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Airport solution may not be *ttttt*that *ttttt*tough

By John Fearing
For how many months now has Eagle Lake talked about its Municipal Airport? We even have taken some action.

And, unquestionably, the town that many said was the heart of the silent majority, has (and still is) spoken up. No matter what the future holds, my respect for my neighbors has increased. It is not easy to be as vocal as we have been, while at the same time retain the relative harmony we enjoy. Sure, there are those at opposite ends of the spectrum; but as far as I know, we still are on speaking terms.

My view is that if there isn't some issue to make us sit up and pay attention, we likely will mold away into oblivion.

So, where are we now?
Our elected officials, knowing without being told again and again about representing all the people, are talking about possible solutions. Rather than ignore an issue because one alternative financing method was vetoed by the majority, they are spending their time seeking a solution that might please the majority. Is that possible? Reading between the

lines of comments floating about, I'd say it is. But, that solution has to keep from raising taxes, while at the same time improving the city's flight-related possibilities.

Consider if you will what we face. Believe it or not, some have said that if the city even buys Joe Newton Frazier's land and holds it for future needs, they will seek a recall petition. That means we would be thrown into another local election.

Fortunately, I don't think anyone on council is backing off simply because a threat has been leveled. I do believe in the constitutional interpretation of the evils of "prior restraint." Councilmen Hollah, elected last month, publicly supports airport improvement, and the other councilmen, long before the election, said they favored airport improvements. To my knowledge none have changed their mind in public.

Since there stands to be two losers here, Frazier and the city, nothing is done, and since that probably is the most likely solution, let me toss this idea

into the ring, and see if we can't come up with a compromise. (Remember, in Olympic scoring the highest and lowest scores are tossed out, so too am I tossing out the possibility at one end of the scale that we spend \$250,000 on the project, and at the other end, the opinion of those who say the whole project ought to be plowed up for a hay meadow.)

Attack the problem from a business standpoint to see if it can pay for itself, then use a little creative financing. If there isn't enough money available to simply do the job (a dangerous assumption in itself since it never would have cost anywhere near \$250,000 in the first place), how else can it be financed?

Joe, if your ground isn't sold, how long will it take, by putting the land to other use, to make \$80,000 clear, factoring in the interest you would lose by not having the cash in one lump sum? The answer probably is: longer than you or my two year old will ever live. So, how about working out an arrangement where you become the super good guy, and still add some green stuff to your account? Work up a lease-

purchase option with the city, starting with low front-end payments that increase. The contract should be for more than 20 years, and the city should have the option of buying out at any time. Before it takes possession, the city would have to provide access for vehicles and water as previously negotiated. Materials for that work are available and in-kind labor is standing by.

The city has to consider that if the city expands the

airport, they would buy some of the land and build hangar space I would even bet a c-note that a fixed-base operator could be found, once that businessman understood what Goose Hunting means to Eagle Lake. Let's find those men, and have them put their signature to a what-if document. (What if the city obtains the land... what if the runway is extended in a certain time, would you... That type of thing.)

For one thing, it would end the chants of the distant-spectrum nay-sayers who kept tacking dollars onto the tax bond proposal until the figure got so big it blinded the voters.

It's worth consideration. It takes compromise that Americans have the freedom to exercise. And, it reflects the kind of community we are... self preservationists who care about our hometown.

not, and the public would understand what it means to their pocketbook.

From that, the city would know whether it could afford it or not.



CUTE LITTLE FELLAH, ISNT HE?

Speaking up for Dan Buie

To the Editor:

From county commissioner to the office of Governor, people are running for public office like never before. The number of candidates exists no doubt because of the public anger with the present state of affairs in Texas and the officeholders who are responsible for it.

In the state representative race, five candidates are running in the Democratic primary this Saturday, but it appears the race is quickly narrowing to two: the incumbent, Robert Saunders, and the man I am supporting, Dan Buie. Both are fine, personable gentlemen. Both

Letter to the Editor

are men you would want to have as a best friend. However, I have had the unique opportunity to observe the work of both up in Austin, and I feel it is appropriate to say why I cannot support the incumbent, and instead am supporting his main challenger.

Last spring I worked in the legislative for a representative from Houston. In that position I had the opportunity to observe the work of Representative

Saunders and many other representatives. Granted, the overall caliber of most members of the legislature is not high, and Austin, and I feel it is appropriate to say why I cannot support the incumbent, and instead am supporting his main challenger.

Like the others, he did not do his homework, especially on education (to which teachers from Columbus and Sealy can attest), and the overall caliber and level of his work I found lacking. And this I had already decided before he was tagged as one of the worst legislators by Texas Monthly.

During the same time I came to know Dan Buie, who lobbied the legislature on behalf of programs affecting the Greater Austin Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, of which he is director. I also know Dan from Democratic party meetings I attended on Saturday mornings. Dan was smart, articulate and personable, his words were well thought out. And he put in the hours.

When he asked me to help in his campaign, I quickly said yes. As I wrote in the Headlight last spring, a representative earns only \$7,200 a year, but if they want the job and the public trust that goes with it, there is no reason why they shouldn't do it well. They should be informed on the issues, put in the hours, and vote for all the people they represent, not just the Austin lobbyists.

Texas is going through some rough changes. Now more than ever, there is great need for hard workers, informed opinions and articulate spokesmen in our state legislature. It is time for a representative from District 30 to bring these qualities to the legislature and improve the caliber of that body in doing so. It is time, I believe, for Dan Buie.

Tom Reed

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RE-ELECT SAUNDERS REPRESENTATIVE

VOTE FOR Experienced, Effective Leadership.

VOTE ROBERT SAUNDERS for State Representative in the May 3rd Democratic Primary.

The Saunders family wants your vote.

Robert Saunders Richard Matt Johnson

For Adv. Pub. by C.L. Saunders, Texas, 5502 S. College, La Grange, Texas 77945.

Light voter turnouts expected across state for primary election

By LYNDELLE WILLIAMS

Texas Press Association

Three days prior to primary Election Day, both parties expected light voter turnouts, that could possibly make runoff necessary in the gubernatorial nominations.

Polis indicate that former Gov. Bill Clements may squeak by in the Republican primary without a runoff, but the race for second place has remained too close to call between Tom Loeffler and Kent Hance.

In the Democratic primary, Gov. Mark White's support has been slipping for weeks. However, White's campaign still predicts no runoff will be needed.

But Democratic challenger Don Crowder, who has collected formal support from thousands of educators and state employees in the final weeks, said the light voter turnout will increase the impact of the anti-Mark White protest vote and benefit him and Andy Briscoe.

Teachers' vow
Of all the opposition groups, teachers have the most at stake. They have publicly vowed to teach Mark White a lesson, singling him out as the man who broke promises to them when he

State Capitol Highlights

Ted Robertson, James Wallace, Sears McGee and Franklin Spears attended.

Some of the weekend expenses were paid for by Editor At the time of the ball, Edwards still had four personal-injury cases pending before the court.

Later, Justices Ray, Robertson, Spears and Wallace voted for the attorney's position in all those cases.

At question is whether the justices violated the spirit of keeping an "arms length" relationship with lawyers with cases pending.

Attorney general
Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox announced his office was awarded a federal grant to track down parents who cross state lines to avoid making child-support payments.

Mattox will use the \$2.3 million grant to establish a national computer system, the first of its kind, to track down those who neglect.

He said Texas, California and Florida have the highest number of cases.

Title insurance savings
The State Board of Insurance last week advised homeowners who are refinancing mortgages as interest rates continue to fall that a current SBI rule may entitle them to a substantial reduction in their title insurance premiums.

Insurance Board members said many property owners who have refinanced loans which are no more than four years old may take advantage of the rule. In some instances, the rule may save the borrower up to 80 percent of the usual title insurance premium.

Mark Gentile, SBI assistance director of title insurance, said he has been receiving complaints from homeowners who were denied the refinancing credit although they clearly qualify.

Disputes concerning calculations of premiums should be referred to Gentile at the State Board of Insurance, Dept. C, 1110 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, 78701-1998.

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Political Advertisement paid for by Sonny Spaniel Committee, Charlyne Spaniel, Treasurer, P.O. Box 96, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

County Courthouse Report

REAL ESTATE DEEDS

Gift Deed, Elmer H. Larsen to Elmer H. Larsen Jr., et al, all my undivided right, title and interest in and to 97.5 acres, Allen Wynn Survey, 4-18-86.

Gift Deed, Florence L. Zajick to Robert A. Zajick, et al, undivided interest in two tracts of land, John Gillespie One-Third Lease, et al and L. Beason One-Third Lease, et al, 0.345 acres, James Cummins Lease and 0.192 acres, James Cummins Lease, 4-15-86.

Deed, Earl W. Pichford, et al, to Raymon E. Hopkins, et al, 4 acres, James Cummins Lease, 4-15-86.

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