



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Produced and Distributed By:
Carol Cardenas • Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Luedecke
Katherine Smith • Cathy Fearing

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

An important issue...

Dear Editor,
An important issue will be on the ballot Nov. 5. We are to decide whether or not to establish a groundwater conservation district under local control to manage and protect

groundwater in Colorado County. We have not had to give much thought about protecting and conserving this resource. We have been blessed with a good supply of water and not many people have had prob-

lems. However, things are changing. Water shortages are developing in fast growing metropolitan areas near us. Our groundwater has become an attractive option as a source of water for these areas. Further, a big water user could locate here or our irrigation farmers may have to switch from the river to wells as a primary source of water. Our own population is growing.

Whatever may happen, our current water law does not protect from over-

pumping groundwater that causes wells to go dry and other serious problems. The law was made before the day of deep wells and huge needs for water.

Our legislature, in response to the need for modern water laws, has provided a way for us to manage and protect our water supply. We may establish a groundwater conservation district, locally controlled, to establish rules to protect this valuable resource. There are no state agencies with this authority.

There is a very vocal opposition to a district. Many are claiming, and they cite chapter and verse of the Texas Water Code, that a groundwater conservation district will "trample their rights, or take their water or their land, etc." So far not one of these opponents has cited a case where this has happened. Districts have been in place in Texas for 50 years and there are at least 67 confirmed and 19 unconfirmed districts covering all or part of 108 counties in Texas. If the opposition would properly investigate, they would find that district rules would protect their right to their fair share of water from beneath their land. Also, they would find there is adequate protection for individual rights in the water law and in our system of governance.

Your decision on Nov. 5 is of extreme importance. Water marketing and "Boone Pickens" type deals are emerging. Money moves water. Either we control our water or someone else will and we will not like the results. We need to have our rules in place before a big user moves in. Our neighbors in Wharton and Fayette counties have already acted and have established districts.

Sincerely,
Travis Wegenhoff
Advisory Committee
Chairman, Post Oak GCD

Lottery Commission has a new director

This week's lottery number is four. That's the number of executive directors the Texas Lottery Commission has had since it was created 11 years ago.

Gary Grief, formerly the agency's director of operations, is the new acting director following the resignation of Linda Cloud who admitted that she had lied to a newspaper reporter.

Cloud resigned Sept. 26, though she will remain on the state payroll burning unused leave until the end of the year.

Farmers market

Insurance used to be something most people took for granted or ignored. No more.

Farmers Insurance's announcement that it would quit doing business in Texas, which is 20% of its market, underscores the fact that insurance is not routine any longer. For one, it's expensive, at least in comparison with what it used to cost. For another, it often doesn't cover what consumers think it should.

Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor made two moves Oct. 2 that should make getting coverage somewhat easier for consumers: He expanded the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association, which had included only 14 coastal counties and a part of Harris County, to include the whole state.

He also activated the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR), which enables property insurers to combine to provide coverage for insurable homes in underserved areas.

Both programs, however, are intended to be last resorts. To qualify under the FAIR plan, homeowners coverage would have to have been rejected by two licensed companies.

Montemayor said the actions were intended to create a temporary safety net until the Legislature convenes. Meanwhile, the Farmers move

State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

clearly annoyed some members of the Legislature.

State Sen. Troy Fraser, a Republican from Horseshoe Bay, has said he's prepared to introduce a bill that would bar insurers from selling any product if they abandon a segment of the market.

Coming up with a state budget still will be the biggest issue facing lawmakers in January, but insurance, from business practices to rate regulation to mold coverage, will be on the legislative radar as well.

The budget buzz

They're talking but it doesn't sound good.

"I've been with the state 33 years," one of the 250,000 or so state employees said. "I've heard a lot of concern about tight budgets. This is the first time I've really been worried."

From another state government watcher: "There's going to be a special session. They're not going to pass a budget during the regular session."

Signs of the time

With the election only a month away, the only thing proliferating any faster than campaign rhetoric is the number of campaign signs.

Cardboard signs stuck into the ground are a basic part of the political process, but it's still illegal to place them in the ground or on any object in the right of way of a state road and along many cities' roads.

Over-enthusiastic volunteers need to remember that the misdemeanor offense could bring up to a \$500 fine per sign.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, it is okay to place signs on private property adjacent to state highways, but only if the landowner has given permission.

Such signs have to be lightweight and less than 50 feet square. They must be removed within 10 days following the election.

Under the law, TxDOT can remove any signs it finds on public right of way and bill the owner for the costs.

JOE C. FLING
LAWYER
Criminal Defense
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305 Burns Avenue, Eagle Lake
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Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Rice Medical Center Employee Volunteers'
7th ANNUAL HARVEST BALL
Honoring:
MS. BARBARA PIDGEON
October 12, 2002
at the Eagle Lake Community Center
Social Hour 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Salute to Ms. Pidgeon 7:30 p.m.
Dancing 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Authentic 1920s Attire (Optional)
Tickets may be purchased at Rice Medical Center for \$50.00 per couple.

ACHIEVEMENT
DISCIPLINE
RESPONSIBILITY
LEADERSHIP
SELF-ESTEEM
MOTIVATION

San Marcos Baptist Academy is a private boarding school for boys in grades 6-12 and girls in grades 8-12. Day school is available for boys and girls in grades 6-12.

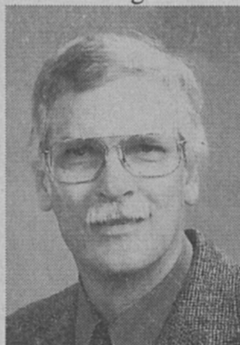
There will be an information session at the Courtyard by Marriott (12655 SW Frwy Hwy 59, Stafford) Monday, October 14th at 7:00 P.M. Come and learn about curriculum, campus life, and admissions for the upcoming Spring 2003 and Fall 2003 enrollment. **PUBLIC INVITED**

2801 Ranch Road 12 - San Marcos, TX 78666 - 1-800-428-5120 - e-mail: admissions@smba.org - www.smba.org
San Marcos Baptist Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origins.

Running for County Judge

To the Citizens of Colorado County:

I, Jim Kearney, pledge to work with all the people and with the other elected officials in an open and respectful manner to solve the problems facing us. We should leave no stone unturned in attracting quality new businesses, without, however, undercutting our local businesses in these tough times. We want a good economic climate so that our young people can stay and raise their families here. We also want our older citizens to feel that there is stability in their lives



and finances, and that the services they depend on will be there when they need them. The recent initiative on the part of the citizens of Weimar to attract a Veterans' retirement home with the support of good people throughout the county is an example of what

(See Kearney, Page 6)

October 2002						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER 29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Happy Birthday Mom
Love You, Valerie, Erica, Saul, Raynee

Got a problem?
If you have something you would like to talk over with Eagle Lake Mayor René Cooper-Scott, this is her schedule for Oct.

Re-Elect AL JAMISON
★ County Judge ★
Promises Made...
The County's budget reserves have increased by over \$2,000,000.00 the last four years. Conservative, experienced leadership has paid dividends to the County.
Promises Kept!

Political ad paid for by Riana Jamison, Treasurer, 2322 Ehlinger Rd., New Ulm, Texas 78950

Foot Facts
By Dr. Eric Tepper, Podiatrist
DIABETIC FOOT TROUBLES
Diabetes is becoming an alarmingly common disease. The number of new cases is expected to more than double in the next 25 years, to about 300 million worldwide. Foot trouble is one of the biggest problems associated with the disease. Diabetes damages nerves, so patients lose sensation in their extremities. It can also reduce blood flow to the feet by narrowing arteries. With nerve damage and decreased blood flow, a patient may be unaware of sores or blisters, and wounds that do occur heal slowly - making the foot prone to infections that could lead to amputation. Patients should examine their feet daily, looking for signs of trouble that can include blisters, cracked skin, red streaks, swelling, or any discoloration. While some foot conditions are annoyingly painful and might require routine professional care, others are deadly serious and demand close podiatric attention. Diabetes is at the top of the list of this second category. If you are new to the area and don't have a podiatrist, or if you are looking for a second opinion about a foot condition, we invite your call at 234-5571. We're located at Rice Medical Center, where we have office hours on Tuesdays.
P. S. Obesity, poor diet, and a sedentary lifestyle are major contributors to diabetes.

CALL CRIME STOPPERS • 979-732-6991 • IT PAYS REWARDS