



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

'I'll join the Aginners'

I have been keeping up with this water board thing and I have decided that I will join the AGINNERS. Here is why. I don't really care about my kids and grandkids. I live up here near the head waters of Redgates Creek where my people have been living for a 150 years or more. It is about time we dry this old creek up. Enough kids have played on this creek and drunk enough water out of these old springs anyway.

Since I am 68-years-old and my retirement funds have about all gone because of this stock market thing, I may want to sell MY water, to some body in Houston or San Antonio or maybe even Sealy. Like the guy from El Campo said, "It is MY water." And about this board, I sure would not want to have to deal with somebody that I helped elect. I had rather drive to Austin or Wharton or Waxahachie for them to tell me what I can or cannot do with MY water. I can make three or four trips to Austin a whole lot cheaper than I can pay 30 or 40 dollars a year to support another level of government that I might elect.

I don't read the papers, so I am sure there is not a water problem anywhere else in this part of the world. I went down to the Rio Grande about 50 years ago and they had built a big dam down there and I know they have plenty of water in the Rio Grande

Valley. I know that there is not going to be anyone else moving into this part of the county, so when I sell my water I don't have to worry about that. There are several water well people around that need the work, so they can deepen and drill new wells for my friends and neighbors when I pull the water level down. That is about all I have to say about this water thing. I think that I will join the Aginners that I read about in your papers who are Agin everything. Some don't own an acre of land and some haven't been in Colorado County very long, so they should know what they are talking about. On the other hand, I see there is a lot of support for the Post Oak Ground Water District. I wonder if the Aginners could be wrong?

Sincerely, Kenneth Brune

State studies service for 60-and-older Texans

Texans born in 1946 or before 1964 have been causing problems since the 1950s and into the 1960s, when they jammed the state's public schools and turned school construction into a growth industry.

Now, those Boomers are beginning to retire or at least start thinking about it. The Texas Department on Aging has put out two studies on the state's ability to serve the needs of the 60-and-older crowd, a demographic segment that will nearly double as a percentage of the state's population in the coming three decades.

The reports—available at www.tdoa.state.tx.us—are "Survey Responses on the Readiness of State Government to Meet the Challenges of Aging Texans" and "Gaps and Coordination of Services for Older Texans: Survey Results."

Not the catchiest of titles, but both documents say the need is urgent to get ready for a huge demographic

State Capitol Highlights By Mike Cox Texas Press Association

change that will impact Texas' economy, workforce, tax base and educational system. Not to mention politics.

West Nile update

The West Nile virus outbreak has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with state government and what it does to protect the populace.

Latest figures from the Texas Department of Health show 76 human cases of West Nile virus reported in 10 Texas counties. The fatality count has stayed the same, only one death in Harris County.

Of the state's 254 counties, the virus has been detected in 82. Most cases have been found in birds, but

the virus also can infect horses and certain smaller mammals.

The Texas Department of Agriculture has urged Texas horse owners to protect their animals and be vigilant for signs of the virus.

The state has more than 1 million horses, and 70 so far have tested positive for the virus, more commonly found in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

One problem is that horses may not show clinical indications of infection, though some will have weakened hindquarters.

Best prevention is vaccination and destruction of mosquito habitat, since the airborne insects are what transmit the virus to humans.

Texas peaches are peachier

Not all the news from the Agriculture Department is as cautionary as its West Nile warning. The department has developed a new web site for folks interested in getting their

vegetables and fruits fresh from local markets, or picking their own.

According to the site, there is a difference between a site, there is one grown somewhere else. Sunshine has something to do with it. The site also says Texas is ranked fifth among the states in total vegetable production, with 4% of the nation's crop.

The new web site is www.agr.state.tx.us/picktexas/.

Agency sets free weekend

Mark your calendar for the weekend of Oct. 19-20. That's Lone Star Legacy Weekend, and admission to all of Texas' 120 state parks and historic sites, will be free.

Some camping and tour fees still will need to be paid, but for the most part visits are on the house that weekend.

Details on the annual program can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Good idea, but too late for this year

Dear Editor,

I need to inform your readers that my idea concerning a write-in candidate for County Judge is not possible this year. While it used to be possible for citizens to use this method to express their opposition to names already on the ballot, it is not that easy any more.

Indeed, there were some successes in electing alternative candidates, by using this strategy.

So, in the wisdom of our legislature, rules were passed that now require a write-in candidate to file a formal application for office, or votes for that candidate will not be counted. The reason (or excuse) for making a

rule, that I believe, actually violates citizens' freedom of expression, was the need to discourage writing-in a "frivolous" candidate, such as Mickey Mouse.

However, the rules not only require a write-in candidate to file an application, but the deadline for doing so, I am told, was Sept. 6th. Therefore, it is impossible to meet all the governmental requirements for a write-in campaign this year.

I hope we all feel much better, now that our legislature has protected us from doing something "frivolous," like expressing our opposition to the "status quo."

Margie Raborn Alleyton

'Old Grey'

A week ago this past Monday, we laid to rest a very unique cat who blessed our household. To those of you on State Street, and more particularly the Taylors, he was a familiar sight.

Not large, an ear on the floppy side, a face like Walter Matthau and miles away by people but he always showed back up.

You couldn't get rid of him and he roamed the neighborhood for some 19 years.

One day about three years ago, he just walked in the house and said "This is it... I'm staying". If he could have talked, the 22 plus years he was around would be quite a tale. He will be missed by all of us.

Larry and Esta Lippman

From a booklet

Dear Editor,

Recently I had the opportunity to read the rather extravagant booklet that was made available through the County Extension Agents office. In this 33-page booklet there are several interesting facts that I would like to point out.

Yes, if the Post Oak Groundwater District is passed they can put a meter on your well. Also, the Post Oak Groundwater District can condemn your property if we give them the power of eminent domain.

One more thing, Yes, the Post Oak Groundwater District will be another layer of government control that can impose taxes. Once again the property owners will pay the bill.

Also, you folks that live in the city may get to pay not only property taxes but also an increase in your water rates.

Sounds like real conservation and protection doesn't it?

Sincerely, Dorothy Wostarek

"The time to pray is not when we are in a tight spot, but just as soon as we get out of it."

— Josh Billings

"Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out."

— James Bryant Conant

"Go often to the house of thy friend; for weeds, soon choke up the unused path."

— Swedish proverb

Explanatory brief for HJR 2

By Texas Secretary of State Gwyn Shea

HJR 2 would amend the constitution to allow the commissioners court of a county to declare the office of constable dormant if that office has been vacant for at least seven consecutive years.

The records of a constable office that is declared dormant will be transferred to the county clerk. If the office is declared dormant, the previous officeholder does not continue to hold the office. The office may not be filled by election or appointment unless the commissioners court votes to reinstate the office or a majority of votes cast in an election held on the issue favor reinstatement. The reinstatement election may be held if the commissioners court receives a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of the constable precinct.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the commissioners court of a county to declare the office of constable in a precinct to be dormant if the office has not been filled by election or appointment for a lengthy period and providing a procedure for the reinstatement of the office."

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Escrito Explicatorio de la HJR 2

La HJR 2 enmendaría la constitución para permitir que la corte de comisionados de un condado declare inactivo el cargo de condestable si ese cargo ha estado vacante por al menos siete años consecutivos. Los archivos de un cargo de condestable que se declara inactivo se transferirán al secretario del condado. Si el cargo se declara inactivo, el titular anterior no sigue ocupando el cargo. El cargo no se puede ocupar por elección ni

nombramiento hasta que la corte de comisionados vote a favor de restituir el cargo o hasta que la mayoría de los votos emitidos en una elección celebrada sobre el tema sean a favor de la restitución. La elección de restitución se puede celebrar si la corte de comisionados ordena dicha elección por iniciativa propia, o la elección de restitución se debe celebrar si la corte de comisionados recibe una petición firmada por el 10% de los votantes inscritos en el precinto del condestable.

"La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la corte de comisionados de un condado a declarar inactivo el cargo de condestable de un precinto si el cargo no ha sido ocupado por elección o nombramiento por un periodo de tiempo prolongado y que contiene un procedimiento para la restitución del cargo".

The Custom Shoppe advertisement for picture framing and window coverings.

PUBLIC NOTICE: BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT Special Election NOVEMBER 5, 2002

CASINO NIGHT advertisement for a fun-filled evening with blackjack, roulette, and craps.

Re-Elect AL JAMISON County Judge advertisement with photo and promises made.