campus & city

County unit to streamline taxing

Law By NANCY ANDERSEN

Battalion Staff ast spring the Texas Legislature sed a law designed to consolidate on Raven appraisal offices in each county. usions." nstead of each school board or he verdic ' appraising property for its own could be poses, Senate Bill 621 would prison of **m** a county-wide appraisal dis-Ravera's t. This will eliminate the current tlight on plation of appraising the same hat of Romperty as many as two or three

auple of mes. t his the faxing district would follow om him. lines of the county and be gov-een estrated by a five-member board of di-hildrenartors. While the district will not ct taxes until 1982, Brazos Counhen, that appraisal district is beginning to

t yet caug e shape now. ely becaug he Bryan a e Bryan and A&M Consoliviewed ed Independent School districts, again cities of Bryan and College Sta-ex-wife and Brazos County are the taxnits forming the Brazos County ir son. Sur secutor a tral Appraisal District.

them, bounty governments are not re-them, bounty governments are not re-hers - wred to participate in the district, have the option to do so. ocial issue in the recommendation of Coun-the Frend Tax Assessor-Collector Gerald

"Buddy" Winn, the Brazos County Commisioners Court has decided to

join the district. The reason, Winn said, is to save county taxpayers from paying for both the district appraisal board through school and city taxes and the

county's appraisal unit. The governing board of each tax-ing unit is allowed to nomimate one candidate for each board position. The board will be elected by a

cumulative voting system, which bases the number of votes each unit receives on the amount of taxes levied. County Clerk Frank Boriskie is responsible for calculating each unit's entitlement.

The calculation is as follows: the amount of taxes each unit levied dur-ing the preceding year is divided by the total amount levied by all the participating units. This is then multiplied by 5 and then by 1,000. For example, the Bryan Indepen-dent School Board levied \$5,078,718

last year. This is then divided by \$12,904,253 and multiplied by 5,000. This results in 1,968 votes or approximately 39 percent of the vote.

A&M Consolidated has 1,420 or 29 percent, Bryan 697 or 14 percent, Brazos County 560 or 11 percent and College Station 355 or seven per-

> cent These votes can be split or used as a whole to elect the board. The minimum number of votes a taxing unit needs to guarantee a director's elec-tion is 834, and 4168 votes are needed to guarentee all five dire-

ctors The nominees' names are re-quired by the bill to be submitted to the county clerk by Oct. 30. The nominees and their respective units are: Dietrich W. Bengs, City of Col-lege Station and A&M Consolidated I.S.D., Arthur Davila, Bryan I.S.D., Henry Seale, Bryan and A.C. Vinzant, A&M Consolidated I.S.D. Only the names listed alphabetically will appear on the ballot.

Since there are five nominees and five positions, Winn said the election is just a formality. But if one nominee failed to receive one vote, a special election with five new nominees will be held for the fifth position. Each board must vote before Nov. 15, and the county clerk will tabulate the votes and declare the winners before Dec. 1.

The directors will serve a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 1980. The members will not receive a salary, but they may be reimbursed for ex-

When the board takes office Jan. 1, it will appoint a chief appraiser. He will be paid in accordance with the budget, establish an office and may hire a staff. The board has the option of creating a new office or contracting with any existing taxing unit in or out of the district or using the services of a professional appraisal firm.

The chief appraiser's duties will be to appraise all the taxable property in the district and to prepare a budget and an appraisal roll for each taxing unit. The roll will list the total appraised values within a unit's area.

The assesors for each taxing unit will then assess taxes on the basis of 100 percent of the appraised values. This will abolish the use of assessment ratios.

Currently both cities and both school districts in the appraisal dis-trict are using an 80 percent ratio; the county is using a 20 percent ratio.

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Tax collections, like the assess-ments, will be handled by each taxing unit.

The appraisal district will be fi-nanced by the taxing units. Each unit will be allocated a portion of the budget based on the amount of taxes it levies compared to the total amount levied by each unit.

The taxing units will make four equal payments, which are due at the end of each quarter.

Overall taxes will not be in-creased, Winn said, because any in-crease in appraised values will be result in a corresponding decrease in the tax rate.

Under the present tax system, a house in Brazos County valued at \$40,000 and not taxed by any other governmental bodies would be appraised at \$8,000. At the current county tax rate of \$1.15, taxes would

Under the proposed system, the house would be assessed at its full value — \$40,000. At a reduced tax rate of 23 cents per \$100 valuation taxes would still total \$92.

These figures do not include any city or school district taxes. In addition, the figures do not include the homestead or old age exemptions for taxpayers.

Northgate

Drive

846-5816

Sea Grant publication offers Gulf fishing tips ceived since this spring, Sea Grant officials said. If you're a novice Gulf surf fisher-man and think most fish look pretty much alike except for the flounder

(which, of course, looks with both eyes on one side of its head), then Texas A&M University's Sea Grant

College Program may have just the

It's a free publication called "Fishing the Texas Surf" and the 24-page booklet continues to be one of

the most popular items ever printed

More than 2,500 requests for the loose-leaf booklet have been re-

thing for you.

by Sea Grant.

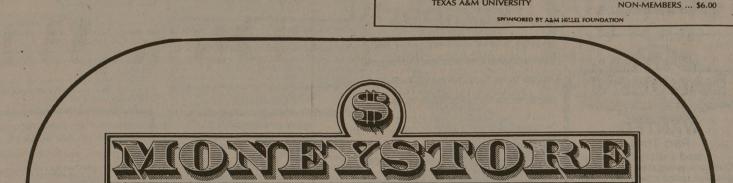
Written by Tony Fedler, a Texas A&M graduate student majoring in recreation and resources development, the booklet has illustrations of 20 of the most common fish varieties aught while surf, wade or pie fishing and many other helpful fishing hints.

THE BATTALION

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Copies of "Fishing the Texas Surf" may be obtained by writing Sea Grant College Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas





Jewelry box wins contest

By TODD HEDGEPETH

rafts displayed in MSC

Battalion Reporter Gillette Burger's wooden jewelry box was judged est-of-show in the MSC Crafts and Arts Comittee's In a reception at the Memorial Student Center

Callery Monday night, ribbons were awarded to the top four entrants in each of five categories: wood, clay, bre, jewelry and glass.

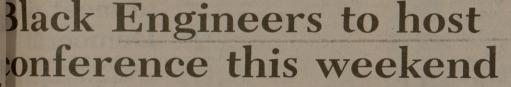
Burger's winning entry, which also took first place wood, featured three levels and four drawers with ony handles and brass dials. The drawers were add from rosewood and the rest of the box was ash. Kurt Buck's wooden box won second place in wood, Wayne Heaton's coffee table was judged third and Ed Scull's spalted bowl earned honorable mention. Jody Landry's poppy bowl won top honors in clay and Bobbie Baker's wind chimes were second. Land-

's coffee pot earned a third-place ribbon and a pitch-

er by Pamela McCowen took honorable mention. In fibre, Valerie Wilks claimed the top two ribbons, with her wool hanging winning first place and her fibre basket getting second. Andrew Jordan took third with a wall hanging and Clint Isbell received an honorable mention for his macrame.

A glass terrarium by Lynette Ham won top honors in glass. Barb Vinson took second with an etched dragon and also won honorable mention with a stained glass window. John Baker's tiffany lamp won third. In jewelry, Clint Isbell's dinosaur bone ring won first place and his belt buckle was judged third. Landry won second place with an agate pin, and Cindy James was judged honorable mention for her obsidian

Five judges, each an expert in one of the catagories, evaluated the entries, all of which are on display this week in the MSC Gallery.



ritisy ANGELIQUE COPELAND

Battalion Reporter achievement to improve achievement tong minorities will be the main Annie Carter, president of the loc-al chapter of NSBE, said Texas A&M lof the regional conference of the ble" and itional Society of Black Engineers Texas A&M University this ler Threekend. currently has an interaction program where members go to local high schools and talk about engineering

r dumpi eventy-five delegates represent-"science seven charter chapters and five liated schools will meet in workcareers. They also speak to their home-town schools over the Christof the ops and discuss methods used in malaise al programs. The neutron school students have never been ex-

malaise; all programs. school students have never been ex-per full The A&M chapter will speak on posed to engineering and we try to

interviewing techniques while the University of Houston and Lamar tell them something about both the careers available and A&M," Carter University of Houston and Lamar University present programs on tutoring and high school interaction.

said The local chapter, which was officially recognized in 1978, also pub-

lishes a book containing resumes of its members each year. Leroy Callender, guest speaker for the conference, will discuss edu-cation as a means of upward mobility in society. Callender is with the largest black engineering consulting firm, located in New York.



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