



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To The Editor & You

Candidate voices opinion

Political advertisement paid for by Lonny Daley, 1048 Daley Lane, Columbus, Texas 78934.

Jean Killgore, Republican candidate for House District (HD) 17, in a phone interview with Jim Sudan of the *Austin American Statesman* related there is a ground swell of concern be-

ing voiced by voters over the forthcoming vote on formation of Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). Authored by her opponent and originally intended to protect against over pumping or depletion of HD 17's rich water resources, concerns are now being raised by voters about the makeup

of the Board of Directors, the future costs of GCDs, private property rights, and the power of eminent domain. There are four GCDs on the ballot on Nov. 5 in HD 17.

According to Killgore voters are raising threes concerns in informational meetings organized by the tem-

porary water boards. Many voters have contacted the candidate to say there is not enough information forthcoming about how formation of GCDs will impact private property rights, future costs to taxpayers and fees to local water customers. There is still confusion over the fact that some GCDs have powers of eminent domain and others do not. Some are fee based and some are tax based thus creating more confusion and concern.

Killgore stated that, "These are legitimate questions that should be answered. It appears increasing numbers of voters don't want to rush into forming GCDs without the full story. If voters don't approve the GCDs on Nov. 5, there will be time to place them on the ballots in May 2003. Also, if voters reject the GCDs, as your next state representative, I will work with all the interests and landowners concerned to draft new legislation that will better protect our vital water resources, provide fair representation on boards as well as address the issue of eminent domain. Changes of this dimension in public policy should have careful scrutiny by the voters and their representatives. The cost of waiting and learning more is small compared to the potential loss of private property rights and the long range costs imposed on taxpayers if voters elect to accept the GCDs currently before us."

'We are watching you'

By now, I am sure we have enough of Colorado County have had enough of politics! By now, many are throwing political ads in the trash, without even looking at them. My comments are to all the citizens of Colorado County, it seems "the little people" have finally acquired voice, whether for or against. We seem to have remembered, we are the government, and our government is only as good as we demand. We can create a better government together, by electing representatives who are willing to change, to work with the citizens and uphold the values for which we stand. If we continually settle for less, then that is all we will get!

Over the past months, we have seen how easy it is, for people to spend other people's money (our tax dollars). How easy it is for our government to say, "Sit down, we are not here to hear what you have to say. We are here to tell you what we have decided you need."

How easy it is for government officials to do what they please, when no one is watching. How easy it is to borrow ideas from citizens and then twist those ideas to mean something different.

How easy it is to pit friend against friend. How easy it is to use deception to cloud and issue. How easy it is to mislead, because people are basically honest and they expect to be hon-

est too. How easy it is to mislead with lists of names and donors. How easy it is to choose the path of greed and throw logic out the door for the sake of needing more and more money. How easy it is to forget we are only here for a short time and the next generations will be tied to our reckless legislation.

When we write a check to the IRS, or pay state sales tax, or pay our property tax, the money still belongs to us. The Government is merely the guardian of that account. Our government was designed to defend our liberties, not to be our "nanny" and certainly not to control us. It is time we put our government in its place and exercise our liberties (while we still have them).

Colorado County has gained a voice and we are saying to our government (local, state, federal) "We are watching you, if you fail to do your duty-WE ARE COMING AFTER YOU!!!"

Thank you to all the citizens of Colorado County who have written letters and otherwise participated in the recent political debate and especially to all those who will take the time to go and vote!

Isn't it great to be an American? Isn't it great to be a TEXAN!

Debbie Bubela
 Nada

PAID LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In this country we have a long established principle that when there is "a reasonable doubt" there is no conviction. I believe this policy has served us well in the prevention of many fatal errors.

Now I believe this principle should be applied to one's decision concerning the groundwater conservation district. After learning: (1) Some of our neighboring counties were protected from the power of eminent domain and condemnation in the enabling act for their GCD's, yet Robby Cook did not write such protection for the citizens of Colorado County into the enabling legislation for our GCD. (2) Land owners in the area indicated on the map circulated by Pure Texas Water, have NOT leased their water rights. (3) Now Mr. Ingram, Chairman of Pure Texas Water, readily admits, that his company supports the formation of the GCD, when they are the ones wishing to export our water to Houston.

Such facts should cause a "reasonable doubt" for any thoughtful citizen! Therefore, vote **AGAINST** the formation of a GCD in Colorado County!

Thank you,
 Crockett Leyendecker

Paid political ad by Crockett and Dorothy Leyendecker, 903 Front Street, Columbus, Texas 78934.

'I've talked to people who know'

I am writing this as a concerned citizen, NOT as publisher of *The Headlight*.

I have talked to people who know (experienced lawmakers and businessmen who know the law) and have found out it would be virtually impossible for any legislation passed in the upcoming session to go into effect by May 2003.

In addition to the time it takes to

write and pass bills (which a new groundwater conservation district for Colorado County would be), there is also the time for approval by the U.S. Department of Justice and the length of time the bill sits on the governor's desk.

Yes, legislation can be pushed through faster than usual, but I can't see a freshman member of the legislature having the clout needed to get

that done. Therefore, the statement made by State Rep. Candidate Jean Killgore is darn near impossible. I refer to her stating she would have a new bill done and time to "place them on the ballot in May 2003".

Think about it.

Jeannine Fearing
 Eagle Lake

'After listening to the panel'

I'll begin by saying that I am opposed to the proposed Groundwater Conservation District (GCD). I have read the handbook from the Texas Extension Service. I've read all of the letters to the editor in four county newspapers. I went to the meeting at the courthouse on Oct. 8 to listen to the so-called, "Panel of Experts" that were hand-picked by proponents of a GCD.

After listening to the panel and reading all I could about it, I'm totally convinced that we don't need a GCD. One proponent told me that it was insurance that water would not be transported out of our county IF anyone wanted to do it. My thought is that it would be very expensive insurance and that it would probably never happen and IF we vote for a GCD we will have another tax that could go higher and higher and higher as the needs of the GCD increase.

According to the Extension Service Handbook it could go as high as 50¢ per \$100 valuation. Just think what this would cost taxpayers and this would also cost every real estate owner, even city property owners who already pay city tax so the city can supply water to them.

It would also create another

baurocracy that could put meters on our wells if they want to and possibly lower the allowance of 25,000 gallons per day to a much smaller amount if they wanted to. They could tell you if you could and where to put a well on your own property or even charge for a permit to do so. They can condemn your land under the Right of Eminent Domain to build a pipeline or whatever they wanted on private property.

A GCD would give directors or anyone connected to it the right to invade your privacy whenever they wanted.

The Gulf Coast Aquifer that we are in is a very large, vast aquifer that will probably never go dry with the exception of a few pockets where the water level could drop in wells that were not

drilled deep enough to begin with (lack of foresight, or perhaps a little too expensive).

A GCD would make taxpayers liable for any lawsuits that may be filed against it and lost. Any lawsuit could possibly get quite expensive. The Right to Capture would be lost by rural landowners among many other disadvantages caused by the creation of a GCD.

Everyone, especially landowners, PLEASE consider the facts and hopefully you will join me and vote NO in the upcoming certification of the creation of a GCD. Control District is much more appropriate name for the GCD.

Sincerely,
 C.L. "Buddy" Praise
 Columbus

I found myself confused

As election day draws near, I found myself confused by the many allegations flying about in the Colorado County judge's race. Being first a father and now a grandfather of 10, and having and there are always two sides to every issue, I called Judge Jamison and asked about the following. I'll share with you his answers, paraphrased.

•Did you promise to hold open town meetings? Yes, I did and when I started to set up the first one, I discovered that they were not legal in Texas at the county level.

•Economic development, they got Wal Mart and we got nothing? Not true, I have actively pursued new businesses and industry for the county and my efforts have played a part in our acquisition of Great Southern Wood Preserving and new motels in Columbus and Weimar. "Stan's thought... Walmart, was this due to Jamison's negligence or possibly the strategic location of Sealy?"

•Did you promise not to take salary increases? Never. However, I did choose NOT to accept an increase my first year in office.

•Did you promise to "constitute" (maybe institute) an advisory committee of local ag leaders? Never. I feel that we already have several organizations in the county doing a fantastic job.

•You promised to get 911 up and running however there seems to be major problems with the radio system you "pushed" through Commissioners' Court. What is the problem? The 911 system is in fine shape and has nothing to do with our radio problems.

•Then what is the radio problem? The problem is the frequency that the FCC assigned us. It overlaps Houston. I have finally been able to get Houston to agree to reduce their power beginning Oct. 28. This will solve the problem.

•What about the statements that you are a one-man show, a big CEO with big city ideas? Those really confuse me unless it's an oblique attempt to somehow make me seem associated with (the) Enrons, etc.

•Where are we on the Emergency Management Plan? We have been working on this and should have a plan ready for basic certification with annexation by Jan. 1. By the way, ours is the first administration to ever address this matter.

•What about the \$3,000,000 budget increase? Well, as my opponent has pointed out, some of this has been required due to fees and costs continuing to rise. However, a major part has been used to increase the starting salaries of patrol deputies, dispatchers and EMS staff. We have also added over \$2,000,000 to our budget reserves.

•Why were burdensome land use regulations imposed on property owners? I guess I have to take exception to the word "burdensome". The policies implemented mainly brought subdivision regulations up to 1999 legislation and ultimately will benefit our landowners by preserving and improving our land values and keeping unscrupulous land developers out of the county.

•You routinely treat citizens and elected officials in a rude and discour-

(See Confused, Page 3)

Who Do You Want To See In Control Of Our Groundwater, Your Friends and Neighbors, or a Corporation With Deep Pockets and Lots of Lawyers?

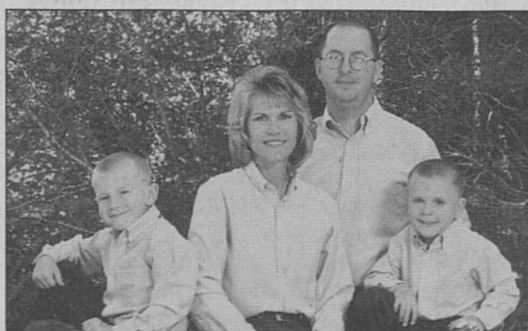
As things are now, corporations which sell water which sell water into this county and take so much of it that there will not be enough for us. And if they do, there is nothing we can do about it. How soon will it be before water marketers invade this county? They are already here. One is planning two pipelines, each eight feet in diameter, to take our water to Houston. But a groundwater conservation district, managed by local people chosen in local elections, can place restrictions on such corporations. So, when you decide whether or not you should be in favor of a groundwater conservation district, think about this: Do you trust local people you can see and talk to more than you trust corporations? At the election on Tuesday, November 5,

Vote FOR the Post Oak Groundwater Conservation District

Pol. adv. William C. Neiser, Treasurer, 102 N. Exchange St., Weimar, Texas 78962

From our Family to Yours... PLEASE VOTE!

- ★ Long-time Colorado County resident.
- ★ Associate's Degree in Business and Accounting from Wharton County Junior College.
- ★ Over eleven years experience working in the County Auditor's Office, dealing with a wide variety of duties, responsibilities, and operations.
- ★ Currently serves as the Loss Control Coordinator for Colorado County.
- ★ Former teacher at St. Anthony's Catholic School. ★ Member-Catholic Daughters of the Americas.
- ★ Assistant Troop Leader-Boy Scout Troop #312. ★ Member and former Treasurer-St. Anthony's School PTC.
- ★ Active community volunteer. ★ Member-St. Anthony's Catholic Church.
- ★ Married to Scott Matus for over 15 years, they have two sons: Dillon, 9, and Colton, 6.



The Matus Family

VOTE



MATUS
 for COUNTY
TREASURER

Working for You! ★ Contact Diane at (979) 732-8279 ★ sawdust@intertex.net

Political ad paid for by Diane Matus for County Treasurer Campaign, 603 Milam, Columbus, Texas 78934, Chris Stein, Treasurer

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