

Groundwater

Only through a GCD can we create a management plan with enforcement rules for the conservation and preservation of our groundwater.

Fair and equitable management of our groundwater allows every landowner to use his groundwater as he sees fit. He can have it for his daily household, ranch, farm or business operation; he can save it for his children or his grandchildren; he can lease it for survival or retirement income. These are his rights that can be preserved and protected by a GCD.

The Legislature, in the just completed session, reiterated that GCDs are the preferred method of managing the groundwater in our aquifers.

There are two principal reasons for this position by the Legislature:

1) The legislature feels it is better to have locally elected officials set policy and funding for aquifer management because aquifer characteristics and local needs vary from one place to another.

2) They do not want the state to get further into the groundwater business

because it would require higher taxes to fund a larger bureaucracy.

As we all know, everything has a cost. A GCD for the protection of our groundwater will cost us money. Because Colorado County lacks major city populations and industry, funding for the district will most probably come from ad valorem taxes. A limit of 5¢ per \$100 assessed valuation was set in the enabling legislation. Funding can also be obtained from fees only and a mixture of taxes, grants, and fees for non-exempt well permit applications, well production and export.

High-volume groundwater users that have nonexempt wells may be charged fees and have production limits placed on the volume used. The argument for having these fees is one of fairness - people who rely the most on the aquifer's water supply should pay more for its management than those who use it least.

However, I discovered in attempting to design a tax and fee combination that it would actually cost more

for people in municipalities, which of course removes this approach from being an option. Why pay more than you should?

In 1999, there were 43 GCDs in the state. During the 2001 legislative session, approximately 33 pieces of legislation addressing the formation of new districts was passed.

Colorado County, as well as surrounding counties (Fayette, Austin, Wharton and Lavaca) had an enabling act passed this year. Failure to approve our district in the Nov. election will mean Colorado County will remain in a frontier, free-groundwater state where the groundwater resources will go to the one with the most money and the largest wells.

This is the first of a series of articles in which I will try to convey facts about a GCD to you over the next month.

As a result of these articles, you should be better prepared for a series of town-hall meetings that will be scheduled for the Sept.-Oct. time period leading up to the Nov. 6, 2001, election.

The next two topics will be "How much is it going to cost me?" and "How are you going to do it?" (manage the aquifer).

Did You Know...

•The cranberry gets its name from Dutch and German settlers, who called it "crane berry". When the vines bloom in the late spring, the flowers' light pink petals twist back, resembling a crane. Over time, the name was shortened to cranberry.

•The average worker bee produces one and a half teaspoons of honey in a lifetime.

PT-309

and makeshift island cemetery.

Cavanaugh praised the historic PT boat as an important part of U.S. military history that will play a key role in the museum's telling of the Pacific War story. Additional exhibits will focus on the war history of PT-309 and restoration of the vessel by the volunteer "Crew of PT-309."

"PT-309 had a valiant Naval history in World War II, serving in the Mediterranean, where its crew sunk several enemy vessels and later participated in the Mediterranean D-Day invasion of France," Cavanaugh said. "It was in the U.S. being retrofitted for

the invasion of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped and the war ended."

Most of the World War II "mosquito boats" were destroyed after the war or sold to foreign military governments.

However, PT-309 and the rest of Squadron 22 survived in the U.S. because, as the war ended, they were in dry dock being retrofitted with the newest weapons, including rocket launchers, to be used in the invasion of Japan.

Sold as military surplus after being stripped of its original weapons and

Continued from Page 5

three V-12 packard engines, PT-309 was operated for many years as a fishing boat in Long Island Sound before being purchased by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation for donation to Texas Parks & Wildlife in 1994.

The public will have its first opportunity to view the World War II vessel Dec. 7 when the Pacific Combat Zone opens as part of the National Museum of the Pacific War's official mainland commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"Remember Pearl Harbor 2001" will be presented Dec. 6-8, 2001 in Fredericksburg by the Museum and Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Information on the commemoration is available on the Internet at www.tpwd.state.tx/park/nimitz/nimitz.htm or by calling 1-866-PEARL60.

The National Museum of the Pacific War, formerly the Admiral Nimitz Museum, is a state historical site managed by Texas Parks & Wildlife and supported by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, year around, except Christmas Day. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students with a current I.D. and free for children 5 and under.

For more information, call 830-997-4379.

Slanted

Continued from Page 2

We made our final arrangements and we told our loved ones "good-bye" in the literal sense.

None of us expected to survive an assault on the main island of Japan.

We assembled at Fort Bragg, our division was brought up to full strength and we boarded trains for Seattle. As we were riding the trucks down to the docks, the military bands were giving us a send-off by playing (guess what) - "Sentimental Journey".

While we were aboard ship, bound for Cebu, which was to be the staging area for the invasion, the atom bombs were used.

We did go to Cebu, but never got off the ship. The next day we sailed for Yokohama.

The port was in ruins and for miles inland literally everything was burned... from conventional bombing, but even that hadn't brought about surrender.

We were sent to a mountain valley

area where our mission was to destroy ordinance, dismantle training bases and wreck their tanks and war planes. (Yes, they still had many of the famed Zeros). Oh, it was really fun to destroy their "stuff" - and we were d_d good at it.

Having been there and seen what they had, I'm convinced our casualties from invasion and inland fighting would have been much greater than estimated.

Further, I believe that Japanese casualties (civilian and military) would have been far more than that wrought by the two bombs.

To this day, I'm convinced I owe my years since 1945 to the wise decision made by then President Harry S. Truman and to the crew and support units of the "Enola Gay".

Philip G. Mehner, Commander
American Legion Post 108
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

Continued from Page 4

ternet related subjects, you may contact Dan Jackson by sending mail to: True Image Technologies Inc., Attn: Computer Answers, P.O. Box 423, Eagle Lake, TX 77434; or e-mail at djackson@true-image.com

Did You Know...

•There are more than 7,000 varieties of apples grown in the world.

•The first bananas to reach the U.S. came to New York City from Cuba in 1804. They were often sold one at a time in tinfoil wrappings.

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Columbus Livestock is located at 1064 Reese Lane, Columbus (off I-10 west, Exit 698, right on Reese Lane). Stop in at the "Auction Barn Cafe".

Receiving cattle on Wednesday; receiving pens remain the same. Same competitive market... Same unbeatable service... New "state-of-the-art" facilities to serve You, the seller. We appreciate your business!

Market Report for Aug. 9, 2001
Animals on hand: cattle, 1890.
Number of sellers: 304.

Packer cows: higher dressing utility and cutter cows, 45-50¢ per lb.; lower

dressing utility & cutter cows, 40-44¢ per lb.; thin cows, 33-39¢.

Packer bulls: heavy weight bulls, 55-61¢; utility cutter bulls, 48-54¢.

Head tested: 296.

Stocker/Feeder - Calves/Yearlings

Steers #1: 200-300 lbs., \$1.30-1.45; 300-400 lbs., \$1.15-1.25; 400-500 lbs., \$1.00-1.10; 500-600 lbs., 92-98¢; 600-700 lbs., 84-91¢; 700-800 lbs., 80-84¢.

Steers #2: 200-300 lbs., \$1.15-1.25; 300-400 lbs., \$1.00-1.10; 400-500 lbs., 90-95¢; 500-600 lbs., 85-90¢; 600-700 lbs., 78-83¢; 700-800 lbs., 70-76¢.

Heifers #1: 200-300 lbs., \$1.10-1.20; 300-400 lbs., 98¢-1.10; 400-500 lbs., 86-96¢; 500-600 lbs., 80-84¢; 600-700 lbs., 76-80¢; 700-800 lbs., 74-78¢.

Heifers #2: 200-300 lbs., 95¢-1.05; 300-400 lbs., 84-92¢; 400-500 lbs., 78-83¢; 500-600 lbs., 74-79¢; 600-700, 69-75¢; 700-800 lbs., 64-72¢.

Good stocker cow/calf pairs, \$700-800 by the head; med. cow/calf pairs, \$625-675 by the head; common cow/calf pairs, \$500-600; good stocker cows & heifers, \$575-650; medium stocker cows & heifers, \$475-550.

Computers

their products to enable step-by-step guidance for us when we are installing their products on our own computers. These wizards vary in their capabilities, from simply leading you through a single standard method of installation, to completely evaluating your system and recommending the optimum installation path!

Plug and pray...

Finally, an installation method known as "Plug and Play" has shown great promise and improvement over the past several years.

This method (when it works) al-

lows the computer to detect and install new devices, usually without user intervention.

This happens through a set of rules and on-board software located on the device that tells the various systems what it is, how it works and where it is located on the system.

The system can then install the correct "drivers" (software that tells the operating system how to communicate with a device) and viola! Instant installation!!

If you have questions about this or any other computer, network or In-



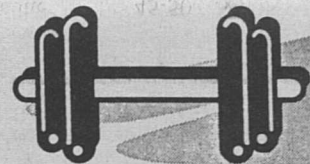
Carissa Ann Murrile

Greg and Dana Murrile of East Bernard are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, born at 7:56 a.m. August 4, 2001 at Texas Women's Hospital in Houston.

Carissa Ann weighed seven pounds, three ounces, and measured 19-3/4 inches at birth.

She was welcomed home by her big brother, Caleb, age three.

Paternal grandparents are Jim and Jean Murrile of East Bernard. Maternal grandparents are A.D. and Kathy Fudge of Altair.



Health & Wellness Directory



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Columbus Physical Therapy & Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services

"Working Together To Get You Back In Action!"



Aquatic Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation is available at our Downtown clinic location in Columbus, Texas. Licensed Physical Therapists provide patients with aquatic pool therapy Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our indoor heated 40' x 26' therapy pool is equipped with a lift, should wheelchair patients need access.

Since 1996, Columbus Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Services, Inc. has been the leader in providing top quality Aquatic Rehabilitation.

Anyone wanting more information on our Pool Therapy programs, please call our Eagle Lake office at 979-234-7388.

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