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POLITICAL CANDIDATE

Hayek announces candidacy for a 4th term

Darlene Hayek, Colorado County Clerk, has announced her candidacy for a fourth term as County Clerk. Hayek, who was first elected in 1986 as a Democrat, also announced that she has changed her party affiliation and has filed for re-election as a Republican.

"As a lifelong Democrat, this was not a decision which I made lightly," said Hayek in making the announcement. "But many of you will be aware of the recent trend in National, State and local politics of party re-alignment."

"This shift is, of course, due partly

to the fact that for more than 100 years, Texas operated as a one party system. This meant that every elected official, whether liberal, moderate or conservative, ran on the Democratic Ticket. This is no longer the case in Texas, or in Colorado County.

"My filing for re-election as a Republican is not due to any major change in my personal philosophy, but I feel it is more representative of that which is shared by all of us: strong families, excellent schools, balanced budgets and control at the local level. I believe that our county offices must be run in a fiscally conservative way, with strong elected leadership."

"I have received a warm welcome from the Republican Party and hope that all the fine Democrats who have supported me in the past three elections will continue to do so now. I believe that the voters of Colorado County are individuals who vote for the person who they know will never lose sight of their best interest and will never betray the trust and responsibility given them by the voters."

"I look forward to continuing to serve as your County Clerk."

Hayek added that a more complete announcement of her candidacy will follow in a couple of weeks.

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K-D JEWELRY
704-B S. McCarty, Eagle Lake
234-5717



State auditor to look at 'temporary' workers

Contract workers and temporary employees cost at least \$41 million in the past state budget year, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported last week.

Those workers, however, do not appear on the state's annual \$6 billion payroll. Nor do they receive health care and retirement benefits.

Although state officials say they don't know how many outside workers perform state jobs and how much they cost, they acknowledge that both numbers are increasing.

"I don't think any of us have a handle on it," said House Appropriations Chairman Rob Junell, D-San Angelo. "I think we'd like to see where they are."

With more than 250,000 full-time workers on the state payroll in 1997, the Legislature imposed a cap on full time positions. State officials want to ensure that the cap doesn't lead to an increase in hiring "temps."

Among the tasks assigned to temporary workers are programming computers, opening mail containing child support checks, nursing mentally ill patients in state hospitals and taking calls from victims of natural disasters.

State Auditor Lawrence Alwin said he will study the growing number of temporary and contract workers who perform tasks for the state.

Health-care Pool Opens

Texans who couldn't get health insurance because of their medical history gained access Jan. 1 to a source



State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

of coverage with the opening of the Texas Insurance Risk Pool.

"This is a milestone for Texans who have gone without health insurance because poor health made them uninsurable," said Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer.

The pool was created by legislation sponsored by Rep. Kip Averitt and Sen. David Sibley, both of Waco, and passed by the 1997 state Legislature.

The pool will sell two major medical plans that differ only in their deductible amounts and out-of-pocket maximums. Both plans offer lower costs for patients who use health-care providers on the pool's provider network, but patients are free to use out-of-network providers for an additional out-of-pocket cost.

Annuities Rules Approved

Banks in Texas cities of any size may obtain agents' licenses to sell annuities under interim guidelines approved by Insurance Commissioner Bomer last month.

The guidelines will govern banks' annuity sales until the 1999 Legislature can amend the state's agent-licensing laws.

Bomer issued the guidelines in response to an Oct. ruling by U.S. District Judge James R. Nowlin of Austin. Nowlin ruled that federal banking laws authorizing banks to sell annuities override Texas laws that prevent their doing so.

Annuities are investment contracts usually sold by life insurance companies. To sell annuities, a bank must be licensed as an incorporated insurance agent by the Texas Department of Insurance. A bank also must be appointed by at least one life insurance company to act as its agent for the sale of annuities.

Day-care Law Takes Effect

Jan. 1 was the deadline for day-care providers to comply with a new state law requiring people who care for three or fewer children to undergo criminal background checks by the state.

"The background checks are designed to ensure that no person with a criminal or substantiated child-abuse history is entrusted with the care of children," said Karen Eells, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

After the background check is completed, the caregiver is issued a

certificate of listing with the state at a cost of \$20.

Caregivers who don't become listed with the state risk penalties, including fines of up to \$2,000 and up to six months in jail.

Other Capital Highlights

•A telephone survey of 2,710 people between Jan. and April last year revealed that about one in four Texans witnessed an incident of child abuse or neglect. The poll also showed that almost 30% of those surveyed did not know state law requires them to report such incidents to authorities.

•The Public Utility Commission has approved a 4% interim rate cut for residential customers of Texas Utilities Electric Co. The rate reduction applies only to the non-fuel portion of a monthly electric bill. PUC officials said some commercial customers, mostly small and medium-sized businesses would get a rate cut of 2%.

•The Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel has joined the Virginia State Corporation Commission in asking the Supreme Court to overturn new federal rules that removed state caps on pay calls, including the 25¢ cap that Texas had.

Deaths lower than prediction

The number of estimated deaths predicted by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) was 46 for the New

Year's weekend, which began at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, and ended midnight Sunday, Jan. 4.

As of Monday, Jan. 5, 30 persons had been reported killed in traffic accidents in Texas during that time period.

During last year's New Year's holiday, 20 deaths were recorded on Texas highways. Reports indicate 27 fatal accidents, with alcohol and/or speed possible factors in at least seven of these accidents. Reports show 10 persons were killed with safety belts, eight persons were killed who were not restrained by safety belts and three people were killed where the usage of safety belts was unknown. Seven were pedestrians and two were motorists.

The DPS reminds motorists to always drive defensively, wear safety belts, and not to drink and drive.

Motorists who find themselves stranded or disabled on a Texas Highway can call the DPS at 1-800-525-5555 for assistance from a trooper or other law enforcement officer.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Feb. 22, 1973
Texas' Lt. Governor **Bill Hobby** will be the speaker at the Mexican American Youth Council (MAYC) Annual Scholarship Dinner to be held

at the Eagle Lake Community Center next Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m. honoring 22 Mexican American seniors at Rice High School... Citizens of Colorado County were

shocked to learn of the sudden death of Columbus Attorney **Gus F. Steger** as he addressed the Court in the District Courtroom at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning...

Friends and relatives are extended an invitation to attend a reception honoring Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pustejovsky on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Dider Hall this Sunday, Feb. 25th...

Mrs. Carrie Cearnal of Houston passed away Monday, Feb. 12th. She was the wife of the late Arch E. Cearnal of Eagle Lake and was the sister-in-law of Madeline Cearnal. They often visited and had many friends here...

John Waddell, son of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Waddell of Eagle Lake, has enrolled at Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management, Glendale, Arizona. He is a graduate of Texas A&I University where he majored in economics...

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Birdwell Sr. of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Carol Ann, to Terry Robert Jones, son of Mrs. Elaine Winslett of Houston. The couple plan an April 14 wedding at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

Marine Pvt. Joseph A. Cardenas, son of Mr. & Mrs. Atilano F. Cardenas Jr. of Eagle Lake, graduated from basic training at the Marine Corps

Depot in San Diego.

Nov. 18, 1949

Mrs. J. Nathan slipped and fell in her home here Thursday of last week, breaking her right hip. Her daughter, Mrs. Max Landa, said she is doing as well as could be expected at her age...

Jim & John Clipson are already at work getting their new rice land in shape for next year's crop...

Mrs. Clyde Gold, Mrs. C.T. Epps and Mrs. Oscar Shade made a trip to San Antonio last Friday...

Mrs. David Wintermann returned last Saturday from a week's visit with friends in St. Paul, Minnesota...

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Reed left Sunday afternoon for a week's vacation in Houston and Beaumont...

Among those attending the Rice-A&M game in Houston Saturday were Mrs. O.J. Wintermann and her weekend guests, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Symington, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morgan, David Wintermann and Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hanly...

In the hunting party of William Waddell, Bruce & Raymond Waddell, Armit Thomas, Leslie Sunderman, J.L. Adkins, Howard Wiese and Ed Causey out in the Van Horn Country, everyone but William Waddell brought home a deer...

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Obenhaus of Bonus are parents of a baby daughter born Monday at Caney Valley Hospital in Wharton. The baby has been named Marsha Lynn...

Among those attending the Texas-TCU game in Austin Saturday were Mr. & Mrs. S.S. Sinclair, Mr. & Mrs. G.C. Duncan, I.V. Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Frazer, Mr. & Mrs. W.E. McRee and Mrs. & Mrs. Emanuel Roos...

Leonard Walker is deer hunting in the Fredericksburg area this week.

Bible Verse of the Week

"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

— Luke 5:32

Submitted by Neddy Phillips



Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

BALLET: BAD NEWS FOR FEET

When you watch the wispy young women and athletic young men leap about the stage, it's easy to overlook the pounding that the ballet dancers' toes are taking. Ballet may be an exquisite art form, but it can be a horror show for the feet. This is due to the abnormal weight and stress that is placed on parts of the foot which were never designed for such demands. It is estimated that as high as 90 percent of ballet dancers have some significant foot problem. These professionals are well aware of the special needs of their feet and the health care vital to maintaining them. Problems often arise, however, for children or adults who take ballet without proper precautions.

Podiatrists are medical professionals trained to use the latest in techniques and equipment to keep feet healthy and working well. We use a wide range of therapies and surgeries to treat conditions related to foot structure and function, and we can also teach you how to avoid foot problems in the future. For dancers, sports enthusiasts, and everyone else who depends on their feet, we welcome your call at 234-5571, at Rice Medical Center. I have hours there every Tuesday.

P.S. Preteen children who are allowed to do point work are especially at risk of injury. Check with your doctor!



Disaster Never Rests.



Disaster strikes somewhere every single day.
Which means every single night someone needs food, shelter, and a place to rest.
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American Red Cross



Photographer: Dana Fineman

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