State and Local

Proposals

Prop 4 would affect Permanent School Fund

By MARYBETH ROHSNER Staff Writer

If Proposition 4 is approved by oters Nov. 5, the Texas school and board will be allowed to use oceeds from the sale of land in Permanent School Fund to

more land for the fund. Currently, the revenues gener-ted through the fund can be insted only in certain bonds and

The proposition was spon-ored in the Texas Legislature by ten. Kent Caperton of Bryan and

p. Charles Evans of Hurst. The Permanent School Fund, related to the Permanent Uniersity Fund, provides a perpetual trust for the support of the state's public elementary and secondary schools. Leasing the grazing and mineral rights to land

generates income for the fund. Deputy Land Commissioner June Middlebrooks said Brazos County holds only 45 of the 1 million acres allotted to the fund by the state. She added that none of the Brazos County acreage will be affected by the proposed consti-tutional amendment because the land board will not sell any of the land used for minerals.

Most of the affected lands are West Texas, Middlebrooks

Supporters of Proposition 4 say the measure will allow the state to sell small tracts of land

that are too small and scattered to

benefit the state and use the funds to buy land in larger blocks which may be more profitable.

Opponents of the proposition argue that if more land is purchased for the Permanent School Fund, the fund will lose liquidity.

Also, the land brought into the fund might not earn money for fund might not earn money for

The Texas General Land Office will administer the land sales and purchases.

The state's Sunset Board recommended the change. The board reviews legislation approximately every 12 years and makes suggestions to the Texas Legis-

B-CS hospitals won't be affected by Prop 5

By MEG CADIGAN

Proposition 5, a hospital dis-rict regulation, will not affect loal hospitals because both St. Joeph and Humana hospitals are rivate institutions, a St. Joseph fficial said Wednesday.

Walter Godfrey, associate ad-inistrator at the hospital, said he proposed amendment will affect public hospitals only, and the closest public hospital to Bryan-College Station is located in CaldIf Proposition 5 passes, the Texas Legislature will gain control of hospital districts.

A hospital district is a governmental unit which, through the approval of voters in the district, can create special taxes for building and operating expenses.

The constitution says the more-than-100 hospital districts in Texas, "must assume responsi-bility for providing medical and hospital care for their needy in-habitants."

Due to the very general lan-

guage of the constitution, there is no uniform plan for indigent

If Proposition 5 is approved, the Legislature will be able to create a plan to establish health care in county and public hospitals for those who cannot afford it.

The Legislature will be able to decide what services a hospital district must provide and the qualifications a resident must have to receive the hospital's serv-

Funding propositions key to fate of water bill

(continued from page 1)

ntee instream uses

Ford says, "When these opponents of any water resources program find themselves without adequate drinking water, or even water to bathe in, I think they'll forget about the environment as a whole." House Bill 2 is a comprehensive water plan dealing with conserva-tion, development, flood control and quality protection of the surface and underground water resources in

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ter expenditures. Environmentalists sale of \$980 million in state bonds to finance water projects (including dams and reservoirs, wastewater projects instrumentalists are sale of \$980 million in state bonds to finance water projects (including dams and reservoirs, wastewater) treatment plants, desalinization plants and flood management pro-jects), establish a \$250 million insurance program for bonds issued by governments and allow the Legislature to create special appropriations for water assistance pro-

> Proposition 2 would authorize the Texas Water Development Board to sell up to \$200 million in agricultural water conservation bonds. These

Proposition 1 would authorize the bonds would fund low-interest loans to farmers buying more water-efficient irrigation equipment. The bonds may be sold only after appro-val by the Legislature and only for four years after passage of the amendment.

> If both propositions are passed or if only Proposition 1 is approved, then the bill will take effect immediately. But if only Proposition 2 passes, then none of the provisions of House Bill 2 will take effect and the Legislature will have to pass enabling legislation for Proposition 2 at





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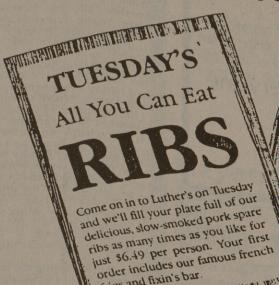
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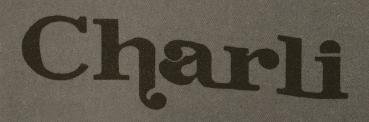
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