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Editorial

Don't be fooled by percentages when considering your bond vote

During the Eagle Lake city council meeting last week, Mayor Elmer Struss spent considerable time discussing the future of the city tax rate if both bond proposals are approved on the April 5th election.

However, he wanted to make sure the change was stated in terms of "percent increase."

We think that information fools taxpayers, and keeps them from considering the issues on their merits.

After all, consider 90 percent of a thin dime, which is nine cents. Which number sounds higher?

The same situation exists when discussing the city tax rate, which at present is 28 cents. Since it is such a small number, and the actual value of the increase the bonds would impose is ten to 12 cents, expressing the increase on a percentage basis provides easy room for negative impressions.

Here are the facts as provided by the city:

Of the current tax rate, seven cents already is devoted to paying for bonded indebtedness.

The $250,000 airport improvement bond would increase taxes between four or five cents. The $350,000 street improvement bond would increase taxes six to seven cents. Using the higher of those two estimates, 12 cents, the Mayor would like you to know that it means your taxes would go up 43 percent.

Consider, if you will, that school taxes are nearly 300 percent larger than city taxes (actually they are 264% higher).

In a statement on the effect of the bonds on taxes, issued by the city with the Mayor's approval, it is pointed out that if your taxable property is "valued (at) $30,000, you probably paid approximately $84 in City taxes...If both the propositions pass...taxes that would be paid on the $30,000 home would be $114" using the ten-cent estimate. Taxes would be $6 higher using the 12-cent estimate.

Percentages are fine, when properly used. But, don't be misled. Consider the actual dollar increases, then make your voting decision based on whether this community is worth the investment.

—John Fearing

Bond approval supported by chamber board, officers

In a letter to members of the Eagle Lake area Chamber of Commerce last week, signed by the five officers of the organization, the public was urged to approve the airport and street improvement bonds that will be on the ballot here April 5 when voters go to the polls to elect a new mayor and fill two council seats.

"We must make an investment in the City of Eagle Lake, in order for our City to survive and prosper," the letter reads. It was signed by Becky Anderson, president; Tom Reed, vice president; Doris Thomas, secretary, Cindy Gohlke, treasurer, and Donald N. Bendy, immediate past president.

Here is the letter:

"Dear Chamber of Commerce Member:

"As you are aware, the City of Eagle Lake will hold a bond election on April 5, 1986, requesting authority to issue the City's bonds to fund improvements to the City airport and City streets. This election will involve two different propositions, which are to be voted on separately. It is our understanding that if either or both of the bond proposals passes, it will involve a nominal increase in our City taxes.

"We are sure that each of us is interested in keeping our taxes low. However, we believe that each of us needs to be more concerned not only with the prosperity, but with the survival, of the City of Eagle Lake. It is the unanimous belief of the officers and board members of your Chamber of Commerce that we must make an investment in the City to survive and prosper.

"The Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations within our City, are attempting to support our existing businesses, and encourage new businesses to locate here, which will hopefully provide additional jobs and additional money in our economy. We believe that, to have any realistic hope of attracting new industry, we must improve our airport and our streets, and consider other possible improvements, as needs arise.

"The Chamber of Commerce has previously requested the Eagle Lake City Council to consider the improvement of the airport. Now that we are being requested to authorize the funds for such improvements, as well as street and drainage improvements, we must show our support by voting for these bond issues. For this reason, we respectfully request that you vote in favor of both bond issues on April 5, 1986, and hope that you will ask that your friends and neighbors to do likewise. We believe that a favorable note will increase the prospects for the future prosperity of our city.

Very truly yours,
Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce

Becky Anderson, President
Tom Reed, Vice President
Doris Thomas, Treasurer
Donald N. Bendy, Immediate Past President

Bob Cook Jr., Kenneth Danklefs elected to Texas Rice Council board

Over 200 rice farmers and others in the rice industry attended the Texas Rice Council annual meeting held recently in Rosenberg. Featured speaker Donald Karas, president of Restaurant Business, Inc., the world's largest publisher of specialized foodservice industry magazines, strongly supported the Rice Council's foodservice advertising campaign.

Election results for the Texas Rice Council board of directors were announced at the meeting. Jack Wendt of Richmond was elected president; B.E. Jeter of Alvin, secretary-treasurer, along with vice presidents Harry Hafernick of Edna and Donald Gaus of Hamshire.

Newly elected to the Texas Rice Council board of directors were Bob Cook Jr. of Eagle Lake and Kenneth Danklefs of Garwood, both representing Colorado County, and Loy Sneary of Bay City.

Other board members from this area include Herbert E. Engstrom of Garwood, Colorado County, Dan Gertson of Lissie, Wharton County and Charles Boettcher of East Bernard, Wharton County.

Streets proposed for work can 't be specific

Which streets will be worked on if voters approve the Street and Drainage bond issue when they go to the polls on April 5th? According to city officials the answer to that question includes a list of possibilities, but nothing is definite. That because if the bond question on the ballot included specific streets, by law the city would not be able to change its mind.

While city manager Bob Klockman and city crewmen have prepared a list that includes 6.77 miles of streets, the actual streets to be worked on, and the amount of work to be done, will depend on the price of the work when it is bid by contractors. Also, council may have further instructions on which streets are chosen. There has been nothing specific released about drainage work that may be done when streets are repaired.

Here is the street list as presented to council last week:

Streets	Size (ft) W	Size (ft) L	Treatment (sq. yd) Seal	Overlay	Reconst.
Hubbard Ferry	14	1,700		2,644	2,644
West A St.	14	1,550		2,411	2,411
Hanley St.	18	950		1,900	1,900
Simmons St.	18	850		1,700	1,700
State (Beaks 3013)	24	1,712	4,565	4,565	
Railroad St.	21	1,259	2,938	2,938	
Campbell Drive	17	657	1,241	1,241	
Clipson Road	21	641	1,496		
Austin St.	23	1951	4,986	4,986	
Clark AVe.	20	821	1,824		
Waverly Ave.	24	3,555	9,480	4,500	
Conner Ave.	21	2,300	5,367	2,600	
Main St.	22	2,548	6,228	6,228	
Walnut (from Stockbridge to Prairie)	25	840	2,333	2,333	
Stockbridge (from McCarty to Walnut)	30	483	1,610	1,610	
Maple	19	1,056	2,229		
Fairview	15	1,375	2,292		
Glen Flora	30	2,047	6,823		
Laughlin	17	1,848	3,491		
Virnau	17	385	727		
Willow	30	1,056	3,520		
Melody Lane	30	1,056	3,520		
Heritage	20	792	1,760		
Ridglea	19	528	1,115		
McCarty (from Prairie to Waverly)	25	1,700	4,722	2,400	
Lake	23	2,110	5,392	2,600	
TOTAL		77,660	46,887	8,656	
Mileage		6.77			

State Capitol Highlights

Governor orders hiring freeze for state agencies

Embattled Gov. Mark White may be the man in the center of the public's eye, but the most innovative man in state government may be Comptroller Bob Bullock.

White moves around the field a lot to get media attention, but not all of it goes as planned — like last week when he ordered a hiring freeze for state agencies, then the next day began advertising for a $25,000-a-year aide for himself.

Bullock, on the other hand, has lots of ideas which no one else seems to think of. After warning that state layoffs may be necessary to balance the budget, he surveyed his own employees to see whether any were willing to cut their hours and salary by one day a week. Beats getting fired into the streets.

"He (Bullock) was just flat serious about making budget cuts. We're leaving no stone unturned," his press aide said.

Makes you wonder how the Democratic primary might be turning out if Bullock had run for governor against White this year.

"White's new math"

The prediction of state layoffs came in a report prepared by Bullock's staff entitled "The New Math of the Governor's Budget Plan," a title which some might think indicates a little scorn by Bullock's staff for the amateurism on White's staff.

At the bottom line, the leaked report predicted that White's plan could have as little as $100 million and $557 million at best. The State's looking at a $1.3 billion shortfall unless the estimate is revised, up or down.

To reach $1.3 billion, staff layoffs would be necessary, and the city most impacted, of course, would be Austin.

White in Washington

In Washington, where he prepared to take the Texas budget case to the feds, White responded there is "always a chicken little out there who says that something can't be done." If you're beginning to detect some professional competitiveness between White and Bullock camps, perhaps it's there.

White attended a National Governor's Association meeting and took the offensive by seeking a meeting between President Reagan and other oil state governors.

White wants the feds to impose a tariff on imported oil to stabilize the Texas oil market and stop the loss of state revenues.

Bipartisan plea?

White wants Reagan to back the tariff which has been proposed by U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

He also asked the Republicans in the Texas congressional delegation and the three GOP candidates seeking to unseat him to pursuade Reagan to levy the import tax.

When world oil prices slumped below $14 a barrel last week, some Texas producers started shutting down wells rather than compete.

White didn't say, but he might ask Reagan privately to help along a $55 million windfall to Texas this summer by pushing approval of a state-federal pact to divide $2.1 billion in overcharge fines. Texas could use the money right about then.

Wall Street Q & A

Then, White was off to Wall Street next, where he expected to boost investor confidence in Texas.

The state's leadership wants to speed up diversification of the state economy and rely less on unpredictable oil revenues, which contribute to about 13 percent of the state budget.

Bullock says the fastest growing industry in the state is services, which is hardly taxed at all.

The next Legislature will surely restructure the state's tax base to new industries, but some say the overhaul will take four to six years, given the historical pace of pushing new ideas past lawmakers.

Other highlights

Other highlights of the Capitol week included:

•State Sen. Buster Brown was disqualified from the Texas Attorney General's race by the Texas Supreme Court.

The High Court ruled Brown voted for an increase in the AG's salary last year, and that the Legislature could not override a Constitutional prohibition of a candidate seeking an office which he had just voted a pay raise.

•Hundreds of sign-waving teachers met on the Capitol lawn to protest the HB 72 school reforms pushed by Mark White.

•Kent Hance, GOP candidate for governor, sent out a letter asking for $100,000 in contributions, admitting he needs to buy TV ads to stay alive in the race. Hance said he stands to lose critical time slots on April TV without the funds.

•The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a legal challenge to the controversial no-pass, no-play reform, thereby backing up the Texas Supreme Court's earlier ruling. The plaintiffs, Houston area parents and students, will continue the legal fight in a Houston state court.

Doesn't think 3rd Grade at ELMS good idea

Letter to Editor

To the Editor:

I read the article in the paper about next year's third graders going to the Middle School in the fall. I do not think children that young should be at the Middle School.

Also, with the third graders going there this fall, they will still either need a portable brought over from the Primary School, or a new one built at the Middle School to help accommodate them. If this is true, why can't another be put on the Primary School's property? Why must they go to the Middle School?

Children today seem to copy their peers, I see that from the fourth graders at the Middle School already. Youngsters trying to grow up too fast. I really feel that they are too young to be there also. I believe children should have more time to act like children. You always hear adults telling youngsters, "Act your age," when the youngsters are really trying to do just that. I don't feel they should be with the older ones, as they are then expected to behave as the older ones should.

It would really be nice to see the fourth graders at the Primary School too. But I feel the school board should at least leave the school as it is. Let our young ones be young and enjoy their youth. Once they grow up, they can never go back and be young again. Let's not rush their youth so fast.

And since you have a pre-kindergarten starting next fall, add a building for them at the Primary School, do not send the third graders to Middle School.

Thank you,
A concerned parent
of a second grader

Three teachers recently retired were honored Saturday night at the sixth annual Black Heritage banquet in Columbus. From left are Dorothy and Willie Fitzgerald, Annie Mae Hargrave who presented the awards, and Lucille Chase. Above right, George Bratcher delivers a salute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. See story on Page One.

Dr. Russell Thomas named to 2nd health planning group

Dr. Russell Thomas has been appointed to a second committee created because of public health care law changes adopted by the 69th Texas Legislature.

According to a letter Feb. 11 from the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments, Dr. Thomas was unanimously approved for invitation to membership of the H-GAC Health Planning Advisory Committee. The vote was made during the board's January meeting.

Dr. Thomas already is chairman of the Colorado County indigent obstetrical care committee formed by county commissioners to advise them on matters pertaining to payment for obstetrical care for financially impoverished local residents. Local funding of such care also is a part of the new legislation, and is becoming even more necessary since the state-supported John Sealy Hospital in Galveston has been refusing to care for such patients.

According to Jack Gazelle, director of special projects for HGAC, S.B. 1 adopted by the legislature delineates certain responsibilities for county governments; implementation of the county programs must begin by Sept. 1 of this year. Additionally, two health programs (Maternal and Infant Health Improvement Act and Texas Primary Health Care Act) were designed to complement the overall provision of health care to the poor.

In his letter to Dr. Thomas, Gazelle wrote, "Governor Mark White has requested that Regional Health Planning Advisory Committees assume certain responsibilities in the implementation of the indigent health care programs." It is just such a committee to which Dr. Thomas was appointed.

The Colorado County committee that Dr. Thomas chairs should make its advisory recommendations to county commissioners by early this summer. Counties must set aside up to 10 percent of their budget to pay for local health care for indigents, and they need to develop local guidelines for implementation of that program. The county committee met in January and is seeking comments and recommendations from physicians and hospitals in the county.

Other members of that committee, appointed by county judge Lester Cranek, are Jack Harrell, administrator of Eagle Lake Community Hospital, Steve Smith, administrator of Columbus Community Hospital; Jane Rouse, administrator of the Colorado-Fayette Medical Center in Weimar; Dr. Robert Youens of Weimar; Bernice Richter, RN, Colorado County health nurse; Yvonne Wagner, RN, in charge of obstetrical care for the Columbus hospital, Dyann Lauzon, RN, director of nursing for the Columbus hospital, and Susan Rogers, secretary to judge Cranek.

Sadie and Tom Eaton celebrate golden anniversary

Sadie and Tom Eaton of California, former residents of the Rock Island and Sheridan area, were honored with a party by their nieces, Jo Callahan and Gloria Calvin, on their golden wedding anniversary February 22 in Sacramento, Ca.

A buffet dinner was served at seven o'clock followed by cake and champagne. Sadie and Tom cut the cake while Jo and Gloria served it to the guests. Earl Gilcrease, who served as best man at their wedding, proposed a toast to the couple. Earl also is a former resident of Rock Island.

The dancing began with Tom and Sadie leading the grand march.

Sadie and Tom were married February 22, 1936 in Columbus, Texas. They moved to California in 1939 where Tom became a member of Operating Engineers Union Local No. 3 in Sacramento, California. He worked as a heavy duty equipment operator until his retirement in 1964. Sadie worked for Campbell Soup for eleven years and later was employed with California Almond Growers until she retired in 1977.

Fifty-three guests helped celebrate this special event, including two nieces and two nephews from Texas, Lenora and Leonard Schlueter, a pleasant surprise for the couple. Also Evelyn and Gene Selph from Houston attended.

Sadie and Tom Eaton

birthday February 24. Approximately 25 friends gathered at her home after school to play games and enjoy the warm sunshine outside. Chocolate and strawberry cakes were served along with chips and punch by her mother, Mrs. Vickie Ashley.

Wayne Rabel spent the weekend here visiting with his parents and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rabel and Mr. and Mrs. Lorrance Johnson.

Mrs. Nettie Fitch moved from Sheridan to Robstown to be near her daughter.

DeWight and DeWayne Dopslauf were in Houston at the livestock show. DeWayne entered three commercial steers and DeWight showed a scramble heifer.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Townsend returned from Alberque, New Mexico where they attended the funeral of Harry's brother, Archie Townsend. Get well wishes are extended to Harry, who has a bad case of pneumonia since returning home. He is in the Weimar hospital. His daughter, Dixie, from Jasper is here helping care for her father.

The First Baptist Church has accepted the resignation of Pastor Robert Hessong. In a regular scheduled business meeting February 12, a majority of the members voted to accept his resignation which was dated January 15.

In the absence of a pastor, the church continues with regular worship services, Sunday school and training union. Friendship Fellowship also will continue.

A Southern Baptist supply minister will fill the pulpit for each service. Best wishes are extended to the former pastor and his family.

At noon March 2, churches throughout the state rang their bells 150 times in observance of Texas' 150th anniversary. The churches will ring their bells again on Monday, April 21. Chris Jackson and Justin Kutzer, both young members of the church, were appointed and excitedly accepted the chore of ringing the bell at the Baptist Church.

Sheridan News

By Velma Kutzer

Glenn Persons, of Fredricksburg, visited with his grandmother, Mrs. Abbie Schilhab last Friday.

Mrs. Vickie Ashley and Kellie, along with Vickie's sister, Jean Kribes of Bloomington, spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Graham. They were there to attend the wedding of a cousin.

Get well wishes are extended to Harry Townsend who is a patient in the Weimar hospital.

Mrs. J.B. Ross and Mrs. Melissa Leopold of Hallettsville spent Friday in Houston visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Swearingson and children. The children returned to Sheridan with Mrs. Ross to spend the weekend with their grandparents.

Mrs. Bea Criswell is some what better and has been moved from the hospital to Stevens Nursing Home in Hallettsville.

Funeral services were held from the First Baptist Church for Mrs. Bessie Briscoe Shook of Houston, Mrs. Shook was born and raised in the Sheridan area and had reached the age of 88. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jule Briscoe. Survivors are daughters, Mrs. Bessie Downs and Mrs. Beluah Dickerson, both of Houston and a son, Joe Shook of Odessa and a number of grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Rev. Bernie Helge conducted the services with burial in the Cheatham Cemetery where Mrs. Shook was placed to rest beside her husband. Sympathy is extended to the family in the loss of their loved one.

Kelly Jean Ashley was honored with a party celebrating her 10th

About town...

•Mr. Albert wants to publicly thank everyone who wished him a happy birthday and sent him cards.

•The KC's will sponsor a fried chicken dinner this Sunday at Didner Hall beginning at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are $3.25 each.

•The youth at United Methodist Church are sponsored their annual fish fry and pie auction this Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

•The city began it's large garbage pickup this Wednesday, March 5. On the first Wednesday of each month, garbage will be picked up west of Lake and on the second Wednesday of each month, garbage will be picked up east of Lake.

•Monday, March 10 is a holiday for the school children in Rice CISD for a teacher in-service.

•There will be a Multimedia Instructors First Aid course will be offered by the American Red Cross this Saturday, March 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Bend Service Center, 611 Jackson, Richmond. Anyone interested in taking this course, that have certain standard certificates, may call Joe H. McCreary, Colorado County first aid chairman, at 234-3836.

•The Eagle Lake Lions Club will hold it's annual Mop and Broom Sale this Thursday, March 6 at the Municipal Building.

•Mr. and Mrs. Simon S. White Jr. were here to spend the weekend with his mother, Mrs. Annie Margaret White, and to celebrate his birthday. Simon was born and raised in Eagle Lake and it gives his old friends pleasure to meet him again and have a nice old timey visit. He spent more than 30 years in the Air Force but has retired and now is living in Austin.

Elizabeth Young is recipient of Bausch & Lomb science award

Mary Elizabeth Young, daughter of Fred and Mary Young of Eagle Lake, has been named winner of the annual Bausch and Lomb Science Award at Rice High School. The science award - a handsome bronze medal - is presented each year to winners at more than 8,800 participating schools throughout the United States and Canada.

"The Bausch and Lomb Science Award is especially significant," according to D.R. Wright, academic counselor for Rice High School, "because it recognizes the junior student at our school who has attained the highest scholastic standing in science subjects."

As winner of the science award, Elizabeth is eligible for one of several four-year Bausch and Lomb science scholarships at the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. Scholarship winners are selected on merit, with stipends based on need. Surveys indicate that the science award encourages more than 30 percent of the winners to follow scientific careers.

Bausch and Lomb, with headquarters in Rochester, New York, is a world-wide manufacturer of vision care products, biomedical products and services, and precision optical devices for scientific use.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

REAL ESTATE DEEDS

Deed, Oscar Forteson to J.B. Forteson, east 1/2 of lots 15 and 16, block 5, city of Columbus; 2-14-86.

Gift Deed, Emilia Dreitner to Henry James Dreitner, tract of land, H. Austin Five League Grant; 2-14-86.

Deed, Henry J. Hajovsky, et ux, to Richard and Maria Lourdez Alfaro, lot 17, Hajovsky Subdivision, W.B. Dewees League; 2-18-86.

Deed, Marvin Tesch, et ux, to John Carey, et ux, 20 acres, South J.B. Fenn Survey; 2-15-86.

Deed, Norberto Maia Jr. to Frank Resendez Jr., et ux, 4.9069 acres, Nicholas Kelly Survey; 2-17-86.

Deed, Frank Resendez Jr., et ux, to Diane L. Killion, 4.9069 acres, Nicholas Kelly Survey and 4.9970 acres, Nicholas Kelly Survey; 2-18-86.

Deed, Michael Scott Zukywich, et ux, to George R. Zukywich, et ux, 18.276 acres, James Wilkerson Survey; 2-7-86.

Deed, Henry A. Kennedy, et ux, to Gary W. Harlstack, et al, 1.233 acres, John Hadden League and 1.033 acres, John Hadden League; 1-10-86.

Deed, Davis Gindler, et al, to Lola E. Arnold, lot 6, block 152, town of Weimar; 1-31-86.

Deed, Darvin J. Bass, et ux, to Joseph F. Rock, et ux, 17 acres, John Cassady Survey; 1-19-86.

Deed, Laura Ann Rau to Raymond Frank Rau, 1.028 acres, James Cummins League; 2-6-86.

Deed, Raymond Frank Rau to Earl W. Pitchford, et ux, 0.945 acre, James Cummins League, 1.028 acres, James Cummins League and 16.739 acres, James Cummins League; 2-20-86.

Deed, A.A. Marik to Justine F. Marik-Toome, 19.351 acres, Jno. Dunlavy Survey; 2-14-86.

OIL, GAS LEASES

Carolyn Y. Wilson to EP Operating Company, 249 acres and 97.13 acres, James Nelson League; 1-28-86.

Fan Hope Bullock to EP Operating Company, 22.86 acres, James Nelson League; 1-23-86.

Victor J. Leopold, et al, to TXO Production Corp., 76.36 acres, James Cummins Survey; 12-31-85.

E.J. Gracey to TXO Production Corp., 150 acres; 9-23-85.

Lawrence C. Ahlgrim, et ux, to TXO Production Corp., 76.36 acres, James Cummins Survey; 12-18-85.

Elizabeth W. Redmond, et ux, to TXO Production Corp., 10 acres, John E. Hester Survey; 1-20-86.

Richard W. Henry, et al, to Black Stone Oil Company, certain tract of land, John E. Hester Survey; 10-28-85.

Thurman E. Brune to Isaac Arnold Jr., tract of land, S.J. Redgate Survey; 2-5-86.

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WHY A SPACE MAINTAINER?
A primary tooth (sometimes called a "baby" tooth), normally stays in place until the permanent tooth is ready to replace it. If your child's tooth is lost too soon, your dentist may recommend inserting a "space maintainer" to hold the space open until the permanent tooth can erupt in the proper position.
If a space maintainer is not used, your child can have a number of problems. Over a period of time, the teeth on either side often drift into the empty space. Then, when it is time for the permanent tooth to come in, there is not enough room. This is one cause of malocclusion or "crooked teeth". If teeth drift and become crooked, plaque will be hard to remove. This can result in severe tooth decay, and will contribute to periodontal (gum) disease.
Prevention of malocclusion caused by early loss of a primary tooth is simple. On the other hand, if nothing is done to maintain the open space, the resulting crooked teeth could lead to more complicated and expensive orthodontic treatment.
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