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**Let's talk.**  
Information about your changing telephone service from Paul Johnson, Manager Community Relations

**Diversifying the Lone Star Economy**  
News about tumbling oil prices is a reminder that Texas faces some knotty economic challenges. But the outlook for an upbeat economy appears good. One reason for the optimism is the state's efforts to diversify its economy.

Economic diversification may not be a new twist, but you may be surprised to learn about the new ally in this campaign. Meet your new partner: telecommunications. Yes, the telephone company. Surprised?

Consider that many businesses today, including the so-called high technology industries, are heavily dependent on information. These firms need to move large amounts of data across the state and the world. Much of that information will zip across the telephone network—an intricate web of circuits, transmitters and lines.

Without a first-class telecommunications system, Texas cannot compete with other states vying for new jobs and industry. Remember, most every state is recruiting the same firms. How does Texas set itself apart from the crowd? One way is to parlay our telephone network into a major advantage for our state.

**An economic edge**  
Homegrown Texas firms also will find it increasingly an edge to be served by a dependable communications network. For example, in the oil and gas industry, millions of dollars are riding each day on the ability of these firms to transmit and receive geological data from drilling sites. That puts a premium on fast, reliable communications.

In our homes too, telecommunications is playing a more important role. Many Texans are using computer linkups over telephone lines to start new businesses, expand their education and even receive health care—all this without leaving their homes.

Much of what we take for granted in our everyday lives would be impossible without telecommunications. Consider that in Texas there are \$15 million in goods and services sold each day by phone... more than seven million transactions between financial institutions are processed every day over the telephone network... and nearly 248 million times a year Texans use phone lines and automatic teller machines to bank at their convenience.

**A mind-boggling figure**  
There's one more statistic that perhaps tells the story best. On a typical day, Southwestern Bell Telephone handles more than \$2 million voice and data messages from homes and businesses across the state. And, this figure is expected to continue to grow.

Obviously, huge investments are required to meet this growth. In fact, for eight consecutive years, my company has spent more than \$1 billion annually to improve and add to the state's telecommunications network. This year will be no different.

We all have a stake in the economic future of Texas. All of us must do our share. For our part, we want to provide a telecommunications network that is second to none. We have the resources and people to achieve that goal. Given adequate earnings, there is no doubt we will succeed.

**Southwestern Bell Telephone**  
Paul Johnson  
S.W. Bell Telephone  
2309 Avenue H  
Bay City, TX 77414

## Hemphill, Cunningham plan nuptials

Ms. Kaye Hemphill and Mr. Dennis Hemphill are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Janice Renea, to Terry Lee Cunningham, son of Rev. and Mrs. T.J. Cunningham Jr. of Matthews.

Janice is a 1985 graduate of Rice High School and Terry graduated from Rice High School in 1984.

The couple are planning an April 26 wedding at 8 o'clock in the evening at Providence Baptist Church in Eagle Lake.



## 4-H makes a difference

By Veronica Hundt, County Extension Agent

According to a nationwide poll, 4-H makes a difference in the lives of former members.

A national poll last fall of 1,761 individuals showed that 4-H does, indeed, have a positive effect on the lives of individuals who were involved in the programs as youths.

The randomly selected sample of individuals that were polled included 710 former 4-H members and 743 members of other youth organizations. The remainder had not been involved in organized groups during their youth.

A key finding of the survey is that former 4-H members today are more active in community activities, particularly in leadership roles, than non-members.

When comparing both former 4-H members and those participating in other youth organizations with nonparticipants in youth groups, the community involvement aspect is particularly significant. Those who did not take part in organizations as youth are currently much less involved in adult community activities.

4-H tends to have family ties. Former 4-H members indicated that their children are participating in 4-H to a large degree (by 50 percent more than children of non 4-H parents). They themselves also take part in Extension educational programs and activities to a significantly greater degree than former members of other youth groups as well as former nonparticipants in youth groups.

One reason for the greater involvement by former 4-H members relates to the types of experiences they had as youths. Without question, the study showed that former 4-H members gave higher rankings to personal development, knowledge, leadership and coping skills experiences than did former members of other organizations.

4-H participants also felt that their overall experiences were more valuable to them than did participants of other youth organizations.

The survey also found that characteristics of 4-H members as youths are no different from other youths across the nation who are involved in such groups as Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and YWCA, church organizations, and FFA and FHA. Their backgrounds, educational attainments and incomes are generally similar.

The poll was conducted by Dr. Howard Ladewig, program evaluation specialist with the Extension Service, and Dr. John Thomas, rural sociologist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The study was funded by a grant from the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

4-H is an informal educational program for youth between the ages of 9 and 19 that is conducted by the Extension Service at the state and national level. Its objective is to provide help in the development of knowledge and leadership as well as in problem-solving and personal skills.

For more information, contact the County Extension Office at 732-6694.

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic levels, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.

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## 'A different kind of passion'

Palm Sunday, March 23, is also recognized in many denominations as "Passion Sunday," referring to the last sufferings of Christ. The Passion of Christ leads us to Jesus on the cross, looking out upon the very people He is dying for.

One Good Friday, through a series of "chance" circumstances, a celebrated Broadway actress found herself sitting in a crowded church, listening to a reading of the "Passion of Our Lord." For months the woman had been suffering from what she described as a "terrible cavity somewhere in the abdominal region." She had been examined by several doctors who found no physical cause for her pain. She had undergone exploratory surgery at her own insistence. Again she was found to be well physically.

Now, in church, as the passion story moved toward its climax, she felt the cavity cut deeper into her being that ever before: an overwhelming feeling of emptiness. Then came Jesus' words, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" The woman said, "I shall never forget that blessed moment when, in my emptiness, I felt as one with Jesus. I realized that His anguish cry to the Heavens was coming from the very depths of His soul. I realized that this Jesus, whose friends had betrayed and denied Him and whose own people had delivered Him to the executioners, was experiencing unbearable loneliness. I began to imagine His thoughts: 'Was it all for nothing - My coming into this world, My preaching and teaching, My miracle-working, My life? Was My life, and now My death, all for nothing? Father, did You forget Your promise of eternal fulfillment in Your life of love? Is this Your idea of love? My God, why? Why have you let Me down?' Why have you abandoned Me? My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? And suddenly I knew that the cause of my ailment was spiritual, not physical! I was lonely for the love of God."

In this sacred scene, may you find that which satisfies the deepest longings of your soul, the loving presence of our eternal God.

**Pastor's Study**

**Plants for every window**

Whether your windows face north, south, east or west, you can fill them with colorful flowering and foliage plants that will grow and thrive. The key to growing attractive houseplants is to select plants that will thrive in the amount of light you have available.

Most plants won't die the minute they are placed in a window that is too dark, but without the light they need to produce food they will literally starve to death. Such plants will slowly lose old leaves and produce smaller new ones, and as time goes on will become tall and spindly. If you match the plants you grow to the amount of light you have available at your window, and observe a few basic cultural practices, you will be well on your way to a windowsill garden that will grow and thrive not only from month to month, but from year to year.

The first step in deciding how much light your windowsill garden receives is to determine which way the window faces. Use a compass if necessary. North-facing windows receive the least amount of light, south the most. East and west windows receive roughly the same amount, although west windows tend to be hotter than east windows.

You must also consider how much natural light finds its way through your windows. The glass itself cuts down on light, even when the windows are sparkling clean. If your window is heavily shaded by trees, curtains, nearby buildings or a porch roof or awning, the amount of light will be reduced considerably. Curtains, even sheer ones, can effectively turn a west window into a "north" one.

If you have an unusually dark window, or a dark corner that cries for a plant, consider purchasing two identical plants recommended for a north window. Rotate the plants between the dark spot and a bright window on a weekly basis.

Supplemental lighting is another solution. Suspend a fluorescent fixture over the spot where you want the plant, and use one cool-white and one warm-white tube to provide a wide spectrum of light. Attach a timer so it will turn on and off automatically. Most plants will appreciate at least twelve to fourteen hours of supplemental light per day.

Another way to provide additional light is to reflect it onto plants. White walls will reflect more light than dark ones, and a well-placed mirror can reflect a great deal of light onto plants in a room.

The amount of light available to a plant diminishes quite rapidly as you move away from a window. Place plants as close as possible to a window without touching it. If they need to be more than two feet from an east or west window, choose a species recommended for a northern exposure. Avoid placing plants directly on top of radiators or heating ducts.

Dust on leaves cuts down on the amount of light a plant receives. The misting used to raise humidity levels around a plant doesn't wash off much dust. A better solution is to regularly give your plants a brief shower. For large plants, tie a plastic bag around the pot, covering the soil as much as possible (to prevent the soil from getting wet), and set the plant, pot and all, in the shower under a gentle stream of tepid water for several minutes. Small plants can be rinsed in the sink. In the summer, plants can be moved outside and sprayed with a gentle stream from the hose.

Regular showers also help with insect control by washing away insects before an infestation gets started. Most can be washed away with a gentle rub. Use a soft brush for hairy-leaved plants. If you see evidence of an infestation, get the leaves with a weak solution of white soap (1 or 2 tablespoons to a gallon of water) with a soft sponge. Be sure to allow enough time for plants to dry off completely before nightfall, however, to avoid disease problems.

Select your plants according to the amount of light you have available, don't neglect the basics of good culture—proper watering, humidity levels, fertilizing and soil conditions—and you will be well on your way to houseplants you can enjoy for years to come.

Here are some examples of houseplants that prefer light from the NORTH: *Asplenium nidus* (bird's nest fern), *Marianne leucocoma* (prayer plant), *Zebra plant* (wandering jew), *Dieffenbachia* sp. (dumb cane), EAST: *Nepenthes exaltata* (Boston fern), *Crassula argentea* (jade plant), *Brazaia arbuticola* (Hawaiian shefflera), WEST: *Ficus elastica* (rubber plant), *Monstera deliciosa* (cut-leaf philodendron), *Succulenta* sp. (African violet), *Chamaedorea elegans* (parlor palm).

For a more detailed list of houseplants and their requirements for light, water, temperature, soil, humidity and fertilizer, please send \$1 with your name and address to: Houseplants, AHS, PO Box 0105, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121.

This information was excerpted from an article by Barbara W. Ellis, Publications Director of the American Horticultural Society, and Editor of the *American Horticulturist*.

# Come AprilFest

## April 19 & 20

### Time is Running Short...

#### REGISTER NOW!!

## QUEEN'S CONTEST

### Special Forms Available...Contact Cindy Gohlke, Delta Savings...Requires Sponsorship of \$15 by an individual or business.



## LITTLE MR. & MISS CONTEST

### Contact Mrs. Bill (Margo) Harrison, Jr. for information... 234-5054

## POSTER CONTEST

### Two Divisions: K-3rd Grade & 4th-6th Grades

## Obstacle Course!!

### Information available from area school teachers or Mrs. Anna Mae Wiese, 234-2470.

## Obstacle Course!!

### Information available from area school teachers or Mrs. Anna Mae Wiese, 234-2470.

## AUCTION - 8 P.M., Friday, April 18

### Come Enjoy Mexican Food...Then Stay & Support Revitalize Eagle Lake

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2. Gift Certificate - JoAnn's
3. Jewelry - Jewelry by Candy
4. AM/FM/Cassette Stereo Radio - Cantu Trucking & Airport Grocery
5. M&M Western Wear
6. Duncan & Son
7. Gift Basket - A Touch of Class
8. Eagle Lake Sewing Center
9. Radar Detector - Eagle Trailer Parts
10. Portable 5" TV & Radio - Jack Coghill Trucking
11. Melody & Mike Grigar
12. Johnny's Sport Shop
13. Wilcox Minimax
14. Donation of Tickets - J&D Furniture
15. S&W Parts Company

## TICKETS AVAILABLE for the Mexican Supper... Friday, April 18 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center!

Please Address All Entries to: Come AprilFest Contest Registration, P.O. Box 5, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

|                                                                                                                       |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| NAME _____                                                                                                            | NAME _____                       |
| ADDRESS _____                                                                                                         | ADDRESS _____                    |
| CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____                                                                                      | CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ |
| PHONE _____                                                                                                           | PHONE _____                      |
| Please enter my name in the AprilFest BBQ Cookoff. Enclosed is a check (or money order) for the entry fee of \$20.00. |                                  |
| TEAM MEMBERS                                                                                                          |                                  |
|                                  |                                  |

|                                                                                                                                               |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| NAME _____                                                                                                                                    | NAME _____                       |
| ADDRESS _____                                                                                                                                 | ADDRESS _____                    |
| CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____                                                                                                              | CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ |
| PHONE _____                                                                                                                                   | PHONE _____                      |
| Please enter my name in the AprilFest Out House Races. Enclosed is a check (or money order) for the entry fee of \$5.00/team of three people. |                                  |
| TEAM MEMBERS                                                                                                                                  |                                  |
|                                                          |                                  |

## CRAFT AND/OR FOOD BOOTH REGISTRATION

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| NAME _____                                                                                                            | NAME _____                           |
| BOOTH NAME: _____                                                                                                     | FOOD BOOTH: _____ CRAFT BOOTH: _____ |
| ITEMS FOR SALE: _____                                                                                                 |                                      |
| NEED ELECTRICITY? _____ (Very Limited.)                                                                               |                                      |
| Enclosed is my check for \$30.00 per booth (8x10) and a stamped self addressed envelope (if confirmation is desired). |                                      |