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POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Michalke enters sheriff's race in Colorado County

Ed Michalke, former Texas Department of Public Safety trooper, announced his candidacy for sheriff of Colorado County in the March 1996 Democratic Primary. Born and raised in Weimar, he attended grade school at St. Michael's and graduated from Weimar High School in 1955. He served two years in the United States Army before joining the Texas Department of Public Safety (D.P.S.) in 1959. Michalke is one of a handful of troopers having served in all four uniformed field services of the D.P.S., Drivers License, Motor Vehicle Inspection, Highway Patrol and License & Weight. He has worked in Harris, Galveston, Montgomery, Waller, Austin and Colorado Counties. With over 35 years of law enforcement experience, Michalke stated he has the experience and leadership ability needed to make the Colorado County Sheriff's office one of the best in the state. Michalke, who holds an instructor certification, has trained many D.P.S. troopers in his years with the department; at the D.P.S. Academy in Austin and in the field across the state. He also holds the highest certification in law enforcement, master peace officer's certification, and has over 2,100 hours of certified training. "Courtesy, service and protection of the people of Colorado County will be my top priority," said Michalke. "I want the people of Colorado County to get what they pay for in the sheriff's department. "I have said before, this office needs a big change," he stated. Michalke believes in working with the youth is a step in the right direction. To combat crime, everyone must work together. He is a charter member of the D.P.S. Officers Association, Texas State Troopers Association and Austin County Peace Officers Association. Michalke is past chairman of the Adult Leaders Association of Austin County and served 20 years on the board of directors of the Austin County Fair Association. He is currently a lifetime honorary member of that association. A resident of Weimar, Michalke is married, has three sons and four grandchildren. He is a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Weimar, and is currently chairman of the board of director of the New Belau-Content Community Association. "I want to be your sheriff. I look forward to visiting with as many of you as possible before the Democratic Primary in March. Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated," Michalke concluded.

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El Campo's Seventh Annual CHRISTMAS MALL Saturday, Dec. 2 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. El Campo Civic Center Over 70 booths including area merchants, arts & crafts and more! \*Food & Drink Booths \*Stage Entertainment FREE ADMISSION After shopping, come see the 35-foot Christmas Tree of Lights There will be Entertainment and Santa Claus at Evans Park from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the El Campo Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and the El Campo Main Street Project For information call the Chamber at 409-543-2713

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Hepatitis A: Prevention and Treatment Hepatitis A is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. The primary way people get hepatitis A is from being exposed to the hepatitis virus that usually enters the body by way of the mouth or rectum. Hepatitis A virus attacks the liver and can cause a number of symptoms including loss of appetite, fever, abdominal discomfort, headaches, and changes in taste and smell. Untreated cases may cause darkening of the urine and jaundice (yellowing of the skin). Some people get so sick that they have to be hospitalized. Prevention: The best way to prevent the spread of the virus is to wash your hands properly before eating and after going to the restroom. A new vaccine that protects against hepatitis A recently became available. Adults who benefit the most from the vaccine include hospital workers, day care staff, military personnel, international travelers, animal handlers, and persons who frequently eat at restaurants. Treatment: A single dose of immune globulin usually is given by injection to persons exposed to hepatitis A virus. Immune globulin helps minimize damage caused by the virus if given within two weeks of exposure. This treatment also may prevent acute attacks of hepatitis if given early enough.

Connor also vying for sheriff's position Robert E. Connor Jr., current police chief for the City of Columbus, has announced his intentions to be a candidate for Colorado County Sheriff. Connor has been the City of Columbus police chief for more than six years and has over 20 years of law enforcement experience, 10 being in an administrative capacity. He was born in Weimar and raised in Columbus, where he attended public school. Continuing his education, he earned a bachelor degree in sociology with a minor in management. Connor holds the highest certification in law enforcement, master peace officer's certification, has completed over 1,000 hours of training and is a certified instructor as well as a certified jailer. He has had first-hand training on the recognition and implementation of policies and procedures for newly-opened detention facilities. He states, if elected Colorado County Sheriff, "Providing professional and courteous services will be my top priority. A zero tolerance on the use and sale of drugs will be implemented. "Working with other agencies in the judicial system and the victims of crime will be a priority. Assisting in the prosecution of all criminals regardless of whom they might be will be another priority. "However, I will remain cognizant that I am a peace officer and my job is to keep the peace, meaning that in some cases other remedies (other than arrest) might be effective. "It is my belief that law enforcement officers should cooperate with parents when they are having problems with their siblings. But, the parents must also be willing to cooperate with law enforcement officers. "Juvenile crime is ever increasing, therefore, my administration would actively seek grants and other support to provide D.A.R.E. officers with the school districts of Colorado County. Statistics have proven that D.A.R.E. officers are responsible for the decrease of juvenile crime," he stated. Connor further states that, "Good management, trained officers, effective public involvement and support from the county judge and commissioners are important tools to a successful sheriff's department." He feels that he has the experience and cooperation of County residents to accomplish these goals. A member of the Methodist faith, Connor is actively involved in many civic and social activities. He is married to Deanna M. Connor and his daughter, Stacie, attends school in Columbus ISD.

Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO March 25, 1971 Work started this week on the expansion of the Wilcox Minimex building at 200 South McCarty... Rice High School auto mechanics students and their instructor, Sidney Frey, recently departed for a District III VICA meeting in Houston with their projects. Members of the class are Ross Obenhaus, Tommy Bitner, Mike Meitzen, Kelly Wilburn, Pete Guzman, Raul Lopez and Preston Hemphill... The administration, faculty and students of Rice High School will hold their open house and dedication on Sunday, March 28, in Altair. The dedication will take place at 3:30 p.m. in the gymnasium... Rice High School's Willie Cleveland is leading Class AAA runners in the Houston area. Cleveland posted his best time of the year in Klein last Saturday, 1:59.5; getting under two minute mark for the 1000 meters. Monday, March 22, Rice High School's Halie Graves of L... Army Pvt. Arthur J. Frausto, 20, son of Mrs. Teresa Castellanos of Eagle Lake, recently completed a 13-week aircraft armament subsystem mechanic course at the U.S. Army ordnance center and school, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md... Roger Rutledge, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Rutledge, was honored with a birthday party on Monday, March 22, in observance of his 4th birthday... Aug. 29, 1947 Funeral services for Reid Thompson Westmoreland Sr. will be held this Friday morning at 10 a.m. from the family home on West Main... (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

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Insurance commissioner wants to protect terminally ill Texans

Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer proposed new rules last week to protect the terminally ill who sell their life insurance policies in order to raise money to pay for medical bill and expenses. He proposed rules to carry out a new state law regulating so-called viatical settlement companies, brokers and referral agents. Viatical companies buy life insurance policies from the terminally ill for a percentage of the death benefit. According to the Texas Department of Insurance, viatical settlement companies usually pay 55% to 90% of a policy's value. "There's no doubt that viatical settlement companies have eased the financial burden of desperately ill Texans, but regulation should help us ensure that when desperation is at its peak, greed is not," Bomer said. Proposed rules would require that viatical settlement companies inform persons interested in selling their policies of their rights before an agreement could be made. Applicants would have 15 days during which to rescind the settlement after proceeds from the policy are received or placed in escrow. House Bill 2256, sponsored by Republican Rep. John Shields and Democratic Sen. Frank Madia, both of San Antonio, requires regulation of viatical settlements solicited, negotiated, delivered or issued in Texas. Shields said the industry needs oversight because of the "distinct possibility of abuse" in such transactions, the Dallas Morning News reported. A public hearing for the rules has been set for Jan. 9 in Austin. State Legislators to Resign Sen. John Leedom, R-Dallas, said he will resign in March to spend more time with his family and "do something else with his life," he told the Dallas Morning News. Leedom, 74, was first elected in 1980 and is the senior Republican of the Senate. Because his term was to expire in Jan. 1999, Gov. George W. Bush is expected to call a special elec-

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

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County 4-H food show winners announced

Colorado County 4-Hers held their county food show competition Saturday, Nov. 18, at the County Agriculture Building. Seventeen 4-H members competed in three areas: main dish, breads and cereals and nutritious snacks and desserts. Judges for the show were Marian Balke of Bay City and Joyce Ohm of Sheridan. 4-Hers competed in two divisions: sub-junior, ages 9 and 10; and junior, ages 11 to 13. A recognition ceremony and tasting party followed the judging. Grand Champions in the main dish division were Garrett Ponick, sub-

junior, and Brandy Tuck, junior. Bread and cereals Grand Champions were Sarah Anderson, sub-junior, and Myra Ulrich, junior. Whitney Thompson, sub-junior, and Valerie Harris, junior, were Grand Champions in the nutritious snacks and desserts division. Reserve Champions were Jaime Gerik, sub-junior, and Rihanne Waddle, junior, main dish; Tamara Ellis, junior, breads and cereals; Margie Leopold, sub-junior, nutritious snacks and desserts. 4-H members who received blue awards for their dishes were sub-juniors Roxanne Hertrich, Stephanie Coleman and Lacey Hinze; and jun-

iors Amy Ellis, LaShandra Coleman, Hillary Thompson and Lora Weishuhn. The Grand Champions in each division will compete at the District 11 4-H Food Show in Victoria this Saturday, Dec. 2. Good luck to everyone!



ELPS says 'sock it to drugs' "Sock it to drugs" Day was held during Red Ribbon Week at the Eagle Lake Primary School. Students who wore mismatched socks to school were allowed to go in their bare feet during the school day. Students in Mrs. Kuchera's third grade class, in photo above, are shown "socking it to drugs". In the photo below are third graders Erica Olvera, Charles Huffman, Vanessa Villafuerte, Rogers Tillman and Daniel Posada signing the "Pledge to Be Drug Free" banner placed in the hall during Red Ribbon War on Drugs Week at ELPS. Third graders also drew posters depicting their awareness of the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. ELPS Photos



Highlights Continued from Page 2

mentations include the expanding of community involvement - such as the Adopt-a-School program, better management organization and better use of facilities. None of the recommended cuts included the elimination of teaching positions, Sharp said. Fisher Won't Run for Senate Dallas businessman Richard Fisher, a millionaire Democrat, has announced he will not run for the U.S. Senate seat of Republican Phil Gramm. Fisher, who ran unsuccessfully against U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison in 1994, said he would not spend the time and effort to raise the \$6 million to \$8 million he said would be needed to defeat Gramm, the Houston Chronicle reported. "Sen. Gramm has no qualms about raising money from corporate and other large interests, whereas I rely on my own resources and a dwindling population of individual givers who do not attach conditions to their largess," Fisher told the Chronicle. The other announced candidates in the Democratic Senate primary are U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman of Sulphur Springs, Dallas area teacher Victor Morales and Houston lawyer John Odam. State Sen. John Montford of Lubbock has said he is considering running. Austin insurance consultant David Yung has announced he will run against Gramm in the GOP primary. Other Highlights •The Texas Youth Commission has reported a 6% increase in the number of incarcerated youths from fiscal year 1994 to fiscal year 1995, from 2,005 to 2,123, and the number of youths jailed for violent crimes grew from 758 to 792, an increase of 4%. •Attorney General Dan Morales says an \$8 million settlement has been reached among officials from Texas, California, New York and Illinois with the owners of now-defunct Sonic Communications, an Atlanta company charged with illegally switching customers' long distance service without permission. The scam targeted about 150,000 Texans with Hispanic surnames, and those customers could recover up to \$1.3 million, Morales said. •Hearings by the state Senate Interim Committee on Charitable Bingo are underway in Austin. On the opening day, bingo industry representatives complained of excessive regulation by the Texas Lottery Commission. The committee will make recommendations to the 1997 Legislature.

Foot Facts By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist DON'T PUSH KIDS TO WALK "She's running all over the place, and she's only 11 months old!" crows one parent. "My son has been walking in a baby walker since he was six months old," counters another. Parents like to believe that their children are the fastest and brightest at everything they do, and that usually includes starting to walk. Unfortunately, that attitude can lead adults to encourage walking before a child's feet have developed the musculature to support and balance the body, forcing the ankles to roll inward. Also, the younger the baby, the less resistant the feet are to injury and deformation by tight shoes and other foot coverings. (Babies should not wear shoes or any constricting footwear until they are walking full-time.) Mobilization is a milestone in baby's life that is a giant step towards independence, but one that shouldn't be rushed. When it does happen, mark it by making an appointment with your podiatrist for baby's first step towards good foot health care maintenance. For the young as well as the young at heart, we offer gentle care for all problems dealing with the foot, ankle and lower leg. Our state-of-the-art office is located at Rice District Community Hospital, with hours every Tuesday, call 234-5571. P.S. Baby walkers cause hundreds of injuries to children every year. The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages their use.

About Town... Congratulations to both of these young people! We are told that a celebrity of sorts has been hunting in the area. Ken Caminiti, former Houston Astro, has been on several outings recently. Two local students attending the University of Houston-Victoria have been chosen to receive scholarships for the 1995-96 term. They are Richard Saucedo of Eagle Lake received the Johnson Foundation WCIC and Christie Karasek of East Bernard received the Johnson Foundation Scholarship.

Happy Birthday Rhonda Love, Mom & Dad, "Boy" and the Manclax Family John D. Huff, M.D. Diane Prather Walters, O.D. Sugar Land • Eagle Lake • Hallettsville • Yoakum

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