

Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District

by Jim Brasher

July Report

Help! I'm being overrun with acronyms.

Honestly, I've never seen so many acronyms in a job before.

Just to give you a taste of what I mean, try to translate the following, "The CCGCD will need the TWDB to make a GAM run based on our DFC so that we can determine our MAG."

These are just a few of the literally dozens of acronyms I've come across in the job so far.

The good news is that I'm starting to figure this out and hopefully I'll be able to explain things to the constituency without driving them crazy.

The line I highlighted above may sound kind of silly, but it's actually a key objective for the CCGCD.

But, what does it mean? Hopefully, everyone knows what CCGCD means, so I'll spare explanation of that.

In order to determine how much water it is safe to permit and still have a sustainable groundwater system, the District often con-

fers with the TWDB or the Texas Water Development Board.

This is a state organization, which is charged with the task of providing information and assistance in developing our groundwater resources.

These are the people who have the resources and computing power to help make assessments for our District.

GAM stands for Groundwater Availability Model.

So, when we ask for a GAM run from the TWDB, we are asking the Texas Water Development Board to use their computer simulation model to predict what our groundwater levels in the county will be like in years to come.

Of course, before the GAM run can be made, we have to provide some input for the model.

Hence, the DFC or Desired Future Conditions.

For example, we may tell the TWDB that we want the average water level of our aquifer to decline no more than 10 feet over the next 50 years.

Armed with that information, the TWDB can make their GAM run.

And, part of what that GAM run spits out is information regarding our MAG or Managed Available Groundwater.

Ultimately, this is one of the key pieces of information we are looking for.

It would be negligent for the District to just allow anyone to drill wells anywhere and produce as much as they can for as long

as they want, especially without knowing the consequences of that action.

The MAG can tell us how much water can be pumped out of the aquifer annually so that we reach our DFC (Desired Future Conditions).

Knowing how much water we have available allows us to plan more readily for permitting in the future.

Now wasn't all that simple? You too, now understand the mysterious language of groundwater acronyms!



The Class Reunion for ELHS Class of 1964 celebrating 45 years was held Saturday July 11 at the home of Steve and Linda Balas. Eighteen of the thirty-six graduates attended the reunion. Pictured in the front row, Mary Lynn Behrens Snyder, Sue Matthews Weller, Kathy Cash Faucett, Nancy Davidson Rogers; second row: Billy Lee, Herbert Blake, Christine Herman Owen, Anna Mae Cooper Wiese, Virginia Uzzell Altman, Jim Gibson, Ronnie Miller, Darrell Struss and Steve Balas; back row: Fred Andreas, Lanny Powers, Brenda Wright Wilson and Donnie Wiese. Not pictured Roger Birdwell.

Study Club To Hold Auction

The 30th annual auction held by the Eagle Lake Study Club will be Saturday, September 19, at the Community Center.

The silent auction, bakery booth and catered dinner will begin at 5 p.m. with the main auction beginning at 7 p.m. The returning auctioneer for this year will be former Eagle Lake resident Dick Richter.

If you are a member of a group, be it family, card group, service organization, or just a group of friends, please consider getting together to donate one larger item. This will enable the Study Club to have fewer items, thereby reducing auction time. Different items on which to bid might be gift cards, stay at a bed and breakfast, a play, or perhaps a cruise for two.

This year former ELHS classes are being contacted to attend this event and to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Please make checks payable to Eula & David Wintermann Library noting your class year on the check and mail to Wintermann Library, 101 N. Walnut Eagle Lake. All funds will be used to purchase items for the auction.

Over the last 29 years this auction event has been held as the major support for the Eula and David Wintermann Library. An important note to remember is that each dollar raised will be matched by the Wintermann

Foundation, dollar for dollar. All money goes directly to the library for its operation.

So, mark your calendar for September 19, at the Eagle Lake Community Center for a fun evening.

Colorado County To Hold Poster Contest

Students in grades Kindergarten through 12 who are residents of Colorado County or attend school within the county, are invited to participate in the Colorado County Poster Contest.

Contestants can create their designs on a full or half-size poster board. The poster design should reflect some aspect of fair activities such as the livestock show, parade, rodeo, carnival, clowns, creative homemaking show, queen's pageant, tractor pull, etc.

The words "Colorado County Fair, September 10-13; Columbus, must appear somewhere on the

front of the poster. Contestants are encouraged to use bright and bold colors so their posters will help "sell" the fair.

Stencils may be used for lettering, but no other tracing or computer generated graphics are allowed.

Students should put their name, address, phone number, school name and grade level for fall 2009 on the back of their entry.

Posters are due in the County Extension Office, 316 Spring Street in Columbus by 5 p.m. Friday, August 14. Winning posters will be kept through the fair. Others may be picked up at the Extension Office after August 28.

Additional information on the poster contest is available by calling contest chairman Deborah Petrosky at 979-732-3564 or fair director Pamela Potter at 979-732-2705

Sts. Peter & Paul Fest Set Aug. 2

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church of Frelsburg will hold its annual festival on Sunday, August 2. The church is located 10 miles north of Columbus off FM 109 at 1031 Church Lane.

The day will begin with Holy Mass at 8:15 a.m.

A meal of fried fish, buttered potatoes, hush puppies, coleslaw, pinto beans, bread, pickles and tea will be served at 11 a.m. Meal tickets will be \$8 for a large plate \$5 for a small.

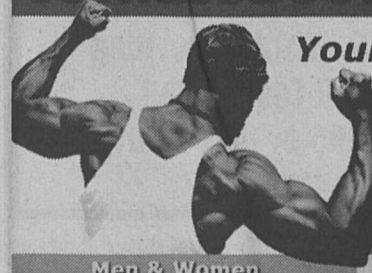
For your convenience, there will be plates to go for \$8 per plate.

Throughout the day, listen to great music provided by Douglas Polasek. The big country auction begins at 1 p.m. featuring quilts and many handmade items, antiques and plants and many more unique items.

There will be bingo, country store, grocery walk, silent auction, cake walk, dunking stand, plant walk, horseshoes, fish pond, and many more fun activities for everyone in the family. Cool off with snow cones, Blue Bell ice cream, and a variety of cold drinks.

Hamburgers, nachos and snacks will be available starting at 3 p.m. The day will conclude with a free dance with music by the Red Ravens from 4-8 p.m. Come one! come all to Frelsburg for a fun time! See you in Frelsburg, Sunday, August 2

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MAINTAINING GOOD DENTAL HEALTH

Most people know that maintaining good dental health into old age has many benefits. Those most important include comfort of the teeth and gums, the ability to enjoy food, and a better appearance.

Now, a recent study confirms that good dental health has another important benefit—it can add years to your life.

This new study included 1,929 elderly people living in a large Japanese city. This group was followed for six years, and their average age was 79.7 years. The mortality rate of those without teeth and who did not wear their dentures was nearly twice as high as those with twenty or more teeth, 63% versus 32% respectively. Researchers point to the impact on nutrition as the most likely explanation for their findings. Regular dental care and good oral hygiene can add comfort, enjoyment, and years to your life.

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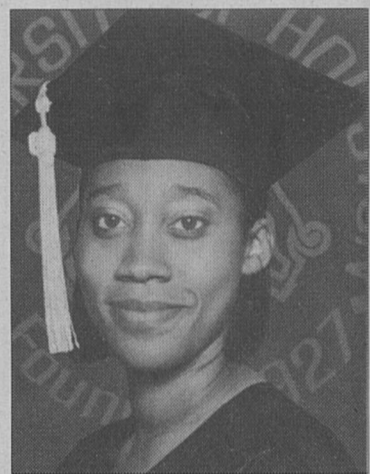
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Sarah Lynn Foster

Foster Graduates From University of Houston

Sarah Lynn Foster graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Houston in Houston. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Film. Commencement was held at 9 a.m. May 15 at the Hofheinz Pavilion.

Sarah is a 2003 graduate of Rice High School and is the daughter of Joel Foster of Eagle Lake and Gloria Foster of El Campo.

Connect to Energy Savings

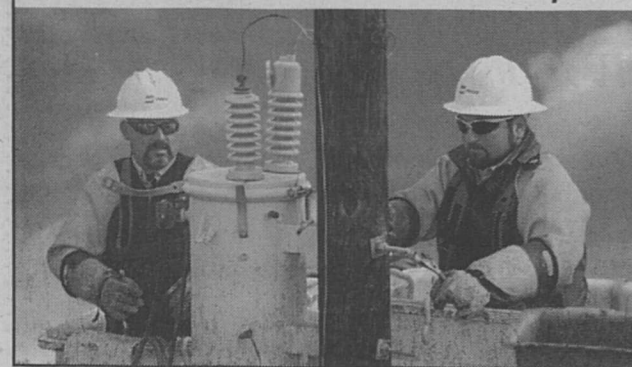
AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for more than 90 years, AEP Texas knows a thing or two about energy conservation. That's why we would like to share some low or no-cost tips with you on how to keep cool during these hot summer months.

Since AEP Texas and its 1,700 employees are directly connected to the many communities we live in and serve, we'd like to share some low or no cost tips with you on how to keep cooler while saving energy and money.

- Set air-conditioning thermostats to the highest possible comfortable setting and dress accordingly.
- Turn off every appliance you are not using including lights, televisions and radios. Use the "sleep" feature on your computer equipment.
- Only cool rooms that you use. Close vents and doors in unused rooms. Be sure to close closet doors.
- Check your air-conditioning filter every month and replace as needed.
- Keep windows that let the sun in covered when the sun is shining on them.
- Weather strip and caulk around windows and doors to prevent drafts.
- Close your fireplace damper when the fireplace is not being used.
- Use fans to help circulate the air in your house.
- Air-dry dishes in the dishwasher.
- Lower the temperature on your hot water heater to warm during the summer, take short showers and wash only full loads of clothes in the laundry.

It's important to remember that if you're having trouble paying your electric bill, call your retail energy provider (REP) at the number listed on your current electric bill to avoid disconnection.

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