

Local / State

Candidate attacks water bill

United Press International
AUSTIN — Garry Mauro, a Democratic land commissioner candidate, is split in his opinion of two land-related amendments under consideration by Texas voters in next week's election.

Mauro told a Capitol news conference Tuesday that Amendment 4, which creates a state water trust fund, is fiscally irresponsible because it removes spending limits on water projects.

"Amendment 4 would in effect

repeal (the state's) spending limit by pledging one-half of our state surplus to a multi-billion-dollar water plan," he said.

Mauro said he favors development of a comprehensive water plan for the state. But he indicated that financing for any plan must be approved by voters, not by bureaucrats in Austin.

The plan, devised by Speaker Billy Clayton, would increase the state debt by 50 percent, Mauro said.

He added: "And the people of Texas would have nothing to say about it. It's a bureaucratic dream and a taxpayer's nightmare."

Mauro is the only announced Democratic land commissioner candidate, but Clayton is expected to oppose him in the primary.

"I didn't decide to oppose this because Billy Clayton was the sponsor, but it did enter into it," he said.

10 Texans pilot planes flying medical missions

Keith Lindsey is a pilot with a dream. He would like to join with other pilots around the state to help in medical emergencies by starting a Texas chapter of AirLifeLine.

AirLifeLine is a non-profit volunteer organization made up of pilots around the country who help with medical emergencies, such as delivering vital organs for transplantation and rare blood types for transfusion.

AirLifeLine was founded in Sacramento, Calif., three years ago by businessman Tom Goodwin. It occurred to Goodwin that pilots have a unique situation — they not only enjoy flying in their spare time, but they must fly in order to keep up their skills and meet licensing requirements. Why not also utilize the time spent in a very expensive hobby to help others? Thus AirLifeLine was born.

Birth does not mean growth, however. It took a plug from "Dear Abby" to really get AirLifeLine going. Abby said in her nationally syndicated column that she read about the project in a California paper and

contacted Goodwin. Believing the project to be a good cause, she wrote a column on the effort, as well as printing Goodwin's thank you letter two months later.

Not only did individual pilots respond around the country, but also donations to pay for fuel and plane rentals were sent to the organizations.

And thanks to "Dear Abby," Lindsey, who lives in Fort Worth, learned about AirLifeLine. Not only has Lindsey signed up for the organization, but he also has volunteered to coordinate a Texas branch.

A television story about the new coordinated transplant program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas caused Lindsey to wonder whether help was needed in the area. A call to the station got him in contact with the health science center. Learning there was a need, he began seeking out other pilots who might like to volunteer. So far, nine others have said they'd like to help.

"The development of such an organization operating out of Texas could be an invaluable asset not only to the state but to

the whole Southwest," says Dr. Charles R. Baxter, professor of surgery at the health science center. Baxter also is in charge of the Parkland Memorial Hospital Burn Unit and is director of the UT/Lions Transplant Program in Dallas.

The UT Health Science Center's coordinated banked organ transplantation program opened recently. Banked organs are those capable of being stored for transplantation at a later time.

The institution's effort brings together transplant work for skin, burn and other trauma victims; corneas and sclera, tissues from the white of the eye; joints for patients with certain bone and cartilage problems; and transplantation of the iliac crest, a portion of the upper pelvic bone often used for fusions. The program's skin bank is the largest in the country.

The program already utilizes another volunteer group in its work. A network of hair rest operators helps the transplant program by coordinating national needs on a daily basis, especially for skin and corneas.

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Church ejects woman, libel-slander suit follows

United Press International
TULSA, Okla. — A woman seeking \$600,000 in damages from a fundamentalist church says church officials harassed her at all hours of the night and sent letters calling her a fornicator because she was dating a divorced man.

Attorneys for Marion Guinn, 34, filed a libel-slander lawsuit against the Church of Christ of Collinsville, Okla., three church elders and a former pastor.

Guinn, who denied the accusations, said church representatives confronted her several times and sent letters ordering her to admit "your sin of fornication" and repent or be excommunicated. When she refused, the threat was carried out, she said.

"Our purpose in exercising this discipline is to save your soul," one letter said.

"They were blackmailing me," Guinn claimed. "I don't care if it is in the church. It's still called blackmail."

Much of the conflict stemmed from her friendship with a di-

vorced man and a weekend job that decreased her church attendance, said Guinn, a registered nurse.

"They want to give the third degree to anyone I have ever dated to make sure he is the 'proper mate' for me, even though I have no intentions of getting married," she said.

"They didn't like the person I was seeing and they said he had an unscriptural divorce," she said, adding that the Church of Christ recognizes divorces granted only on grounds of adultery.

Guinn, a divorced mother of four who has been a member of the church for seven years, said she was barred from the church and other members were ordered not to communicate with her.

The excommunication prompted some church members to disobey the order and visit her secretly, Guinn said, and other long-time members have discussed terminating their church ties.

The practice of accusing church members of unsavory activities is

not new in the Collinsville church, Guinn said.

Church members have often confessed to acts they did not commit, she said, so they would be forgiven and not be excommunicated. However, women were more commonly singled out than men, she said.

Listed as defendants in the suit filed in Tulsa County court were the Collinsville church elders Allen Cash, Ted Moore and Ron Witten of Collinsville; former Collinsville Church of Christ pastor Barry Stephens; the elders Tuesday declined to comment on the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims the members injured Guinn's reputation and community standing.

Guinn contended the elders once confronted her at a laundromat and insisted she go to the church to meet with them.

Another time the men converged on her car as she arrived at home late one night, she said.

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Sow causes havoc for freeway traffic

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — A quarter-ton sow waddling across the Golden State Freeway was corralled by motorists during the evening rush hour, but the sow slipped their clutches before authorities arrived.

The huge sow then ran up and down the traffic lanes of Interstate 5 around 5 p.m. Tuesday, causing all kinds of havoc before a team of California Highway Patrol officers, policemen and animal control officers captured the beast.

Officer Monty Kiefer said the hog probably escaped a livestock tractor-trailer rig in the San Valley area.

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