

# Colorado County Clerk Hayek seeking re-election

County Clerk Darlene Hayek has announced that she will seek a fourth term as Colorado County Clerk. Hayek, who served as County Clerk of Colorado County since her first election in 1986, issued the following statement about her bid for re-election.



I, Darlene Hayek, am announcing my campaign for re-election as County Clerk. I want to reaffirm my commitment to the Citizens of Colorado County. Since taking office in Jan. of 1987, I have been a successful County Clerk and leader, achieving obtainable goals while working and serving you, the taxpayers of Colorado County.

I believe a goal should follow four important criteria:

- 1.) To be fiscally conservative.
- 2.) To facilitate broad-base support and participation.
- 3.) To develop unity.
- 4.) To demonstrate vision.

I have proven and will continue to prove to you I have been a dedicated County Clerk, progressive manager and leader.

From 1987-1997, fees collected by my office, which include some of the following: County Clerk's Fees, Fines and Trial Fees, County Attorney's Fees, Records and Preservation, Security Fees, Sheriff's Fees, and other State Fees total \$2,105,587.19.

To completely understand the collection of fees during the period I have served as your County Clerk, 1987-1997, I would like to share with you a brief history concerning this from my first term to the present.

In June, 1990, I purchased the first AIS 115 Ballot Counting Machine for

Colorado County with the support of our past County Judge Lester J. Cranek, the Commissioner's Court, Democratic Party Chair George Cason, former Republican Party Chair Ed Ellis, and other members of both parties. In previous elections, ballots were hand-counted and results were not known until 3 or 4 a.m. in the morning. With the AIS 115 Ballot Counting Machine, 6,000 ballots are counted in one hour and results are known two hours after the polls close. Through this purchase, we have saved \$4,000 per election labor and ballot costs.

The Texas Legislature passed a law in 1991 stating that County Clerk's could collect a Records and Preservation fee on all documents that are recorded in the County Clerk's office. From 1991 to 1997, I collected a total of \$160,688.41. This money is used strictly for the county Clerk's office to restore the historical books of our County and for the use of automa-

tion to the County Clerk's office.

The State Legislature passed a law in 1993 which allowed County Clerks to collect a \$1 Security Fee on each document filed in the Clerk's office. This fee is used for the County's Investigator/Security Officer. From '93 to '97, I have collected \$32,267.20.

In 1994, John Moore was appointed County Attorney. Together we derived a plan to improve our County Court System which included, holding court four times a month instead of once a month, all day County Court Sessions, and the agreement that defendants appearing in court would pay County Court Costs the day they were to appear in court. As of today, 200 people pass through the County Court System monthly.

Because of this plan, fines and court fees have increased greatly. In 1987, I took in between \$500 to \$1,000 a month. At the present time, I am taking in between \$13,000 to \$20,000 monthly. The total of fines and court fees taken in by my office stands at \$567,086.67.

I purchased the first computer and imaging system for the County Clerk's Office in Dec. 1996 from funds collected through Records and Preservation Fees. I had the vision to look beyond the "Computer Carriage," and recognize the opportunity for productivity through a well-conceived technology plan. I spent many weeks investigating my choices along with our County Attorney John Moore.

I assure you that I have brought the finest technology available to my office, which includes a file server that is expandable to grow with my needs for

many years. This system also has the ability to add a second processor and software that can serve the County through the 21st Century by providing digital imaging of land records and court documents.

I am proud to say that I have more than tripled my office's monthly income. For a number of years, I collected between \$8,000 to \$10,000 monthly. As of 1997, the County Clerk's Office monthly income is between \$30,000 to \$38,000.

Today, my office has generated \$1,073,403.75 in County Clerk's Fees.

The County Clerk's Office is one of the most important offices. The history of Colorado County lies in my office. From the time we are born, to the time that we die, everything is filed and recorded; such as, birth certificates, marriage licenses, land purchases, oil and gas records, financial statements, cattle brands, Federal and State liens, Mechanics and Materialmen Liens, death certificates, and probate records. Your heritage and history are found here.

I would like to share with you a brief description of my background. I am a life-long native of Weimar Colorado County, Texas. I am the daughter of Ed Hanzelka Jr. and the late Irene Barton Hanzelka. I have been married 26 years to Jerome Hayek. We have one daughter, Stacy, who was recently married to James "Jimmy" Heger.

I am a member of the following Community and Professional Associations:

- \*St. Michael's Catholic Church.
- \*Colorado County Historical Commission, 1987-present.
- \*Director of Colorado County Fair, 1987-Present.
- \*County and District Clerk's Association of Texas, 1987-Present.
- \*Texas Sportsman Association.
- \*Texas Association of Homes for the Aging.
- I attended St. Michael's School, graduated from Weimar High School, Blinn College, Studied Nursing Home administration, and received my Nursing Home License in 1972.
- I formerly served on St. Michael's School Board from 1980-1987 and I was the Secretary of St. Michael's School PTC from 1981-1984. I also served as the Weimar High School Band President from 1988-1993.
- My continuing education as County Clerk includes:
- \*Texas A&M University.
- \*Texas College of Probate.
- \*University of Texas School of Law.
- \*Election Law School.
- \*Bureau of Vital Statistics.
- My professional background is as follows:
- \*Colorado County Clerk, elected in 1986, re-elected in 1990 and 1994.
- \*Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, 1972-1998.
- Prior to becoming your County Clerk (See Hayek, Page 10)

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## RAIDER REVIEW

The Raider Review is published by the Journalism Department of Rice High School. The opinions reflected are those of the students and not the administration or The Eagle Lake Headlight unless otherwise stated.



### Who's Zat?

By Amalie Kucherka

The identity of this blue-eyed sweetheart was not hard to figure out for many students. The only clue given was he is a junior.

Mr. Streit was a little unsure and incorrectly guessed Drue Dulany. Jamie Christ couldn't quite figure it out either and guessed Coy Sunderman.

Stacy Schnieder couldn't even come up with a name.

Cori Gertson, Jennifer Christ, Kelli Matthys, Stephanie Thompson, J.P. and Sarah Gould all knew this must be Barrett Thomas.

Barrett is the son of Dr. Russell and Robin Thomas of Eagle Lake.

Barrett plays tennis for Rice.

On the weekends, he likes to have fun by going out with his friends.

## Raider Band competes in solo and ensemble

By Lisa Valigura

Forty-two students played a solo or were a member of an ensemble. Nine students earned a 1st division rating and 14 students earned a 2nd division rating. Students could choose to play either a Class I, Class II or Class III solo or ensemble. Only freshmen could play a Class III.

Earning a 1st division were Robyn Alleyway, Class I, French horn solo; Glen Dromgoole, Class I, trap set solo; Lori Smith, Class II, flute solo; Misty Morales, Class III, clarinet solo.

Delana Smith earned a 1st division on a Class I piano solo memorized which qualifies her to advance to the

U.I.L. State Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Robin Shavers, Joe Romo, Joey Sommerlatte and Anthony Salinas earned a 1st division on a Class II trumpet quartet.

Mr. Talton, RHS band director, said he is very proud of the students who participated. He complimented them on their hard work and dedication.

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## Prom '98

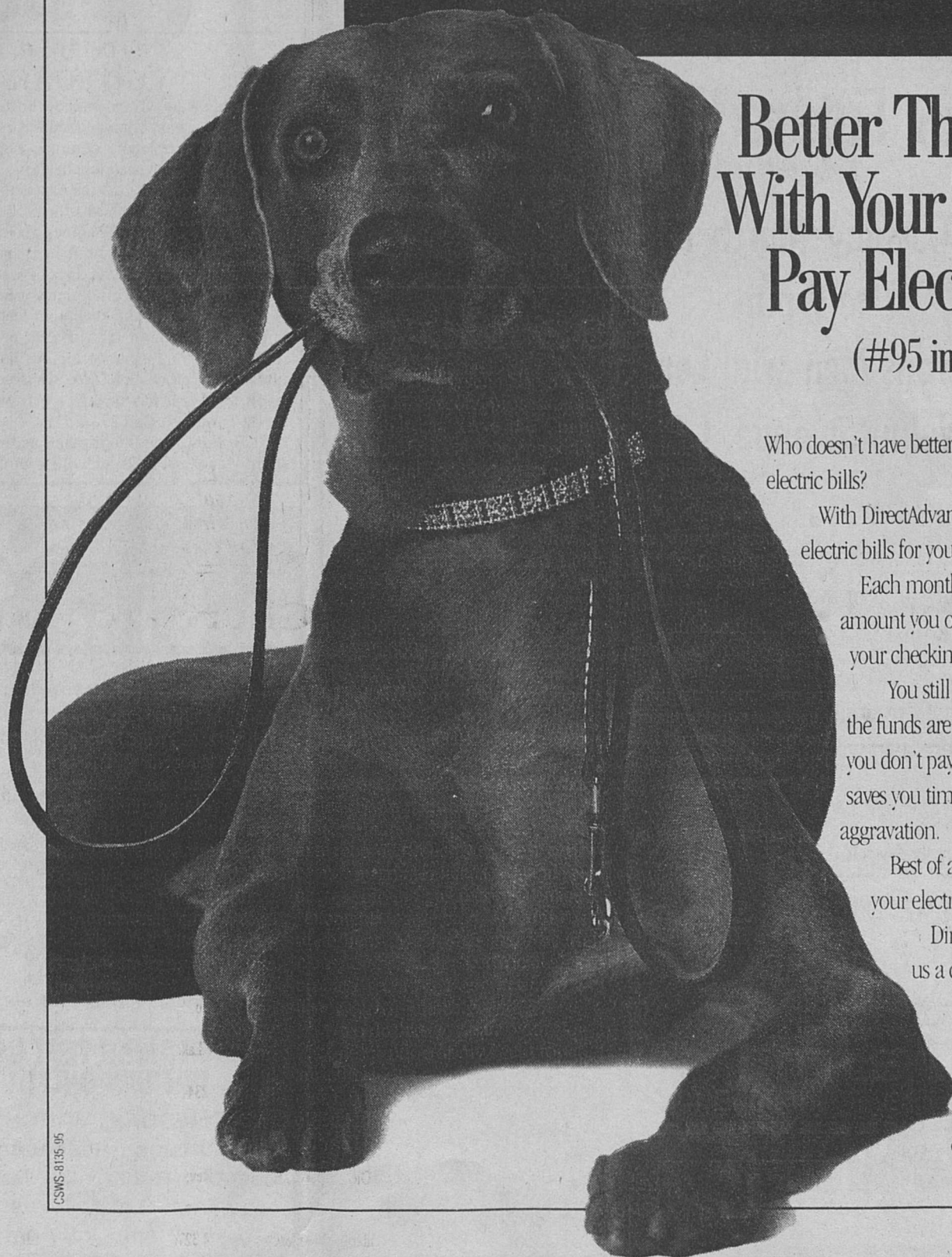
By Valerie Galvan

Prom excitement has already become a top priority for the students at RHS. This year's prom committee is composed of Junior Class officers: Lori Grigar, Rebal Canaris, Caleche Cranek and Ralph Gertson. Mrs. Villafuerte is the class sponsor and organizer of this year's prom.

The theme for this year will be "Fantasia". The colors will be black, gold and silver. Prom is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at the Stafford Opera House in Columbus.

The decorations will have a Gothic and mystical aura about them. (See Prom, Page 7)

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