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JUICY NORTHWEST

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Rotary Pancake supper Tuesday

Don't forget the annual Rotary Club pancake supper next Tuesday night, February 11, at the community center. Tickets are only \$2.50, making it a deal of a meal.

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Eagle Lake Headlight

February 6, 1986
(USPS 163-760)
Vol. 82, No. 44
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
(409) 234-5521
32-CENTS PER COPY
(30-CENTS PLUS TAX)

New LCRA manager speaks up

The new general manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority has been on the job for only two weeks and already is out in his 10-county "field" to listen to what's needed for the quasi-governmental agency.

S. David Freeman, who until recently was chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, isn't afraid to speak up.

On the Shaw's Bend dam issue, he said everyone can "assume that day is fast asleep right now," on the pollution in the Colorado River and future water supply, he said there isn't much reason to worry about water allocations if the water can't be used.

To help understand what's on the minds of the people in the 10-county LCRA responsibility area, the local level advisory panels that were appointed last year but never used, at least in Colorado County, have been activated.

Last Wednesday afternoon he was in Wharton County. That night he and LCRA water division manager Bill West met in Columbus for about two hours with nine of the panel members from Colorado County.

Freeman replaced Eloy Soderberg last month, coming from the Tennessee Valley Authority, a huge water-oriented electric generating organization.

He spoke up about the much-studied Colorado River dam project at Shaw's Bend, about future water needs, about river pollution and other matters that the LCRA may be concerned with.

Members of the panel available Tuesday night were Danny Hill of the Bernardo area who was elected chairman; county judge Lester Cranek; Charles Trefny who works 1,000 acres near the river about nine miles north east of Weimar; George Purefoy, Columbus city manager; Johnny Metzner, Eagle Lake area land and gravel owner who owns Johnny's Sport Shop and is a director of the First National Bank; Lester Foster, a resident of the Shaw's Bend area; Crockett Leyendecker, who has real estate and land operations in the Columbus area and former county commissioner; Herbert Engstrom, Garwood area farmer and 30-plus year member of the county Soil Conservation Service; and John Fearing, owner of the Eagle Lake Headlight.

"Wednesday and Thursday are water days for me," Freeman said about his early learning process at LCRA. On those days, he said, he wants to leave the electric generating part of the business to run itself, and focus on water needs and issues.

Of course the Shaw's Bend dam was a major concern of those at the meeting. Last year, LCRA directors approved a motion that said they did not want to build a dam near Columbus, but asked the federal Bureau of Reclamation to study other sites and make another recommendation. The Bureau, at that time, said they had been studying the river for ten years, and preferred not to pick a "second-choice" site.

"I'm not involved in the issue," Freeman said last Wednesday. "I'll look at the numbers...but I'd be a surprised person if you could charge enough for the water and pay for it" (the \$300 million cost of then dam). "The world is not holding its breath waiting for me to get into that," he said, indicating it was on his list of "things to look at," but pretty far down the list at that.

The Number One priority is cleaning up the river," Leyendecker said.

Judge Cranek, one of 15 members of Gov. Mark White's select committee to look at water pollution and Texas Water Commission issues, explained to Freeman the sewage treatment situation relative to the City of Austin and the Colorado River. The city has grown so fast, and until recently voters there would not approve a bond issue to build sewage treatment plants, the city is dumping raw

and partially treated sewage into the river. Others at the meeting, including LCRA's West, added their comments, reinforcing the plea for strong pollution control measures.

"It was such a beautiful river 20 years ago," Trefny said.

"I hear you," Freeman said. "You're saying this might be a role we could get into more fully."

Another suggestion made by Judge Cranek, was that some consideration might be given to building a bridge across the river about the point the Fayetteville Road joins U.S. 71. That would allow those living on the west side of the river access to the recreational facilities at Fayetteville Lake created by the generating station there.

Freeman said if the LCRA should get more involved in water conservation education, he was applying an axiom learned in the electric generating issue. Those utilities used to think the best way to provide power was through giant generating stations. Today many believe that electric conservation education that helps people understand and implement conservation measures like insulation and more efficient electrical units, decreases the need for the big stations, at one tenth the cost.

Freeman called himself a practical environmentalist. He grew up in Tennessee and said he believes "we have to leave this Earth something like we found it." Referring to the lignite mines in Fayette County that some believe are pollution problems themselves, the general manager said he is looking at shutting one of those operations down. We have to decide which side of the pollution issue we are going to be on, he said, we can't be on both.

"I like your attitude," Leyendecker told him. After Cranek predicted that by the year 2050 water availability in Texas is going to be critical, picturing the state as a desert, Leyendecker indicated conservation may or may not be an issue, as far as rice farmers in this area are concerned. This past year, water from the Colorado River irrigated about 40,000 acres of rice. He said he feared rice farmers, in 10 to 15 years, would be in a position that former county cotton farmers are in today -- earning a living doing something else. No one grows cotton in the county today.

Freeman plans to meet with similar groups in the eight other counties in the LCRA responsibility area. "When we finish we will come back and see if we have support for what you want to do."

County voters to have many choices in races

Some of the most contested positions in Colorado County elections have shaped up for this spring, with four Eagle Lake men vying for the county commissioner's seat held for many years by Bill Stiles.

Three of the candidates, including incumbent Stiles, are on the Democratic ticket, and one filed on the Republican side.

In Weimar, three men have filed for the precinct two commission seat. They include incumbent Rafael Vecelka, Butch Strunk of Oakland who was the first person to file, and Charles Trefny of Weimar. Trefny has been one of the strongest voices

in opposition to the once-proposed Shaw's Bend Dam near Columbus. It would flood much of his land.

For county treasurer, two people have filed. They are Rita Renick and Sharon Knox of Columbus. When incumbent Martha Bodungen retires this year, the job will become a part-time position.

Commissioners indicated they will seek to have the office abolished, reasoning that the work can be effectively handled by the county auditor's office.

The competition for county clerk, to replace Mrs. Annie Franta who also is retiring,

remains a three-way contest. Candidates are Richard Waggoner, Connie Lee and Darlene Hayek.

County Judge Lester Cranek will be running unopposed again, although rumors were circulating that someone was going to file. Marie Hayek, county Democratic Party secretary-treasurer said many people even called her to see if anyone had filed.

The deadline for filing was 6 p.m. Monday night, and Hayek said she stayed in her office until then because a person called her several times indicating they were going to file for the county clerk's race. However, no one else filed.

Others filing for other positions, unopposed, are incumbents: Mary Lou Szymanski, justice of the peace, precinct 8 in the Eagle Lake area; W.A. Helfer, JP precinct two, Garwood area; Richard Schmidt, JP one, Columbus; Dennis Poppe, JP three; Edward Hanzelka, JP 4, Weimar; Mary Ordner, JP five, Freisburg area; and Frances Truchard, JP six, Bernardo area. Party officials said someone was planning to file in opposition to Richard Schmidt in precinct one, but declined to enter the race.

Harvey Vornand of Weimar is unopposed for district clerk, as is Leonard Frank for county surveyor. Both are incumbents.

One candidate files for RCISD school board

Only one candidate has filed for the Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustee election, scheduled April 5, the same day as the municipal elections.

Natalie Dupre of Sheridan, elected last year to fill a one-year unexpired term, has filed as a candidate for a regular three-year term.

The other position to be open is held by Steve Balas, but he has said he does not plan to seek re-election. He is the current school board president.

John Matthews of Eagle Lake said he plans to file for Balas position, but as of Tuesday afternoon had not done so.

School board candidates have until March 5 to file. Voting places and absentee ballot information will be announced.

Still only 3 in city races

As of Tuesday afternoon there still were only three candidates for the three positions open in the municipal elections.

Roy D. Van Nort is the only candidate for mayor. Vic Corman is seeking re-election as a member of council, and Peggy Byrn has filed as a candidate for the other council seat.

The city filing deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 19.

L.J. "Sonny" Spanihel was the second candidate to file for the office. He has not yet issued a statement, but said he was filing for the office because he felt he could do a good job. He emphasized that he had no intention of closing his clothing store, Spanihel & Son, on Main St.

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Freshman bake sale

The Freshman Class of Rice High School has scheduled a bake sale this Saturday in three locations. The class is raising money to pay for future projects, such as the annual junior-senior banquet. Home made items will be sold starting at 8:30 a.m. in front of Eagle Lake Farm and Home Supply, in front of F&W Food Market in Garwood and in front of the post office in Sheridan.



Six flags of Texas

Members of the Rice Area Memorial VFW post 8783 States; Ed Schindler, Confederacy; Van Nort, here, assisted by councilman Roy Van Nort, Texas; Wilfred Lueddecke, Mexico; Earl Rodgers, have flown over Texas in its history. The flags and French.

The season is over but who you are makes a difference in what will be remembered

The goose hunting season on the Eagle Lake Prairie may be over, but there will be memories of the season. It depends on your point of view whether the memories are good, bad, or fairly faded.

From the state's view, officers responsible for enforcing the laws probably won't remember but a few things.

Those who received tickets and paid fines may remember a little longer.

Game Warden Buddy Mills tells

one story that probably will stick in the minds of some officers. One morning, when Lt. Game Warden Sam Center, who is supervisor of wardens in several Central Texas counties, was approaching a group of hunters in the Eagle Lake area, they decided it would be better if they put their shotgun in their truck.

However, in their haste, the shotgun fired, blowing a hole in the side of the truck.

Mills compiled a report of tickets issued for game law violations, from September, 1985, through this past January, showing hunters and fishermen paid a total of \$13,589 in fines. As you can see from the chart, January is the busiest month. Mills said 80 percent of the basic fine goes to the state department of parks and wildlife and 53 of the remainder is the arresting officer's fee. What's left over, and added court costs go to the county if filed in a county justice of the

Coby Shorter and FFA officers tour Japan

Coby Shorter III, national FFA secretary, and his fellow national officers left Sunday, February 2, to begin a two-week tour of Japan. Each year the national FFA officers participate in a goodwill tour of a foreign nation. This year's tour is taking place in Japan. The Mitsui Company of Japan is sponsoring the FFA tour. Mitsui is the largest agricultural corporation in Japan.

Coby is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Coby Shorter Jr. of Eagle Lake. He has served as Rice High School FFA chapter president, Area III president and Texas FFA president.

During the two-week tour, the national officers will tour businesses and meet Japanese government officials. While in Japan they also will visit the American Embassy and observe American foreign policy in action. To become more familiar with Japanese customs, each of the officers will spend some time with a selected Japanese family. Coby has been requested to speak at a high school assemblies during their tour of Japan.

After returning from Japan, Coby is expected to be back in our general area when he returns to Houston to participate in the 1986 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He will be assisting in the operations of the FFA Children's Barnyard and also will be the featured speaker at several functions of the livestock show. Advisors and members of the Rice FFA chapter wish Coby and the national officers an exciting and interesting tour.



Coby Shorter III