

MEMBER
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Opinion

Utility poles focus of resident action

Letters to the editor

To Whom It May Concern:
 Let's face it: in terms of economics, 1982 was not a terrific year for Eagle Lake. If we are going to make 1983 a better year for our town, we must make Eagle Lake a more attractive place to visit, to shop, to eat; and we must induce people to spend money here rather than somewhere else.

A patient from out of town told me that Eagle Lake has the prettiest people and the ugliest town in Texas. The Revitalization Committee has increased our awareness of the problem. My effort for the Committee is to eliminate or reduce the number of power poles on Main Street,

downtown, and on Boothe Drive. Over the years these utility poles have been erected in a haphazard manner. Today we have a jungle of poles. Often two or more poles are standing within a few feet of each other.

During January volunteers will be circulating copies of the following letter to the district manager of CP&L. You may be asked to complete and sign a copy and donate a stamp or stamps.

Please help us convince

the power company that we are serious about making Eagle Lake more appealing visually. And if you are wondering "Whom This May Concern," it better concern all of us if we want to survive as a town. Thank you.

Dr. Rose-Marie Roquemore

quite expensive. However, we are serious about improving the situation. Your cooperation is vital and will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
 My specific interest in Eagle Lake is (write in, such as concerned citizen, or other personal and public concern):
 cc: Governor Mark White
 Senator Lloyd Beatson
 Rep. Bill Patman
 Public Utilities Commission

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Clements and state matters

Gov. Bill Clements may have lost the election, but at least he has won an award.

Unfortunately for Clements, however, it's one of Texas Monthly magazine's annual "Bum Steer Awards."

Texas Monthly announced the awards in its January 1983 issue, and Clements is not just cited once but no less than three times.

The folks at Texas Monthly handed Clements the infamous award for sticking his foot in his mouth when he disagreed with Mexico's top immigration official, Dr. Jorge Bustamante, about the number of illegal aliens in Texas. Clements called Bustamante "just another Mexican with an opinion."

Not overlooked by Texas Monthly was the \$142,000 study Clements commissioned on undocumented workers that came up with the conclusion that illegal aliens do not speak English well.

The study was done by pollster Lance Tarrance, who also was Clements' campaign pollster. Considering the outcome of the election, Tarrance's findings in both instances appeared to be just about as useful.

Last, but not least, Texas Monthly gave Clements

the award for having borrowed \$3 million for his re-election campaign even though he had raised an additional \$10.4 million.

Despite the \$13 million-plus war chest, Clements was defeated by Attorney General Mark White, who only spent about half as much.

Corporate murder
 The question of whether a corporation can be tried for murder was decided last week when Galveston Co. authorities allowed a nursing home charged in the deaths of eight patients to plea bargain for a lesser charge.

Autumn Hills Convalescent Center, a Texas City nursing home, was allowed to plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter in connection with the deaths and was fined \$100,000.

The guilty plea was accepted by a Beaumont district judge after a Houston appeals court

refused to stop the plea bargain.

Galveston Co. District Attorney James Hury sought the plea bargain contending he could not have won the case if it had gone to trial. However, one of Hury's assistants sought to stop the plea bargain saying Hury was misinformed about the investigation in the case.

The assistant got fired for his actions.

In addition to the fine, the nursing home agreed to pay restitution, which could amount to millions of dollars, to the families of the eight patients.

Windfall profits
 Texans who receive a large portion of their income from oil and gas production got good news when a U.S. District Judge in Wyoming declared the Windfall Profits Tax unconstitutional, but the Justice Department — at the direction of President Reagan — is seeking to have that decision overturned.

The Justice Department has filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court to reinstate the tax, which has been much maligned by Governor Clements and many other oilmen across the state.

The tax was ruled unconstitutional because it is not uniform throughout the country. New oil produced above the Arctic Circle in Alaska is exempt.

Reagan fired Clements and others when he reneged on a campaign promise to do away with the tax, which was conceived under the Carter Administration.

Despite the lower court

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
 By Lyndell Williams
 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Mahalitic elected to ASCS committee; replace Sunderman

1983 reduced acreage program
 A reduction of 30 percent in wheat, feed grain, and cotton plantings in 1983 was implemented to help eliminate the oversupply and depressed price situation of farm commodities.

Those who voluntarily agree to reduce their acreage are eligible for land diversion and deficiency payments and price support loans. Sign-up continues through March 31.

Advance payments are authorized if requested at sign-up to give producers reduced or diverted acreage taken out of production must be devoted to approved conservation uses, weeds controlled, grazing withheld from April 1 to September 30, and land protected from erosion.

Herbert Aschenbeck of the Brushy area, north of Columbus, was elected first alternate, and Arnold Kneiblik of the Lone Oak area was elected second alternate.

Henry Sunderman of Eagle Lake was ineligible to be re-elected to this committee due to having served three terms for a period of 9 years.

Check with the ASCS office for further details.

The 1982 program year, for those commodities ended December 31. Sales receipts must be submitted by January 31. Incentive payments are to be earned.

The 1983 rice program is still pending in Washington. We will announce news as it is received by this office.

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 The 1983 rice program is still pending in Washington. We will announce news as it is received by this office.

Participation
 Eligibility for participation in all programs administered by ASCS is established under "law without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or handicap."

Parent vistingation day scheduled at all Rice district schools

Parents who have asked schools to open their doors to allow them free vistingation with their children's teachers will have the opportunity next week.

Parent vistingation day has been scheduled January 14 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. at all schools for all grades from Kindergarten through 12.

This in-service day is a day off from school for students, but teachers will be in classrooms during that time to have informal conferences with parents. Ample time is available for parents to talk with teachers about their children's progress, work habits, attitudes or other areas of concern.

"This time has been set aside as an in-service activity in order to improve communications between the home and the school," according to an announcement from Harold King, superintendent. Although the announcement did not say so, educators in recent years have become aware that a student's schoolwork improves when parents take a more active role in the education process.

It is the teachers' expectations that parents will take advantage of this opportunity. Based on the participation experienced, the program will be expanded or eliminated," the announcement said. In either case, the philosophy of the district remains that "every week is public school week," and parents should never hesitate to communicate with the staff when in their judgment a problem exists.

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By Leroy J. Hajdik
 County Extension Agent
County Agent's Notebook
 Tips for pruning landscape plants

Fall and winter months are a good time to prune most landscape plants. Proper pruning procedures are important to keep plants healthy and attractive. Be selective when pruning and only prune those plants that need it. Always use sharp tools for a clean cut.

It's a good idea to treat all cuts or wounds over two inches in diameter with a good tree dressing to prevent cracking and check those cracks provide excellent places for borers, eggs and disease organisms.

Since pruning cuts made in mid-branch induce lateral growth, prevent branching by cutting back to a major limb, twig or bud. For more compact growth, cut back terminal shoots, removing about one-half the current growth to induce lateral growth. Do not destroy a plant's natural form and beauty when pruning. Trim — but never butcher.

For multi-stemmed shrubs such as quince, sandal and pomegranate, think in terms of thinning out rather than shearing the total plant. Remove some canes or stems at ground level, and cut some stems in mid-branch to make the plant more dense.

If shrubs like quince, nandina and spirea have been neglected for several years, it's best to remove about one-third of the oldest, canes at ground

level. This completely renews the plant every three years, the flowering wood, and the plant seldom becomes tall and leggy.

Don't prune hydrangeas during the winter because their flower buds, already established for next season's bloom. The best time to prune is immediately after their prime bloom in early summer.

Prune bush-type roses in late February, just prior to spring growth. Prune climbing flowering shrubs and climbing roses after flowering.

Hollies and other berrying plants, such as pyracantha, may be pruned now. However, these plants produce berries on two-year-old wood, so removing new growth eliminates future berries.

For more pruning information, obtain a copy of "Pruning and Training Landscape Plants" from the county Extension office.

Prescribed burning — using fire as a range and pasture renovation practice — can be an effective range management tool if planned and conducted properly, says a range specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

Establish objectives for each burn and develop a "fire plan." Consider various preburn treatments. Finalize plans six months to a year before the burn. Notify the proper authorities, construct fire lanes and check weather conditions before a burn. Postburn grazing depends on the rancher's objective.

School Menu

Monday, January 10:
 Lasagna, Luncheonroom
 Orange Buttered Corn,
 Choice Wedges, Corn Bread.

Tuesday, January 11:
 Hamburger Steak, Buttered Noodles, Green Beans, Fruit Salad Topping, Whole Wheat Bread.

Wednesday, January 12:
 Chili Dog, French Fries, Catsup, Finger Salad, Doughnuts.

Thursday, January 13:
 Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Buttered Spinach, Grape Jelly, Angel Biscuits/Butter.

Friday, January 14:
 In Service Day.

Travel show Sunday
 A (gea Alaska travel show will be given Sunday at the community center, sponsored by Franks Travel Sales.

The show begins at 3 p.m. Information on tours will be available. Free refreshments will be served, and registrations will be taken for a free travel gift certificate.

Fred Frnka, a sales representative for Seewee's Travel of Richmond, is sponsoring the show.

THIS WEEK ON ESPN
JANUARY 9-15

THE GREATEST COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE EVER!
 The most comprehensive coverage of the college basketball season is on ESPN — nine terrific live match-ups with CBS.

Sun: W. Kentucky vs. NC-Charlotte at 4 PM
 Mon: Georgetown vs. Syracuse at 7 PM
 Tues: Vanderbilt vs. Alabama at 8 PM
 Weds: Minnesota vs. Michigan at 7 PM
 Sat: Clemson vs. Wake Forest at 11 AM; Notre Dame vs. Marquette at 2 PM; ODU vs. James Madison at 6 PM; Wisconsin vs. Michigan at 8 PM; Oregon State vs. UCLA at 10 PM.

NBA BASKETBALL DOUBLEHEADER!
 The Phoenix Suns vs. the Milwaukee Bucks Sunday at 7 PM followed by the Seattle SuperSonics and the Portland Trail Blazers at 9:30 PM.

TOP RANK BOXING
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Saturday, January 8
For MAYC Scholarships
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 Pre-Dance Tickets at Taco Tony's Mexican Restaurant — \$8.00

Farmer's tax guide
 A free publication, designed to explain how tax laws apply to farming, is available by writing the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS said.

IRS Publication 225, "Farmer's Tax Guide," contains 29 chapters covering such topics as farm income, farm business expenses, tax credits, certain farming tax shelters, and soil and water conservation expenditures.

Written in easy to understand language, the guide can be a valuable resource at tax time as well as a handy reference all year. It contains a sample return with step-by-step directions in filling out not only Schedule F, "Farm Income and Expenses," but also eleven other forms and schedules dealing with tax situations common to most farmers.

As a year round reference tool, the 76-page guide contains a calendar of important tax dates.

The "Farmer's Tax Guide" was prepared by the IRS, with the assistance of the Extension Service of the State Land, Grant Universities, and the Regional Farm Management Extension Committees.

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- *Juniors
- *Large Sizes
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- *Men's
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