

# LEADER

VOL. V

ELDORADO, TEXAS (76936) THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1979

NO. 8

## Board Makes Progress On Plans For Buildings

The board of trustees of the local school system are progressing on their plans for three new buildings on the local campus.

After several months of working with teachers, administrators and architect Gary Donaldson, the board has made some preliminary plans for three new buildings, which are their top priorities.

The priorities are, in order of importance, new elementary classrooms, a new cafeteria for all grades and a learning center for almost all of the students.

A bond issue for \$1.2 million to build these three buildings has been scheduled for April 7, to coincide with the school board election.

Present plans call for a nine-classroom building for the elementary grades. They will probably be placed across the street from the agriculture building where the old tennis courts are now.

For some time, elementary teachers have been crowded for space, having to use hallways,

workrooms and space under bleachers for remedial reading classes.

Another problem long existing is space in the cafeteria because there is such a short period of time for so many students to pass through the serving line. To get all the students through the lunchroom in time, the cafeteria staff begins serving at 10:30 a.m. Even this does not help the situations much, because the seventh grade students who are served last, have only a little amount of time to eat and must rush to get to next class on time.

The cafeteria would probably be adjacent to the old cafeteria, and traffic would be rerouted around it and the ag building.

The learning center would be a multi-media research center for the upper elementary, junior high and high school students. It would contain a central library and possibly some small classrooms for remedial work. It would probably be placed in front of the old gymnasium and the present high school entrance, with its entrance off of Field Street.

If the bond issue is approved by the voters, these buildings would be built. The old cafeteria and old high school library would be renovated and remodeled as classroom space for the high school which would take some pressure off the everyday overcrowded conditions.

The fourth and fifth priorities are an administration building and the renovation of the track, but only if the bond issue passes, as this would be done out of surplus funds in the school district. Purpose of the administrative building would be to centralize the tax, superintendent, administrative and business offices. The track would be renovated with an all weather surface and aluminum seats would be installed in the

bleachers.

Of course, the acceptance of the bond issue would have an impact on taxes paid by local people. However, oil companies and those owning mineral interests would pay the bulk of the burden as they pay 76 percent of school taxes. In addition, homeowners in Eldorado who qualify for the homestead exemption passed by the state legislature last fall will actually pay lower taxes than they did in 1978, if the bond issue passes.

More detail on the impact of the bond issue on the tax structure will be described at a later date.

## Candidates File For Elections

Yesterday was the last day for anyone to file for positions on the school board, city council and hospital district board of directors.

As of presstime, there were four men filing for the city council seats, David Vannett, Bobby Sykes, Billy McCravey and Frank Williams. McCravey and Sykes are rerunning for their seats on the council. No one had filed for mayor.

There are two openings on the school board, now held by Mort Mertz and Delia Pina. Filing for the seats are Mrs. Pina, Paul Page, Jr., Duwain Sauer, Raymond Mobley, Bill Gentry, Rick Sterling and Sam Henderson Jr.

There are three openings on the hospital board. However, no one had filed at presstime, according to Pete Peters, board secretary. The seats are now held by Evelyn Wimer, Pat Sykes and Ruben Minor.

## Hospital Auxiliary Is Donating I-Vac

An I-Vac machine, which is used for intravenous fluids will be donated to the Schleicher County Medical Center by the Hospital Auxiliary. The vital piece of machinery will be donated in memory of Winnie Jackson, long-time member and officer of the auxiliary and member of the hospital district board of directors.

The machine is used to control drops in intravenous feedings, such as when inducing labor or with pediatric patients.

The decision to donate the machine was made during the auxiliary's March meeting.

Also during the meeting, members decided to designate March as

membership month. Extra efforts will be made to enlist new members as well as to reenlist some who had been active when the hospital was first opened. The auxiliary helps not only the hospital, but also the community and residents of the nursing home.

The auxiliary is planning several money raising projects. A bake sale will be held in front of the old drug store April 12. A golf tournament and a tennis tournament are also being planned.

The drawing for the afghan made by Katherine St. Clair will be during the birthday party at the nursing home March 14.



**GIRL SCOUT WEEK BEGINS** — Mayor Pat Ragsdale, seated, signs a proclamation designating next week as Girl Scout week. Watching are members of Brownie Troop 71. The girls are, from left to right, Teresa

Williams, Yvonne Belman, Chris Aguilar, Charissa Halbert, Sherri Field, Joanne Kossler, Kelly Squyres, Tammi Spence and Angie Heffernan.

## Short Stuff

By JOE AWTREY

C.V. Owens, 74, was born in Schleicher County and has lived here all his life and he says he farmed back in the 'Good Ole Days' and it got pretty rough through the drought stricken times; in fact it got so bad he says he had to sit on a sack of fertilizer just to raise an umbrella.

— Ss —

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Bob Berglund has announced that the USDA has awarded a \$510,000 contract to a Massachusetts firm to develop a pilot, multi-media information campaign to encourage children to develop better eating practices.

But, low and behold, the Massachusetts firm turned right around and subcontracted to Needham, Harper and Steers Advertising, Inc. to develop the mass media materials.

This seems like a big sum of money to spend on something that will probably never change anything, but just like anything else the USDA does, the middle man will prosper from the survey.

— Ss —

We have a flower pot here in the office and everytime we plant something in it, it dies. Maybe we could talk to the government and get them to spend a cool half million on a research to tell us why nothing will grow in the planter. (I think maybe a little water every now and then will solve the problem) but maybe some middleman could make a few thousand dollars to tell us this is the problem.

— Ss —

We keep getting simplified forms from our government that no one understands and I keep expecting the truly simplified income tax form with only two lines:

- A. How much money do you have?
- B. Send it to us.

— Ss —

The Sonora Ram Test sale and field day will be held March 15 at the Sonora Experiment Station. The morning hours will be devoted to ram and Angora buck inspection, research and equipment displays. A free barbecue will be served at noon.

— Ss —

Don't give up, fellows. Now that postal rates are so high, a Dear John letter proves she still cares a little.

— Ss —

Anyone who likes antiques and rattlesnakes will have this opportunity at the Ballinger's 11th annual Wildcat Antique Show and the Lions Club Rattlesnake Roundup which will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26 at the beautiful Community Center and Show Barn in Ballinger. Showtime will be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

— Ss —

I want to keep my youthful fire and have some challenge I can meet, so when some day I should retire, then I shall not be obsolete.

— Ss —



GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout Week  
MARCH 11-17, 1979

## Local 4-H Members Win Big In Houston

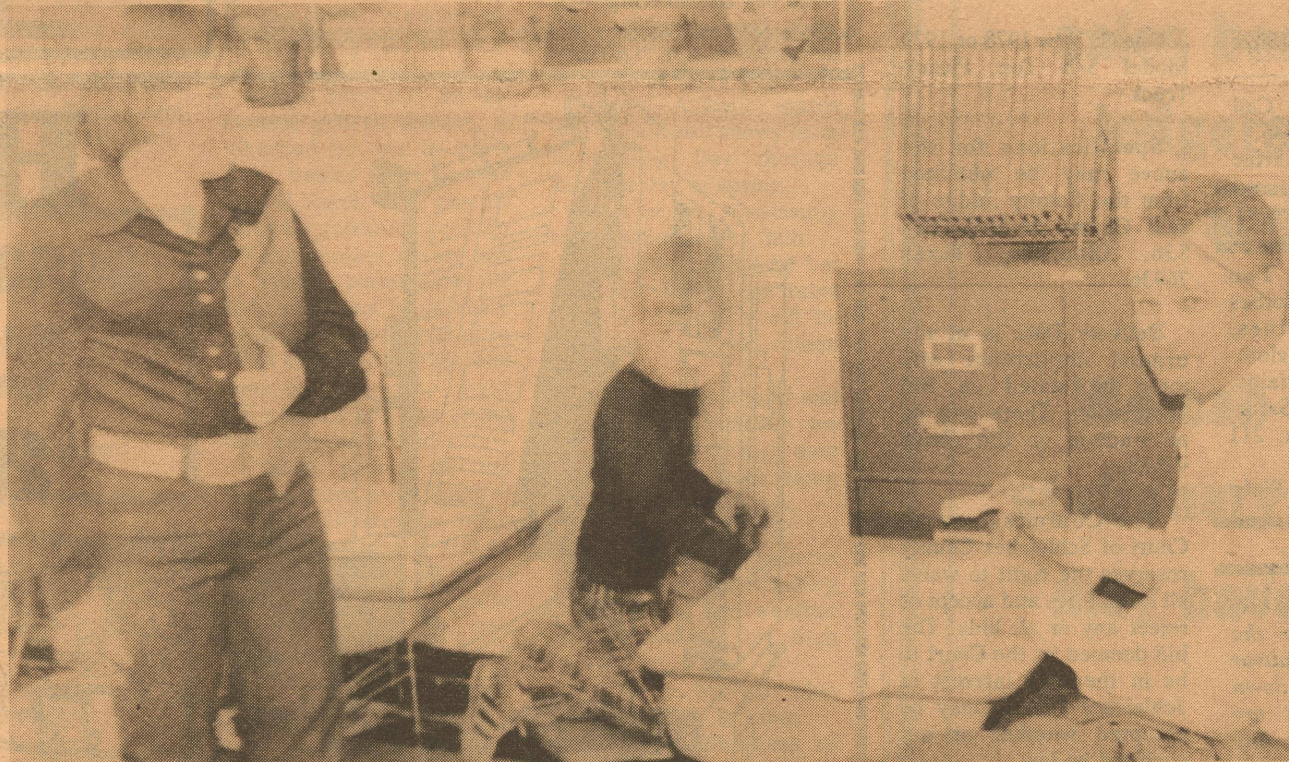
Four local youngsters showing steers won high honors during the Houston Livestock show last week. Showing Brangus steers were Kurtis Homer who won third and Shanna Swift who won fourth in the lightweight Brangus steer category. Kelly Griffin placed sixth with a lightweight Santa Gertrudis steer and Todd Swift placed sixth with a medium weight polled Hereford steer.

Also showing animals were Kelly Leggett, Jan Edmiston, Curtis Griffin, Gene Edmiston, Craig Griffin, Jed Edmiston, Kara Homer, Franck Boulmer, Lori Edmiston, Mitzi Mittel, Ron Mittel, Rico Forlano, Vicki Forlano, Whit Paxton, Tommy Minor and Mike Lux.

Traveling with the 4-H group were Mr. and Mrs. Billy Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Swift, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gene Edmiston, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Kenith Homer, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Mittel and Mrs. Al Forlano.

Attending from the Future Farmers chapter were Fred Igo, Carl Igo, Kirk Griffin, Lori Griffin, Brad Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Griffin.

Showing stock this weekend in San Angelo will be Rico Forlano, Melissa Sauer, Lynna Sauer, Danette Dunagan, Wendi Dunagan, Jeffrey Hausenfluck, Mary Ann Valis, Patti Hausenfluck, Dorothy Atkins and Cindy Hausenfluck. The livestock judging team will also attend.



**BACK TO SCHOOL?** — Johnny Griffin, right, seems to be getting a few pointers from pre-school son Cy during the open house at the elementary school Tuesday.

Actually, the county judge is looking at some papers done by another son.

## Mias Amigas Plans Begin

Mias Amigas officials for the 1979 annual gathering of Eldorado High School students of 20 years ago or more met Sunday afternoon in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Robinson. Purpose of the meeting was to plan for the June 29-30, 1979, convocation. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are serving jointly as president of this year's two-day event, as other positions generally are combinations of husbands and wives as follows: First vice president, Mr. and Mrs. Elton McGinnes; second vice president, Mrs. Patsy Kellogg; third vice president, Mr. and Mrs. Orland Harris; secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Cain; and treasurer, Mrs.

Ruth Delong Harper.

Last year's Mias Amigas celebration drew 418 former students and faculty members. First student's attendance dates back to 1907. Eligibility for this annual meeting is for students or faculty members attending Eldorado Public Schools from 1907 or earlier and through 1959.

Preliminary organization and planning which the officials considered were how to set up the program, to select and secure this year's speaker, plan the meals, and otherwise coordinate the meeting.

Several other meetings are

scheduled with the final planning date tentatively set for May 5. This year's Mias Amigas officers join in cordially inviting and requesting all Eldorado ex-students to circle the days of June 29-30 for Mias Amigas's memorable and heart warming sessions.

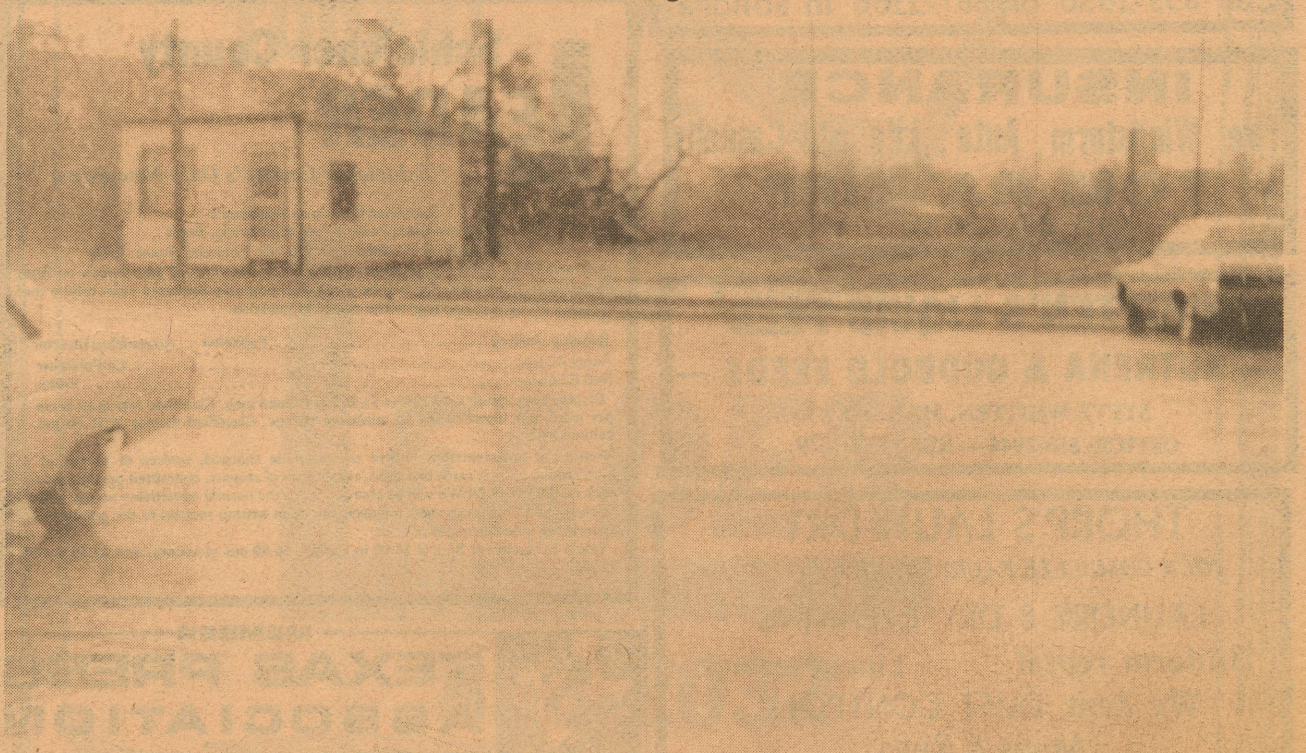
## Street Paving Plans Discussed By Council

The city council of Eldorado will have a called meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night to discuss and make plans for paving several streets in the city.

The meeting was scheduled during a regular meeting of the council Monday night. During the meeting, council members Vida Mercer, Jimmy Doyle, Ray Ballew and Billy McCravey and mayor Pat Ragsdale discussed the condition of the city streets and the need to see what equipment they need to get or repair to pave streets.

Also during the called meeting Tuesday, the council will review a letter that must be sent to the Concho Valley Council of Governments concerning the local housing authority. The city must send the letter giving its approval to the construction of the housing authority units before further progress can be made on the construction.

Marvin "Mac" McAngus, city superintendent, gave a report on work being done by the city crews during the Monday meeting.



**WELCOME MOISTURE** — The skies turned dark late Friday afternoon and then opened up to pelt the city of Eldorado and the surrounding area with pea-sized hail stones. The dangerous looking clouds passed over the area quickly, leaving only a small amount of moisture

on the ground. Several residents were alarmed because of several blasts of the fire siren, because it is the signal a tornado has been sighted. However, the noise was caused by a short in the telephone lines.



# THE CLASSIFIED ADS

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**FOR SALE** — Kenmore portable dishwasher. Call 853-2408, Bill Hodges. 215htfnc

**FOR SALE** — Two 1975 Yamaha's, 350RD. Call 853-2603 after 4:30 p.m. 312p

**FOR SALE** — Chest of drawers, \$50. Call 853-2045 31k2c

**FOR SALE** — Washer and dryer, Kenmore, needs minor repairs. Call 853-3081. 3811p

**FOR SALE** — Sofa-sleeper, \$45. See at 211 Murchison. (Mertzow Hwy) 38flp

## AUTOS FOR SALE

**FOR SALE** — 1974 GMC pickup, automatic, power and air. Phone 896-2354. 38t1c

**FOR SALE** — 1978 Ford LTD, like new, 13000 actual miles, loaded. Call 853-3081. 3811p

**FOR SALE** — 1972 Ford Van, 3/4 Ton, 6 cyl., 58,000 miles. Call after 5 p.m. 853-2884. 38w2p

## BUSINESS SERVICES

**GARDEN** plowing with 120" rotovator. 853-2270 or 853-2881. 215h2c

**DITCH DIGGING** — Call Key Electric at 853-2045. 21ktfnc

## GARAGE SALES

**YARD SALE** — Two families, twin girl clothes 2-4, few boys clothes, men's and women's clothing, all sizes, curtains, sheets, weedeater, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 211 Fields Street. 38clp

## PERSONAL

**PLEASE HELP!** We are taking up donations for the family of Juan Saldivar whose home burned down this past week and are badly in need of help. Any little thing will be greatly appreciated. They have a boy age five and two girls, ages four and two. Call 853-2191 or 853-3083 or come by 306 E. Brooks. 31s2p

The Jeffrey Bar-B-Que's will be selling Chip Barbecue on Bun, All Cuts of Beef, Chicken, Sausage, Beans, Potato Salad-March 16. Courthouse Square. 9:30 till — each Friday. Bethel, Eleanor, Linda. 38j2p

## —Home Front—

Mr. and Mrs. Khelsea Kirby of Christoval visited in the home of Alice Van Horn Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Dacy, Russ and Tina of Rankin, visited several friends and relatives during the weekend. Dee Ann and Lee Ann Lloyd observed their second birthday with a party at their home Feb. 28 and again at the home of their grandmother, Mrs. L.E. Lloyd, on Sunday. Mrs. Gertrude Williams has returned to the Country Store after an extended absence. On Jan. 1 she fell on the ice sustaining a fractured pelvis. She spent two weeks in the Schleicher County Medical Center and seven weeks with her daughter's family, the Marvin Reed's, in Smithfield. Mrs. Williams and her dog, Fritz, are back to business as usual in the Country Store. Marvin, Ruth, Angeline and Jennifer brought Mrs. Williams home this past Friday and returned to Smithfield on Sunday. Roy Crider of Midland, formerly of Eldorado, has undergone throat surgery at Scott and White Hospital in San Antonio. Mr. and Mrs. Julius Sutto of Saginaw, Mich., returned home after attending the ordination of their son, Ron. They also visited the Valley this past week.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, addressed to the Commissioners' Court of Schleicher County, Texas, will be received at the office of the County Judge of said County in the Courthouse at Eldorado, Texas, until 10:00 A.M. March 26, 1979, at which time such bids will be opened and considered by said Court, meeting in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the Courthouse, Eldorado, Texas, for the furnishing of the following new equipment, to-wit:

One (1) New 1978 or 1979 Model 5/8 Ton Pickup Truck

Specifications for the above may be obtained from the County Judge of said County at P.O. Box 536, Eldorado, Texas 76936.

Delivery Date is of the utmost importance and must be stated on Bid submission. There will be no trade-in on the above vehicle.

The Commissioners' Court of Schleicher County reserves the right to waive all formalities and accept or reject any or all bids. The bid deemed by the Court to be in the best interest of Schleicher County may be accepted whether or not such bid be low. 38slc

## EMPLOYMENT

**NEEDED** — Secretary for Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. 9 a.m. to noon, five mornings a week. Typing, mimeographing, telephoning, etc. Call Rev. Dan Adams 853-2721 or Rev. Ron Sutto 853-2098 or 853-2411. 38slc

# Honor Roll Announced For EHS

These are students who placed on the honor roll for the quarter from Jan. 22 to March 2, released by high school principal Clifford Curry.

**A-HONOR ROLL SENIORS:** Paige Helmers, Viki Forlano, Jerry Byrd, Paul McWhorter, Carl Igo, Franck Boulmer, Judy Pitts, Rachel Fava, Debby Patton, Cynthia Schooley and Cherie Niblett.

**JUNIORS:** Mary Byrd, Laura Gentry, Lorrie Powell, Jolynn Jay, Joy Corbell, Janet Bradshaw, Jeanie Nicholson.

**SOPHOMORES:** Mark Wallis, Sandy Willeke, Patti Hausenfluck, Lori Edmiston.

**FRESHMEN:** Cindy Hausenfluck, Brad Thomas, Shelly Squyres, Lori Patton, John Sparks, Nancy Turbeville.

**EIGHTH GRADE:** Stephanie Thomas, Victoria Powell, Gene Edmiston, Greg Garlitz, John Griffith.

**SEVENTH GRADE:** Margaret Turner, Michael Phillips, Mitzi Mittel, Kelly Griffin.

## B-HONOR ROLL

**SENIORS:** Sammie Jay, Mary Kay White, Angie Fay, Larry Fay, Wayne Gibson, David Hill, John Cheatham, Ronda Kerr, Kyle McCormack, Sam Whitten, Debbie Pina, Cynthia Holsey, Mary Jasso.

**JUNIORS:** Curtis Griffin, Lori Griffin, Kathy Norman, Susan Crippin, Don Garlitz, Lydia Gonzales, Annette Ragsdale, Linell

Vannett, Todd Swift, Kendra Dunham, Toni Fatheree.

Also, Mary Garcia, Charlie Bradley, Lily Bernal, Liz Brame, Bryan Doran, Kim Higdon, Jolynn Harrell, Tommy Minor,

Randy Morrison, Berta Rodriguez, Michael Mertz.

**SOPHOMORES:** Julie Belman, Jay Cash, Mike Griffith, Keith McCormack, Lilia Martinez, Kara Homer, Tommy Martinez, Lou Ann Turner, Lynna Sauer, Jo Jo Whitten, Ed Willoughby, Alma Fuentes, Dee Dee Clark, Cissi Cavaness.

**FRESHMEN:** Paul Adams, Cindy Velez, Jill Pitts, Patricia Trimble, Lori Whitaker, Linda Gentry, Sylvia Arispe, Nicky Dahlberg, Jennie Day, Kirk Griffin, Eddie Harris.

Also, Pat McDaniel, Eddie Montalvo, Jeanne Redwine, Joan Schrier, Teresa Sanders, Becky Simmons, Guillermo Sanchez, Sherri Walling, Silva Guana, Gary Hennington, Helen Tinney.

**EIGHTH GRADE:** Mary Lisa O'Harrow, George Halbert, Mike Wilks, Dee Anna Yocham, Craig Griffin, Idalia Garza, Rico Forlano, Sarah Day, Clint Bumguardner, Martha

Atkins, Margie Logan, Wrey Crippin, Brian Grawrychowski.

Also, Jena' Groat, Diana Harris, Lori Heffernan, Soila Hernandez, Amy Heald, Kamie Hunter, Ashley Niblett, Danny Pina, Angie Robles, Sherry Short, Mary Ann Valis, Julie Cash.

**SEVENTH GRADE:** Trey Bradshaw, Bill Clark, Charlotte Mobley, Gina Patton, Missy White, Mary Guerrero, Leticia Fuentes, Romane Guana, Norma Belman, David Corbell, Tammy Faries.

Also, Sandra Miner, George Orr, Steven Minor, Luke Brame, Bill Cawley, Pam Dunham, Gary Robinson, Jon Robledo, Randy Scott, Manuel Tobias, Tina Williams.

## Miss Esparza To Make Visit

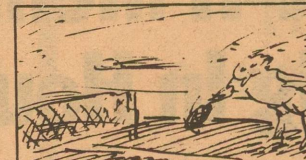
State Comptroller Bob Bullock will have a representative from his San Angelo office in Eldorado on Wednesday, to assist local taxpayers and answer questions about state taxes.

Bullock said Enforcement Office Esther Esparza will meet with local taxpayers in the Memorial Building from 9-10:30 a.m.

"If Eldorado area merchants, or anyone else for that matter, have any questions about state taxes or need help in preparing state tax forms, Ms. Esparza will be there to assist them," Bullock said.

"We're trying to cut the red tape in this office, and we believe these face to face sessions with taxpayers help do just that," Bullock added.

The San Angelo office, headed by Thomas M. Goff, serves San Angelo and surrounding counties.



A professional tennis player can serve balls at speeds greater than 100 miles an hour.

### Tennis Club Sets First Meeting

The Tennis Club will have its first meeting of the year at 7:30 p.m. March 15 in the Lions Club room of the Memorial Building. Presiding will be presidents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris McCravery. Purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and to organize club activities. All members are urged to attend, as well as anyone interested in joining the club. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

### Bookkeeping And Tax Service

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## Schleicher County Leader



# Family, Food, 4-H

by Nancy Lester  
County Extension Agent - Home Economics

Teenagers need plenty of nutritious food to meet the needs caused by their body's large growth spurt.

The teenage boy needs more calories than a girl, so he can eat considerably more food than she at this age.

Because a girl needs fewer calories, she must choose food more carefully to meet nutrient needs.

Many teenagers have other problems meeting nutritional needs. — Some parents are unaware of the food habits of their teenagers.

The development of healthy attitudes toward food is an important responsibility of parents. Don't underestimate the influence of fathers', as well as mothers' examples. Poorly chosen snacks and those that interfere with mealtime appetites present a problem. This is a particular problem for the teenage girl since she needs to choose nutrients wisely to avoid too many calories.

Parents can help teenagers recognize the difference between nutritious and "empty calorie" snacks and help them develop sound snack-consuming habits to improve their diets.

The kinds, time of day and amounts of food they consume as snacks can be critical to teenagers.

Skipping breakfast can create problems in meeting the teenager's need for food. Families who eat breakfast together are more likely to maintain breakfast habits. Exercise is important for teenagers in maintaining healthy appetites and using excess calories.

Time is a problem for many teenagers who are **Imaginary Pals**

## Help Kids Cope

Imaginary playmates help children cope with reality they find frightening to deal with, says Jenny Reinhardt, a family life education specialist.

An imaginary friend that is always available to listen, to talk with and to understand can provide reassurance, support and time to work through an upsetting situation, she explains.

Miss Reinhardt is with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Though researchers vary in their views, those who support the belief that imaginary playmates provide a tool for coping indicate that children with imaginary playmates display the following traits:

- they are less aggressive, more cooperative, smile more, are bored less often, and have richer language,
- watch less television,
- display positive personality characteristics,
- distinguish between their fantasy world and the real world,
- use the imaginary playmates to fill up "empty space," and
- prepare for life's real problems by rehearsing with their imaginary playmates.

active in school affairs or who may have jobs. These demands make it hard to eat with the family and can lead to informal snacking rather than a nutritious meal.

Low income of many families is also a problem for many teenagers.

Peer pressure influences teenagers' eating habits and their physical growth.

The concern for personal appearance often provides the teenage boy the motivation needed for eating the large amounts of food adequate for growth and filling out his form. However, teenage girls want to fit the expected figure pattern of slenderness to be beautiful.

Many feel they must severely limit caloric intake, which can also keep them from eating adequate amounts of food.



**PLANNED WEDDING** — Mr. and Mrs. Wayne G. Mikeska have announced the engagement of their daughter, Janis, to Shannon Wilkerson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Wilkerson of Odessa, formerly of Eldorado. The vows will be exchanged April 7 in Odessa. The future bride and her fiancé are graduates of Eldorado High School and are employed in Odessa. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Mikeska of Eldorado and Mr. and Mrs. B.O. Brodnax of San Angelo. Her fiancé is the grandson of Mrs. W.D. Howell of Stanton and Mrs. Gladys Wilkerson of Midland.

# Nursing Home News

We did finally receive some rain and in some areas that I have heard from it was good enough to do some good for the farmers and ranchers. We can hope that it was really a beginning to break the dry weather, and we will get more soon.

Two of our residents were moved into the hospital last week and are still there. They were Mable Wilkerson, who lived in Menard and Aubrey Baugh, who has lived in this county and Tom Green County for a good many years. They are still there.

We received a new resident last week. He is Clarence Sparks, formerly of Abilene. He is the father of Mrs. Bobby R. Phillips of Eldorado.

We had a few visitors last week — Mrs. Tennyson Nixon of Tow, visited her mother, Hattie Blaylock.

Ricky Crider, of Johnson City, visited his grandfather, Tom Humphreys.

Herbert and Fern Swartzendruber of Carlsbad, New Mex. came by to visit with Lester Garrett.

Last Sunday was the day for the St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church to conduct the service here in the dining room, but they didn't come so Bro. Gene Stark, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, came and brought us a good message from God's Word.

Mrs. Stark came with him and played the piano. We

## Detergent Food Cleans Teeth

A detergent food is one that helps remove food particles from the teeth, says Mary K. Sweeten, foods and nutrition specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

Low carbohydrate foods such as celery, lettuce, green peppers or radishes are examples of detergent foods, the specialist explains.

all sang a number of hymns. We appreciate them coming, so that we could have a service as we always do on Sunday afternoon.

Next Sunday the Primitive Baptist Church will conduct the services here.

Bingo winners on Wednesday of last week were Tom Humphreys, 2; Fred Gunstead, 2; Myrtle Wade, 2; LaVita Brooks, 2; Beulah Harris, 1; Dehila Gardener, 1 and Frank Reed, 1.

On Friday the winners

were Bess Andrews, 2; Frank Reed, 2; Juanita Sanchez, 1; Beulah Harris, 1; Fannie Blaylock, 1; Lester Garrett, 2 and Elva Daniels, 2.

It had been a trying day for the young mother and housewife. As she tucked her small boy into bed, she sighed. "Well, I've certainly worked from sun-up to sun-down today."

Reporters,  
LaVita Brooks and  
Beulah Harris

# Comptroller Blasts Carter's Gas Plans

State Comptroller Bob Bullock today said mandatory gasoline rationing could cost Texas about \$75 million in lost fuel tax revenues a year and turn major urban freeways into permanent parking lots.

He said gasoline rationing authority being considered in the Congress was the most controversial aspect of the Carter Administration's mandatory energy control measures.

Holding drivers to two gallons of gasoline per day will drastically reduce the state's collection of motor fuels taxes, Bullock said.

"I don't know what the real likelihood of rationing is at this time, but rationing would work a genuine hardship on thousands of Texans, particularly those living in Houston or the sprawling Dallas-Fort Worth area," he said.

Texas drivers, because of the great distances between cities, simply can't get by on two gallons of gasoline per day. Besides, a person could burn two gallons of gasoline just

trying to get on to a freeway in Houston during rush hour, Bullock said.

He said Texas will suffer more than many other states and said he hoped that Congress would not approve mandatory gasoline rationing unless they gave some consideration to the state's geography and population density.

"If people can't get to and from work, the economy will eventually suffer. I hope that Congress will consider the political and economic effects of mandatory rationing before they give their stamp of approval to something that would be a disaster for Texas."

## Minnick Boy Born Feb. 15

Mr. and Mrs. Jodie Minnick are the parents of a boy, born Feb. 15 in Schleicher County Medical Center. He weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long and was named Robert Jo Dan Minnick.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jodie Minnick of Dimmitt and Mr. and Mrs. Jon Calcote of Eldorado. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Belk of Eldorado, Mrs. Lee McAfee of Dimmitt and Mrs. Lee Barrell of Auburn, Calif.

## Many Babies Have Problems

One-fifth of all newborns suffer from some sickness or abnormality during their stay in the hospital after delivery, says The National Foundation-March of Dimes.

# TSTA President Flunks Governor's Budget Plan

AUSTIN—What Virginia Stacey, president of the 125,000-member Texas State Teachers Association, had to say this week after studying Gov. Bill Clements' budget proposal stopped many Texans in their tracks.

If Clements' plan were followed, Stacey predicted Texas "would have poverty and chaos in a school system which is already underfinanced."

Last year, Texas ranked 31st in teacher pay. Texas educators fell \$1,713 below the national average in salaries. The Texas Education Agency estimates that teachers in 1978-79 will receive an average salary of \$12,975, ranking them even further down the scale, 33rd among the states.

Such numbers alarmed Stacey and the teachers she represents. The TSTA president urged her colleagues to look ahead and see what economic hardships might be in store for them, but Stacey also warned parents to consider what the consequences might be to the future of education in the state if present salary practices continued.

The governor eliminated the 5.1 percent pay increase for teachers recommended by the Legislative Budget Board. All state employees would be the beneficiaries of a 5.1 percent boost in pay, including teachers, if Clements' ideas are followed. But teachers would not receive the 5.1 percent hike on top of 3.2-4.9 percent raises they will already get under existing laws.

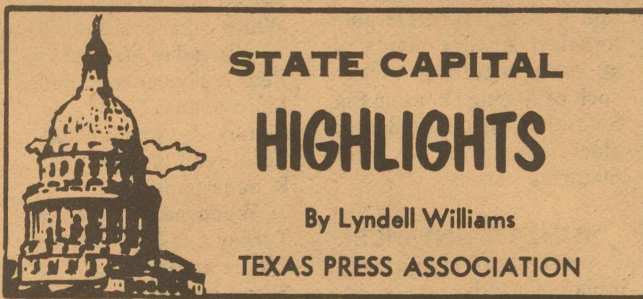
Sen. Pete Snelson's TSTA-backed school finance bill would give teachers a 15 percent increase in pay over the next two years. Stacey left the impression that teachers would take no prisoners in their struggle over higher wages. "TSTA intends to fight with all its strength," she declared.

## School Finance

Inseparable from the issue of teacher pay raises and school financing, is the question of how the Legislature will implement the constitutional amendment on tax relief.

The House Ways and Means Committee slaved through the week over legislation to put the amendment into effect. Rep. Bob Davis of Irving, chairing the committee, said there is an "outside possibility" a bill would be agreed on soon. The committee has already missed one self-imposed deadline.

Davis described the committee's complicated and difficult work "as kind of like unraveling string. You think you're getting to the end of the ball and all of a sudden



it gets larger instead of smaller."

Making an about face from earlier in the week, the committee agreed to extend a \$10,000 homestead exemption to all disabled and elderly regardless of annual earnings. Earlier, the committee had tentatively agreed to restrict the exemption to the handicapped and elderly with yearly incomes of \$7,500 or lower.

The remaining question is how the state will repay local school districts for revenues that will be lost when the homestead write-offs go into effect. Most members of the House Ways and Means Committee appear to favor a program that would reimburse in the first year of the state's two year budget all of a district's lost revenues. The second year, a school district would be penalized 10-15 percent of actual revenue losses if property was not appraised at market value.

The School Tax Assessment Practices Board says at present the average appraisal in the state is approximately 66 percent of market value. Traditionally, Texas has raised taxes by increasing assessment ratios while estimated market values of property were kept low. Under such practices, richer school districts have been able to maintain lower taxing ratios than poorer districts.

The Texas Research League—an organization financed by major corporations in Texas—warned that Clements' plan to refund

## Short Snorts

If you are in the process of trying to figure out the political, personal and party reasons for one presidential primary bill over another, stop for a moment. You may be able to erase one piece of legislation from your reading list. Thirteen senators have written a letter saying they are against Sen. Jack Ogg's bill that would separate the presidential primary and state primaries. Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and speaker of the House Bill Clayton both backed the legislation. In this case, 13 is their "unlucky number" because senate rules require a two-thirds vote to even consider a bill.

Consumers beware. The siege has begun. In committee hearings this week, bills were considered that would weaken the stiff penalty section of the Consumer Protection Act. And the Senate Economic Development Committee reviewed seven measures that would make it more difficult for the consumer to sue and sue successfully over faulty products.

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# From The Horses Mouth

By JERRY SWIFT  
Schleicher County Agricultural Agent

## SMALL PLANTS FOR BIG SUCCESS

Bigger is not the same as better when selecting tomato transplants for your spring garden. Research conducted by universities and institutions has confirmed what commercial growers have suspected all along, and that is the age and size of the tomato seedling or transplant when set in the garden can make a striking difference in yield.

Research has shown that you generally get the best results from tomatoes when you set out 6 to 8 inch tall plants that have 5 to 7 true leaves. The plants should be about as tall as they are wide, dark green in color, vigorously growing and free of spots or lesions on the leaves indicating the possibility of disease problems. As a rule, tomato plants of this size have not yet begun to flower. Believe it or not, plants of this description will usually give you a greater total weight of tomatoes than you would realize from planting larger and older plants.

Most transplants purchased at garden centers or local nurseries are available growing in some type of plantable container, usually composed of peat. If the tomato plants are large, chances are that the roots have outgrown the small container and their growth has been affected. This early "stunting" will usually show up at harvest time. What can you expect if you set out larger plants in your garden, that might even be blooming or might even have set a few small green tomatoes? Chances are the first mature fruit, although early, will often be small and misshapen. These first early fruit may cost you dearly as total yield can be seriously reduced.

To obtain early produc-

tion it is highly preferable to select smaller plants of an early maturing variety such as Spring Giant or Big Set rather than using large, older plants of a later maturing variety.

## DISEASE RESISTANCE

A number of high quality tomato varieties are available which have resistance to a number of the important diseases. Two of the more important are fusarium wilt and root knot nematodes.

Fusarium wilt is a fungal disease which causes wilting followed by rapid death of plants as they reach the fruiting stage. Chemical control has not been effective. Resistant varieties must be used if this disease is to be eliminated.

Root knot nematodes are another serious problem in many Texas gardens. Although fumigation is used, the use of fumigation plus resistant varieties will result in the best production. Tomatoes may be the only vegetable that is to be grown. Resistant varieties would then be sufficient for control. Root knot nematodes form "galls" or "swellings" on the root system. As a result of these "galls", the tomatoes will be stunted and appear to be poorly fertilized.

Three important letters follow certain tomato variety names. They are VFN. This means they are resistant to the following diseases: verticillium wilt, fusarium wilt, and root knot nematodes. If only VF is used, then the varieties are resistant to only fusarium wilt and verticillium wilt.

Homeowners should be aware that in isolated cases "bio types" or "races" of the different diseases exist or develop which will break the resistance. These, are of an isolated nature.

# SCHOOL MENU

All lunches served with hot rolls, milk and butter. Menus subject to change.

- Monday March 12
    - Baked ham
    - Blackeyed peas
    - Golden hominy
    - Spiced apple rings
    - White cake/chocolate icing
  - Tuesday March 13
    - Beef & cheese enchiladas
    - Pinto beans
    - Lettuce & tomato salad
    - Cornbread or crackers
    - Banana pudding
  - Wednesday March 14
    - Turkey a-la-king
    - Whole kernel corn
    - Sliced peaches
    - Sugar cookies
  - Thursday March 15
    - Barbecued chicken
    - Potato salad
    - Green beans
    - Orange Congealed salad
    - Peach cobbler
  - Friday March 16
    - Sandwiches — Tuna, chicken salad, pimento cheese, peanut butter, potato chips
    - Pork and beans
    - Fruit with whipped topping
- ### BREAKFAST
- Monday March 12
    - Pineapple juice
    - Hot biscuits-sausage-jelly
  - Tuesday March 13
    - Peaches
    - Waffles-syrup
  - Wednesday March 14
    - Orange juice
    - Buttered rice-toast
  - Thursday March 15
    - Banana
    - Choice of ready-to-eat-cereal
  - Friday March 16
    - Pears
    - Doughnuts

# Just Talking

By NELL EDMISTON

Spring must really be here — Alice Van Horn appeared downtown Monday afternoon without her red winter toboggan. "But I had it on this morning," she giggled, "And someone called me Red Riding Hood."

One of Eldorado's most cherished citizens, she was seen all winter with the red cap. Now that it has warmed up, the top of her head has changed from bright red to snow white because she has the most beautiful head of long white hair twisted into a bun you ever saw.

She is still very active and plays the fiddle at several social functions. When she was in the office Monday, she was looking for a newspaper story that referred to her. "I don't know what my granddaughter wants with this story, except that I keep fiddling around," she giggled again.

Geneva Wade also came in Monday, as she does every week with the weather log she keeps for the U.S. government. We got to talkin' about gardening. "I don't think I'm going to have a garden this year," she said thoughtfully, "since I found so many snakes in mine last year."

Then she told about digging up some potatoes for H.A. and Dixie Belk last summer. She thought she heard something move under a bush and pulled back a foot. But before she had a chance to pull back the other one, a rattle snake crawled over it.

"I didn't sleep too well that night, and I want to tell you I was the first patient in Dr. Brame's office the next morning," she laughed with a small shudder.

Sheriff Orval Edmiston and his deputies, Walter Donaldson and Barry Hale, are quick to remind us that the new building, if it is approved by the voters in the bond election, is NOT a jail, but a law enforcement center. This is because it will contain not only cells, but also offices for the sheriff, deputies, game warden, justice of the peace and DPS patrolmen if we should get any more in the future.

During the last commissioners court meeting, Edmiston commented, "People have accused me of building this for myself. I am not; the county is building this center for law enforcement officers not only now but for the next 70 or 80 years."

The building now being used as a jail was built in 1908 and the most expensive work done on it since was a new roof which was put on about 30 years ago. Other than that, it is basically the same structure now as it was 71 years ago.

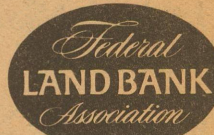


SWCD DISPLAY — Soil and water conservation district directors explain their educational exhibit to interested youngsters and adults at last year's San Angelo Stock Show. This year eight soil and water conservation districts will again sponsor an educational exhibit at the stock show. Slated for March 7-11, the SWCDs will sponsor a display depicting water and its related uses. Districts participating in sponsoring the educational exhibit include the Concho, North Concho River, Eldorado-Divide, Coke County, Edwards Plateau, Runnels, Middle Concho and Crockett SWCDs.

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# Calendar Of Events

Today, March 8 — Open House at high school, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 9 — Kerrville Outreach program, 11 a.m. to noon, Neighborhood Center.

Saturday, March 10 — Eldorado Jamboree, 8 p.m., Memorial Building.

Sunday, March 11 — Mixed foursome at golf course; Sunday devotional at nursing home, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, March 12 — Order of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Hall; School Board, 7:30 p.m., high school library; Beta Sigma Phi sorority, 7:30 p.m., club room of Memorial Building.

Tuesday, March 13 — Eldorado Woman's Club, 2:30 p.m.; TOPS, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Building; Kountry Cousins, 7 p.m., Memorial Building; Volunteer Firemen, 7:30 p.m., firehall; City Council called meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall.

Wednesday, March 14 — Methodist Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.; Comptroller representative, 9-10 a.m., Memorial Building; Lions Club, noon, Memorial Building.

Thursday, March 15 — Sorority Bake Sale, 10 a.m., Parkers Food; Clinic for pre-school children, 9-3:30 p.m., First Methodist Church; Jaycees, 8 p.m., clubhouse.

Sunday, March 18 — Sunday devotional at nursing home, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20 — TOPS, 6:30, Memorial Building; Kountry Cousins, 7 p.m., Memorial Building; Firemen, 7:30, firehall.

Wednesday, March 21 — Methodist Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.; Lions Club, noon, Memorial Building; Golf Club bingo, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 22 — Social security representative, 1-2:30 p.m., firehall.

Friday, March 24 — Christoval Jamboree.

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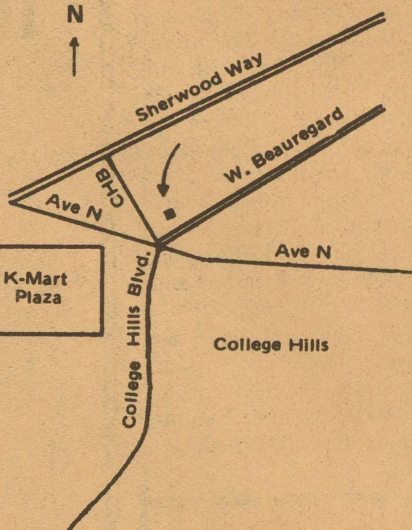
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No personal credit will be continued.

If you don't have an Exxon Credit Card come by and pick up an application at the station.

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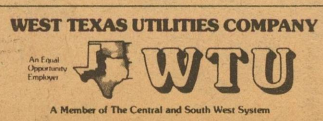
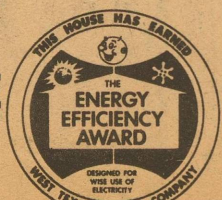
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# CHRISTOVAL ★ News & Views

## SHORT NOTES

Roy and Gwen McCann were in Woodward, Okla. attending the funeral of Gwen's father, this past weekend.

The Community Improvement Group will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Also there will be a bar-b-que Saturday, March 17 to raise funds for a new roof and rest rooms for the Community Center.

A sad note for the Jim Freeman's was the loss of their family pet. The Calico cat contacted pneumonia and died after two months, despite veterinary help and lots of loving care from the family. Evon says the family probably won't be without a pet long as she has noticed a gray female cat around the house lately.

Approximately 150 people attended the opening of the Christoval country Store Sunday. The Rev. Dan Adams conducted dedication service for the building.

The store, which is open from 9-6 weekdays and from 1-6 on Sunday, is packed with handmade arts, crafts, paintings, ceramics, pot plants and gifts, with new items arriving daily. There is also a country kitchen where cakes, pies, bread, rolls, cookies, fresh eggs and butter are available.

## Nursing Home NEWS

Mr. Fletcher Lively is back from Shannon Hospital. Glad to have you back.

Debra Williams and her son, Sam Ford Williams visited Mrs. Swart. Sam was quite the center of attention around here. He is six months old.

The biggest news around here is that Earl Barnes and Lois Stewart went to Eldorado and came back Mr. and Mrs. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple. They have now moved to San Angelo.

The Jolly Time Band played here Friday night. Everyone enjoyed dancing or just keeping time to the music.

Velma Barnes nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Barnes, visited with her.

Mrs. Tom Hunt and Mrs. Ed Kinsey came by and visited their aunt, Mrs. Elser, on Sunday.

Mrs. Archie Mittel of Eldorado visited her mother, Mrs. Perry.

Rev. Gaston conducted services here Sunday.

Amanda Abernathy was an overnight visitor in the home of her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abernathy, in the Mereta community.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCann took his mother to the Western Jamboree Saturday night.

Rev. S.E. Tate and his wife from Odessa visited Valeria Tate.

Fred McShan took his mother home for her birthday dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Henson of San Angelo, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Henson and their two children of Temple, visited Mrs. Annie Henson and Grace McShan. Also, Mrs. Goetz and her two daughters and grandbaby visited Mrs. Henson.

Emma Derr, Annie Henson, Charlene Kirk and Edna Mayfield went to town with June Pettit.

Bingo winners were Valeria Tate, Pat Burke, Grace McShan and Charlene Kirk.

Sally Hooker, Olan Shiefeld and Francis Van Court visited with Stella King Sunday.

Leta Allen's husband visited with her.

Toni Earle is visiting here for the next two weeks.

John Passow and family came for a visit with his sister, Ann Passow.

Herbert Grazier is in Shannon Hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Ann Passow, Opal Joiner, Edna Mayfield, Stella King, Emma Derr, Maria Barboza and Callie Perry enjoyed having lunch in the Community Center Monday. Approximately 20 attended this monthly meeting.

J.W. Henson brought his mother a beautiful birthday cake to help her celebrate her 88th birthday.

## Cox To Head Bike-A-Thon

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cox was today named Chairman of a Bike-A-Thon in Christoval by Reuben D. Duke, President of the Lone Star Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

They will be conducting the Bike-A-Thon to raise funds which will support research and care for children affected by cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis and other related lung-damaging diseases.

Cystic Fibrosis, an incurable genetic disease, is inherited by one in every 1500 babies born in the United States. Both parents carry the recessive gene for CF and number among one in twenty persons in the U.S. who may be carriers, usually without knowing it. With improved therapy and constant research, many CF patients are now living into early adulthood.

"Most people do not realize there are millions of children affected by lung-damaging diseases, and by participating in our Bike-A-Thon, you can help these children who can't take breathing for granted," said Mr. Duke.

## Couple Wed March 3

Mary E. Mitchell of Fort Stockton and Roy MacFarland of Christoval were married March 3 in Fort Stockton.

The ceremony was held in the Russell Payne home with the Rev. Aubrey Walley, pastor of the First Methodist Church, officiating.

The couple will make their home in Fort Stockton.

## Recipe Corner

by Liz Clark

### MONKEY BREAD

3½ cups flour  
1 egg, slightly beaten  
1 cup lukewarm water  
2 pkgs. dry yeast  
½ cup sugar  
1 tsp salt  
¼-½ cup oleo melted  
Dissolve yeast in warm water, add sugar, egg, salt and enough flour to make soft dough. Cover with a damp cloth and sit aside. Let double in size. Approx. 2 hours. Roll dough out on well floured surface. Cut into biscuits, dip in melted butter and layer into Bundt pan. Cover with damp cloth and let rise until double in size. Cook at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

### PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

1 cup sugar  
1 cup peanut butter  
1 egg  
1 tsp. vanilla  
Mix well and drop on cookie sheet. Bake 350 degrees for 6-8 minutes.

### COUNTRY WISDOM

#### WEATHER LORE

Beware of February. February and March together should tax the heating systems and snow shovels of most residents in the northwest.

Middle Atlantic states will be cold and snowy from Groundhog Day through the first day of spring.

West of the Mississippi the weather seems mild.

The summer will be hot and dry. When the rains come in August it will be too late to save ruined crops.

A dry western winter and spring plus a hot July are conspiring to bring dust storms rolling back along the plains and prairies.

**CLOUD READING**  
Hard-edged clouds mean wind. Delicate, soft looking clouds tell of fine weather with moderate to high breezes.

A gloomy, but very blue sky says windy but fair. A bright yellowness of the clouds at sunset fortells wind. A pale yellow cloud means rain.

The softer the look of the clouds the less wind there will be. Hard looking clouds with rolled and ragged appearance tell of coming strong wind.

Small ink colored clouds speak of rain.

Light, skimming clouds driving across wind and rain or sometimes first wind, depending on the kind of cloud cover above them.

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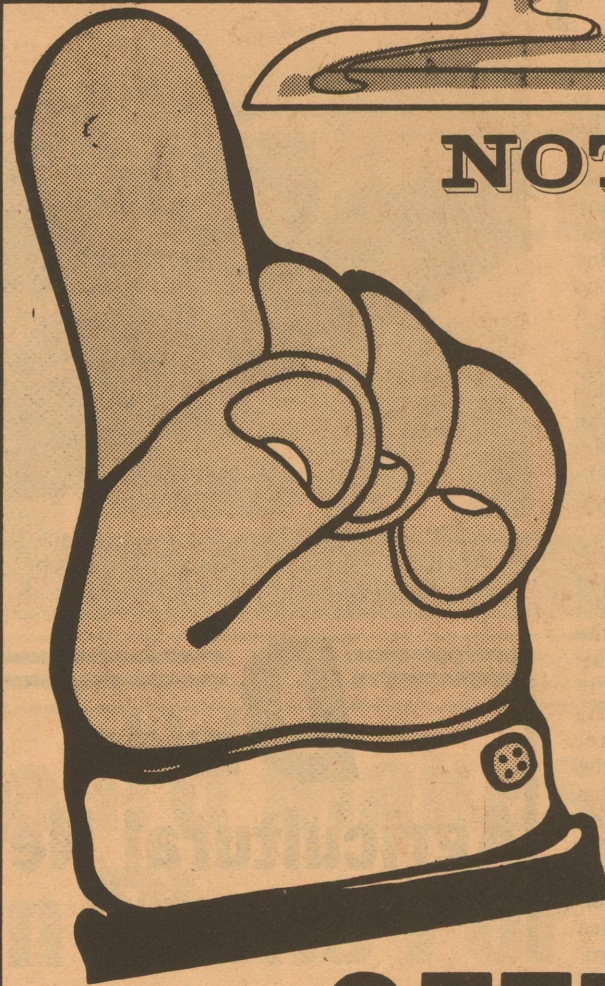
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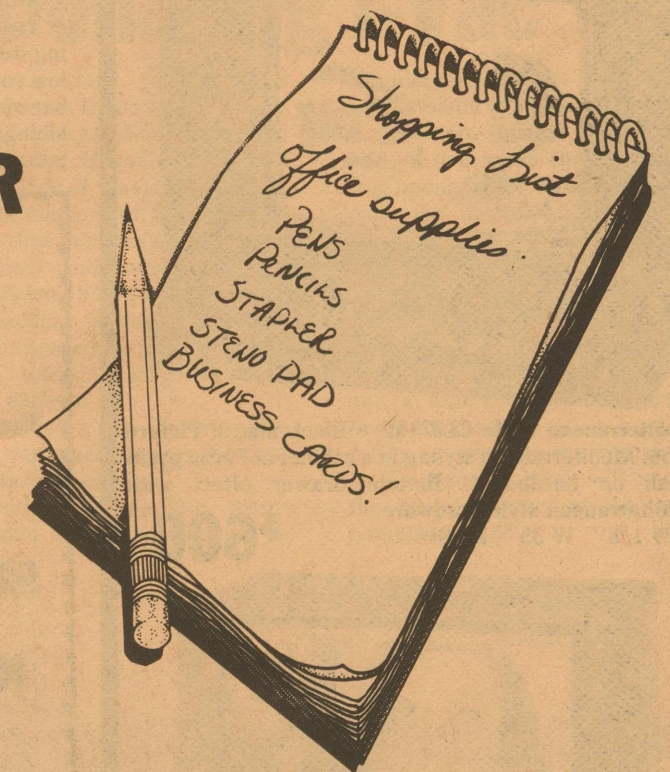
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Schleicher County

# LEADER

853-2032

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# In Those Days

(Compiled From Eldorado Success Files)

**FIVE YEARS AGO**  
March 7, 1974 — Services were held for Mrs. Will Whitten, 81, at First Baptist Church.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Williams was destroyed by fire. A fund at the bank was begun by the 4-H club.

A rabid skunk was discovered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Edmondson. A warning about rabid animals was issued by county health officer Dr. J.B. Brame.

Jim Cawley was recovering from a heart attack.

Mrs. L.D. Ochsner was in M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

**12 YEARS AGO**  
March 9, 1967 — Danny Halbert was named to an all-opponent team by the Ozona Lions basketball team.

The bill to create a hospital district here was out of committee in the state legislature.

Services were held for Mrs. Beulah Anderson, age 72.

A revival at the Baptist Church was to be held before Easter. Leading services were William Tomerlin of Dallas, youth director, and Leroy Yarbrough, music director.

The Lions Club was sponsoring a queen's program, with 26 young women vying for the queen's title.

The Billy Edmiston family moved from Oklahoma City to Midland.

Miss Barbara Johnson, bride-elect of Larry Krueger, was honored with a shower.

J.C. Whiteley, 88, was reported very ill in the Brady Hospital. He had owned a blacksmith shop here.

**35 YEARS AGO**  
March 10, 1944 — J.F. McKee of Eldorado displayed a turnip he grew

here which weighed four pounds and 13 ounces and measured 2 3/4 inches in circumference at the Eldorado Success office. W. Irl Breedlove, Success publisher, stated, "We believe it will also make a right tasty meal, it we can find about two pounds of good old salt back to season it with."

Lt. Jack Montgomery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Montgomery, received an air medal for the completion of ten successful bombing missions over the northern part of Italy and Yugoslavia.

Wesley McAlpine, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.G. McAlpine, was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received in combat duty in the South Pacific. His brother, Pat McAlpine, who was elsewhere in the Pacific, wrote his parents saying he was well and doing fine.

Mrs. Oneta Johnson, teacher at Reynolds School, announced a pie and ice cream supper, with proceeds going for the benefit of the school.

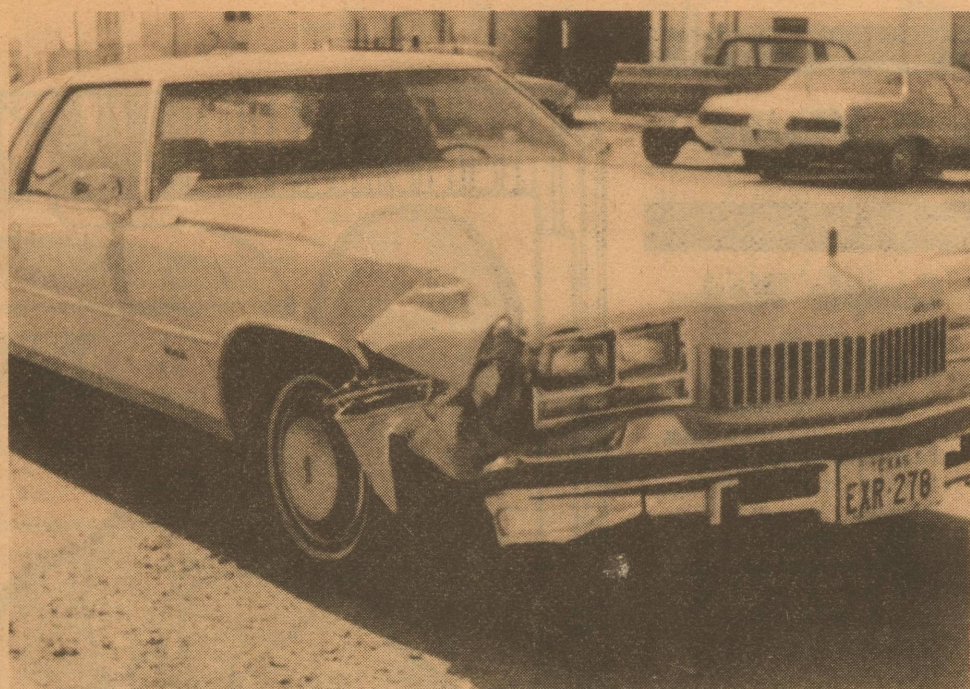
The Methodist Youth Fellowship organization was honored with a banquet. Presenting a musical program, under the direction of Virginia Ryan, were Katherine Davis, Patsy Ballow, Bettye Bryant and Frances Thompson. Billy Sam Breedlove was master of ceremonies and the Rev. F.B. Faust gave the invocation.

## EHS Girls Win Doubles

Toni Fatheree and Lorrie Powell won first in the girls doubles during the San Angelo tennis meet two weeks ago. Losing in the quarter finals were single players Mary Byrd and Ed Willoughby.

In tennis competition last week, the Eldorado High School tennis team won fourth place overall at the Junction meet. Winning first place in singles were Ed Willoughby, Mary Byrd and Rene Rodriguez. Meanwhile, the Fatheree-Powell team won second in doubles for girls.

The team, which is being coached by Ken Thomas, met Ozona here Tuesday night and will go to Mason Saturday for a tournament. On March 17-18, they will go to San Angelo Lakeview for another tournament.



**ACCIDENT RESULTS** — The front of Zane Davis-Miller's Oldsmobile suffered this damage after a collision with a pickup driven by Raymond Schrank Friday afternoon. The mishap occurred in front of Parkers Foods.

## Accidents Happen Friday

Two minor automobile accidents occurred here Friday. An Oldsmobile Tornado driven by Zane Davis-Miller collided with a pickup driven by Raymond Schrank as Schrank backed out of Parkers Foods Friday afternoon.

Later that night, a pickup owned by Robert Hibbits was struck from the rear by a Cadillac convertible driven by Marilyn Barker. The pickup was parked on the side of Hwy. 277 across from the school building. Mrs. Barker was cited with failure to pass with

sufficient clearance. There were no injuries reported in either accident. On Sunday, volunteer firemen responded to a fire

at the Solis home on Poplar Street. The fire was some firewood on the front porch and was contained to the porch.

## Bridal Selections For Mrs. Bobby Woodward the former Kaye Harkey

Lisa Guerrero  
bride elect of  
Ernesto Martinez

**WESTERN AUTO**  
ELDORADO

# Divide Agricultural News

By **FREDDIE WILLIAMS**  
Soil Conservation Service

Livestock producers should be careful when they run sheep and goats on 'Selection 75' kleingrass, a U.S. Soil Conservation Service spokesman warned this week.

George C. Marks, state conservationist for SCS of Temple, said a recent study showed that 3.2 percent of the sheep and 0.5 percent of the goats that grazed kleingrass from 1973 to 1977 were affected by swellhead. Although there is no clinical proof yet that kleingrass itself caused the swellhead, there is enough evidence to indicate a link between the two.

"Our survey revealed that during the five-year period, 76,056 sheep in Texas grazed 116,000 acres of kleingrass," Marks said. "Of these, 2,440 contracted swellhead and 1.2 percent of the total, or 973 animals died."

Marks said that weaned lambs and suckling lambs appeared to be most susceptible. During the same five-year period, 28,031 goats grazed kleingrass; 142 were affected by swellhead, and 92 died. Again, weaned kids and suckling kids were most susceptible.

"According to our study, swellhead has occurred from March to November," Marks continued. "However, it has occurred most often in July and August or after periods of plant stress. There is also some indication that it may occur more frequently following thundershowers during dry periods. Additional site-specific data needs to be obtained to confirm this relationship."

Although the occurrence of swellhead and the resulting death losses have been low compared to total number of animals and acres of kleingrass grazed, death losses have been very

significant on some ranches.

The study revealed that 384 livestock producers grazed kleingrass with sheep and/or goats from 1973 to 1977; 79 producers had one or more cases of swellhead. Eight producers had 57.6 percent of the death losses; these occurred in Coleman, Concho, McCullough, Runnels, Tom Green and Val Verde counties.

Freddie J. Williams, district conservationist for SCS at Eldorado said that 13 local ranchers grazing kleingrass with sheep and goats, in Schleicher county, none have had swellhead.

Swellhead is a term generally used to describe photosensitization.

Photosensitization in sheep and goats is probably caused by some fungus or toxin that limits the ability of the liver to perform properly. The liver normally breaks down chlorophyll pigments that are digested when animals eat green plants. When this is not done in sheep and goats, the chlorophyll is deposited in the tissues of the animal.

When exposed to the sun, the light causes tissue damage; fluid then accumulates in the damaged tissue causing swelling, mostly around the eyes, nose, and ears. Thus the term "swellhead."

Marks said that some 620,000 acres of kleingrass were growing in Texas at the end of 1977 and produced about \$11 million in economic returns. The grass is planted mostly for cattle; 97 percent of kleingrass is grazed by cattle or mixed herds of cattle and other livestock.

"But ranchers who graze the grass with sheep and goats should watch them closely, especially during dry periods," Marks said.

"Affected animals should be removed immediately, placed in the shade, and given food and water. Taken soon enough, these precautions should hold death losses to a minimum."

At least two dozen other plants — including sudangrass, small grain, sacahuista, and clover — can also cause swellhead.

Kleingrass, a plant native to South Africa, was first grown in the United States in 1942 at Texas A&M University. In 1955, SCS and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) began making extensive field trials across Texas. Trial plantings were eventually made at 50 locations and were grazed by all kinds of livestock, including sheep and goats. A superior strain known as 'Selection 75' was released as a named variety by SCS and TAES in 1968. It was not until 1974, however, that the plant was suspected to be related to swellhead in sheep and goats.



Among his other talents, Benjamin Franklin was an accomplished performer on the guitar and harp.

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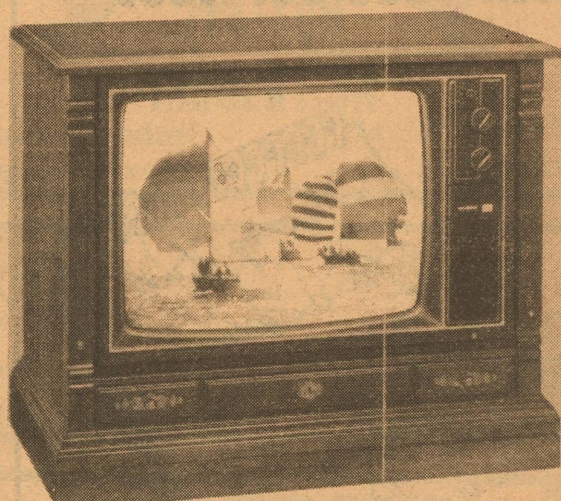
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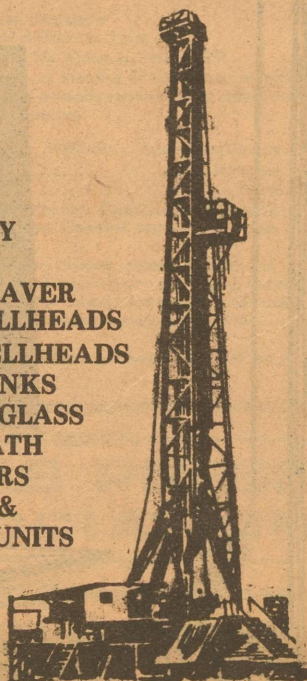
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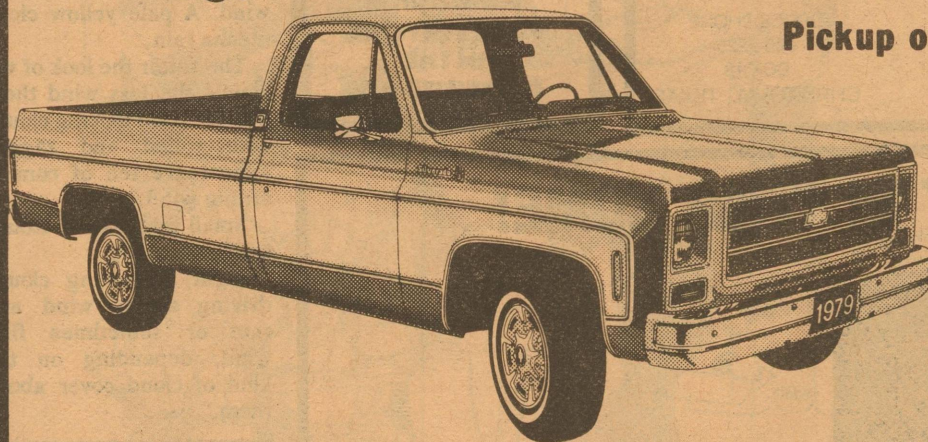
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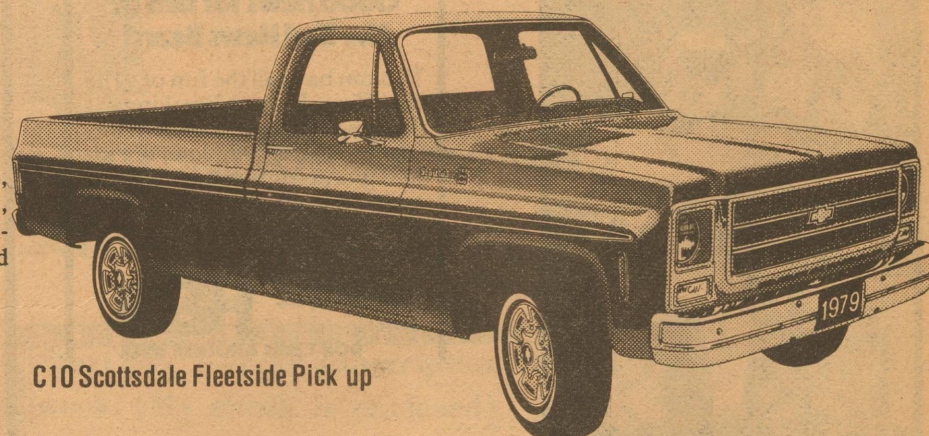
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