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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Sweeny 21, Rice 12... Raiders Win!!!

The record will show that after Friday night's football game against the Sweeny Bulldogs, our Rice Raiders are 0-1 in district play.

While that stat is technically correct, anyone who watched our local boys take on the Number 2 ranked team in the state knows that the Raid-

ers played perhaps their best game of the year and somehow, the term moral victory doesn't quite describe it.

Put simply, everyone expected our team to get routed by the Bulldogs and instead, the outcome was very much in doubt until the final two minutes.

The real story however began

many hours earlier when a crew of loyal moms prepared sandwiches for the Lady Raiders as well as our gridsters. They then followed the team to Sweeny and cheered on all three volleyball teams before kickoff.

At the football game, they were rewarded with a tremendous effort by

our team. I personally have never seen the boys play as hard as they did that night. Every boy gave more than his best on every play and they refused to quit!!

Raiders were flying all over the field and came out only when totally exhausted, only to go back in after a brief respite on the sidelines.

The crowd was in a frenzy the whole night with most people standing nearly the entire game!

Led on by our cheerleaders and the coaches' wives, the yelling was constant and LOUD.

In the end, even though we did not prevail, everyone felt the pride of a job well done and a stunned Sweeny home crowd looked on as the entire Raider crowd spilled out onto the field to show their appreciation.

Yes, it was a great game, and while it would have been even better to mark it up in the win column, I have to believe that Coach Roark, his assistants, the team, band, cheerleaders, AND fans have the team on the right track.

Thanks for an exciting night and a great experience!!

GO RAIDERS!!
Russell Thomas

Publisher's Note: Thank you, Dr. Russell, for taking the time to write this letter. I couldn't have said it better. Last Friday night's game was a good loss!

Are you really 'innocent until proven guilty'?

As a citizen of the United States, I feel I am obligated to state a few things that boggle my mind about the Colorado County Court System, and to let the people of this town know what's happening.

First of all, there are a few questions that seem to cross my mind when I go through the system of Colorado County. I'm sure some of you that have had to deal with the law have asked yourselves the same questions. One question is "Do the law enforcers of Colorado County judge you by the law of the state of Texas?" "Is Colorado County a conspiracy to the law?" The reason I think like this is be-

cause I've been through the court system in Columbus. I've also seen them make plenty of mistakes on their behalf and just ignore them.

I couldn't afford a lawyer so they appointed me one. Do you think that lawyer really helped me? The answer is NO. So really there is nothing you can do but plea bargain to something that they say. When according to "Law" you weren't even supposed to be arrested.

In their eyes and minds you are already guilty before you even enter the courtroom. In that board of law, they are all friends. They sit and drink (See Innocent, Page 3)

Liability insurance rates cut for fourth year

Tort reform continues to prune back rates for liability insurance.

On Oct. 2, Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer authorized rate cuts to various lines of liability insurance, pushing tort reform savings since Jan. 1, 1996 to about \$2.2 billion.

This is the fourth year Bomer has ordered rate cuts under a five-year mandate by the 1995 Texas Legislature to reduce the number of lawsuits and amounts awarded in insurance settlements.

The latest round of rate cuts — including a \$47 average savings for insured drivers — will take effect Jan. 1.

Savings projected for 1999 by the state Insurance Department will be almost \$700 million, surpassing last year's savings of \$656 million.

"Pure and simple, tort reform legislation has created a tremendous savings for Texans," Bomer said. "Four years of tort reform will mean that more than \$2 billion has stayed in the hands of Texas policyholders."

Savings will increase for general liability providing coverage for businesses. Savings also will occur in auto, products liability and medical malpractice, Bomer said.

Despite the lawsuit-dampening effects of tort reform, big insurance settlements have not gone the way of the dodo bird.

A Starr County jury recently as-

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

sessed Chrysler Corp. \$64 million in damages in a lawsuit over a two-fatal-ity accident involving a Dodge truck.

Branch Bank Applications Ok'ed

Texas Banking Commissioner Catherine A. Ghiglieri on Oct. 1 approved interstate merger applications for three Alabama bank holding companies: Compass Bank, Regions Bank and Colonial Bank.

Although federal law requires that Texas law be applied to a branch of an out-of-state bank as if it were a bank with its main office in Texas, the mergers may have an impact on deposit relations, local school districts, counties, municipalities and other public entities.

Ghiglieri's action signals the first of many forthcoming bank mergers and is not a positive development, said Chris Williston, president of Independent Bankers Association of Texas.

"Out-of-state banks don't have to maintain a Texas bank charter and are less concerned about building communities here. Deposits to those banks leave our communities. Local needs go by the wayside."

"For folks who are concerned about building up their communities, it certainly makes a lot more sense to bank with an independent Texas bank than with an out-of-state bank," Williston said.

Meanwhile, the state Department of Banking is planning to forward a package of proposals to the 1999 Texas Legislature that "will modernize Texas laws in order to fully implement interstate branch banking," Ghiglieri said.

Other Capital Highlights

Austin police confirmed last week that a body found along the Brazos River 100 miles from Austin was that of accountant Colleen Reed. Serial killer Kenneth A. McDuff, sentenced to death for her 1991 murder, was scheduled to be executed Oct. 21, but was granted a stay with a federal appeal pending.

Wayne Scott, executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, last week said prison officials are studying anti-gang programs in other states to help them develop a program for Texas, where an estimated 5,000 confirmed gang members are incarcerated.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission has called an Oct. 22 private meeting to hear from parties for and against the proposed nuclear waste repository in Sierra Blanca. Questions persist about the geological stability of the site.

The Electronic State Business Daily, on which state agencies must post bids for procurements that exceed \$25,000 can be found at the Texas Department of Economic Development's web site: www.texas-one.org.

Fire departments across Texas last week sounded alarms signaling families to practice their home fire-escape plans as part of a nationwide effort during Fire Prevention Week.

Gov. George W. Bush and outgoing Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, the Democratic challenger, (See Highlights, Page 4)

Mammograms
save lives ...
... save yours

Wharton
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409/245-9754

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime ... only three out of ten women get mammograms on a regular basis ... don't try to beat the odds ... get a mammogram today.

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month during October, South Texas Medical Clinics, P.A. is offering mammograms for \$60 (includes screening and interpretation).

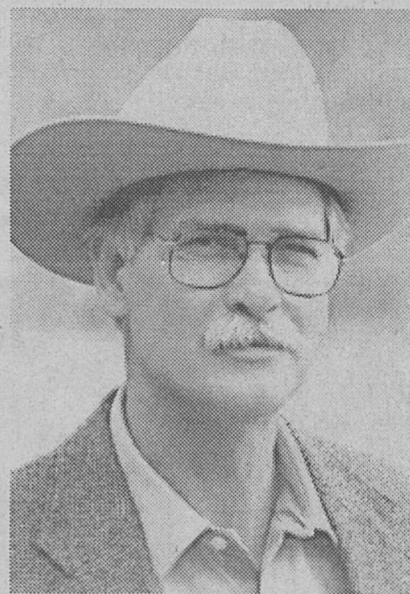
Visit one of our mammography centers in Wharton or Bay City and you'll find accredited services with highly trained and registered female mammographers. We offer state-of-the-art equipment in a comfortable clinic setting with results interpreted by a board certified radiologist.

As licensed screening facilities, our mammography centers allow women who are asymptomatic (have no breast problems) to get a mammogram without a doctor's referral.



Jim Kearney

for Colorado County Judge



- Experienced Leadership
- Decorated Veteran
- Involved in Agriculture
- Strong Family Values
- Deep Roots in the County

It is important for the judge of this county to know and understand the people who live here, and be a strong representative for ALL THE PEOPLE. Please vote for:

Jim Kearney
Early voting begins October 19th

Elect Jim Kearney
From the County... For the County

Pol. Ad. paid for by Paulina Kearney, Treasurer Rt. 3, Box 56A, Weimar, TX 78962

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