



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Reply to 'Aginners'

The letter by Mr. Brune concerning the "aginners" is very similar to other comments by the proponents of the GCD...

However, the recent publication by the Texas Cooperative Extension from Texas A&M, co-authored by one of Columbus' own, Bruce Lesikar, clearly affirms our concerns.

These are direct quotes: "Can the district place a water meter on my well? Yes..."

Can a district prevent me from drilling a well on my property? Yes... "Isn't a GCD another layer of Government? Yes..."

"Can a GCD prevent water from being sold and exported beyond district boundaries? No..."

I believe those of us who have been trying to ask for caution and not enter into something hastily, that may be more damaging than beneficial in the long run, have been totally vindicated.

I urge every voter not to make your decision by what you are being told by either side.

Instead, get not only a copy of Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, but also a copy of the book from the Texas Cooperative Extension and check the facts for yourself!

Lonny Daley, Columbus

Just the facts please

Last week, someone sent me another letter and it was signed "A Concerned Friend". I am writing this as a "Letter To the Editor" with the hope that the person who wrote that letter will read this.

We appreciate your concern for my daughter. I'll look into the problems you referred to in your letter. We should always keep our eyes and ears open to try to help others when we can.

Not only did you share your concerns about my daughter, but you talked about my son as well. You say you "bit your tongue" where he is concerned.

First of all, is it your place to say anything about his situation? Do you really know much about his problems and the decisions we made? Is it really any of your business? It's very

"Friends" Daughter

Lottery takes in \$2.9+ billion

And the winning numbers are 2...9...6...6...with a dollar sign in front, a decimal point after the 2 and the word "billion" at the end.

Some good financial news finally came out of Austin recently with the Lottery Commission's announcement that it had taken in \$2.966 billion in ticket sales during fiscal 2002-almost a 5% increase over the year before.

From the money, in addition to paying off prizes and costs, the agency transferred \$956.6 million to the state, primarily for K-12 public education.

Another \$869.7 million was deposited in the Foundation School Fund. Additionally, \$40 million went to the Multicategorical Teaching Hospital Fund and \$46.8 million to the Tertiary Care Facility Account.

The \$2.9 billion in sales last year represents an increase of almost 5%, despite the nation's lousy economy. Or maybe because of it, since winning the lottery is one of the quickest financial boosts possible.

Of course, this money does not solve the state's budget shortfall, which has been changing about as fast as winning lottery numbers.

In its 10 years, the Texas Lottery, the fourth largest selling lottery in North America, has generated more than \$9.5 billion for the state and paid more than \$15 billion to players in prizes.

New college plan offered

Texas Tomorrow, the prepaid college tuition program run by the Comptroller's office, has a new name and a new way to cover non-tuition related college costs.

The new name is the Texas Tomorrow Funds program. The two funds are the existing Guaranteed Tuition Plan and the new Tomorrow's College Investment Plan.

The new plan covers costs not provided for under the existing tuition plan.

More than 132,000 Texas families have enrolled in the college plan since it was started in 1996.

Details about both plans are available at www.texastomorrow-funds.org

State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox Texas Press Association

or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723).

Borrowing gets easier

Signing on the dotted line can't get much easier than it already is, but understanding what you are agreeing to when you take out a loan definitely has.

Acting on legislation stemming from a Sunset Commission recommendation, the state Finance Commission, which oversees the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner, has adopted rules simplifying the language in standard loan contracts up to \$12,000.

Standard loan contracts complying with the Texas Finance Code have been rewritten at a seventh grade level, with terminology such as "upon any such default, and at any time thereafter," transformed in to "If I break any of my promises in this document..."

Work still is underway on simplifying home equity loan contracts.

One thing that hasn't changed: You still have to pay back the loan, plus interest.

For more information on the simplification program, visit www.occc.state.tx.us.

Other highlights

Thousands of Texans were scheduled to gather on Texas beaches Sept. 21 for the state's annual Adopt-A-Beach cleanup. Last year, 8,000 volunteers collected 96 tons of trash along 155 of coastline.

The new state Office of Rural Community Affairs announced availability of grants available from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for volunteer care giving programs for the ill, disabled or elderly.

For information on the \$35,000 start-up grants, check the agency's web site at www.orca.state.tx.us or call 800-936-6701.

Where to get information

I have read the articles, letters and ads in the local newspapers regarding the Post Oak Groundwater Conservation District.

Whether you support or oppose a GCD, this issue is too important not to know the facts before you vote in the Nov. election.

I have recently read and studied a publication "Question about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas." It is published by the Texas Cooperation Extension of the Texas A&M University Systems-June 2002. It is easy reading and asks and answers many questions that we need to understand.

Bruce Lesikar from Columbus, an Associate Professor in the Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M, was involved in releasing this booklet. The Appendix, Page 33, also

provides a list of contacts for further information.

Copies are available at the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus or at the Colorado County Extension Office in Columbus at 316 Spring Street.

Water is the most vital natural resource we need for our existence. Its use, conservation and/or exploitation are the legacy we leave for our children, grandchildren, families and future generations in Colorado County.

Opinions and interpretations about the existing Texas Water Code that have been expressed, are thoughts and ideas to which we are all entitled. However, I suggest that your vote in November be based on the best information available to you about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas.

Sincerely, Cherry Harrison, Alleyton

Make the abusers pay

In the debate concerning the creation of a groundwater conservation district, I believe it is incumbent upon those of us who oppose the creation of a district, to show that there are positive alternatives.

One alternative is a wait and see attitude. It is clear from Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, that we can form a GCD at a later date, if it is needed in Colorado County. To date, adequate evidence has not been shown that Colorado County is in a water crisis.

I believe another alternative is to elect a representative who will take our concerns to Austin and work to draft new and better legislation. Currently, the guiding authority for water policy in Texas is the "rule of Capture".

However, the courts have ruled against: "Pumping for the purpose of maliciously harming an adjoining neighbor; Pumping water for a wasteful purpose; Causing land subsidence on adjoining land from negligent pumping; Drilling a slant well that crosses the adjoining property line (trespass)."

These rulings clearly show the judicial system does not believe one person should be allowed to damage their neighbor's well. The courts have begged the legislature to enact legislation to prevent this from happening. Such legislation could be very simple and still protect the "rule of Capture".

The legislature should make the burden of proof for not damaging neighboring wells, rest upon the possible abuser, not on the victim nor on all the citizens of the state.

The person desiring to use his land for the purpose of water mining and exportation should be required to place monitoring wells around the pe-

rimeter of his property, at his own expense, to assure the effects of the pumping he is doing is not going beyond the his property boundary. If an accident does happen, as accidents will, it would be the responsibility of the offending party, to do whatever is necessary to repair and replace neighboring wells and pay for any damages as deemed appropriate in court.

It has never been our desire to interfere with anyone's right to do with their property and resources what they please, but NO government NOR any law should protect individuals who damage their neighbor's property.

Such simple legislation would not require taxpayers to fund a whole new bureaucracy. The expense of safe guarding our water would be born by those who pose the greatest threat to our water.

The current legislation places, I believe, an unconstitutional tax on law-abiding property owners who would never do harm to their neighbors in any way, while actually establishing the rules and regulation for water exportation, whereby we may all be hurt.

The cost of a GCD is high (in my opinion), the protection offered is minimal and the potential abuser is given partial protection.

I agree our water should be protected, but I believe there is a better way!

Margie Raborn, Alleyton

Sales

\$8,102.79, down 40.70 % from the \$13,665.08 received last Sept.

For details on sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Report on the Comptroller's web site at <www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/alloscum/compsu m.html>

Other cities in the Eagle Lake area and the amount of their sales tax rebate this month are:

Columbus, \$54,403.86, down 6.52%; Weimar, \$19,255.02, -0.08%; Sealy, \$81,275.70, +16.64%; Bellville, \$30,854.14, -10.34%; El Campo, \$171,732.26, up 5.00%; and Wharton, \$96,205.92, +4.39%.

Year-to-date for the above cities

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Aug. 24, 1978

Mayor Elmer Struss and members of the Eagle Lake City Council made an URGENT plea for voluntary water rationing as the city faced a near-crisis in its supply of water due to the extended drought and hot weather...

Darnell Varley of Sheridan, a teacher at Sheridan Elementary School, was among participants in a

Continued from Page 1

and the change from last year are: Columbus, \$601,502.99, -2.37%; Weimar, \$168,987.20, +8.33%; Sealy, \$722,607.69, -4.97%; Bellville, \$271,580.33, down 27.18%; El Campo, \$1,538,863.77, -2.45%; and Wharton, \$876,422.66, -5.00%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$44,797.00, down 11.58%. Austin County received \$69,595.08, up 3.44%. Wharton County received \$112,644.32, down 17.88%.

Year-to-date figures for these counties are: Colorado, \$486,110.50, down 6.54%; Austin, \$617,029.24, +3.87%; Wharton, \$1,077,680.93, -8.51%.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be delivered Friday, Oct. 12.

summer economics institute conducted at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos...

Miss Patricia Boyle and Jean Franklin Walker Jr. were united in marriage on Aug. 12 at First United Methodist Church in Hallettsville...

Henry Castle, a prominent resident of this community, passed away in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital on Aug. 12. Last rites were held Aug. 14...

The College of Education at the University of Texas named 166 students to its 1978 honor roll. Among them was Patricia Ann Mathis, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James A. Mathis Sr. of Eagle Lake...

One of the area's most beloved citizens, James William Adkins, closed his eyes to a peaceful rest on Aug. 15. Funeral services were held Aug. 18 at United Methodist Church in Lissie...

Reuben Salinas, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Salinas of Eagle Lake, was awarded a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from SW Texas State University in San Marcos...

The death of Mrs. Lola Lippold of East Bernard, mother of Mrs. John Clipson of this city, was learned with (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

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Foot Facts. By Dr. Eric Pepper, Podiatrist. SAFE PEDICURES. Women have long enjoyed the look and feel of a good pedicure, and many men now pay to have their hard-working feet professionally pampered, too. But pedicures can lead to fungal, bacterial, or staph infections if technicians are not properly trained or equipped with safe tools. Visit only licensed technicians who work in clean establishments. Never allow a technician to scrape the feet with razors or any other blade to remove dead skin or calluses - this is against the law. Toenails should always be cut straight across, with no digging at the sides of nail beds. To maintain the smooth skin yielded by a pedicure, periodically remove rough, dead skin with a pumice stone or emery board and moisturize frequently. We offer preventive care, medical attention, and surgical treatment services for a full range of foot concerns. We are committed to providing uncompromising excellence in diagnosis and treatment of your foot or ankle problem, as well as in advising you on how to keep your feet healthy and happy. Feet of all ages are our priority here at Rice Medical Center. Call us at 234-5571 for a Tuesday appointment. P.S. Because nail polish inhibits the nail's ability to breathe, only wear it for short lengths of time.

JOE C. FLING LAWYER. Criminal Defense Family Law Real Estate Wills & Probate Corporations Contracts. 305 Burns Avenue, Eagle Lake. Phone 979-234-5536. Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Re-Elect AL JAMISON County Judge. His successful business career has served the County well. Ask yourself, "Who is best qualified to manage my tax dollars?" Let's keep that experience working for us. Political ad paid for by Riana Jamison, Treasurer, 2322 Ehlinger Rd., New Ulm, Texas 78950

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2002. K.C. Hall (Armory Rd.), El Campo • 11 a.m.-7 p.m. DINNER...BBQ beef & sausage with all the trimmings \$6.00 per plate - Dine-in or plates-to-go. \$21,000 GIFT CERTIFICATE DRAWING!! BIG AUCTION! GAMES! RIDES! FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!