

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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State Ethics Commission issues opinion

An opinion regarding the conduct of state officials rendered by the Texas Ethics Commission last week was hailed by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's staff but was downplayed by the Travis County District Attorney's office.

Reacting publicly first, attorney Michael Tigar interpreted the Ethics Commission opinion as favorable to his client, Hutchison. She is under investigation by a Travis County Grand Jury for the alleged misuse of state employees and equipment for personal and political purposes while serving as state treasurer between 1990 and 1993, and for allegedly destroying state records in an attempted cover-up.

But Steve McCleery, first assistant district attorney, said the allegations "go way beyond the kind of conduct permitted" under the opinion and that the opinion would not damage the grand jury investigation or affect the prosecution's case against the senator.

John Steiner, executive director of the Ethics Commission, said Hutchison's attorneys had misread the opinion.

Hutchison spokesman David Beckwith rejected McCleery's remarks and maintained that the opinion undermines the prosecution's case.

The opinion concludes that in some cases, an elected official may have employees keep track of political and personal appointments as part of a daily schedule, according to a breaking story in *The Dallas Morning*.

State Capitol Highlights
By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Also the opinion said that in some cases, employees may work on state time and use state equipment to handle financial contributions to a politician's officeholder account.

Commenting on the opinion, Tigar was quoted as saying, "It means if a state elected official happens to use a state computer to keep their schedule so that they can more effectively perform the job they were elected to do, that's not a crime."

"And careful record keeping, as between campaign and officeholder funds, insulates you from being charged with even an ethical violation, let alone a crime."

The opinion was issued at the request of an unidentified state legislator. At the request of defense attorneys, prosecutors allowed grand jurors to study the opinion.

Perry to Seek Second Term
Rick Perry, the state's first Republican agriculture commissioner, announced plans last week to seek a second term.

Saying he fulfilled his 1990 campaign promises, Perry said he wants to concentrate in the next four years on

processing more Texas commodities in the state.

Perry, who in 1990 defeated two-term incumbent Jim Hightower, said he is one of the few state officials to trim his agency's budget and staff.

A native of Haskell, Perry, 43, holds an animal science degree from Texas A&M University. The former Democrat served three terms in the Texas House.

Perry said he has cleaned up the agency, trimmed his staff from nearly 620 employees to about 550 and reduced its budget, he said the agency returned \$250,000 to the treasury this year.

GOP Judge Seeks AG Post
State District Judge Don Wittig of Houston announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for Texas attorney general.

Wittig, 52, is challenging fellow state district judge Pat Lykos also of Houston and John Marshall of Dallas, in the March 8 GOP primary.

The winner is expected to face incumbent Dan Morales who announced his reelection bid last week. He is yet unopposed in the Democratic primary.

Hunter Names Top Staff
State Insurance Commissioner J. Robert Hunter has hired two members of Attorney Dan Morales' staff to fill top positions at the Texas Department of Insurance.

Edna Ramon Butts, who served two months as interim commissioner this fall, and Mary Keller were named senior associate commissioners. Butts will handle the department's administrative operations and Keller will oversee legal operations. The third senior commissioner will be named later.

Don't worry about avoiding temptation... as you grow older, it starts avoiding you.
—The Old Farmer's Almanac

Political Announcements

Spanihel seeks reelection as Colorado County Commissioner

Leon (Sonny) Spanihel of Eagle Lake has filed for reelection to a third term in his office as Colorado County Commissioner Precinct 4.

Spanihel said his constituents have had opportunity to judge his performance in the position of commissioner for seven years. He wants to continue to work in the best interest of all of Precinct 4 in cooperation with the other county commissioners on the court for the benefit of all citizens of the county.

Spanihel represents the county on the board of directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments and on its Project Review Board.

As a representative of Colorado County, he was a charter member of the Rio Grande Regional Mental Health Board and continues to serve on the board. He is also on the county's Airport Advisory Board.

Many improvements in the operation of Precinct 4 are a source of pride to Spanihel. He is seeking the support of citizens for reelection in the March 8 Democratic Primary. Spanihel hopes to continue to serve the citizens of Colorado County and Precinct 4 in particular.



Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

April 10, 1969
There were 349 voters in Saturday's city elections. Allen D. Cassidy won his unopposed mayor's election to fill the one-year unexpired term... Eagle Lake's city council will have R.L. Cook back for another term along with Alvin W. Kohlfelt and Glenn Lockie.

May 17, 1945
Cp. Chester Glaiser arrived in Eagle Lake early Thursday from a nine month stay in the Italian Theatre of war with the Mountain Division... Captain W.B. Hinton, Jr., who left his duties as head coach of the Eagle Lake football team for the Army Air Corps shortly after America entered the war, is home on leave and expects his final discharge this fall. The *Headlight* learned this week that Hinton will return to football coaching the Sealy High School team for the 1945-46 season.

The rumbling of war, which began for the United States with the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, after three years and eight months of the United Nations Tuesday evening. At 6 p.m. Central War Time, Pres. Harry S. Truman announced simultaneously with other allied executives that the government of Japan had accepted the terms of surrender.

Mr. & Mrs. R.F. Spanihel and daughters, Grace Marie and Delores, entertained with a chicken dinner Monday evening to mark Grace Marie's vacation here from duties with Radio Station KXYZ at Houston.

Pvt. Roy Stallman, son of Mr. & Mrs. G.F. Stallman of Garwood, has been transferred from Fort Hood in Texas to Raleigh, N.C., Gardner Seaholm, pharmacist mate 2-c, left Sunday to return to his Naval Base in Yorktown, Va.

Staff Sgt. Dick Janik of the Marines, left East Bernard Sunday to return to camp in California after a visit with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. R. Janik and other relatives... Pvt. Harold Grasshoff writes his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Grasshoff that he has been transferred to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Mrs. C.E. Eyrill Sr. joined her daughter, Miss Marjorie Eyrill, in Houston Wednesday for a trip to Fort Springs, Ark. for a couple of weeks... Sgt. Hugh Sheridan of Hondo Army Air Field was here Wednesday to see his wife and infant daughter, Janie Lee, who are in Laughlin Hospital... L.L. Ernest Franka leaves today for Llaneta, Colo., after a visit with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Fred G. Franka... Rev. J.W. Griffin and Mrs. John Chumney were in Austin Wednesday to attend a Methodist district staff meeting.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Putney of Houston spent the Victory holiday with his mother, Mrs. Maggie Putney and family... Lester Miculka left Tuesday for Fort Benning, Ga., after a 12 day furlough with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. August Miculka of Matheas.

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Items for Your Medicine Cabinet

Pharmacists get asked questions about which items should be stored in the home medicine cabinet. Most medicine cabinets are crammed full of things that are outdated or are no longer useful. Talk to us about which items should be thrown away and how to safely dispose of them. Families may need to keep some or all of the following medicines:

Ipecac syrup is essential if there are small children in the household. Ipecac causes vomiting and may be lifesaving if certain poisons are swallowed.

Topical antibiotic ointment helps fight against infection when the skin is broken or cut. Ask us for help in selecting a single or multiple ingredient product.

Pain relievers include aspirin, ibuprofen, and acetaminophen. Each has its own advantages.

Hydrocortisone is a topical medicine that helps reduce inflammation and itching that occurs with skin problems and hemorrhoids.

Depending on the ages and specific needs of family members, the home medicine cabinet should contain other items. These may include a fever thermometer, tweezers, bandages, and antiseptics. Seasonal items include sunscreens, insect repellants, and cold medicines.

Letters to Editor Policy

The *Eagle Lake Headlight* will accept reasonable length letters for publication in the Letters to the Editor column under the following guidelines:

1. Letters should not be more than 1,500 characters.
2. All letters must include the writer's name printed as well as the writer's signature, and include the writer's address and home and work telephone numbers. The *Headlight* must be able to reach the writer in person before the letter can be published.
3. The writer may request their name be withheld from publication, but the information mentioned in Paragraph No. 2 must be included for our files.
4. Letters about political activity will be published but those which mention candidates will be considered advertising and charged at the regular advertising rate.
5. Letters from political candidates opposing a political view, will be considered republication but the writer's name will not be printed unless the writer pays the retail advertising rate.
6. The newspaper reserves the right to apply fairness standards in withholding any letter from publication, and to edit letters for libel protection.

Rev. David Mann called to tell us Elizabeth Bothe went to Houston Monday for a checkup and the doctor decided she needed to stay for a few days. She is in Memorial Southwest Hospital and will probably be there through the weekend. We're sure she would welcome a cheering note or card from friends.

We will miss her report on the museum happenings for a few weeks while she is resting during the holidays.

Bob Stallman elected TFB president

Colorado County was represented by 21 voting delegates at the Texas Farm Bureau annual convention Nov. 28 in San Antonio.

During the three day convention, 1,300 delegates from all over the state adopted policies directing the state's largest farm organization. They represented 211 organized Farm Bureaus.

Bob Stallman of Columbus was elected the TFB president for the coming year.

Featured speakers for the meeting were William Perry Pendley of Mountain States Legal Foundation, TFB Pres. S.M. True of Plainview; TFB secretary Billie Ray Huddleston of Celina; and TFB executive director Vernie Glasston.

The American Farm Bureau Federation will hold its annual meeting Jan. 9-13 in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



Delegates to the Texas Farm Bureau convention in San Antonio Nov. 28 from Colorado County pictured in the front row above, from the left, are Jimmie Faye Schilling, Verna Nell Dittmar, Connie Stallman, Louise Brunner and LaVerne Heffley. Standing behind them are L.D. Schilling, Leon Dittmar, Bob Stallman, Ted Brunner and Roy Heffley.



Coastal rice water quality project reports findings

Rice producers in coastal Texas who volunteered for a two year water quality project have found better management practices do make a difference. Farmers in Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda Counties participated in the project.

The water quality research project was administered through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Service. They found that better management practices not only helped farmers control potential non-point source pollution but also helped to slightly reduce costs.

Three sites were involved in the study. In 1993 the size of these fields ranged from 78 to 152 acres. "The goals were to get more rice and use less water," said Gary McCauley, soil physics and rice irrigation specialist with TAES in Beaumont. "These methods allow for better control of water quality and conservation by moving water on and off rice fields as quickly as possible."

The basic methods in the study provided for more frequent irrigation at lower rates. The potential nonpoint source pollution was reduced because producers were better able to monitor the nutrient and chemical content of the water at the lower volumes. It allowed farmers to ensure that runoff water content was harmless before draining the fields.

Farmers using best management practices also benefitted with average yields slightly higher than the overall average across the coastal rice growing region.

According to McCauley, producers' input costs were also slightly reduced by the effective management. Applications of less water cut the cost of irrigation by 20% to 30%. Using less water at greater frequencies enhanced the effectiveness of nitrogen and pesticides so farmers could reduce the cost of applications. They also saved on labor expenses.

Two important practices incorporated in the study were Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and water quality management.

The three counties' Soil and Water Conservation districts coordinated these activities. Services for the project were provided through contracts with the Soil Conservation Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Service and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

"The project has attracted quite a bit of attention from producers and others in the industry," noted Beade Northcutt, engineer with TSSWC. "It has provided evidence that farmers can preserve water quality without compromising yields or incurring economic losses to better management practices."

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

DEEDS
Deed: Garrett Miller, et al to John Gordon Neuse, et al, 7,283 acres, out of the James Tinslinson League, Abstract No. 46; filed 11-5-93.
Deed: Estate of Charles Herder Jr. to Bruce Beal, et al, Lot 8 and west 25 ft. of Lot No. 7, Block No. 27, City of Weimar; 11-5-93.
Deed: Prudential Relocation Management to Craig A. Lind, field notes of a survey of 4,977 acres situated out of the Nicholas Kelly Survey, Abstract No. 373, Colorado Rural Estates, Lot No. 16; 11-5-93.
Deed: Cer-Mor-Leb to County of Colorado, 4.65 acres part of a 125.1425 acre tract in the W.W. Thompson League, Abstract No. A-43; 11-4-93.
Gift Deed: John J. Milligan, et ux to Connie Milligan Graham, 75,411 acres of a 305,411 acre tract in the John E. Holt Survey, Abstract No. 340 and Austin County; 11-8-93.
Deed: KCT Railway Corp. to M Plus Land Company, 100 ft. tract of railroad right-of-way; 11-9-93.
Deed: Mid-South Trust II to Willie Stovall, tract out of the James Earl Survey, in the B.B. & C. and T. & N.O. R.R. Surveys; 11-9-93.
Gift Deed: Sarah Brisco to Jo Ann Brisco, et al, Lot 9 to 16 inclusive, Block 5, Town of Sheridan; 11-9-93.
Gift Deed: H. Lee Davis, et ux to Mitchell L. Davis Sr., und. int. in tracts in Lot No. 9, Subdivision Block No. 70, Town of Columbus, et al; 11-10-93.
Gift Deed: Sheridan Little League Association to Sheridan Park and Recreation Center, Inc., Lots No. 1, 2 and one-half of 3, Block No. 39, Town of Sheridan; 11-10-93.
OIL, GAS & MINERAL LEASES
Estate of A.J. Hunsack Jr. to Royalty Owners Service Inc., 142.52 acres in the George W. Wright Survey, Abstract No. 583; filed 11-9-93.
Myrah Jane Draper to Auburn Enterprises, Inc., 10.0 acres, Tract No. 64 of subdivision of the south J.B. Fenn Survey, Abstract No. 216; 11-10-93.
John B. Carey, et ux to Auburn Enterprises, Inc., 40.0 acres, part of the south J.B. Fenn Survey, Abstract No. 216, designated as Tracts No. 54, 55, 56 and 62 of subdivision, each containing 10 acres; 11-10-93.
Vera Tesch to Auburn Enterprises, Inc., 20.0 acres, Tracts No. 45 and 53 of subdivision of the south J.B. Fenn Survey, Abstract No. 216; 11-10-93.
Estate of Abbie Jay Schillab to Auburn Enterprises, Inc., 10.0 acres, Tract No. 63 of subdivision of the south J.B. Fenn Survey, Abstract No. 216; 11-10-93.
Lorenz Ruckert to Auburn Enterprises, Inc., 30.0 acres, Tracts No. 5, 12 and 13 of subdivision of the south J.B. Fenn Survey, Abstract No. 216; 11-10-93.
Richard R. Gantt to Auburn Enterprises, Inc., 10.0 acres, Tract No. 6 of subdivision of the south J.B. Fenn Survey, Abstract No. 216; 11-10-93.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Michael David Gonzales, 23, and Lydia Isabel Sixtos, 23, both of Columbus.
George F. Schindler Jr., 44, Cat Spring and Patricia Gordy Mangum, 41, Columbus.

Schedule:
Lori Lemons, Eagle Lake, criminal trespass; dismissed.
Michael Earl Anderson, Sealy, DWI; reset.
Artemio Lopez Garza, Houston, DWI; defendant failed to appear. Capias of arrest ordered.
Kymé Zapalac; criminal trespass; defendant failed to appear. Capias of arrest ordered.
Tony Mazloom, Houston, theft by check; defendant failed to appear. Capias of arrest ordered.

DISTRICT COURT CASES FILED
First National Bank of Eagle Lake vs. Inez Charlene Thomas, individual and as independent executor of the Estate of Harold Thomas, et al. On note; filed 11-22-93.

I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation.
—George Bernard Shaw

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