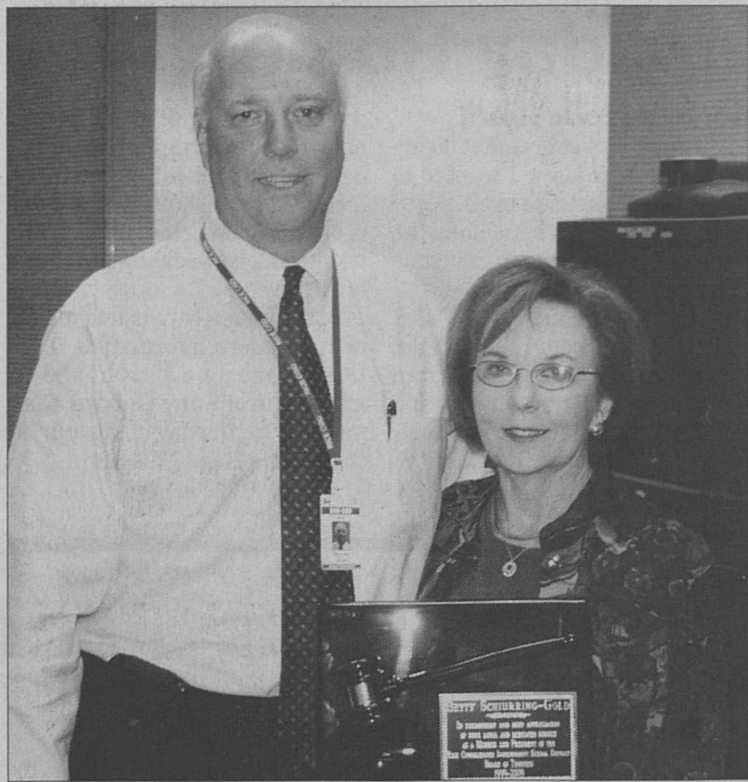




Former Rice CISD Board member Betty Schiurring was recently honored at a board meeting with a plaque for her 10 years of service to the district as a trustee. Pictured with her is Rice Superintendent Michael Lanier. Colorado County Citizen photo by Jacob Truchard.

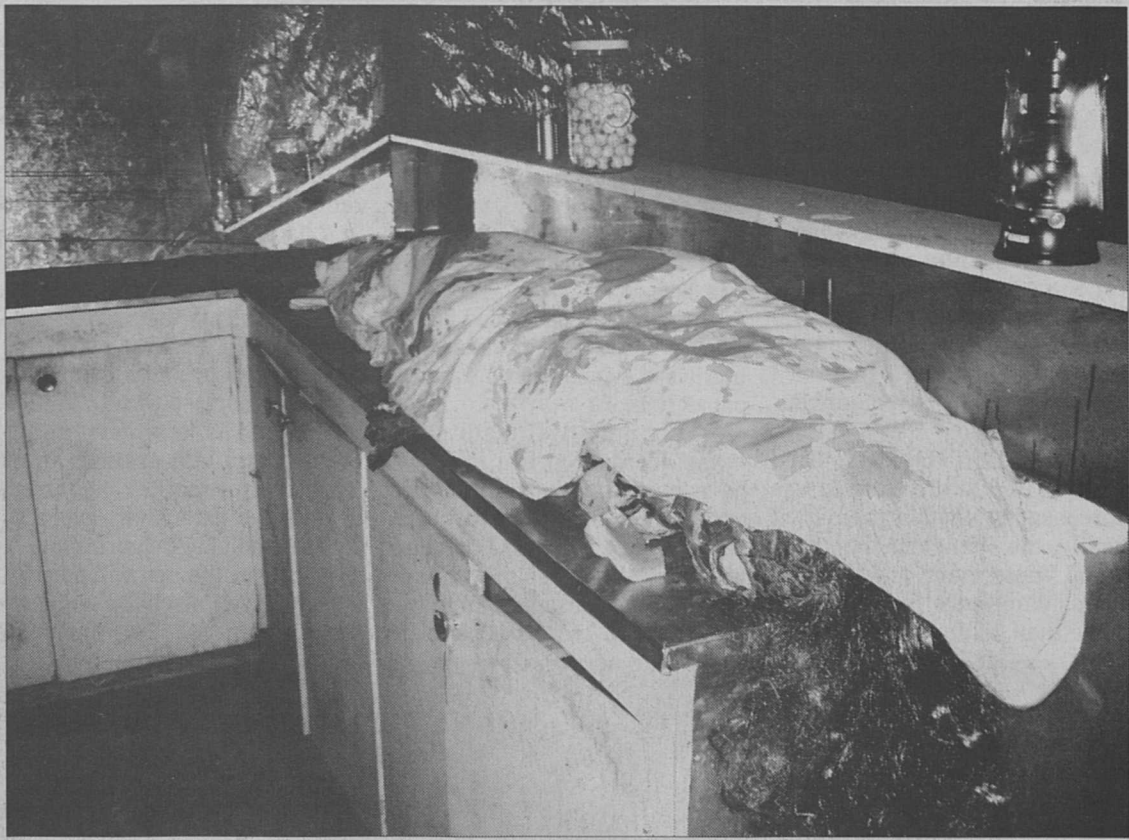
Raiders

Continued from front page

the game. He has 1,109 yards on the season.

Their two losses on the season came by one point against Brookshire Royal and a 45-6 blowout by Sealy.

They are averaging 346 yards per game and give up a district best 172 yards per outing.



The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce House of Terror will be open on Halloween night from 6 to 10 p.m. at the chamber office on Main Street. They will have many activities starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Pictured above a sneak peak at one of the haunted house's rooms.

Pros and Cons Given For Each Constitutional Amendment

Continued from page 3

Texas State Guard Prohibition on Holding a Civil Office.

The Ballot will read: "The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices."

Summary: Proposition 7 would include Texas State Guardsmen in the list of those military officers allowed to hold civil offices. Currently, all members of the armed forces except the Texas State Guard are allowed to hold civil office.

Supporters Say: This amendment would merely correct an unintentional oversight in the Constitution, allowing the Texas State Guard to hold civil office, just like other military members.

Opponents Say: No apparent opposition.

Proposition 8: A Veterans' Hospital in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Ballot will read: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance,

and operation of veterans' hospitals in this state."

Summary: Proposition 8 would require Texas to solicit federal establishment of a veterans' hospital in the Rio Grande Valley Region. The proposed hospital would be under federal jurisdiction, but the state would also contribute money for the establishment and operation of the hospital.

Supporters Say: Proposition 8 would give veterans another full-fledged Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital.

The closest VA hospital for

Rio Grande-area veterans is now in San Antonio, which may be a long drive for some. Veterans have risked their lives for their country and deserve the best and most accessible care.

Opponents Say: The US Department of Veterans Affairs contracted with two Rio Grande Health Systems in February 2009 to provide inpatient, surgical, emergency, and mental health services to Rio Grande-Area veterans. These two systems are well equipped to provide the vital services in close proximity to the

veterans. All veterans have the option to go to San Antonio for hospital treatment. There has not been significant evidence that another hospital is needed, and so the added expense through federal and state taxes is not justified.

Proposition 9: Texas Public Beaches.

The Ballot will read: "The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of

Mexico."

Summary: Proposition 9 would constitutionally establish the public's unrestricted right to access public beaches. Right now, this right is only present in Texas statute.

Supporters Say: This would strengthen the Open Beaches Act, and better ensure that developers do not block public access to Texas beaches located on the Gulf of Mexico.

Opponents Say: Putting the Open Beaches Act into the Constitution would make it harder for property owners to challenge abusive implementation. This statute gives the state power to require property owners whose houses are now located on public land following Hurricane Ike to remove their homes. The state already has an unreasonable amount of power not just to obstruct development, but also to prevent homeowners from legitimately using their private property. If this measure becomes part of the Constitution, that power would become unchecked.

Proposition 10: Emergency Service District Board Term Limits.

The Ballot will read: "The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years."

Summary: Proposition 10 would allow members of the governing board of an emergency services district to serve terms of four years rather than the current maximum of two years.

Supporters Say: Longer terms would promote stability on ESD boards and give the board members more time to gain experience and improve district emergency services.

Opponents Say: Longer terms would reduce accountability to the people, which is especially important given that ESD board members have the power to tax.

Proposition 11: Restriction on Eminent Domain Powers.

The Ballot will Read: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity."

Summary: Proposition 11 would only allow eminent domain in cases where the taking of the land is necessary for public purposes. The amendment specifically states that the land may not be taken for additional tax revenues or economic development.

Supporters Say: This amendment will allow greater protection for landowners and homeowners against unnecessary government land-takings. The amendment will send a strong message that private land should only be taken for very limited public purposes.

Opponents Say: This amendment does not clearly define what constitutes justified eminent domain proceedings. This vague language could lead to a various judicial interpretations, and thus subject taxpayers to court costs.

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