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THE RISING STAR

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Good Texas Counties
Get Together

Rising Star, Texas 1987 Eastland County Newspaper Co. Established in 1890 Thursday, July 16, 1987 25 cents plus tax Number 29

Rising Star ISD Board Meeting

The Rising Star Independent School District trustees met June 23 at 8 p.m. in the board room with Larry Wilson, Doug Owen, David Harris, Ronald Green and Dr. Charles Barnes present. Tony Long and Bud Vicars were absent.

School personnel present was Dr. Don Bryan; also present was Garry Duggan.

A modified chart for Rising Star ISD organizational structure was accepted on a motion by Barnes, seconded by Wilson.

Bids on the repair of the High School Science Room were opened and low bid of \$4,648 made by Brown Co. House Leveling Company was accepted 5-0 on a motion by Barnes, seconded by Harris.

Other bids submitted were C&D Building Contractors,

\$16,500; and Joe Campbell, \$7,500 to \$10,000 for labor only.

The Rising Star Independent School District trustees met July 7 at 7 p.m. in the board room with Larry Wilson, Doug Owen, David Harris, Tony Long, Bud Vicars, Ronald Green and Dr. Charles Barnes present.

Superintendent Dr. Don Bryan was also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting on June 9 and the special meeting June 23 were accepted.

Progress on building projects and summer maintenance were discussed.

A motion by Harris, seconded by Owen, to renew the depository pledge contract with First State Bank of Rising Star for biennium

beginning September 1, 1987 and ending August 31, 1989, carried 6-0.

The second reading of update number 29 was approved.

The roof on the elementary building was discussed.

July 28 was set as the date for the budget workshop and August 25 was set for the budget hearing and adoption of the official budget for the next fiscal year.

All current school board

members are scheduled to complete 20 hours of school board members; training by May, 1988 as required by the Texas Education Code 23.33.

A motion by Owen, seconded by Wilson, to give bonuses from federally subsidized funds to lunchroom workers for a cost conscious and effective year in the amounts of \$350 to Kathy Bush, \$300 to Sandra Hollis and \$150 to Gail Rutledge carried 7-0.

WTU Rate Increase Hearing August 24

Customers of West Texas Utilities Co. are paying less

than the state average price for electricity during July, according to the monthly survey of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

WTU's standard residential rate for 1,000 kilowatt-hour is \$67.92, compared to an average of \$73.11 for all investor-owned utilities in the state and an average of \$68.88 for all 17 companies in the survey. The list includes a number of rural electric cooperatives, two municipally owned systems and the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The survey shows that since July, 1986 WTU's rate for 1,000 KWh has decreased by 15.1 percent as result of lower costs for power plant fuel. El Paso Electric Co. still has the highest rates in the state, charging its customers \$87.42 for 1,000 KWh. TU Electric Co., the reorganized utility which combined Texas Electric Service Co., Texas Power and Light and Dallas Power and Light, is charging \$70.82 per 1,000 KWh.

Several of the companies, including WTU and El Paso, are in the process of seeking rate increases. WTU has filed for a 23.9% increase, and a hearing before the PUC in Austin has been scheduled to begin August 24.

This is the first increase in base rates sought by WTU in three years, while several decreases in fuel cost charges have occurred.

The change would place WTU's portion of the new Oklaunion Power Plant in the Company's rate base and add about \$50 million in annual revenue. The Company cannot recover expenses of building and operating the plant until the rate base is changed to reflect the \$275 million investment. The plant, which burns coal, has been in commercial operation since last December.

Rising Star July 4 Picnic, Parade



Several kids on bikes took part in the parade.



Bridget Claborn was fourth place winner in the parade. In the background is Bridget's mom, Vickie.



Builly Cook and his 1949 Buick were sixth place winners in the parade.

Ranger Jr. Rodeo Begins Today

The Ranger Jr. Rodeo will be held Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, July 16, 17, 18, 1987 at the Jaycee Arena.

Rodeo Performance will begin at 8:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday night. Saturday night performance will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Eight Shop made Saddles will be given away & Buckles by Rocking 'S' Silversmiths. Producer will be Lester Meier.

Four Polygraph Tests Given

Murder Investigation Delayed by Crime Lab Work Overload

Law enforcement officers investigating the June 6 murder and rape of Era Witt are still waiting for evidence to be processed at the Crime Lab in Dallas, said Eastland County Precinct 3 Constable Gene Hicks.

Lie detector tests have been given to four suspects in the case and all four passed the tests, Hicks added.

He remains hopeful that the evidence sent to the Crime Lab will help bring the investigation to a successful close. The lab serves a large area, including metropolitan Fort Worth-Dallas, and is considerably overloaded with evidence to be analyzed, Hicks said.

Since the time of the Witt murder, it seems that break-

ing into and entering private homes with vandalism as the main reason has been on the increase in a large area around Rising Star. A home south of town in Brown County was broken into and vandalized and there have been similar reports in other directions.

Hicks has received numerous complaints about prowlers and persons knocking on doors then disappearing since the murder. The fear that women living alone have been experiencing since the murder and rape has not abated.

The report of a 16-year-old girl being attacked as she walked along a country road northwest of Rising Star Sunday about 9 p.m. will not

ease the fear in this area. The attack was not related to the Witt case.

The girl escaped her attacker after kicking him in the groin.

Meeting to Set Up Neighborhood Crime Watches Is July 23

Concerned citizens of Rising Star and neighboring communities are invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, July 23, at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Activity Building in Rising Star.

The Eastland County

Sheriff's Department and regional crime prevention investigators will discuss how citizens can protect themselves and their property and how to set up neighborhood crime watches.

Is July 18

BBQ Dinner Aids Ambulance Fund

The annual barbecue dinner to raise funds for the Rising Star Emergency Medical Service will be held at Rising Star Nursing Center Saturday, July 18. The meal will be served on the patio begin-

ning at 5 p.m. Plates are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children 10 and under. Come to the barbecue for a good meal and to help keep our ambulances rolling.

Playday Is July 21

The Rising Star Roping Club Playday will be July 21, the third Tuesday of the month.

Registration will begin at 6 p.m. and the show will start at 7 p.m.

Tax Rebate Received Here

AUSTIN - Comptroller Bob Bullock sent checks totaling \$53.6 million in sales tax rebates to 1,039 cities that levy the one-percent city tax. Bullock said 1987 payments were down 6.5 percent compared to payments made in the same period last year.

made in May and reported to the Comptroller by June 20. Rising Star's net payment for this period was \$571.79; the comparable payment last year was \$2,191.97; 1987 payments to date are \$10,176.28, down 30.15% from the 1986 payments to date.

The Eastland County payments to date are down an average of 13.27 percent.

July checks represent taxes collected on sales

Leonard Recovering from Burns

Darin Leonard, who was burned June 22 when the gasoline he was using to burn brush on a fenceline ignited, has completed treatment for his injuries, reported his mother, Mrs. Punkin Leonard.

about 10 days. Darin's hands and arms will be scarred, but his face should heal without any scars, his mother said.

Darin was eager to return to work to start paying on his medical expenses and his employers have agreed to let him work 12-hour shifts.

A fund has been set up at First State Bank of Rising Star to assist Darin in paying his medical expenses.

The 21-year-old man was released from Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene July 1 and returned for treatment every other day for

Owen Remains in Traction

Russell "Rusty" Owen, 22-year-old son of Doug and Nan Owen, remains hospitalized for injuries he received in an automobile

accident July 1. Rusty is in traction for his hip which was dislocated and broken. He is expected to be in traction another four weeks.

Reward Offered

The amount of the reward offered for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person or persons responsible for the rape and murder of Era Witt had increased to \$1,710 by Tuesday.

Any person with information should call 643-4261 or 643-3421. Information may be given anonymously and ar-

rangements will be made for the payment of the reward. If anyone wishes to add to the amount of the reward, an account has been established at First State Bank of Rising Star. Make your contribution to the Reward Fund for Era Witt.

The amount in the reward fund will be published each week.

Trail Ride Planned Here

A trail ride from Rising Star to Cross Plains will be held August 7. The riders will join other entries to take part in the Cross Plains Roping Club Parade.

Rising Star rodeo grounds at 8 a.m. August 7 and join the parade in Cross Plains at 5:30 p.m. If you want to take part in the trail ride, call 643-4261 before 5 p.m. After 5, call 643-3252. Please notify us by August 1.

Riders taking part in the trail ride will meet at the

Cross Plains Parade Is August 7

Anyone interested in participating in the Cross Plains Roping Club Parade is invited to do so. The parade

will be held at 6 p.m. August 7 and the deadline for entering is August 5. If interested please call 725-6445 or 725-7719

community calendar...

3rd THURSDAY Scottish Rite

AMBULANCE FUND BBQ The annual barbecue dinner held at Rising Star Nursing Center to raise funds for the ambulance service will be Saturday, July 18, on the patio of the nursing center. Plates will be \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children 10 and under.

RUMMAGE SALE A rummage sale to raise

money for a building to house fire trucks in May will be held August 1 at the May Community Center.

3rd FRIDAY Lakewood Ladies Luncheon

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE The Rising Star Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture will meet Monday, July 27, at 5 p.m. at The Rainbow.

Area News Briefs

RANGER

A highlight of the Jaycee Rodeo last Saturday night was the crowning of the Ranger Jaycee Rodeo Queen, as well as naming the winners in the "Little Miss" Contest. A large crowd attended all these events. Teresa Hicks of Hawley, won the Queen title, with Tammy Ainsworth of Ranger named First Runner-Up. In the two and three-year-old division of the Little Miss Contest, Phyllis Dossey was named winner. Kristal Brown was designated First Runner-Up, and Candice Whisenand Second Runner-Up. Winner of the four and five-year-olds was Brooke Barns, with Katicia Sharp First Runner-Up and Amanda Dossey Second Runner-Up. Winner in the division of six-year-olds was Amber Rushing, with Jennifer Blackwell named as First Runner-Up. Co-ordinator of these contests was Shirley Gentry, with the crowns presented by Jaycee President Mark Nowlin and Vice President Joe Bond.

The financial problems of Ranger General Hospital are better, but support is still needed, says Mrs. Florine King, interim administrator. "The problem is not with the hospital's operation as much as the fact that, as a result of the DRG payment system, Medicare payments have been reduced as much as 60 percent. The hospital is re-

quired to write off a large portion of most Medicare accounts," Mrs. King added. In RGH 15 percent of the patients pay the total cost of their care, 46 percent rely on Medicare or Insurance to pay, and 38 percent can not or will not pay for their care.

Lisa Casey Taylor, singer, won First Place in the KEAN Country Showdown on July 5 in Abilene. She will return for the finals on Sunday, July 26, and will be live on KEAN that night. If she wins in this competition she will go to Billy Bob's in Fort Worth for the regional contest. Lisa also won First Place in a smaller talent show at Cowboy City in Fort Worth, and will return there for the finals on Wednesday, July 22.

Lauren Erwin of Ranger recently won First Place at the 1987 Acrolymnastic in Andrews, Texas. The two-day meet included gymnasts from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. In addition to winning the gold medal, Lauren was named the Age Group Champ. Lauren is the daughter of Larry and Wendy Erwin.

Ranger merchants are planning a special promotion for the week of September 21-26, with September 26 designated as Roaring Ranger Day. Dr. Pepper is offering a trip for two (2 days and 3 nights) to Las

Vegas. There will also be a cash prize given away by participating merchants. Persons shopping merchants who participate will be given entry blanks. The winners will be drawn during the Roaring Ranger celebration. Persons from around the county are invited to make plans to shop in Ranger.

CISCO

Children at the Day Care Center, located at 804 Ave. H, received two Fisher Price record players from the Redeemer Lutheran Vacation Bible School Class last week. The VBS Class votes each year on how they will spend the money collected at the summer sessions.

Winona Payne, administrator of the center, said one of the players will be used in the school room and one for the toddlers room. The center is very appreciative of the gifts. The facility is supported by local organizations, and is dedicated to providing loving, educational care of the children.

"The Fantastics", the last play of the 1987 Cisco Junior College Dinner Theatre Summer Session, will begin performances on July 30. Shows will also be held on July 31 and August 1, 6, 7, and 8. The dessert-only shows will be Aug. 2, 4, and 5. To make reservations for any of these shows call 442-2589 or 442-2567.

The Cisco Chapter of the AARP will meet at the Corral Room on Thursday, July 16, at 6 p.m. Gil Copeland,

program chairman, will have as the guest Helen Orr, administrator of E.L. Graham Hospital in Cisco. Mrs. Orr will explain the skilled nursing facility which has recently been added to the hospital.

The annual Cisco Junior College "Drive-In Band Camp" will be held in the Fine Arts Building during the first week of August. Students should meet in the CJC Band Hall on the second floor of this building at 9 a.m. Monday, August 3 for registration. A full day of instruction will follow. Tim Jones, CJC band directors assisting in classes. The camp is open to any student with at least one years' band experience. The fee of \$40 will include all activities and meals.

The Singles Encounter Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23, in the dining room of Traditions, I-20 East, Cisco. Duke Dixon will lead the group discussion. All singles 18 years of age or older are invited to attend the time of discussion and fellowship.

Members of the Cisco FFA are attending the 59th State Convention of the Future Farmers of America at the Fort Worth Convention Center July 14-17. Receiving the Lone Star Farmer Degree, which is the highest degree obtainable in the state, will be Chris Ledbetter, Robert Rains, Rodney Williams, Ricky Chambers, Shannon Berry and Ronnie Ingram. These degrees will be given on Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m., during the Stars of Texas Awards program.

EASTLAND

Steve Burgher, a medical student at the University at Houston, is spending a month in Eastland in a pre-clinic preceptorship in Family Practice. His instructor is Dr. Robert Matthews of the B&W Clinic, and he goes along with the doctor on his daily rounds. "Seeing this rural family practice first-hand is a great learning experience," Steve Burgher says. "Dr. Matthews work impresses me a lot - and the hospital here is good too."

One of the main differences between practicing medicine in a small town and the practice in a city is that the small town has a more personal type of practice, Burgher observes.

Warning system was last used to alert Eastland residents of a tornado two years ago. The fire department now uses the paging system.

Eastland County Commissioners had enough items to keep them busy until well into the afternoon Monday. A number of discussions were

held, including a budget session in the afternoon. The Commissioners deferred a decision on bids for jail lighting until a called meeting next Monday, July 20 at 9 a.m. They will consult with James Wheeler, Abilene architect, on the type of lighting which the Texas Jail Standards Commission will approve.

Thursday, July 16, 1987

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—Ann Jillian



A lot of women are so afraid of breast cancer they don't want to hear about it. And that's what frightens me because those women won't practice breast self-examination regularly. Those women, particularly those over 35, won't ask their doctor about a mammogram. Yet that's what's required for breast cancer to be detected early. When the cure rate is 90%. And when there's a good chance it won't involve the loss of a breast. But no matter what it involves, take it from someone who's been through it all. Life is just too wonderful to give up on. And, as I found out, you don't have to give up on any of it. Not work, not play, not even romance. Oh, there is one thing, though. You do have to give up being afraid to take care of yourself.

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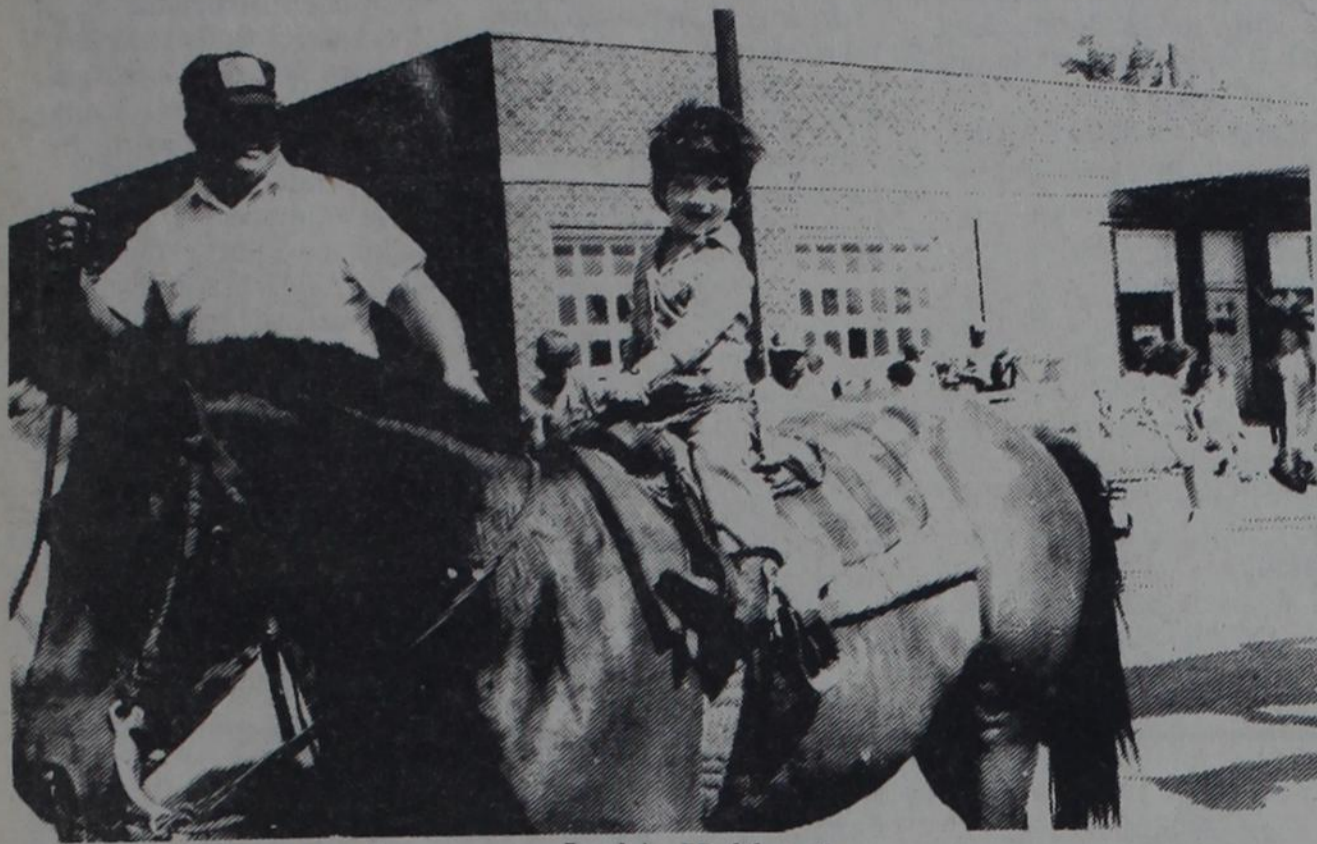
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Rising Star July 4 Picnic, Parade



Joe Dale Hubbard Jackie Hubbard



The 4-H entry in the parade.



OUR NEW AMBULANCE led the parade entries.



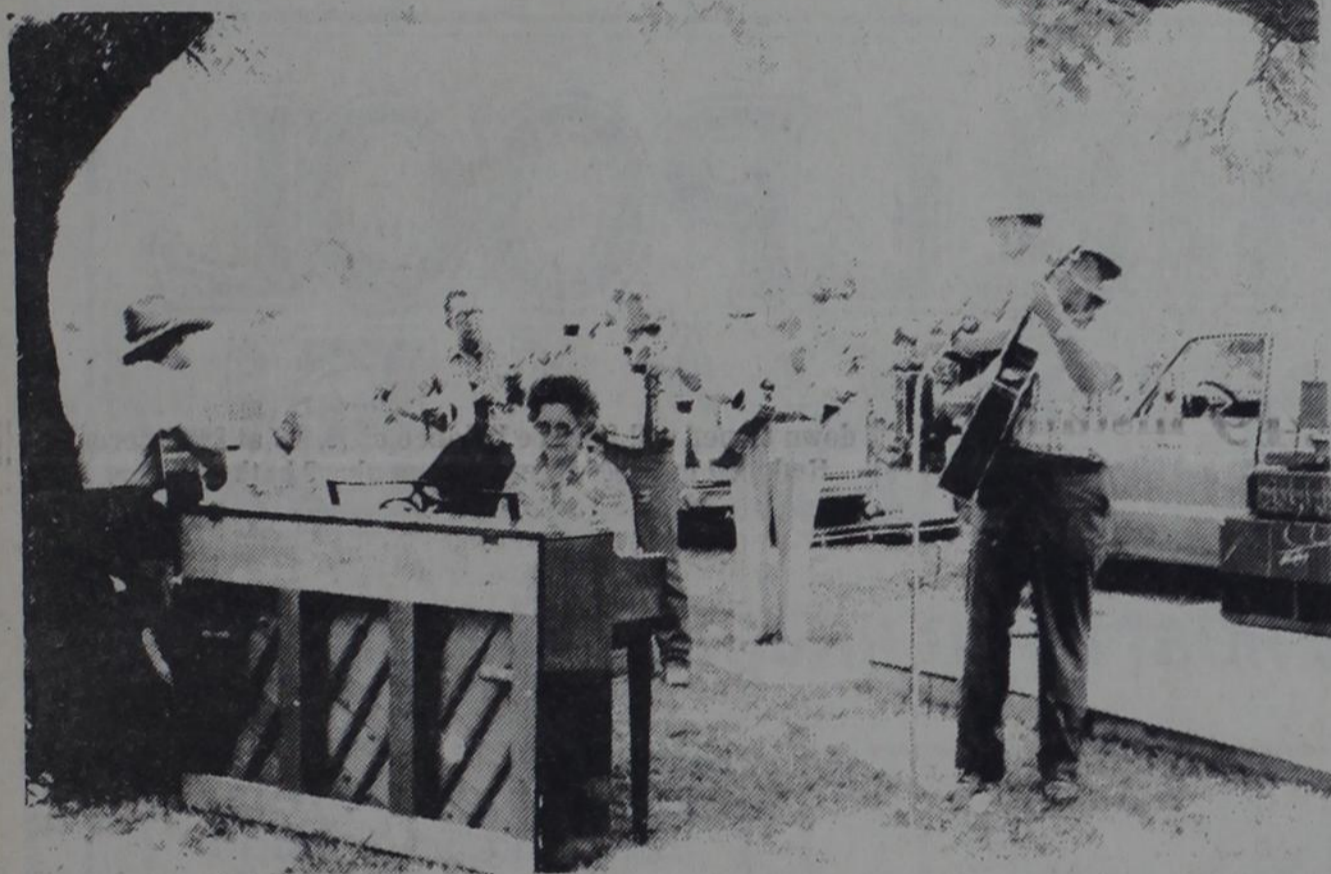
Robert Barron drove his 1958 Chevrolet in the parade.



Senior Citizens Center officers, Martha Ward, Marjorie West, Stella Hill and Dell Bible, took part in the parade.



Quinton Cook Pam Cook



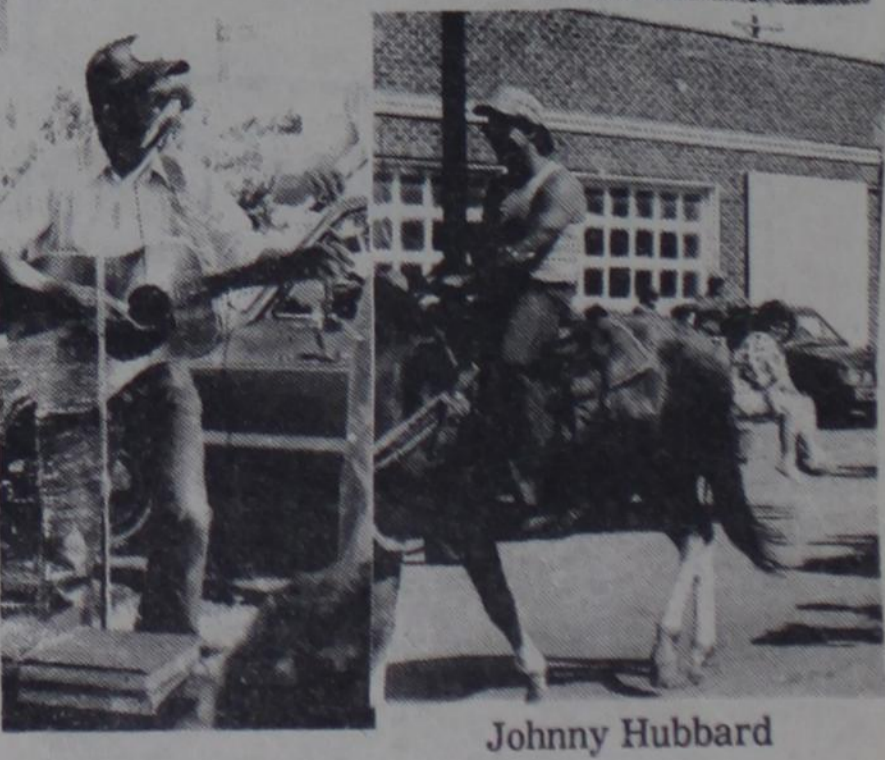
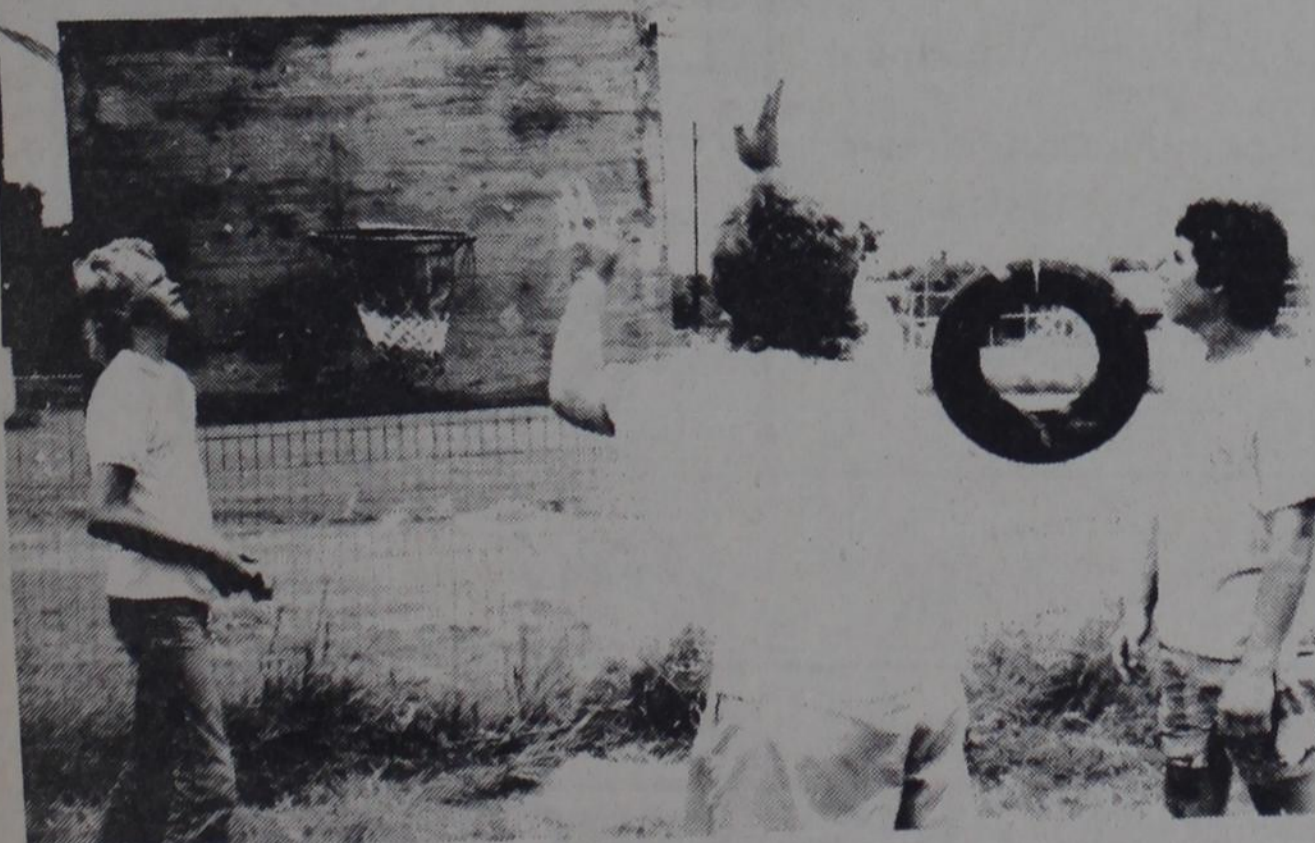
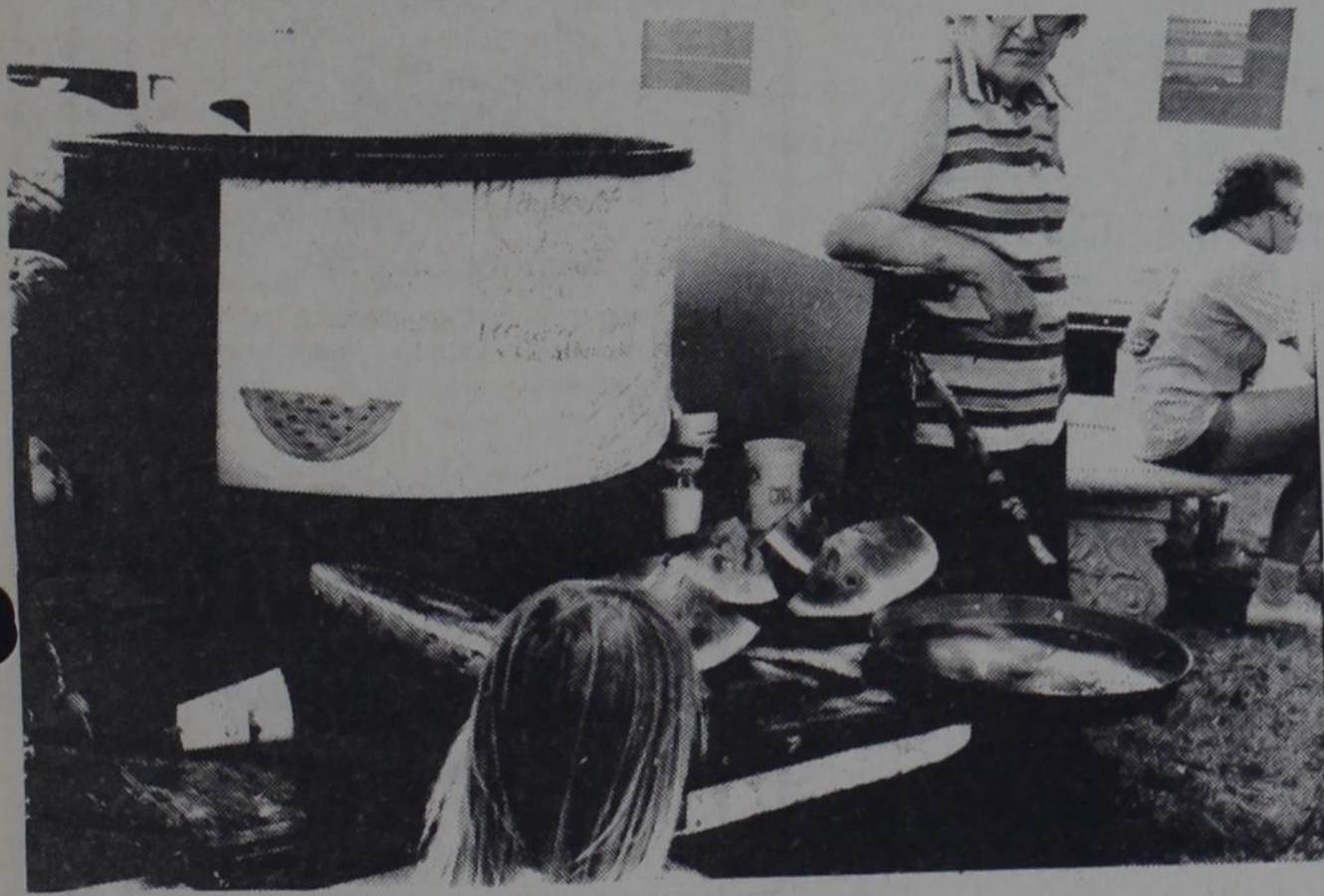
Musicians gathered for a jam session before they left the picnic.



Star Plaza Restaurant parade entry.



Clowns Stephanie Long and Wendy Green added color to the crowd at the BBQ picnic.



Johnny Hubbard

**RSHS Homecoming
Saturday, November 7**

Smell Gas?
Call City Hall
543-4261

CAPITOL UPDATE

by Jim Parker

Likely you are tired of hearing what is happening in Austin but I do think you need to pay attention to at least one issue that is currently ricocheting around the Capitol walls. That issue is a sales tax on insurance premiums.

As you well know, and have probably heard until you are sick, the state is in a serious financial bind primarily brought about by a decline in world oil and gas prices and the resulting sluggish economy the State has experienced over at least the last 18 months. As your state representative I have been faced with the unpleasant alternatives of 1) drastically cutting state services and expenses, or 2) raising tax revenues to replace those revenues no longer coming into state coffers.

I, personally, have chosen a combination of alternatives, that being reduce expenses where possible and increase revenue as necessary. In doing this I have tried, at all times, to be reasonably assured that the difference would not simply be made up by increased local taxes.

As examples of my long term fear, if the Governor's "no new taxes" plan were adopted, Blanket ISD would require a 183% local property tax increase; Gustine ISD would require a 140% local tax increase; Coleman ISD would require a 77% local tax increase; Cisco ISD would require a 53% local tax increase; Ballinger would require a 79% local tax increase, and Brady would require a 55% local tax increase.

The problem is as complex as any I have tackled in my 42 years of experience. A lot of you are going to be dissatisfied whatever the outcome.

Speaking of outcome, while no definite conclusion is yet in sight, I think I do need to tell you what we have done to this point.

Since January 13th of this

year the budget has been cut, cut and cut again. Most recently, in the last week of June and the first week of July, in 3 marathon days of debate, we cut an additional \$19.5M out of \$38.4B budget. A mere drop in the bucket. I think no more can be cut, reasonably, and we must now decide how to fund the drastically reduced budget that we developed over these many, many months. (Let me point out to you we have been almost continuously in session since January 13th at a cost of over \$60,000 per day for a total of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10M.)

As my father used to say "It's time to do something even if we do it wrong." In funding the budget we probably did do it wrong, but bear with me a moment.

Three proposals were made for funding the budget deficits over the next two years. They were as follows:

1. Increase the sales tax to 7 1/2%,
2. Expand the sales tax base to include services, or
3. Institute a 6% sales tax on insurance premiums.

I, personally, liked #1 better than #2 and #2 better than #3. Unfortunately, #1 and #2 did not pass and it was "time to do something even if we did it wrong."

The insurance premium tax, if it has a good point, is attractive in that 56% of all premium dollars are business related and therefore deductible through IRS returns. I know this does not constitute sufficient benefit to qualify as a saving grace but it does, at least symbolically, say to the Governor and Senate that the House of Representatives is prepared to "bite the bullet" and fund state government for the next two years without causing crippling local tax increases.

Please wait to see what the final tax solution will be. I don't think it will be an insurance premium tax and only hope it will be

Insurance Premium Tax

In a surprise move, the House Ways and Means Committee unveiled a new proposal Monday to place a sales tax on insurance premiums.

In response to media inquiries, Independent Insurance Agents of Texas responded that:

1. Consumers already pay a 3.5% tax on property and casualty insurance, in the form of a premium tax paid by companies and passed through to purchasers in rates set by the State Board of Insurance. Addition of the

sales tax, which will be increased to 6%, would thus force consumers to pay 9.5% state tax on their property and casualty insurance premiums.

2. No other state levies a sales tax on insurance premiums.

3. This proposal would tax Texas insurance policies at a rate higher, almost three times higher, than anywhere in the United States.

Write your representative and let him know how you feel about this.

Write for Info on Vehicle Owners

Don't call - write. That's the message the highway department needs to get across to everyone trying to find out who owns a particular car or truck.

In compliance with Senate Bill 161, which Gov. Bill Clements signed into law on June 20, the department's Division of Motor Vehicles has stopped supplying information to anyone who inquires over the telephone about a vehicle by license plate number.

The new law changes the procedures the highway department and county offices must follow when releasing this type of information.

From now on, to find out the name and address of a vehicle owner, the inquirer must either specify the vehicle identification number of

make the request in writing. And he must state that his request is for a "lawful and legitimate purpose."

So unless you know the vehicle identification number, don't call. Instead, drop a note to the Division of Motor Vehicles. Specify the Texas license plate number and affirm that you are requesting the information contained in the vehicle registration records for a

ADDRESSES YOU NEED...

With the Special Session of the State Legislature now underway, many have asked for the addresses and telephone numbers of those who represent this district:

Rep. Jim Parker
P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78769
1-512-463-0644 (Austin)
P.O. Box 762-Comanche, TX 76442
1-915-356-5261-Comanche.

Sen. Bob Glasgow
P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711
1-512-463-0122 (Austin)
211 N. Belknap, Stephenville, TX 76401
1-817-965-5069, Stephenville.

Thursday, July 16, 1987

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Education Board May Be Appointed

Speculation increased this week that legislation would be filed that would keep the State Board of Education an appointed, rather than elected, body.

H. Ross Perot, proponent of the appointive process for selecting State Board of Education members, met with Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby and House Speaker Gib Lewis last week to discuss the issue.

The board was changed to a 15 member appointed body in 1984 as a part of House Bill 72 with the understanding that it would revert to an elected body in 1988.

If appointed State Board of Education becomes the subject of legislation during the special session, it will be dealt with swiftly to prevent opposition from mounting, through the appointive process. If State Board of Education members are appointed and not elected I feel we will lose more and more local control. If you agree, please contact Bob Glasgow in Austin at 512 463 0122 office #319 and Jim Parker 512 463 0644 office #327 B.

Screening for Children July 17

On July 17, a developmental screening will be held for young children ages zero to five (0-5). This screening will be conducted at the Cisco Day Care, 804 Ave. H, Cisco, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The screening, which takes about 20 minutes to complete, tests a young child in four areas: personal/social skills (Playing, eating, dressing, etc.) fine motor skills (ability to manipulate small objects), gross motor skills (running, jumping, etc.), and language development (speech,

following instructions, etc.). If a child is found to have two or more delays in one area, there is further testing available or referral to the appropriate agency.

The purpose of Early Childhood Intervention is to identify and correct as many problems as possible for young children. Early detection of young children's delays have proven beneficial to the child, parents, and teachers.

For further information, please feel free to call (915) 646-9574, ext. 159 or 158 in Brownwood, or come to the screening site.

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Whirlpool High Efficiency Model†

Room Air Conditioner Model AC1854XS

18,000 BTU/HR. 8.5 EER — for low cost operation • 115 VOLTS — for quick, plug-in operation • 3-SPEED FAN — for maximum cooling and sustained comfort • 5 YEAR WARRANTY.* Adjustable Thermostat

Cool Comfort for Big Rooms!

†Whirlpool air conditioners with an EER of 7.5 or higher are designated "high efficiency models"

Whirlpool Extras that make your world a little easier!

All-Weather Cabinet
Rugged cabinet is galvanized steel with baked-on polymer finish for rust resistance.

Fan Only Setting
Allows you to use your room air conditioner as a fan when more intense cooling is not required.

*5 year warranty covers compressor and sealed refrigeration system. See your Whirlpool dealer for details.

All Whirlpool appliances have earned this seal.

Whirlpool HOME APPLIANCES
Making your world a little easier.

HIGGINBOTHAM'S
Over 100 Years of Quality and Service

N. Main St. 13-2271 **Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5 pm**