

CARBON NEWS

Dorothy Jackson Phone 639-2540

At last some long overdue moisture came. It sure was nice to hear the patter of the rain drops on the roof. Did record 1 1/2 inches. We could use oh so much more. I suppose if it rained slow long enough it would run some water in the drying up tanks. I am very thankful for every drop that fell. Some people in the area reported more or less, but believe most folks did receive some. The long range forecast is saying real winter weather for this weekend. We will just wait and see.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sue Davis, a teacher at Carbon, on the loss of her husband, Charles Davis of Cisco. Also our sympathy goes out to the families of George Norris. Mr. Norris grew up at Carbon and was the brother of Paul Norris, Lorena Phelps, Cleo Duncan, Rose Dorsey and Winnette Maynard, all of Eastland; Elmer Norris of Ralls; Lillie Pullig of Sweetwater; Faye Huddleston of Jacksboro, and Juanita Broom of Roger.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Alice Burleson, mother of Mrs. Paul Norris and grandmother of Mrs. Ronnie Pack of Carbon. Sorry I have omitted James Thacker's name from the men's group that did special music laymans day at the Baptist Church.

A good turn out for the 5th Sunday singing, and the people enjoyed some great singing. The next singing will be in April. Our attendance has been low for the past few Sundays but had good attendance this Sunday. Mrs. Willie Hines has been able to attend church. Mrs. Hines had been absent for sometime. She had fallen and broke her hip but is able to walk once again. Good to see you Willie.

Some of the young people from our church will be going to Fort Worth Friday afternoon for a youth conference. They will hear Dawson McAllister, Bro. Sherl and Barbara and Kevin Anderson, our youth director, will go as sponsors.

Mr. and Mrs. Mingo Benavidez is visiting her sister, Mrs. Myrtle Higgins, this week. They live at Santa Fe.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McDaniel and J. C. McDaniel were Mr. and Mrs. Mike Joiner and sons of Austin; Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Webb and sons of Crowley; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McDaniel of Athens and Mike Ripple of Stephenville.

The flu is still going strong and now there is an outbreak of chicken pox. Us older people need to try to avoid the flu if possible.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

Mozelle Rhymes

Modell Crawley spent last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Neal, Jennifer and Trey in Houston.

Edgar and Ruth Higginbottom spent Monday and Tuesday in Santo visiting Byron and Fern Rogers. While there, they toured the Possum Kingdom and Mineral Wells area.

Ted Higginbottom of Seminole visited his parents, Edgar and Ruth Higginbottom.

Jolene Bennett of Big Spring spent several days last week visiting with Jessie Lee Jones and Purnia Faye Smith.

Beth Anderson of Cransfill Gap

James R. Campbell Potentate Elect For 1989



James R. Campbell of Abilene was elected Potentate of Suez Shrine Temple on Monday, December 19, 1988 in San Angelo, Texas. Noble Campbell was installed at the Annual Meeting on Monday, January 16, 1989 at the Temple. James was born October 27, 1947 in Sulphur Springs, Texas where he graduated from high school. He received a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration in 1971 from East Texas State University. After graduation, he was employed as Director of Public Works for the City of Big Spring, Texas and attended the

visited with her mother, Mozelle Rhymes, on Sunday.

It is so good to be back after a week of recuperating from foot surgery. A special thanks to everyone for the nice things that were done for me.

Graduate School of Business at Texas Tech University. In 1975 he was appointed City Manager for the City of Colorado City, Texas where he served for four years. In late 1978 he became the City Manager for the City of Corsicana. He was employed by First Southwest Company, an investment banking firm, as a municipal financial advisor and relocated to Longview, Texas where he and his family resided for four years. In 1981 James was promoted to Vice President and in 1983 was transferred to the Abilene branch office of the company. James and his lady, Vicki, have two children, Katie, 11, and Reese, 7. Both are students at Bowie Elementary School in Abilene.

Noble Campbell was raised a Master Mason in July, 1972 at Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 in Big Spring, Texas. He is currently an endowed life member of Abilene Lodge No. 559, a member of the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies, the Abilene York Rite Bodies, the Texas Lodge of Research, the Royal Order of Jesters, the Abilene Shrine Club, the Suez Shrine Klowns and Suez Provost Guard.

He was an active member of the Suez Motor Patrol for six years and served as Colonel in 1976. Noble Campbell was a Charter member of the Mitchell County Shrine Club and was elected its first President in 1975. In 1979 he was elected President of the Texas Shrine Motor Patrol Association, one of the largest state unit associations in all of Shrinedom, and was honored with a life membership in 1980. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R.

KOKOMO NEWS

By Mrs. Zelda Jordan Phone 639-2289

GOOD NEWS! We received about an inch of rain throughout the community on Friday and Friday night. The first real measurable rain that we have had in a long time. We are very thankful for it.

Frankie Jarrett of Gorman was a visitor at the Kokomo Baptist Church on Sunday morning. She was visiting with her sister, Lavelle Rodgers. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Freed were visitors on Sunday night for the singing.

CHAD EATON SHOWS RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Fuller were in Abilene on Friday for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Eaton, Chad and Lindsey of Ovalo and to see Chad show his lamb at the Taylor County Junior Livestock Show. His heavyweight Southdown lamb won second place in his class and then

was named reserve champion. Chad is a member of the Taylor County 4-H Club. Our congratulations to Chad and his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Morrow, Lance, Layne and Lenny of Plains, were here to be with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Norris, and to attend the funerals of her uncle, George Norris at Eastland on Thursday, and her grandmother, Mrs. Alice Burleson, at Gorman on Friday. They also visited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Morrow. Mrs. Gladys Morrow and Mrs. Alma Lee Creager of Levelland also visited in the Morrow home and attended the funerals.

Our sincere sympathy to the families of Mr. Norris and Mrs. Burleson. Many from the community also attended the funerals. Mr. Norris was buried in the Simpson Cemetery at Kokomo and Mrs. Burleson was buried at Gorman.

Juanita Fuller and Berniece Rodgers attended the singing at the Carbon Baptist Church on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Ova Lee Johnson of Olden, the former Ova Lee McDonald, and a former resident of Kokomo, passed away in a Cisco nursing home on Sunday night. Funeral services will be at 10 a. m. Thursday at the Eastside Baptist Church in Ranger with burial in the Merriman Cemetery. Our sincere sympathy to her family.

Happy Birthday to our son-in-law, Roddy Miles of Abilene, on Monday, February 6, and to a nephew, Rev. Jimmy Nelson of Obregon, Mexico on Tuesday, February 7th.



Campbell of Sulphur Springs, Texas and the son-in-law of Clara Frossard of Gorman, Texas.

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THE GORDON SPOT

By DeMarquis Gordon
Eastland County Extension Agent

I was recently asked if pecan trees should be pruned, and if so, when should it be done.

Cold winter days are the very best time to prune pecan trees. The main idea of winter pruning is to leave a tree with one central leader as a trunk. A central leader tree will be stronger and utilize space more effectively. Surprisingly, pecans seldom need pruning once they are large trees. However, some corrective pruning may be needed while they are young.

"V" trunks is the most common problem. Many of the new recommended varieties such as "Wichita", "Desirable", "Telas", and "Choctaw" frequently develop V trunks. One of the two trunks needs to be removed. In some instances the trunk will divide 2 or 3 times, which means over 75 percent of the tree

needs to be removed in order to obtain a single trunk. Occasionally, an even more serious tree structure problem exists when 3 or 4 trunks originate at the same point on the trunk. All but one of these trunks needs to be removed.

Pruning technique is important. Leave a short collar on the trunk when removing a limb. Do not try to cut as close to the trunk as possible. The collar is needed for transporting food down the trunk to the root system. If the collar is cut off the bark below the cut will die and major trunk injury results.

Small Side Shoots are important. Once the tree is pruned to a central leader do not remove side limbs on the lower trunk until they are one inch in diameter or larger. These small limbs are called a "trashy trunk" and are essential in helping develop a large root system and increase trunk diameter.

Tip Prune all the side shoots which made over 24 inches of growth last year. Do not remove more than one inch or the cluster of buds at the tip of the shoot. If the vigorous shoots are not tip pruned, a crows foot will result. Never leave short limb stubs

on the trunk. Either tip prune or thin out.

Crows Foot shoots are weak and need to be thinned out so that only three shoots result.

Cut Back the central leader by 50 percent of last years growth of young trees. Heavy pruning results in strong growth; consequently, cut back the central leader hard and extremely vigorous growth will develop in the spring. At that time, select vigorous shoots at the cut back point. By so doing, you will literally select the central leader in the spring each May or early June.

Seedling non grafted pecan trees make excellent yard trees because they do not need to be trained or pruned. They produce a central leader naturally.

Dehorning is never recommended for mature pecan trees. If a major limb is to be removed, simply thin it out leaving a collar.

Crowding pecan trees should be corrected by complete tree removal rather than pruning. The trees which remain after thinning will be far healthier than if they remained crowded and pruned.

Gramm Offers Chance To Make Home Ownership Dream True

WASHINGTON — U. S. Sen. Phil Gramm and the federal and state governments have launched a pilot home-ownership program to make home available to 400 Texas families.

"Under the Texas Home Ownership Initiative, first-time buyers whose incomes are as low as \$15,000 a year can qualify to purchase a home", the senator said.

The program is a joint venture of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Texas Housing Authority.

"This is a program that can change the face of low-income

housing in America," Gramm said in announcing the program at a news conference in Dallas recently.

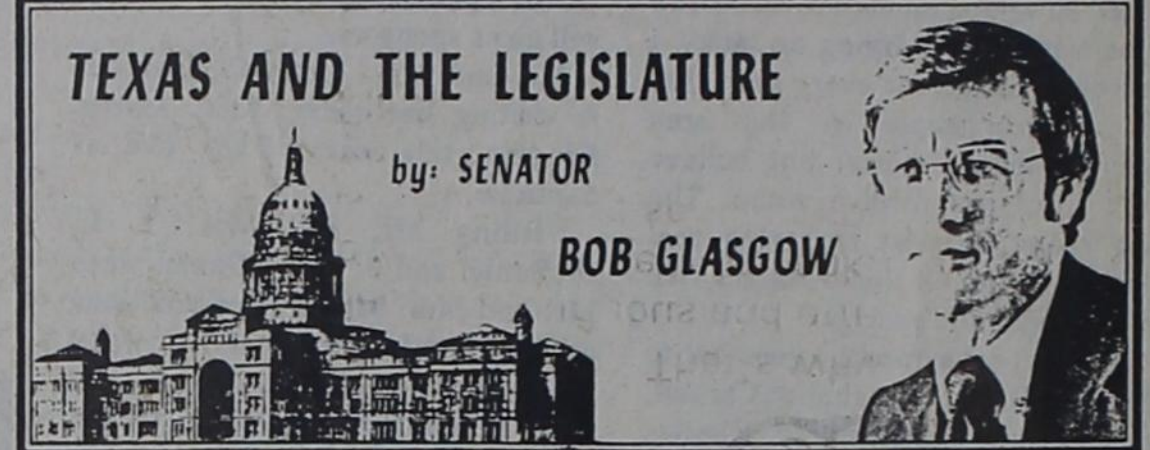
The Texas Housing Authority and U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will offer below-market interest rates and require down payments of only \$100 to \$500 on homes selected by buyers from the 10,000 houses owned by the government in Texas.

The interest rate on homes valued at \$35,000 or less is 8.05 percent. Also, a 9.55 percent rate is available

on all homes in the program.

The program uses a combination of private lenders, the bonding authority of the state and backing from the federal government, said Gramm.

"Almost any house was beyond the financial reach of buyers with modest incomes until now," the senator said. "But first-time buyers whose incomes are as low as \$15,000 now will have a chance to invest in their futures, their families and their communities under this program."



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX RATES TO DROP

Good news for both employers and employees was reported to the Legislature this past week. Unemployment Insurance Tax rates will drop dramatically in 1989, according to a report issued by the Texas Employment Commission.

Almost half of employers in the state covered by the Texas Employment Compensation Act will see as much as 50 percent reduction in their rates as compared to last year's. As an example, for a minimum rated employer, last year's tax rate of 1.41 percent on the first \$8,000 in wages resulted in a year's tax of \$112.80 per employee. This year that percentage will drop to .64 percent on the first \$9,000 resulting in a yearly tax of \$57.60 per employee.

A drop in unemployment insurance benefit payments is a principal reason for the welcome tax reduction. According to figures supplied to me from the Texas Employment Commission, quarterly payouts during the previous year fell from a high of \$225 million to less than \$202 million. The reduction of unemployment payments points

to a continued resurgence of the Texas economy.

Another factor in the tax decrease is due in part to the vast improvement of the trust fund balance last year. The balance in the unemployment trust fund is the primary determinant of the deficit ratio.

The unemployment trust fund has a statutory minimum reserve of 1% of the taxable wage base, about \$147 million in 1988. Any balance below that minimum, even a positive balance, is considered a "deficit" only for purposes of the tax rate calculation. The deficit for 1988 was \$201 million, compared with a deficit of \$838 million in 1987. The \$637 million plunge in the trust fund balance allowed the Texas Employment Commission to drop the deficit tax ratio from 1.45 percent to .25 percent in 1989.

Also, the State eliminated an interest tax when all loans from the federal government were repaid last August.

The State's economic recovery can be judged, in large, in putting people back to work. The drop in unemployment taxes also reflects an improved labor market where more people are working. The recent tax decrease is proof positive that the economic picture in the State is becoming brighter as many unemployed Texans are reentering the work force.

SIGNIFICANT MEDICARE CHANGES ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY

Significant changes in Medicare coverage went into effect in January, Glyn Hammons, Social Security manager in Abilene, said recently. The new provisions, which are included in the "Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988," expand Medicare coverage for seriously ill persons.

Included in the changes are unlimited periods of hospitalization after payment of the annual deductible amount, unlimited hospice care, and 150 days of skilled nursing facility care.

This year's hospitalization deductible is \$560. A coinsurance payment of \$25.50 per day for skilled nursing facility care must be paid for the first 8 days of care only. Beginning in January, 1990, additional medical and prescription drug benefits will be covered, too.

By this time, all Medicare beneficiaries should have received their revised Medicare Handbook showing a side-by-side comparison of the old and new coverage.

Hammons said, anyone with questions about coverage can call a special toll-free Medicare phone number, 1-800-888-1988. The Social Security office is located at 142 S. Pioneer in Abilene and the phone number is 698-1360. If a call to the Abilene office is long distance, you can call toll free by dialing 1-800-234-5772.

—GP—
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