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For school boards and city councils . . .

New election season set to open

School districts and cities starting calling elections last week for May 8 balloting. Filing dates for the elections are Feb. 6-March 8.

In all, voters across Freestone county will elect a total of 19 members to city and school governing bodies.

School board trustees serve 3-year terms and city officials serve for two years. Fairfield residents must choose a mayor and three members to the council, which includes filling the remaining year of an unexpired term.

Currently serving full terms which expire in May are Mayor Roy Hill and councilmen Joe Lee Kirgan, Jr., in place one and Luke Ward, Jr., in

place two.

The unexpired term is for the seat occupied by Lane Stripling, who died in December.

The Fairfield council will vote on Feb. 9 to call the election, but candidates can pick up election packets prior to that.

Voters in Fairfield Independent School District will fill posts currently held by Teresa Vandiver, Steve Schauwecker and LaCharles Bass. FISD trustees are elected at-large.

The FISD board voted last week to call the elec-

tion.

Teague ISD trustees will meet Jan. 28 to call the spring election to fill seats

currently held by Scott Hamilton in place two and Jeff Gonzales in place four. Because of a couple of

vacancies, Teague city voters must almost entirely

See NEW, p5-a

3-term Fairfield mayor . . .

Rites read for civic leader

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon for Fairfield civic leader, businessman and former Mayor Monte Cole, 73, who died last week.

Since returning home to Fairfield from the Dallas area almost three decades ago, Mr. Cole served the community in a variety of elective and volunteer posts with a goal of improving his hometown.

He was elected to the first of three terms as mayor in 1986 as a write-in candidate, taking the reins of a city government that had just \$100,000 in the bank and putting the city on sound financial footing.

Mr. Cole served several years as a member of the Fairfield Hospital District board of directors, guiding improvements to the hospital in



MONTE COLE

See RITES, p4-a

City employee ranks take hits

City of Fairfield will have three positions to fill in the water and wastewater departments, not to mention the still-pending economic development director post, with the retirement of Billy Chancellor effective the end of February, and the city council's recent termination of two long-time employees.

Scott Schick's city career ended last month, and Steve Rossiaky was let go at last week's meeting. Both were terminated for undisclosed reasons after lengthy executive sessions.

Public works director Billy Chancellor will retire next month after serving 17 years with the city.

At last week's meeting, council members approved advertising for the public works director position in the coming weeks. The job of his second in command, previ-

See CITY, p3-a



FAIRFIELD EAGLES SENIOR Willie Tatum sails through the air in the District 20-AAA opener against the Athens Hornets. Tatum tallied 15 points in the 55-42 Fairfield victory.

FHD views plans for hospital work

Fairfield Hospital District directors got a look last week at the floorplan for a proposed remodeling and expansion of the hospital.

The plan calls for expansion and remodeling of the emergency department and of patient rooms, and for the medical clinic adjoining the hospital to be razed and a new facility built.

Cost for the entire project is estimated at \$15 million, about half of which is expected to be born by East Texas Medical Center which leases the hospital from the district.

Meeting with the FHD board were architects Dan Polanchek, Steve Fitzpatrick and ETMC corporate director of plant services Robert Leighton.

Division of duties is that Polanchek's firm produces virtual plans and a general visual representation of the project, Fitzpatrick's firm prepares construction drawings and works on the project through completion, and Leighton is a liaison for ETMC.

New construction includes a clinic to house medical practitioners, administrative offices and outpatient services, and a new inpatient wing of 10 beds.

To be remodeled is the current inpatient wing—an area licensed for 48 patient beds will be remodeled to 20 beds in larger rooms—and the emergency department, which will be enlarged.

Polanchek reports that it costs \$1-1.5 million per bed to build a hospital from scratch, but in the case of Fairfield the existing facility can be utilized.

"You are in the right location and the chassis of this building is fine," he says.

The hospital sits on a 9.314-acre site that provides ample space for the hospital to expand.

Proposed by ETMC is to build the new clinic and remodel the emergency room simultaneously, then tackle the new and remodeled inpatient areas later.

FHD directors already have approved pursuing the emergency room and patient wing/remodeling, and are being asked to change the priority for construction.

"We want to look at this comprehensively, not just add pieces," Polanchek says.

He points out that the role of hospitals has changed since the Fairfield facility was built, changing from a focus on inpatient care to a focus on outpatient services.

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HOWDY!

By Joe Reavis

Pardon me if I don't take politics very seriously. I am afraid that if I did, it would be too disappointing. Actually, it all can be kind of funny if you put yourself in the right frame of mind.

Most folks in Texas are aware that we have a real battle going for the Republican nomination for governor this year. Most folks also think the battle is between a pair of serious candidates, or three serious candidates, depending on your own particular brand of politics.

But, here is what I find to be humorous. In one corner is Gov. Good Hair, and in the other is Sen. Good Hair. I did not dub our governor as Good Hair, somebody else beat me to it, and Sen. Good Hair is a variation of the Breck Girl, as the senior senator from Texas was commonly referred to by the late Molly Ivins. I am generally not original enough to come up with good nicknames.

This year is different, though. The winner of the Gov. Good Hair and Sen. Good Hair matchup could possibly face a hair care mogul running for the Democratic nomination. That is, if he beats Mayor No Hair, the follically challenged former mayor of Houston.

To take this to another level, the lower level of state agricultural commissioner, a candidate named Kinky is seeking a party nomination. Kinky is a nickname, although hardly anyone knows the given name, bestowed because his hair is, what else, kinky. I just wish Kinky was running for governor again this year to get all the hair candidates in the same race.

Gov. Good Hair and Sen. Good Hair have something else in common, beside their manes. They are both former college cheerleaders, which is probably a good background for the job. To his credit, Gov. Good Hair gives the best political stump speech I believe I have ever heard—he is good at rallying the faithful,

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