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20 Texas counties declared federal disaster areas

Responding to a request from Gov. George W. Bush last week, President Clinton declared 20 Central and South Texas counties as disaster areas.

"I thank the federal government and President Clinton for their quick response to the Texas request for aid," Bush said.

"I hope the news of federal help will provide some relief to the thousands of Texans whose lives have been turned upside down by this disaster," he continued, adding that he was touched by the many churches, friends

and neighbors who pitched in to help those forced to evacuate their homes.

The federal declaration cleared the way for federal aid to residents and businesses in affected counties through such programs as the Disaster Housing Assistance Program, the Individual and Family Grant Program, Farm Assistance, Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Small Business Administration Disaster Loans.

Floodwaters Break Records

As of this writing (Oct. 22), a dollar amount for anticipated losses had

not been determined due to ongoing flood emergency.

Last week, rivers crested at record levels.

At Gonzales, the Guadalupe River crested at 51.8 feet-2.5 feet above the previous record set in 1929. The San Antonio River near Elmdorf crested at 64.59 feet-almost 10 feet above the previous record set in 1986.

Rainfall totals in the hard-hit areas of Bexar and Comal Counties ranged as high as 22 inches.

After taking an aerial tour of the flood zone, Bush said "It was devastat-

ing to see. It's hard to imagine how swift and powerful the current was.

"I can't imagine how ferocious nature must have been to do the damage I saw."

Regarding the extreme weather conditions Texas has seen in recent months, Bush said, "God works in mysterious ways. Only three months ago, we were praying for rain because we were too dry.

"And now, here we stand at the site of a devastating flood. I know a lot of people's lives have been turned upside down, but help is on the way..."

Makers of Termite Remedy Sued

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales last week joined the Federal Trade Commission and seven other states in a lawsuit to stop the makers of a do-it-yourself home defense system against termites from making false claims about the product.

"Terminate" is sold in the form of stakes to be planted in the ground around a home.

The government alleges that in its advertising United Industries Corporation, the maker of Terminate, made deceptive and unsubstantiated claims about the product.

The lawsuit also says the company failed to disclose that bait stakes do not work against drywood termites.

TNRCC Denies License

The three-number Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission on Oct. 22 denied the license application of the Texas Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority to build a waste-storage facility on a 500-acre plot near the West Texas town of Sierra Blanca.

The decision will be reflected in a written order to be prepared by TNRCC General Counsel Geoff Connor and issued no earlier than Oct. 27, the agency stated in a post-hearing news release on Oct. 22.

Bullock to Receive Pacemaker

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock will enter an Austin hospital this week for surgery to insert a pacemaker, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

Bullock said that after a recent gall bladder operation, his doctors recommended that he have the pacemaker inserted to rege an irregular heartbeat.

A recovering alcoholic and a heavy smoker who has battled nicotine addiction, Bullock had one-third of his right lung removed in 1972 because of two non-malignant tu-

State Capitol Highlights

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

mors.

He suffered a heart attack in 1979 and underwent heart bypass surgery shortly before the 1994 midterm election, in which he won a second term as lieutenant governor.

Other Capital Highlights

•Guided by his latest Index of Leading Texas Economic Indicators, state Comptroller John Sharp last week said Texas should expect slower economic growth over the next few months.

Let's Look Back...

**24 & 48
YEARS
AGO**

Aug. 7, 1973

Lakeside Elevator and Grain Co. facilities, were threatened when a small fire was detected in the dryer Monday morning. The metal-clad buildings are some of the oldest rice drying facilities in this community...

A wood frame house at 518 Davitt Street, owned by the **Henry Williams Sr.** family, was completely destroyed by fire around 2 pm. Saturday...

Construction is underway on the new warehouse and store for the new **Lake Lumber...**

Misses **Cindy and Sharon**
(See 24 & 48, Page 3)



Re-Elect Darlene Hayek

Colorado County Clerk

I am Darlene Hayek, Colorado County Clerk since 1987. I was born and raised in Weimar. My husband, Jerry, and I have been privileged to raise our daughter, Stacy, here. Colorado County is my home and has always been an important part of my life as are the people that make this community what it is.

As County Clerk, I took an oath in January of 1987 to do the best job that I could do for the people of this county, and I want to re-affirm my commitment to you, the citizens of Colorado County, as your candidate for County Clerk.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of the County Clerk's office under my leadership. We have achieved many of the goals that I set for this office. We have been very successful in modernizing the Clerk's office with the most up-to-date computer and digital imaging system available, which will serve this county well into the 21st Century.

In cooperation with the County Attorney's office, we have restructured the County Court system. Many more cases are now being processed through the system and collection of fines associated with those cases has increased dramatically.

Since I took office as County Clerk, we have collected well over \$2

million in fines and other fees. The revenues in the County Clerk's office have increased steadily over the years. My staff and I are committed to doing the best job that we can for the taxpayers of Colorado County.

The goals of this office will always be set with the same criteria: 1) they must be fiscally conservative with your tax dollars; 2) they must benefit the majority of the people of Colorado County, not a small special interest group; and 3) they must bear long-term benefits for the county.

I do take pride in the achievements of the County Clerk's office during my tenure. However, there is still work to be done as we look forward to the next century. And I want to be a part of that future.

I appreciate the confidence and support that you, the voters of Colorado County, have shown to me in the last three elections. Being your County Clerk has truly been a blessing in my life. I want to continue as your County Clerk and I ask for your continue support in the General Election on November 3rd.

"I pledge to all the citizens of Colorado County that I will strive to maintain the same high standards of integrity, professionalism and commitment that you have come to expect as I serve you as your County Clerk."

Darlene Hayek

Political advertisement paid for by Darlene Hayek for County Clerk, Jerome Hayek, Treasurer, Rt. 1, Box 142-B, Weimar, Texas 78962.

To THE EDITOR & YOU

To the Voters in Colorado County Precinct 4:

I take this means of expressing my support of Darrell Gertson for the office of County Commissioner Precinct 4.

Darrell has been the Foreman under my direction during the three terms I have served as County Commissioner Precinct 4. I have found him to be dependable, honest and straight forward, and very knowledgeable of the many facets of operation required of one in this position.

He has had experience in directing and leading people in various organi-

zations: as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 4843 and as Chief of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department, to cite two.

I feel very confident that Darrell has the qualifications which will be very productive for and in support of the needs of the citizens in Precinct 4 as well as all of Colorado County.

I ask your support of Darrell Gertson when you go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, 1998.

Leon "Sonny" Spanihel

Political advertisement paid for by D.D. Gertson/Sandra Rodgers, Treasurer, 3201 Honeydew Lane, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

Will justice be served?

A few months ago I got a speeding ticket in Eagle Lake for going 40 in a 30 m.p.h. zone.

I was actually going 25. I thought, this is not right, so I requested a trial by jury. I got all my signed papers from people who watched me driving when I was supposedly speeding and took them to court.

When the time came for me to present my evidence, I was told I could not do that. Rather than pay a fine for something I didn't do, I decided to go to jail.

Now I understand that some citizens' yards were torn up by someone driving in them. The same officer that lied about giving me a ticket when I wasn't speeding was involved in this destruction of property and was either fired or forced to resign from the Eagle Lake Police Department.

It will be real interesting if he has to make restitution or go to jail.

I know the justice system in Eagle Lake will do what is right.

Ike Etheridge

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