

## Landscape architect shares fall/winter tips

There's really no such thing as "the" gardening season in Texas. While spring and summer are, indeed, beautiful, abundant growing periods, it is a mistake to ignore one's outdoor environment when the weather cools.

In fact, fall and winter landscape is crucial. A hibernating gardener — one who neglects his or her landscape when the temperature dips below 70 degrees — is apt to "wake up" to a pretty dismal garden when spring arrives.

No one understands the importance of fall and winter gardening better than Howard Garrett, owner of a landscaping firm in Dallas and author of "Landscape Design... Texas Style." In this, the author's second book, Garrett explains the process of landscape design in step-by-step terms, reveals the very best plant materials for each of the eight areas of Texas, dispels some common

myths about landscape design and care.

A number of Garrett's on-target techniques and observations relate to fall and winter planting and maintenance. Indeed, Garrett stresses that fall is the best time to plant trees and major shrubs in the home landscape. "Most people try to plant in the spring, but it's really the worst time," he explains. "The ideal time to plant all major materials — trees and larger shrubs — is in the fall and through the winter. Many people don't know that trees put out roots in the winter, and the roots are the most important part of the tree."

When trees and shrubs are introduced to the landscape in the fall and winter, Garrett says, they put all their energy into root growth, since the plants are dormant above-ground during this period. Planted in spring, these same plants will expend energy above and below ground.

Garrett says that plant identification and selection are as important as a timely planting schedule. "The proper identification of trees is crucial," he explains. "One of the biggest problems in our state is the planting of incorrect varieties, especially as it relates to red oaks. Pin oaks and northern red oaks are being sold as Shumard red oaks. Shumard red oaks are great, and will grow anywhere in Texas unless they aren't provided adequate drainage. Northern red oaks shouldn't be used here, and selling pin oaks as Shumard red oaks is the worst." In an effort to correct this — a "multi-million dollar problem" according to Garrett — he has included detailed information and photographs in his book that explain how to distinguish appropriate trees from inappropriate trees, including Shumard red oaks and pin oaks.

Besides offering the perfect opportunity for planting, fall and winter are also the time to protect one's landscape from the whims of Mother Nature. Garrett reminds us that gardeners must continue a regular (once-per-week) watering schedule to discourage plant stress. During dry periods and, especially, before a hard freeze, the landscape should be thoroughly watered. "People don't think about watering when the weather turns cool, but it's important," he says. "Otherwise, plants will be damaged and stressed even more."

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National Geographic Says:  
"Haley's Comet has a granulated crust that is darker than the blackest point on earth."  
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## Do you wonder where the money went?

By Peggy Braden,  
County Extension Agent

Going over last year's receipts, cancelled checks, W-2 forms and other papers to get ready for tax time is never much fun. But it's even more bothersome when it creates some nagging doubts about how well last year's income was spent. You might avoid the problem next year by establishing a family spending plan for 1987 while the year is still young. Whether you have a lot of money or a little, a sound plan for spending is the key to having dollars for what is needed and wanted before the money disappears in unexpected ways.

It's fairly simple to set up a spending plan. First calculate your 1987 income from all sources. Then, while you've got all your 1986 financial records out, use them to estimate your expenses for next year. So you don't miss items or underestimate what you spend, look at your weekly, monthly and year expenses. Some of the things we buy with "pocket money" such as restaurant meals or recreation expenses often get overlooked. And don't forget to include irregular expenses, such as semi-annual insurance payments or car servicing.

When you have these two sets of figures, you can plan ahead for what you will spend each pay period, and how much you should set aside in savings to meet irregular bills and unexpected expenses. Having a spending plan also allows you to "bill" yourself for a certain amount each pay period which can go into savings to meet long-term financial goals. That goal might be a down payment for a new house or car, college expenses, a vacation or a retirement nest egg. It takes practice and patience in keeping financial records so that you can use fairly accurate amounts for planning rather than estimates. But good records can help you see where you might want to cut your spending plan in some areas and increase it in others.

We have a number of Extension publications which contain worksheets and logs to help keep track of family spending. A do-it-yourself insulating shutter straightedge to cut the board about 1/4 to 3/4 inch less than the dimensions of the space it is to fill. Wrap a continuous roll of 3/4-inch wide by 1/2-inch thick sticky-back foam weatherstripping tape around the edge of the board. Then cover the weatherstripped edge with duct tape to hold it in place and make a durable edge. This will provide a good "improvised seal" when the board is pressed into the opening. To improve the appearance of the insulating shutter, the specialist suggests covering it with fabric. Quiring says a good, tight-fitting shutter will reduce infiltration and heat loss and improve your comfort when you sit near the window.

## Hospital News

Patients (Jan. 6)

Eagle Lake: R.L. Baird, Elizabeth Walker, Bennett Reichert, Gloria Knight, Marie Williams, Hazel Du-lay.

Garwood: Ella Struka; from Sheridan: Roy Heineold; from Wharton: Ernest Howard; from Altair: John Shroeder; from East Bernard: Mildred Mayo, Anita Figueroa; from Lissie: Herbert Meyer; from Rock Island: Frances Burda.

Dismissals

Eagle Lake: Charles P., Channie Moses, Tillie Drymalla, Marcus Brast, Vivian Coleman, Betty Lopez and baby girl, Tiffany Wilkerson, Brenda Newton, Henry Williams, Leticia Vasquez. Wallis: Annie Kramer; from Columbus: Ethel Simmons, Vickie Waddle, Jimmie Bohannon; from Garwood: Justin Fitzgerald; from Sealy: Marilee Jordan; from Houston: Sonya Christal; from Giddings: Henry Lehman; from Alleyton: Yvonne Jackson, Brenda Vasquez; from Waller: Kenneth Parker; from Liberty: Raymond Hargrave; from Montgomery: Peggy Pohl; from East Bernard: Mitzi Chamrad.

## Window shutter reduces heat cost

A do-it-yourself insulating shutter can be a low-cost method for reducing heat loss through windows, advises a Texas A&M University housing specialist. "For about 40-50 cents a square foot, you can use foil-faced insulation board, foam weather-strip and duct tape to make a pop-in shutter that reduces heat loss dramatically," explains Dr. Susan Quiring.

The shutter pressure-fits inside the window casing or trim and is typically installed at night and taken down in the morning. The specialist suggests using a 3/4-inch thick insulation board which can be purchased at most lumber yards. Use a razor blade and metal

## Rice CSD School Menu

Thursday, Jan. 8: baked ham, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, assorted jelly, hot biscuits, butter.  
Friday, Jan. 9: meat and spaghetti, creamy cole slaw, sliced peaches, chocolate brownies, cornbread, butter.  
Monday, Jan. 12: pigs in blanket, parsley noodles, English peas and onions, banana pudding.  
Tuesday, Jan. 13: chicken nuggets, rice and gravy, collard greens, honey, biscuits.  
Wednesday, Jan. 14: hamburgers, French fries, hamburger salad, peach cobbler.  
Thursday, Jan. 15: meat and cheese pizza, tater tots, catsup, three bean salad, ice cream sandwich.  
Friday, Jan. 16: enchiladas, pinto beans, pop eye salad, chocolate pudding with topping, crackers.

## Computing taxable income most noticed change in new tax reform law

The first phase of the new tax reform law goes into effect this year. The way taxable income is computed is the biggest change most people will notice, according to a Texas Christian University economist, L. L. Dick Wais.

"About 90 percent of all taxpayers don't have to worry about investment tax credits or business interests, so there should be little change in the amount of work required to finish your tax return," Wais noted. "People with money will just have to find new ways to invest. The more you try to manipulate your taxes, the more complicated they will be."

The majority of taxpayers fill out a short form. "If a long form with itemized deductions is used, most find their deductions are rather straightforward so there really aren't many complicated decisions to be made no matter what the changes are," Wais added.

## Eye physicians treat blinding diseases

Potentially blinding eye diseases can be treated effectively if detected early, a fact that 6371 elderly Texas residents have discovered through the National Eye Care Project (NECP). Volunteer Texas ophthalmologists have uncovered: 3/4 cases of cataracts, 81 cases of glaucoma, 189 cases of diabetic retinopathy among elderly Texas residents who have called the toll-free Helpline—1-800-222-EYES (3937) — to receive assistance through the NECP.

The public service, which offers medical eye care to the disadvantaged elderly at no out-of-pocket cost, is sponsored by the Texas Ophthalmological Association and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The NECP is available to U.S. citizens or legal residents, age 65 or over, who are not currently under the care of an ophthalmologist, and who have not seen one within the past three years.

Periodic medical eye examinations are particularly important, said Dr. Robinson, to detect potentially blinding eye diseases, such as glaucoma, which has no early warning signs. Nationwide, about 1,600 cases of glaucoma have been diagnosed and treated through the project.

## Eye physicians treat blinding diseases

After calling the toll-free Helpline, an elderly person will be mailed the name of a volunteer ophthalmologist who will treat the patient, regardless of his or her ability to pay, and who will accept (for this project) Medicare or insurance assignment as payment in full. If hospital care is needed, the ophthalmologist will work with a local hospital to make care available. Hospital charges, eye glasses and prescription drugs are not paid through the program. More than 7,000 ophthalmologists are participating in the NECP. The Helpline is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Clubs: List your meetings in our monthly calendar. Call The Headlight for details - 234-5521.  
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**NOTICE**  
Rules Regarding Visiting Hours at Eagle Lake Community Hospital Have Been Changed  
Effective Monday, January 12, 1987.  
The new rules are available at the hospital.

# Area Restaurant Review

A Twice Monthly Feature of Reminders, Pictures & Stories About Your Favorite Eating Places

## Let a story and pictures invite new customers for you!

If you want to invite new customers into your restaurant, The Eagle Lake Headlight has developed a low-cost page to help you tell current and potential customers your story.

When you purchase space on this page, we also will write a story about your establishment, and print it here with the pictures necessary to show your particular menu items and service. And, you have a choice of the area

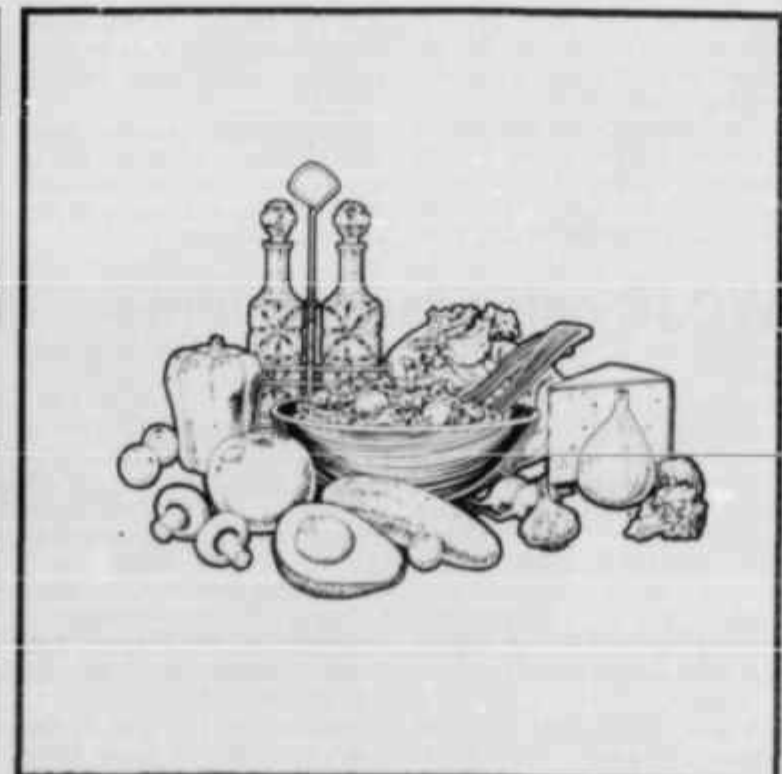
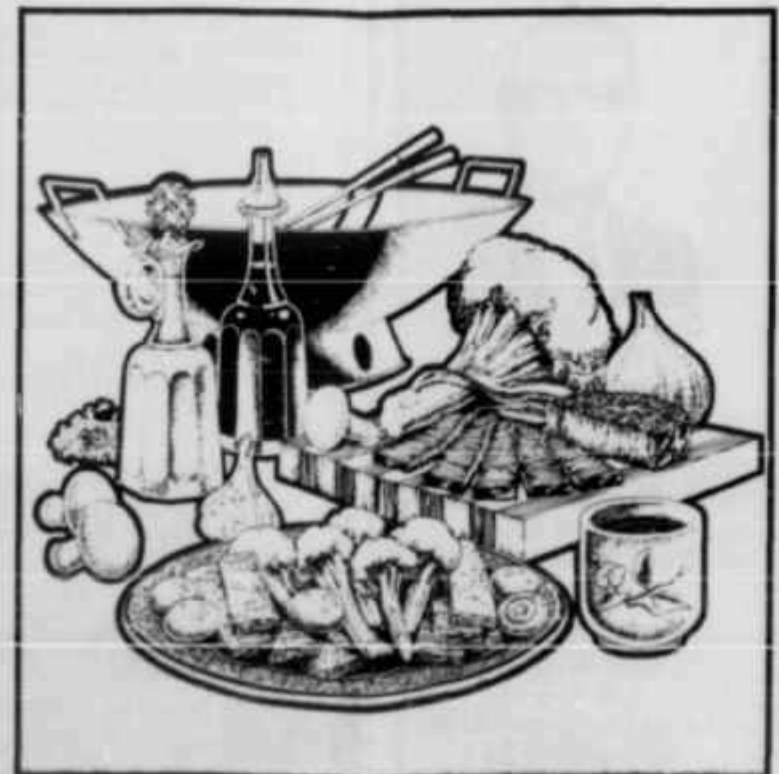
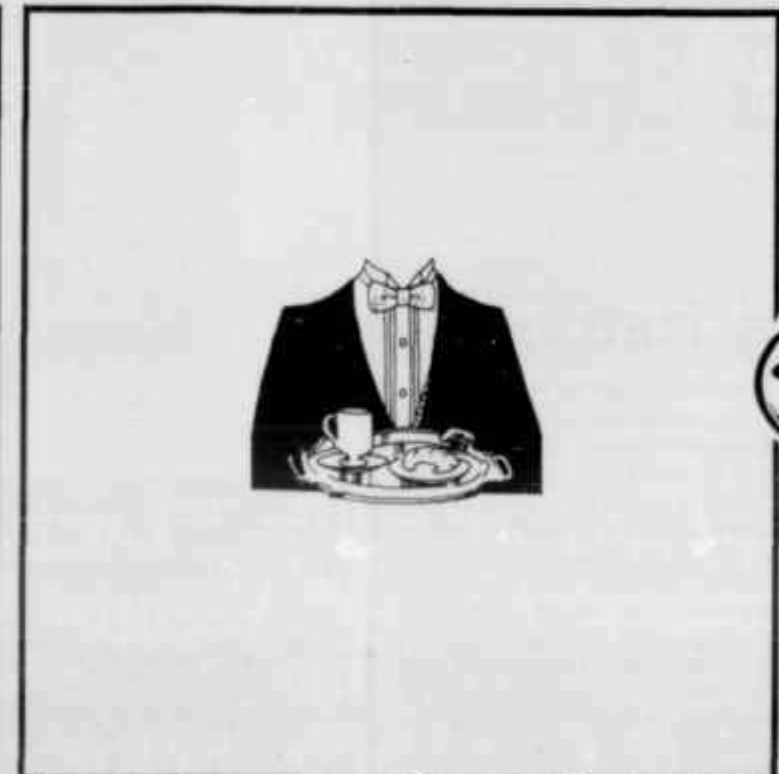
you want to reach... Eagle Lake readers, and/or those in the Brookshire-Pattison area since both papers work together.)

\$12 is the weekly cost for one newspaper; for \$8 more, you can be in both. This page will run twice monthly, so the cost can be as low as \$24 a month. In the space below, you can print your menu items, special occasion notes, or other messages to reach new customers.

234-5521

That's The Number To Call so your restaurant can be included in this special advertising feature.

Distributed to readers in the Eagle Lake, Brookshire and Pattison areas.



**Know your Merchants and Businesses**  
A weekly news and advertising feature to help our readers become more familiar with area businesses  
Put your business in the spotlight for only \$6 weekly  
For advertising information on this page, call John Fearing, 409-234-5521

You can feature your business in words and pictures  
Call 234-5521 to become a part of this \$6 per week advertising feature

My advertising doesn't work, is an often heard remark, whether it is here in Eagle Lake for the Headlight, or in Houston for the Post or Chronicle. That's not true all of the time or no one would buy advertising; and you would see no newspapers or television/radio programming. Sometimes, some types of ads or their content just don't attract attention. More importantly, if no one wants to buy what is being advertised, the cash register won't ring. So, the Headlight is creating this page of advertising news, to help local businesses tell potential customers in-depth detail about their merchandise and services. This space, where this story appears, will be devoted to those advertisers who purchase the space below. That way,

a business has a weekly reminder for our readers of who and where they are. Then once during a three month period, we will write a story about one of the businesses advertising below, take a picture or two, and be better able to explain the type of merchandise, the sales people and owners, and the business or service available. Lamenting the fact that the economy has gone sour won't help a business. It makes all of us work smarter so we can be here tomorrow when business does turn around — as it surely will (the question is when, of course). The reason a store or business advertises is to let potential customers know what they have to sell. Sure, "everyone" knows about the stores in the Eagle Lake area! But, when a person is ready to buy

something, is their memory strong enough that they will shop Eagle Lake first? Target and Wal-Mart certainly are big stores; You can't miss their signs when you drive by. Still, they remind potential customers by advertising several days a week. They want their business. Eagle Lake and the surrounding community have an excellent corps of stores and service businesses needed by local residents. Let the Eagle Lake Headlight help them keep you in mind when it comes time to shop or when they are in need of a plumber, electrician or other service business. Call John Fearing at the Headlight, 234-5521. We'll come see you and write a story about your business, too.

**\$6 Weekly**