Matthews was preceded in death by her husband, Milton Lee Matthews; an infant son; her parents and two brothers, C. B. Stockton who gave his life in the service of his country during World War II and Paul Stockton who passed away in 1976 in Tucson, Arizona.

Berttie Stockton Matthews had been a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake for many years and had participated in the AARP in more recent years.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their great loss.

Xi Pi Psi Plans For Lady Of Year

The Xi Pi Psi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met February 23 in the home of Ernie Sommerlatte.

President Kay Clipson presided over the business session. A thank you from Kay expressing thanks for her being chosen the 1982-83 Xi Pi Psi Sweetheart was read. Mary Lou Szymanski read a letter from Rice High School Counselor Bill Carpenter, in regard to the Senior Scholarship. Ernie and Mary Lou will visit the Heritage House in March. Lynda Appelt made the Valentine visit to the Heritage House.

Glenda Blair reported on the success of the annual Western Dance which was held on February 20.

Thank you's for valentine, birthday and anniversary remembrances were given.

Votes were cast by secret ballot for Lady of the Year. Ernie Sommerlatte will host the tea to be held on March 27.

Dianne Causey presented the cultural program entitled, "A Woman Above." Dianne used the book "Mary Ellen's Book of Helpful Hints" as the basis for her program. Each member was asked to share her own helpful household hint.

An informal social followed the Closing Ritual and Mizpah.

The next meeting will be March 9 at the home of Dianne Causey. Glenda Blair will present the program.

COLORADO COUNTY

Sheriff's Report

A Weekly Report of Activities by Sheriff Jim Broussard

County Has 10 Traffic Fatalities To Date In '82

Colorado County has had more than its share of traffic fatalities since the beginning of the year. The first 66 days have brought 10 traffic fatalities in the county. We ask that all vehicle operators drive with caution. Also, if you drive, don't drink. If you drink, let someone else drive in your place.

March 1: Assisted stranded motorist on 71 Bypass. Investigated a theft of services near Columbus. Arrested one for public intoxication. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Posted a citation in the courthouse. Checked on an injured deer on 71 North. Issued five traffic citations and served three civil citations.

March 2: Assisted with traffic at the scene of an accident in Garwood. Checked on a suspicious subject on IH-10. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Issued four traffic citations and served two civil citations.

March 3: Picked up mental patient in Eagle Lake and transported to the mental hospital in San Antonio. Checked on two suspicious subjects near Borden. Arrested two for San Antonio police. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Had District court this date. Had JP court in the PM. Issued seven traffic citations and served eight civil citations.

March 4: Assisted with traffic at the scene of an accident on IH-10. Transported prisoner from Louisiana to Columbus. Checked on a suspicious subject on 90 A. Continued the investigation on a capital murder case. Investigated a burglary near Eagle Lake. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Had District court and County court. Checked on abandoned vehicle in Alleyton. Issued eight traffic citations and served six civil citations.

March 5: Investigated a burglary near New Ulm. Worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon. Had County court. Posted a citation in the courthouse. Issued 14 traffic citations and served eight civil citations.

March 6: Arrested one for disorderly conduct and destruction of county property. Investigated a burglary on 71 North. Transported prisoners from Weimar to Columbus. Assisted with traffic at the scene of an accident near Columbus. Assisted with traffic at the scene of a fire near Columbus. Assisted Columbus police in a burglary investigation. Served seven civil citations.

March 7: Assisted with traffic at the scene of an accident on IH-10. Checked on the fire alarm activating in the courthouse. Checked a suspicious subject in the Forest Oaks area. Checked on a suspicious vehicle in Altair. Issued one traffic citation.

Jim Broussard, Sheriff & Deputies Phones: 732-2388 & 732-2535 Home Phone: 732-3950

John Fella, 96, Passes Away; Rites This Wed.

John Fella, father of Mrs. Clyde Farthing, of Eagle Lake passed away Monday, March 8th at 4:00 a.m. at the age of 96 of natural causes bringing sadness to relatives and friends in the area. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 in the Danevang Lutheran Church with the Rev. Lauderdale officiating. Interment followed in the Danevang Lutheran Church Cemetery.

The body laid in state at Mill-Bauer Funeral Home in Eagle Lake until 11:00 a.m. Wednesday. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Mill-Bauer.

Pallbearers were Everett and Tommy Farthing, Charles Hosman, Don Thompson, Andrew Rasmussen and LeFred Fella.

Mr. Fella, a retired farmer, was born October 10, 1885 in the Vsetin community to Martin and Verona Pechnca Fella. During his life he resided in Clemville (near Bay City) and for the past three years in Eagle Lake. On September 3, 1911 he and Mary Rasmussen were united in marriage in Markham and they have enjoyed over seventy years of married life.

Survivors include his widow, Mary Rasmussen Fella of Eagle Lake; one daughter, Mrs. Clyde E. (Ora) Farthing of Eagle Lake; two sons, J. W. Fella of New Providence, N.J. and J. V. Fella of Edna; one sister, Annie Balusek of Hallettsville; one brother, Louis Kartman of Hallettsville; 12 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; one great great grandchild and other relatives and a host of friends.

The deceased was a member of the Danevang Lutheran Church and he will be dearly missed by family and friends.

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