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Announcing The Opening of the offices of Truly Properties

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Let's talk.

Information about your changing telephone service
from Paul Johnson, Community Relations Manager

By now you've probably read about the company's rate request for \$1.7 billion. How did we come up with that figure? Why is this request so much larger than previous rate filings? In this column, I hope to provide some answers for you.

Local rates subsidized by long distance

If somebody else were to pick up half your lunch check, what would you say? Probably, thank you. But what if they started paying half of all your meals? At some point it would be human nature to start taking them for granted. Our situation is similar.

You've been paying an average of \$11 a month for something that costs about \$29 a month: residence telephone service. Long distance and other services have been picking up the difference. This came about because the company wanted to keep local service as cheap as possible. That way everyone could afford to have a phone. And as long as Southwestern Bell operated as one big system, this worked fine.

But with recent government rulings, things have changed. Southwestern Bell can't continue to subsidize local rates with the money we make on optional services. As Paul Roth, vice president of revenues and public affairs, said in a recent press conference, "Local rates no longer can hide behind long distance, because we're just about out of the long distance business." For the most part, the long distance business is going to other carriers like AT&T and MCI. And we're virtually out of the customer equipment business. As a consequence, local rates must go up... substantially.

Three main components make up rate request
Basically, the company's request for local rates can be divided into three parts:
—The company is requesting an increase of \$502 million statewide to recover the costs of doing business, and to produce a fair return on Texas

investment.

—We're asking for an increase of \$450 million in depreciation expense and other capital recovery changes that are more consistent with today's technological changes.

—The company is seeking \$249 million in access charges to partially replace the subsidy managed by intrastate long distance revenues to local rates. The filing also proposes additional charges of \$504 million to intercity carriers such as AT&T and MCI.

Lower cost options due later this year

We are concerned about how these increases will affect our customers. Particularly those on fixed incomes. That's why we're researching several lower priced offerings as alternatives to flat-rate unlimited service. Under such offerings, customers would pay for each call made, but the monthly rate for most would be substantially less than unlimited service.

With local rates rising to meet costs, it doesn't make sense for all customers to pay the same flat rate no matter how much or little they use their line. People who use less should pay less. This is no different than rates charged for other utility services.

For further information and background about the rate filing, send for our free booklet, "Telecommunications Changes and the Cost of Telephone Service." Address requests to Rate Request Booklet, Southwestern Bell, P.O. Box 225265, Dallas, Texas 75265.

Remember, if you have a question or comment you'd like to pass along, don't hesitate to drop me a line. Here's my address:

Paul Johnson
Southwestern Bell
2200 Avenue A
Bay City, TX 77414

Southwestern Bell

Opinion

Columbus library editorial brings responses

An editorial in the Colorado County Citizen on June 22, suggesting the county commissioners offer additional financial support for the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus, has brought editorial-reply letters from the mayor of Weimar, and from Eagle Lake's mayor and Winterrman library board chairman.

Some of the funds which help operate all five libraries in the county come from the commissioners' annual budget of tax revenue.

In support of its hometown library, the Citizen called the Nesbitt Library "one of the top libraries in Texas for a town this size." It also said the library is the biggest and best equipped library in the county, and is an asset to the entire county.

The editorial said "40 percent of the library patrons are from outside Columbus," that the library needs a full-time assistant librarian, and that Columbus' city council is increasing its support of the library to help make that assistant a reality.

"Now is the time for the county to do something to help out," the editorial reads. "We know the demands on the commissioners court for money already are staggering, but the commissioners already give a small amount of money to each library in the county."

"We think they should

step up the amount of money they give the Columbus Library so it can have a full-time assistant."

A letter from Weimar Mayor Tommy Brasher was printed in the June 30 edition of the newspaper:

Dear Editor:
Your editorial of June 23, 1983, consisted of some reasoning that does not set itself with some other Colorado County citizens, namely Weimar, citizens. Columbus does have, I understand, a fine library. However, the size of the library does not necessarily make your library the best in the county. Also, you say that usage is about 40 percent from outside of Columbus. Maybe local citizens do not support the library as they should. Percentages by themselves are many times misleading or meaningless. Granted that the Nesbitt Library is an asset to the county but so are the other libraries in Colorado County.

Most of your arguments sound like an essay on "God, Mother, Country, Hot Dogs and Apple Pie, etc." They could and do apply to all of this county's libraries. To insinuate that these ideas apply only to your library is misleading and wrong. If additional funds are needed by our libraries, each library should share equally in the funds.

The Weimar Public Library is staffed, for the most part, by volunteer librarians. Our personnel is as highly trained as any

person in this area. Just because a person receives compensation for a job does not mean they are any better or more qualified than those who work for free. Sometimes, the opposite may be true.

I know the Commissioners Court will look long and hard before they single out one library, fire department or ambulance crew for additional funding. Maybe Columbus should consider using more volunteer personnel.

Yours very truly,
Tommy Brasher
Mayor, City of Weimar

Following that letter, the editors of the Columbus newspaper replied:

We can appreciate mayor Brasher's comments, but he apparently has a few misconceptions. First, we didn't say our library was the "best in the county," stating instead that it is the biggest and best equipped.

Second, his statement that if additional funds are needed, each library should share equally in the funds. They do not share equally now. The Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar libraries get more from the county than the Sheridan and Garwood libraries.

And last, but certainly not least, he says the fact that 40 percent of the Columbus library patrons come from outside of Columbus mean our local people are not supporting the library as they should.

Our library has more patrons than any other library in the county, and it also has quite a few from Weimar, but it has more from Columbus than from anywhere else put together.

In short, there are things in Columbus, Eagle Lake, Weimar, and all the other communities that are unique and are assets to the county. We think the Nesbitt Library in Columbus is one of these, and that is not in any way a criticism of any other library in the county. It is simply a recognition of the fact that it takes more money to run a high-volume library that serves the entire county than it does to run a lower volume library. As one rancher commented recently, it doesn't cost as much to feed five cows as it does to feed fifty.

And, by the way, what's wrong with "an essay on God, Mother, Country, Hot Dogs and Apple Pie, etc." Last week, a letter signed by Joan Matthews, chairman of the Winterrman Library Board, and Elmer Struss, mayor of Eagle Lake, was sent to the Citizen for publication this week. It reads:

Dear Editors:
We agree completely with the position taken by Mayor Tommy Brasher of Weimar in his letter which appeared in the June 30th edition of the Colorado County Citizen, in which he

replied to the rather surprising editorial written by the Citizen's editors and publishers the week before. Like Mayor Brasher, we do not see in the Citizen's editorial any acceptable justification for the Nesbitt Library in Columbus to receive a larger amount of county money than the libraries in Eagle Lake and Weimar.

Any proposal to the effect that the County Commissioners should distribute tax funds unequally among the three major libraries in Colorado County should, it seems to us, be based upon a rigorous examination of independently-obtained library statistics for the three libraries. We are unable to find any mention of a statistical source in the Citizen's editorial and therefore are forced to conclude that the figures used were, at best, estimates.

Indeed, the statistics available to us from the Texas State Library indicate that the three major libraries in Colorado County are all doing a remarkable job of providing an outstanding level of service to their respective

populations. Therefore, if any increase in county funding is made available to one of the libraries, we believe the other two should benefit equally.

It is tempting for facilities in the county seat to assume that their location automatically confers on them the status of "biggest and best." Experience has proved over and over that this assumption is not always warranted.

Finally, writing as we are on the eve of July fourth (letter dated June 30), we would observe that while it is always nice to have help with any task, the practice of demanding that it be provided at taxpayers' expense is the basic cause of many of this nation's current problems. Surely there are sources of revenue open to the Board of Directors of the Nesbitt Library other than the taxpayer's pockets, and we can only wonder why they were not fully explored.

Yours very truly,
Joan Matthews, Chairman
Winterrman Library Board
Elmer Struss, Mayor
City of Eagle Lake

48 Years Ago

Let's Look Back

July 19, 1935
Cotton farmers are poisoning against an attack of leaf worms. A. N. Hays, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bentley and Miss Irene Davidson visit in Lufkin, Atlanta and Texas.

Miss Charles McEllan leaves for visit with relatives and friends in Mena, Arkansas. Miss Mena McEllan returns from summer months at camps in Kerrville. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Parker and son return from vacation trip to Mississippi. Mesdames John Chapman, George Crim, F. M. Dromgoole, Harold Thomas, and Miss Mary Waddell leave for trip to Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Mrs. H. W. Graves and Mrs. C. P. Hoyt spend the day in Thompsons. William Robert Waddell on University of Texas honor roll. Mrs. Bruce McCarty, Bruce Wilson, Misses Madeleine McCarty and

Others missteps by him have prompted the Travis County grand jury to act independently, so Earle is now under the gun to make a thorough probe of Mattox.

Human Rights Commission
Governor Mark White last week signed into law the first bill creating the Texas Commission on Human Rights.

The commission, which was won in the recent special session by a coalition of minority and liberal legislators who had threatened to kill the much-needed state brucellosis testing bill, allows the state to take over discrimination complaints involving employment.

Those complaints are now handled by a federal agency, but will be state agency after September 1. Behind on appointment White will appoint six commissioners to the new agency, but curiously enough, he has not replaced nor reappointed about 200 officials whose terms have ended since he took office in January.

Already he is being unfavorably compared with his predecessor, Bill Clements, who was timely with his appointments, and compared with former Gov. Dolph Briscoe who was considered consistently late in naming new people.

"Assigned" DPS officers. Reporters digging into department of public safety files reported last week that many state troopers apparently guilty of misconduct are not charged but resign instead.

The honorable resignation masks cases of alleged wrongdoing that records show includes rape.

DPS director Col. Jim Adams told reporters the resignation is favored because it gets the troopers off the payroll quicker and diminishes the chances of a lawsuit.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

COLORADO COUNTY COURT JUDGMENTS

June 1983

Enedina Ros Coronado, 100 block of Murphy St. Eagle Lake, plead guilty to driving while license suspended; fined \$100.

Francisco Mendez, c/o Weimar, Eagle Lake attorney, plead guilty to driving while intoxicated; fined \$305 and given one year probation on a 30-day jail sentence.

Kenny Costa, plead guilty to deceptive business practice; fined \$200 plus restitution.

Patrick Adolph Peters, Columbus, plead guilty to driving while intoxicated; fined \$300 and given one year probation on a 30-day jail sentence.

Arthur Ray Rhodes, Eagle Lake, plead guilty to possession of marijuanas; fined \$400 and given one year probation on a 60-day jail sentence.

Jean Marie Barnes, Glidden, plead guilty to theft by check; fined \$35 plus restitution.

Wayne Norman, Rt. 1, Eagle Lake, plead guilty to theft by check; fined \$100 plus restitution.

Walter Washington, plead guilty to a charge of "loose materials;" fined \$75.

Quinton Earl Woods, forfeited \$350 bond on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Idalia Cantu, Houston, forfeited \$350 bond on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Richard Leroy Clipson, Jr., 38, Eagle Lake, and Robin Griffith McElanahan, 36, Austin.

Wayne Louis Briscoe, 24, Sheridan, and Patti Kay Black Carroll, 28, Eagle Lake. 6-29-83.

Adam Alfred Cavazos, 21, Eagle Lake, and Vivian Cabrera Hernandez, 26, Eagle Lake. 6-29-83.

Russell Leo Scott, 40, Weimar, and Ruby Lee Mann Jones, 40, Weimar. 6-29-83.

Wayne Louis Briscoe, 24, Sheridan, and Patti Kay Black Carroll, 28, Eagle Lake. 6-29-83.

Billy Glen High, 28, Sheridan, and Dorine Sue Johnson, 29, Sheridan. 6-29-83.

Reinhard Harry Wied III, 31, Nada, and Carol Marie Supak, 22, Eagle Lake. 6-29-83.

Richard Leroy Clipson, Jr., 38, Eagle Lake, and Robin Griffith McElanahan, 36, Austin.

Deed, Carl Albert Milentz to Leonard W. Frank et al. 30 acres. Samuel M. Williams Survey. 6-22-83.

Deed, Dorothy P. Massey to Ellis J. Winkler et al. 16.6 acres. Daniel G. Gillette Survey. 6-14-83.

Deed, Sophy Mae Hurley et al to Michael Ervin Rucka et al. 1 acre. G. W. White Survey. 6-15-83.

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