##  <br> METRO EDITION <br> Coming Sunday... An unusual landmark loceted about 100 miles west of Miciland will be the located about 100 miles west of Midan will bete wubject of a West Texas sesbect of as West Texas Life article in Sunday's Life article in Sunday's edition of The Reporter- Telegram. Telegram. Known as Sink, the large deppression Sink, the large depression on other hat terrain has long been the subject of controversy. What made it? How long has it made ith? How long has it been there? visit to view? | visit to view? |
| :--- |
| city editor Tom Nickell | took a dusty trip over to the Sink in southeasten New Mexico recently, Read his acount and see his uestion-answering heis question-answering photographs in Sunday's photographs in Sunday's Reporter-Telegram.

Thr Midioland Reporter- ©regarum
DIAL 682-5311, P.O. Box 1650, MIDLAND, TEXAS
Vol. 48. No. 30, Daily 1se, Sunday 3 se

## Offshore gains victory in House

## Former

## policeman

 testifiesHOUSTON (AP)
Houston policeman stated in federal ourt Thursday he once said a fellow American prisoner off a high em-
bankment into a bayou, but now he
could testify that he wasn't even could testify that he wasn even
looking in the direction of hea ection.
Stephen Orlando, 22 , an officer from Stephen Oriando, 22, an officer from
a tamily of poticemen, said he had
signed a statement last May that signed a statement last May that
tellow policeman Terry W. Denson,
27, had pushed the man into Buffalo Bayou, busto only because I had read
the statement of another officer and I
the thought that was what they (the police
investigating team) wanted me to sayy I was afraid of losing my job." Expected to testify today is Joseph
Janish, 22, the third officer accused oo Janish, 22, the third officer accused of
violating the civil righs of Joe
Campos Torres, a 23 -year-old laborer Campos Torres, a 23 -year-old laborer
and former serriveman.
Torres was arrested late on the
night of May 5 , 1977, during a Torres was arrested late on the
night of May 5 , 1977 , during a
disturbance at a Housto taven. His
body was found troe days later \%
$\$ 1.5$ million awarded
Anurn findenanimerns million to Diviu Jeak. suing oin
 eresection collilison that happeneed


## WEATMER


INDEX
Thero ia muth to be aid to iving
Soviet costonantit aceompliting
danescous feat of retuling orobtiting
Thexas governor answers charge he

\section*{| Bridge |
| :--- |
| Ciastified |}

Comics...
Editorial:
Markets...
Obituaries:
oil and gas
Sports....
ifestyle...
Delivery Service $6 e{ }^{2} \cdot 5911$
Want Ads 602503



OFFICE SUPPLY BUILDING on Peachtree Street fire, the second big one in downtown Atlanta this

## DA to bring evidence before

 coroner's jury in Lozano probe
## By BROOKS KELLER R-T Staff Writer

 ODESSA - Ettor County Dist.Atty. John Green said Thursday Atty. John Green said Thursday at-
ternoon he would bring evidence
betore

 $=\mathrm{Fz}$ to lowest point since ' 74 In a prepared statement handed to reporters, and also in verbal com-
ments, Green stressed his vigorous ments Green stressed his vigorous
objections to any investigation into
Loranot Lorano's death by represigntatives of
Texas Atty. Gen. John Hill Texas Atty. Gen. John Hill.
to come atorney into theneral has ounty and disturt to come into this county and disturb
local rule. He has no jurisiction in
this matter." Green's statement said.
in feel that this this matter," Green's statement said.
"I feel that this investigation can

American community, who have
voiced militant objections to any
investigations by Texas Rangers or Jobless rate plummets Jobless rate plummets

By R. GREGORY NOKES WASHINGTON (AP) - The
nation's unemployment rate dropped $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { prising drop in in unemployment } \\ & \text { December, to } \\ & \text { percent }\end{aligned}$ another notch in January to 0.3 .3per plorcent the month before, was not the cent, its lowest point in more than teared.
three tabor Dears, the government said
The today.
Even more important than the inditional 270,000 persons found jobs Even more important than the in January, raising totat employment
siight improvement in the jobless's to 92.2 millon onse number of
picture last month was the report's unemployed persons remained at 6.2

## Mayor says





 to see more bids based on, say, the vision, which would direct the In.
government being given a share of terior secretary to experiment with goverument being given a share of terior secretary to experiment with
royalties or net profits from producing weils, After the Hose narrowly defeated Willimever, White House lobbyist an industry-backed substitute bilit in- "We'll get another shot at it it ine condustry allles recouped nearly all they ference, he esaid, "and d thinin we can
wanted by wining adoption of a work something out that will ment wanted by winning adoption of a work something out that will make
series of amendments that in- everybody happy, This one lends
corporated most elements of the re- itseif to fudging numbers and moving corporated most elements of the re-
jected substifit to fudging numbers and movinge.
jece
numbers around.
He was referring to the Senate bill $\begin{gathered}\text { "We're encouraged Some of the } \\ \text { amendments were quite palatable," }\end{gathered} \quad \begin{gathered}\text { He was referring to the Senate } \\ \text { (Continued on Page 2A) }\end{gathered}$

## Tech decision

 on med school facility today
## By LINDA HILL SCHAFFRINA R-T Staft Writer

 LUBBOCKUniversity could live with any one of
the the That wist the reaction Thursday of
Judson Williams. chairman of the
Texas Tech Board of Regent Texas Tech Board of Regents, after
representatives from Midland, redessena and Big Spring told the regents why the Permian Basin
Regional Health Center should be located in their city. "Williams told
"We feel courted,"
the overflow crowd of Permian Basin the overflow crowd of Permian Basin
resident after the presentations on
the Texas Tech compus Thursday the Texas Tech campus Thursday
afternoon
The rents were to make a
decision this afternoon on the location deeision this afternoon on the location
of the facilly, which will brig a
teaching branch of the Texs Tech teaching branch of the Texas Tech
medical school to the Permian Basin. But after Thursday's meeting,
there was no indication of what the
 Big Spring's proposal rested
primarily on the 1000 hospital beds in primarily on the 1007 hospital beds in
the eity and the availabilty, at on cost
to the University, of the former Webt Air Force Base hospital.
The city of Andrews The city of Andrews also had put in
a bid for the facelity, but made no
formal oral prectite formal oral presentation. Dr.ze . W.
Hutchinson reperening. Adres
told the regents, "I tinow there Hutchinson representing Adrews
told the regents, "Mnow there is a
political plum up. We dont wat the
whole plum, but we wint part of ft Whole plum, but we want part of ft"
Delwin Jones, candidate for state
senate in the 2 sth District which in-
 the site for the center. Jones, who was
state representative from Lubbock when the medical school mas created,
told the regents the legislature in. told the regents the legislature in-
tended the Permian Basin center to
goto odessa. Another candidate for that state
Senate post is Texas Tech Regent Don
Workm Senate post is Texas Tech Regent Don
Workman "I would not yote if my
vote is the swing vote," he said after vote is the swing vote," he said after
the presentations. "I would hope it the presentations. "I would hope it
would be a unanimous decision by our
board and, if so, I will probably
(Continued on Page 2A)
Wreck kills Midland man

Midland resident was killed near here Thursday night when the motoreycle he was driving collided with a car. block of. Tanner Drive, was
pronounced dead pronounced dead at $9: 30$ p.m.
Thursday at Malone-Hogan Hospital Thursday at Maione-Hogan Hospita
in Big Spring. aecording to the
Department of Public Safety Department of Pubic Saiety.
His wife, Lyn Wilkinoo, 25 , a
passenger on the motoreycle, was treated at Malone-Hogan Hospital and releacedent occurred. .7 mile east
The aciden City on Texas 159 WIllirson motoreyle was triveling
east when it and a wethmind car
drives east when it and a westbound car
driven by Presliey Earl Fablion of
Odessa collided shortly before 8 p.m. Odessa collided shorly before 8 p.m.
aceording to DPs reportsed
Troopers apprehinded Faiubion Troopers apprehended Faubion
nine miles east of y idithnd on Texas
158, according to a DPS spokesman 158, according to a DPS spokesman.
He was in the Midand County Jil
this morning, a jail spokesman said.

WEATHER SUMMARY


SUNNY SKIES are expected for most of the nation today. Cold weather is forecast for the eastern half of the country but mild
weather will likely prevail in the West. The National Weather
Service predicts rain for the northern Pacific Coast and snow for Service predicts rain for the northern Pacific Coast and snow for
the top of the northern Plains and western Great Lakes. (AP Laserphoto Map)
Midand statistics



## Talks again recessed in 60-day coal strike



DA to bring evidence


Harrein , eid, Midiand Chamber or commerce
president, Thursday presents Midlan's case for
the Texas Tech Permian Basin Regional Health
Decision today on which city to get Tech medical facility

## Unemployment rate falls again


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 TToty to deal with we poolem of






1977 said boom year








 the measure in the Howse, Angele
said
Beterer times. The myor siad he


 Hiph pamst Cinal Treaty, The
 opposes and which he says would be a
mistake should it be ratified The
"key" to the treaty is that "the United
Stetes wil States will give up tive untrol and
sovereignty of the Canal "I believe the batale's not over yet,"
he said in referring to Presiden he said in referring to President
Carter's
ratified raunined. an independent petroleum
Angelo,
enginer, is a Republican Nationa engineer, is a Repubican National
Committeeman and was a Ronald
Reagan delegate in 1976 during Reagan delegate in 1976 during
Reagan's bid for the Republican party's nomination for president. One
of the stands in Reagan's platform was opposition to any treaty that
would cause the United States to lose Angelo's state-of-the-city messag Angelo's state-of-the-eity messag
was wapped up in his response too
uuestion on the progress of a proposed question on the progress of a proposed
shopping mallorthe city.
The major noted the "sensitive
nature of that whole thing" and The major noted the sensitive
neture of that whole thing" and
rent TMm still . optimistic that we
will have a firstelass shopping mall
within the next two to three years in operation."
Site of the proposed shopping mall
is at Midkiff Road and Farm Road Council names acting chief
 acting chief of police here until the Fort Stockton City Couneil decides on
apermanent thiet to replace the fired Mickey Clark, 41 .
In its Thursday editions. The chifet. Jan. 4 after ater be befused to rouncil on the council's request, and
seven-year veteran of the police
force, was appointed interim chief six force, was appointed interim chief siz
days alater
Mayor Frank Hayes and six police fficers - hall of the force- resignee Jan. 23 in protesting the council'
ousting of Clark, former Midland
County sheriffs sdeputy

 HOME DELIVER
 푼



## Cosmonauts accomplish risky refueling of space lab




 cosemonaut to complete coonection of were looking tor s. speces spect culur The eargocrat was liauched Jan
2o and sucessuluty lined
Sup with
 spending much ot their time readying
the
the tued transter. The cosmonauts




 proseching the Soviet recerd of 63 dapy
in
space
for a in space for a previous crew. the
Unitec states holds the reocrd of $\& 1$ days in space aboard a skylab several
yeras
The sid soveret space program ater
 seems solidily advancing in in mannee
 With a smaller payload capability than the Americans and overall
space techolog that Western ex.
perts perts consider substantially eruder
than the Americanss , the Soviets have



## Guerrillas attack garrison in Nicaragua

|  | No onater |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | The attack came as lead 12-day-old general strike |
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|  | deestita govermed |
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| Bell also said that he expeets to |  |
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Westeral exper pointed out that as a precursor to Thursay's tuel

## f the Russian Revolution.

But a few weeks later, the Soviets
But a few weeks later, the Soviets
lauched Romanenko and Greekiko,



## Senator opposes SS tax increase

WASHINGTON (AP) - The chairman of the
Senate Aging Committee seays Congress must Senate Aging co arerturn the Social Security tax
reverse itself and one
increases that Increasesthat were epproved dirley ymont aso

 Sid. coursi, the evien must be eepof sovent",
 and their employers with unduuly large payroll tax BIRTHS


| Congress approved a bill last December that raises |
| :--- |
| anes on employers and employees, starting in |
| 1929 |

 President Carrer has proposed that income taxes
 the higher pyyroll taxes. But Church said that is no Church noted that the Social Security tax is Egressive, meaning it falls social seporurtity lax is
 On the other hand, the
 And millions of low-income workers pay no tederal
income tax at all Thus ita mates on sense to reduce the progressive
tax and raise the regressive ievy, Church haid. THERRPUUTC HYPIOSIS OF MMERICA Lose Weight • Stop Smoking
563.3060 or $333-4472$

## DEATHS

John C. Parks ODEssA - Jack c. Parks, s8, in
pdeess bustesesman banker ind vice
 Angelo hospital following a brief
 Burial, directed by Hubbard-Kelly

 He Whirter and was married to Neell Parks was sunner of Tilery 4 Parks Co. An oill ineide equiliment business in Texas white Truek Co. in odessa. West He was a director of the state
 Peatins of member of the First Dasen. He wast past president of the director on the Odessa Council on Aconolism. inclue his wite a son, Dairne Helefelberg ork: odesughthis gother, Pearr Duke of of olahoma
Sity that \& brother, Rex Parks of
Houton.

Vaughn Knight Houston - Vaubhn A. Knight , To, Houston, which is active in the Per. mian Bastin, died Thursalay in a Services were to be at 2 p.m. today

Westight had been aetive int the oll
 Kanses, milinois, Louistiana, Now Hears as superintendent tor Barrhart 22
 Hexilo mad Texiss
For teed at at flove years, Knighth had home near Kingsiand
He lis surv
He lisurrvived by his wite, Gladyce:
doughter May P Mobs




Ora Irene Deen sNYER - Ora Irene Deen, 66, ot fobber. N.M. died wednewdy in Services were to be at $2 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. today the the Bellseale Funeral Home Snder Cemetery Survers her her husband, a rrandehildren and two great.

## Crawford infant

KERMIT - The inftant daugher of Hobos, N.M.i. died Thuraday at a Gravesido serices were to be held Sirvivoris Include her parenis: Crawtord of Kermit and Mr ind Mrs Kenneth Golieber of Carritio Springs.

## Midkiff community to meet


Aeronautics commission elects head
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - The Texas
Aeronauntics Commisslon Thursday
 motion by Tejas airunes or san an-
tonlo to whatru lis authrity to
provide seheduled air service to aredo.
The requested air route has been
led up in litigation for several months. A prehearing conference is
cheduled Feb. 24 on a hew Teiss cheduled Yeb, 20 on a new Tejas
ipplicaton that seeks to provide air ppicication that seeks to provide air
erviee from the Alamo Cly to both
aredo and McAllen. In other action, the commission
dopted a resolution commendina ut-going chairman Rex-Cauble of
Cauble was replaced on the comommends Cauble, who had been on le commtrston timee 1007 fon on 'lnvaluable contribution
nd his astute leadership."

Harold Cowan
53, andrews - Harold Reed Cowan, 53, area manager for skelly Oil Co., following an apparent heart attack. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday Bristow; Okla. Burial will be in Bristow's Magnolia Cemetery,
Huthins
Haples Funeral Home of Bristow is handling the services.
Arrangements here were made by Singleton Funeral Home.
Cowan moved to
Crowan moved to tharews from
Bristow in 1966 and had been em-
ploy byselly ployed by Skelly oill co. for 19 years.
He He was married to Geraldine
MeGuire on Nov,, , 1945, in Sapulpa,
Okla. Okla.
Surviv
sons, De Survivors include his wife: two
sons, Dennis Cowan of Houston and
Danny Cowan of Austin sons, Dennis cowan ot Houston and
Danny Cowan of Austin: a daughter,
LaDonno La Donna Ragssale of Andrews, his
mother, Maude Cowan of Bristow a mother, Maude Cowan of Bristow; a
brother, Kenneth Cowan of Sroken
Arrow, Okla. and six srandehildren.
Billie B. Ford BIG SPRING - Billie B. Ford, 70,
died Thursday in a Big Spring Services will be held at 2 p.m.
Saturday at Nalley-Pickle Funeral Saturday at Nailey-Pickle Funeral
Home.
The Coahoma Masonic Lodge 992 will perform graveside rites at the
Coahoma Cemetery. Ford was born June 29, 1907, in
Westbrook. He was married to Georgia stewart in 1935 in Colorado City. Survivors include his wite, Georgia
Ford; one son, Bille B. Ford Jr. of Ford,
Midand; one daughter, Mrs. Sammie
Buch Buchanan of Big Spring: four sisters,
Mrs. Winnie Hawkins of Freeport. Mrs. Delta Madison of Rising Star,
Mrs. Ola Harper of Dallas and Mrs. Mrs. Ola Harper of Dallas and Mrs.
Mary Doan of Odessa; two brothers. Mary Doan of Odessa; two brothers,
Johnnie Ford of Big spring and E. B.
Ford of Austin, and four grand-

Mrs.C.H. Ward Mrs. Charles. Henry Ward, 92,
mother of Joe H. E. Ward of M Midand,
died Thursday morning died Thursday morning at Lulling.
Services were to be at 2 p .m. today Services were to be at 2p.m. .oday
in the First Bappitst Church of Luling,
with burial with burial to follow in a Luling
cemetery under direction of O'Banion Funeral. Home of Luling. Luling. She was a Baptist. In addition to the Midland son,
survivors include another son,
Charles $F$. Ward of Charles F. Ward of Lomather son,
grandehildren and two great. grandehildren and two great-
grandehildren.
Hilton B. Moore
MASON - Hilton Bernard Moore
Go, father of C Candace Elaine Moore of Crane, died Thursday morning in a
Brady hospital. Services for the Lohn resident were
to be held at 3 p.m. today in the First to be held at 3 p.m. today in the First
Baptist Church in Brady. Burial was
to be in Bethel Cemetery diret be to be in Bethel Cemetery directed by
Mason Funeral Home. Morere was born Nov. 27, 1917, in
Lohn. He was married to Dorothy Lohn. He was married to Dorothy
McWilliams on Nov. i. . 939 , in Big
Lake. He wasa rancher and had lived Lake. He was a rancher and had lived
most of his life in Meculloch County. He was a Baptist.
Survivors include his wite, one
diughter, four brothers, and one Mrs. Easley
Mrs. S. P. Easley, mother of
Gustava Easley of Midland, died last Gustivend in Portales, N.N.M, Mied last
friends have been adviced., Midand friends have been advised.
Services were held Services were held Monday in
Portales, with burial following in a
Portales cemetery Portales cemetery.
In addition In addition to the Midiand daughter,
Mrs. Easley is survived by severai
sons.

## 

 to enter race

 the reasons for his entering the race Was that Slack had been unopposed for many years "I believe in the two-party system.
We meed We need a cheoice, "Mc.Conah has said.
The Amarill The Amarillo native is a Vietnam
Navy vetera. He and his wife Burta DIAL 6826222

## Time Inc., to purchase Washington Star

 $\square$ numb
 look for your windows woven woods by Kirsch
The newest, most practical
way to treat your
windows. Ideal for use in

energysaving ways with windows woven woods by Kirsch
and the newest nicest way - cut heating and cooling

solve your problem windows with woven woods by Kirsch

Even the most difficult
windows respond beautifully
don



THE 19,000-TON EXPLORATORY Norwegian oil rig Orion rests on rocks off the coast of Guernsey and heavy seas during the night. The crew of the

## San Antonio has unique system

Orion - which ran aground after a towing cable
parted - was being towed from R Rotterdan to Brazil by the German tug Zeeveld. All the rig's crew were

## SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) - Natural gas bills are being cut by as much as s5.13 a mont here under a new winter rate rentief

 say is unique in Texas. for December, January, February and March - are being made from a$\$ 2.4$ million fund established by a new


Operations scheduled in Crockett County

| A trio of wildcats have been scheduled in Crockett County. |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| scheduled in Crockett County. <br> J. Cleo Thompson of Dallas will |  |
| University 56 (Canyon and Ellenburger gas) area, 18 miles northeast of Ozona |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| uthwest of the Ellenburger | schedu |
| scovery and separated by the |  |
| Location is $1,320 \mathrm{f}$ |  |
| lines of section 13, block |  |
| niversity Lands surve |  |
| south of the Ellenburger opener and separated by the Canyon strike <br> Location is 1,320 feet from north and |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | N, T\&P survey and $11 / 2$ miles southeast of the Olson Earnest field. |
|  |  |
| Estoril Producing Corp. of Midland Hudson is to be dug as a 5.300 -foot |  |
| No. 1-22 University will be drill |  |
|  |  |
| in Crockett County, $1 / 2$ mile northeast |  |
| :Ellenburger project 14.6 miles ${ }_{\text {cest }}$ west jines of |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| (eation for No. $1-22$ is 1,980 felt |  | =2ver

 Location is 1,320 feet from north and
east lines of section 13 , block 56 ,
University Lands survey, No. of of the Ellenbursity is opene mile
separated by the Canyon Location is 1,320 feet from north and
west lines of section 14. block 56 , Estoril Producing Corp. of Midland
No. .1.22 University will be drilled as
an $8.50-$-oot Ellenburger gas wildcat in Crockett County, $1 / 2$ mile northe
of the No. $1-23$ University active act and
Ellenburger project 14.6

Gulf finals Penn gas discovery; BTA tests Martin Wolfcamp oil


 Residential electric customers in
CPS Antonio who ono use gas from
CPS may receive a maximum $\$ 2.50$
monthly refund during the fur The city council ordered CPS to
implement the rate relief program
after many citizens those with lower incomes com- comer
plained they couldnnt pay their winter
gas bills and had to do without hes gas bills and had tod do without heat.
CPS purchases its naturat gas from
LoVaca Gathering Co and customers Lovaca Gathering CO a and customers
have seen Lovacas charges increase
five fiveota over the past several years.
Gas prices in san Antonio are
among the highest in Texas The winter rate relief program is
not permanent and will be reviewed
by the city councill by the city councill later this year. And
there are currently no plans to offer
relief during the summer. relief during the sum mer.
The money for the relief program is coming from several sources, in
cluding $\$ 700,000$ of San Antonot's
federal revenue sharing funds. The city also receives a 14 per cent return
on its investment in $C P$ and s1.5
million of that money is being applied million of that mo
0 relief. Electric customers inside the eity
are paying slightly more as much
as 25 cents to 50 cents per month as 25 cents to 50 cents per month - to
finanee the relief program, too. But
that increase can be outweighed by a retund of up to to be outweighed by as bills or
$\$ 2.50$ on bill for allelectric
customers.

Explorers
scheduled

## Aorpatho Petrolem, ince. an



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## DRY HOLES



边
 forations a from 4 4.478 to theke and per
for fee after
300 gallons of acid. The gas-oil ratio was $1,485-1$.
The Fry sand was topped at 4.474
 Wellsitit is 1,060 ofeet from northwest
and 4,400 feet from northeast lines of and 4,400 feet from notheast lines
section 2 , Henry L. Bays survey No
444. MENARD TEST
Bennett, Hillin \& NRM of Midland
announced location for a south
stepout to the four-well Jacooby (Fry
oiil) field of Menard County, 14 miles oil field of Menard County, 14 miles
northwest of Menard. It is No. ${ }^{3.101}$ Jacoby, 1,79 feet
from north and 990 feet from east
lines of Hooper \& Wade surves No. 101. is to drill to 3.500 feet on ground

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 Out of the gue ner ors oftice so they
were directy part of the governors oliterizoe was respon ing to
allefations that he had ued the ame

Two lignite plants set two lision (tap) - Plans. biblila





 Panies is to own onechat of the

 larea of Texas' happer gult coast
The Dow haff of the electrical
output will. be transmitted to Dow's output will be transmitted to Dow's
chemical production complex near

## Dolph Briscoe answers payroll hidding charge

 ouis thursady, ent aleationsis him empoyes umede anotere peraners 

## the the Af pu <br> 

 Hine arestern State thin ene ditity stion emplosesescharge: seven employes hadpreviousls been been on the Governar's


 nur his campaig. Rion tile naid tormer sute Rep. Courf dircecorsho ster he inceoved it iss doen "em








## Three Morrow tests

## set in Eddy regions



Cities Service Co. No. 1-CY State
Communitized will be drilled as an
11,350 -foot operation in the win 11,350-foot operation in the Win-
chester, North (Morrow) area.
It is $1 / 2$ mile west of production and
1,980 feet from north and 660 feet from east lines of section 28-19s-28e. It is 15 Gulf Oil Corp. No. 1-GL Eddy State
Communitited will be dug $11 / 4$ miles
oorthwest of the Angell
Ranch

## DRILING REPORT



Today's opening stock market report

## New York Exchange

| 7 | 立 |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | \% |



## B



## American

 Exchange



${ }_{H}^{H}$
Mutual funds

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## Additiona listings




## 



## Treasury bonds 

## Tax laws favor

 couples with one earner By SYDNEY J. KEYSpecial to The Washington Post The basic structure of our present income tax laws

- which favor married one-earner couples - dates back to 1948. Then, in the normal American tamily,
the husband worked and the wife stayed at home. Now, so years later, families in which both husband
and wife are employed outtumber oneearner
couples couples. In perhaps the ultimate statistical
recoginition of the twoearner couple as the norm, the
Census Bureau is abandoning its Census Bureau is abandoning its practice of
designating the male as "head of household." Yet the male "head of hausehold" concept still seems to hold
sway in national tax policy. The concept was clearly present in the Tax Reform
Act of 1969, which set up a new, lower rate schedule for single wage earners and ignored what effect this
would have when tow wage araners were married.
This new rete shedwe combined with increases in This new rate schedule, combened more than a married person, produced what is
known as the "marriage tax" on twoearner couples.
Deter staterstician, has calculuted that at le least 13 millicen
married two-earner couples - the great majority of two-earner couples and on-third of all married
coupies with wages or salares - paid a marriage tax to the U.S. government in 1974; that is, their taxes
were higher as a married couple filing a joint return than they would have been as two single individuals
living together. For these couples, the government's
annual tax on marriage totaled an estimated $\$ 2$ living together. For these couples, the governments
annual tax on marriage totaled an estimated $\$ 2$
billion. And, contrary to popular belief, almost all of these 13 million couples had combined incomes The amount of the marriage tax for a two-earner
couple can vary from a few dollars to a few thousand doulars, it tends to increase both with the couple's
dotal income and with the similarity of the two incomes. When one spouse earns less than about one-
fifth of the couple's total income. the benefits from
income-spliting the source of the big tax break for income-splitting (the source of the big tax break
one-earner couples) usually outweigh the facto causing tactors cause the marriage tax penalty. Fo
Three factome tax returs, a married couple, eve
when
wheth spouses work is deduction of only $\$ 3,200$ ( $\$ 1,600$ if sedarate returns
are filed); if single, they could each claim a standard deduction of 82.200 for atol of 84,400 Even if the couple itemized deductions greater
than s4,400 they still would be penalized by the effect
of the tax rate schedules. For example, if each of the tax rate schedules. For example, if each
spouse had a taxable income of $\$ 5.000$, the
"marginal tax rate"
-that is, the tax rate on the
 taxable incomes of $\$ 15,000$ each. But if two single
people ehad the same taxable incomes - $\$ 15,000$ each
- each would have a marginal tax rate of only 31 percent
The singles' rates are lower because of a special
tax ratescesedule created by the Tax Reform Act of

1969. Until then, singles had to use the schedule for 1969. Until then, singles had to use the schedule for
married individuals filing separately, the schedule
wit With the highest tax rates. The purpose of the new
wingles schedule was to reduce somewhat the taxes
sing a single person paid compared to the taxes paid by a
married oneearner couple filing a joint return with
the same taxable income. Rut os is the same taxable income. But; as is often the case,
the government's sttempt to help one group (here,
the singles) inadvertently left another group (the the singles) inadvertently left another group (the
two-earner couples. relatively worse off. Married
twoearner couples still had to use either the thigh rates of the schedule for marrieds filing separately
or add their incomes together and use the schedule
for marrieds filing jointly. Since the tax rate infor marrieds filing jointly. Since the tax rate in-
creases as income increases, alding the two incomes
together results in the seond income being taxed at
higher rates than the first. higher rates than the first.
The final factor contriuting to the marriage tax is
the general tax redit for 197. Each single person
witb with a taxable income of $\$ 9,000$ or more may claim
one 1880 tax credititit tive tuxh people are married,
they get only one $\$ 80$ credit.
These factors, of course, are not of equal im. These factors, of course, are not of equal im-
portance. The 1977 tax cost of marriage for a a coupie
with adiusted gros incomes of $\$ 1.5000$ each who
claim the standard deduction is $\$ 1,019$. of this claim the standard deduetion is 1 sions. of this
amouts s18o is atributale to the loss of the extra
tax credit. The standard deduction penalty aceounts
 schedule than one whe is single: the higher the total
income and the more similar hee incomes of husband
and wifte, the more important this component and wife, the more important this component
becomes. The remaining 84 is accoutted for by the
effectof the standard deduction penalty at the higher effector the standard deduction penalty athe higher
married tax rate.
Under the progressive U.S. tax system, the only
way to remove the marriage tax penalty for towearner couples without again placing an unfair
burden on singles compared to one earner couples is
to disting uish between one -and wo-earner couples to distinguish between one -and two-arner couples
with the same total income. income pay the same tax regardless of by whom or in
what proportios the income is earne...ccordin to
the Treasury's office of Tax Analysis, it is a "widely the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysi
aceepted" principle of taxation tha
should be made among married cou
$\qquad$ Buut is is no means axiomatic that a one-earner
couple's tax biil should be identical with that of a
twoearner couple with the same to tal income. In two-earner couple with the same total ineome. In
fact, many experts would argue that in this case total income is not the most appropriate indicator of the
couple's tax capacity. For one thing, the dollar in-
come for the one earren couple does.
value of the thate the
vometernaker's services in the home, the come for the one-earner couple does not include the
value of the homemaker's services in the home, the
very same value which many are now arguing should
be quantified for purposes of Social security be quantified for purposes of Social Security
beneifits. For another, two ernner couples must pay
the extra cost of earning the second income, such as the extra cost of earning the second income, such
tranportation clothes and meals that would not
needed needed the United States has been in the forefron
so many areas of equal right for wormen it
perhaps surprising that compared with other persaps surprising that, compared with other in-
dustrial countries. it is almost alone in adhering to
the principle of taxation that only the total income. and not whe earnsii, matters. A recent Organization
for Economic Cooperation and Development survey
of 17 indusstrial countries found that in all but the
United States a two-earner couple with the husband United States a two-earner couple with the husband
and wife eache earring the average national wage are
taxed less heavily than a one-arner couple with the
same total init

