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Produced By:

Carol Cardenas • Leslie Risk
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To The Editor & You

Need to work together

I have been watching with quite a bit of interest the things going on in Colorado County and the city of Columbus. Sometimes it is funny and sometimes it is very upsetting. The letters to the editors and the various things that I read and hear from both sides upsets me.

I was born and raised in Columbus, went to high school in Garwood; my wife is from Eagle Lake, and I have many friends in Weimar. I was gone for 30 years, came back, and retired. I own property and live north of Columbus. So, I think I am qualified to talk about this county.

The reason I am writing this letter is to call attention to the only groups of

people that I know of who are completely county minded and free of politics—the Colorado County Fair group and the Colorado County Ag Complex group.

These people, more than a hundred Colorado County residents, are an example of how people can work together. These groups are represented by people from all over the County - all volunteers - who have two goals in mind, the betterment of our youth and the future of our county.

The Ag Complex group has raised over \$450,000, all through donations, and are in the process of providing a home for the Colorado County Fair. Construction is going to start soon on the new fair grounds and we are going to be seeking more help.

So I guess what I am trying to say, people, is let's quit nit-picking and get the county together again and all move into the next century together.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Brune

Explanation of public at meetings

Effective government must be orderly. Decision-making bodies cannot be effective if there are external interruptions during their debate and deliberations.

The law requires that meeting agendas for government bodies be posted in advance of the meeting.

This law lets the public know the business of the meeting. It does not authorize the public to join the meeting. That is the job of the elected or appointed members of the body.

If a public body allows public comment during a meeting, it is fitting that there be a time reserved for this and that the process be orderly.

Without this safeguard, its meeting might be disrupted by unscrupulous self-serving demagogues bent on corrupting its business through filibuster and shameful tactics.

Sincerely,
George Cason

Tax reform may not clear legislature

With only a few days remaining until the June 2 end of the legislative session, the prospect of tax reform is waning.

A 10-member conference committee of five senators and five House members has not agreed on a final version of a tax plan that would reduce the school property tax burden of homeowners and businesses.

Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, who served as a chairman of the committee that drafted the House version of the tax reform bill, told Senate conferees, "We are willing to listen if you have a proposal. I am willing to look at a middle ground as long as it has the same kind of property relief that our plan offers."

Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, told Sadler, however, "I have not heard an area where you are willing to compromise."

Quoted by the *Austin American-Statesman*, Sadler said, "If we don't have something by Sunday (May 25), you can forget it."

Meanwhile, Gov. George W. Bush expressed confidence that the com-



By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

mittee will find common ground.

"There are some strong-willed, very capable members who are expressing themselves. But I do believe so much work has gone into this it would be an opportunity missed."

The House plan would bring tax cuts three times as large as those proposed in the Senate plan. Another major difference in the two packages is that the Senate plan would revise the property tax appraisal formula.

The state comptroller's office reported that of property tax collections in the past six years, 81% came from higher property valuations.

Bush Will Reject Pay Raise

The governor, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, the agriculture and land commissioners and three railroad commissioners would get 15% pay raises under a proposal being considered by a state budget conference committee.

Gov. Bush's salary would go from \$99,122 to \$115,345 a year, but he said he did not ask for a raise and "I am not going to accept it. I was elected at the salary I am now receiving and that's all I am going to take."

Furthermore, advocates of an across-the-board pay raise for state employees said it is not fair to increase pay for officials elected statewide by more than \$1,000 a month when the same proposal calls for a \$100 a month raise for other state employees.

But Rep. Robert Junell, D-San Angelo, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, reasoned that the raises would be appropriate. "These officials have a great deal of responsibility, and we hold them responsible for large budgets and agencies," he said.

In Nov. 1992, officials elected statewide received a 3% pay increase,

as did other state employees.

Driver's License Fees to Go Up

A bill that would raise the cost of driver's licenses cleared the House last week and now awaits the governor's signature.

Under the bill, licenses would have to be renewed every six years, and a one-time fee would be assessed at the time of renewal.

The new fees would be:

- \$85 for drivers age 18 to 24;
- \$75, drivers age 25 to 34;
- \$60, drivers age 35 to 44;
- \$40, drivers age 45 to 49;
- \$20, drivers age 50 to 54;
- \$16, drivers age 55 to 59; and
- \$16 every four years for drivers 60 and up.

The proposal - recommended by State Comptroller John Sharp - would generate \$234 million during the first two years and provide enough money to the state's general revenue fund to pay for the \$100 a month pay increase proposed for state employees.

However, the state would begin losing money in the fifth year after implementing the new fees because drivers will have paid the renewal fee by then.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, predicted the growing economy and other state budget cuts could offset the \$53 million in lost revenue that would occur in the fifth year, which would be 2002.

Other Capital Highlights

•The Senate approved a bill that would require criminal background checks on people who provide care in their home for up to three children. Failure to undergo a check would carry criminal penalties. Currently, only those who care for four or more children must undergo a background check.

•The Senate voted 30-0 to approve the appointment of former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hill as a Lottery Commission member. Hill, who has also served as attorney general and secretary of state, was named to the Lottery Commission by Gov. Bush in Jan.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Aug. 3, 1972
Miss Robin Engstrom of Garwood won the title of first runner-up in the Miss Texas Teen-ager Pageant Saturday, July 29, held at St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio...

Seventy-eight years of service to his family, church, nation and count-

less friends throughout the area came to an end last Friday, July 28, at 6:45 in the evening when Fred. G. Frnka, formerly associated with the *Eagle Lake Headlight* for nearly half a century, died suddenly and closed his eyes to enjoy an eternal rest in heaven...

Friends in the community will be interested to learn that William P. (Bill) Carpenter has accepted a position as assistant football and track coach at the Columbus High School and is no longer associated with the Universal Motor Co., local Ford and Mercury dealership...

Members of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary honored volunteer fireman Gordon Birdwell Monday night with a covered dish supper upon the occasion of his retirement from active duty with the department after 20 years of faithful service...

Miss Fannie Smith is retiring after 29 years of teaching. She taught for several years in Garwood at the time the Rice School District was formed and also for a time in Columbus...

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Till of Nada announced the arrival of a baby boy born at Columbus Hospital. Mr. & Mrs. Leo Till are the grandparents...

Miss Diane Elizabeth Kucherka, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert D. Kucherka of Eagle Lake, became the bride of Joseph Michael Spanihel, son of Mr. & Mrs. Leon J. Spanihel also of Eagle Lake, at 5:00 in the evening on Saturday, July 29, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Hoffman of Nada announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Catherine Joyce, to Frederick H. Leopold, son of Mrs. A.C. Leopold of Nada and the late A.C. Leopold. The wedding was set for Saturday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m. in St. bus...

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

ATTENTION!

SPORTSMAN'S RESTAURANT

201 Boothe Drive, Eagle lake

Will Be Closed This Sunday

June 1

To allow Janie time to help and enjoy Tiffany Castro's graduation from Sealy High School.

Congratulations, Tiff!

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Immunizations available

Hepatitis B is a virus that infects the liver and can cause permanent damage and even death to those infected with it. People can get this disease by being exposed to the blood of an infected person.

To get infected, the exposure has to be blood coming into contact with any mucous membrane (the moist part of you... your mouth, eyes, vagina or rectum), or the blood can come into direct contact with yours, like getting a transfusion, or blood getting into a fresh cut, or by sharing drug needles.

You can also get infected having sex with someone who has it. You don't get it kissing or hugging someone, or sharing their drinks or food.

You may think that you or your children are not at risk for developing this serious and sometimes fatal disease. However, every year in the U.S., more than 240,000 people become infected with this virus. It's estimated that over one million people carry the virus in their blood. Hepatitis B is even more common in other parts of the world!

Right now, the vaccination is not required to attend school. However, it is only a matter of time. The Texas Department of Health is recommending that all 11 year olds, regardless of their risk to exposure, be vaccinated. The vaccination is a series of three shots given one month and then six months apart. Most insurance companies now pay for the hepatitis B vaccine, including Medicaid.

If your insurance does not pay for (See Vaccinations, Page 7)

Bible Verse of the Week

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." — Proverbs 3:5

Submitted by
Neddy Phillips



"I love it at River Oaks...
I love the people that work here.
There is a homey, warm and caring
feeling that gives me a sense of
security and wellbeing!"



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