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FRIDAY MARCH 27, 1987
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY MARCH 28, 1987
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 29, 1987
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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OBITUARIES

Cleopatra Axel

Cleopatra Axel, 66, of Altair, died on March 13. She was born on October 10, 1920, a daughter of Charlie and Rachel Ann Brown. She was united and baptized at an early age at Wright Grove Baptist Church in Altair. She married Elzie Axel on February 2, 1941 and to this union five children were born.

Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday, March 18 at Wright Grove Baptist Church in Altair with Rev. T.J. Cunningham officiating. Burial followed in Brown Estate in Altair. Arrangements were under the direction of Mann's Funeral Home of Eagle Lake.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Elsie Marie Axel.

Survivors include her widower,

Elzie Axel; four children, Charles Axel, Joe Lester Axel, Leroy Axel and Shirley Rowe-Hemphill; 10 grandchildren, Steven Axel, Charu Marie Axel, Charles A. Axel, Joe Lester Axel Jr., Desanie M. Axel, Lakesha Axel, Adrian R. Axel, Leslie J. Glover, Thomas E. Glover, Bunae T. Leonard; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial was in the family plot at Wright Grove Baptist Church.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Mrs. Grace McElmurry

Friends were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Grace McElmurry, of Austin, who died on March 13 at Westwood Medplex Nursing Home in Austin where she had been a

resident for six years. Burial was held in Austin.

She had spent most of her life here in Eagle Lake before moving to Austin and worked for many years at Wilcox Minimax and Miller's Grocery.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Eddy Arnold of Austin; a son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Doris McElmurry of Odessa; six grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family in the loss of their loved one.

Highway commission proposes new urban highway drainage policy

The State Highway and Public Transportation Commission is proposing to foot the bill for construction of curbs, gutters and storm sewers on some urban sections of state highways.

Except in unusual cases, municipalities have been required to pay for drainage — curbs, gutters and storm sewers — when the highway department constructed street-type sections for its highways inside city limits.

The commission noted that "in some instances the existing policy places an excessive financial burden on the municipalities." Sometimes, a dollar squeeze forced the city to opt for a cheaper highway design that might not have been the best one possible.

The new curb, gutter and storm sewer proposal comes on the heels of two other departures in the way urban highway improvements in Texas are financed. Last month, the commission expanded the state's roadway maintenance obligations to cities and towns and also took over installation and operation of traffic signals on frontage roads along the state's freeways, an obligation which many cities had been shouldering.

The proposed new policy says the highway department will be responsible for 100 percent of the construction cost of all curbs and gutters and storm sewers on the state highway system.

The state highway system is defined as all state-numbered routes except those temporarily placed on

Gerald Fitzgerald completes combat engineer course

Army National Guard Private Gerald B. Fitzgerald, son of Clorine Fitzgerald of Alletton, has completed a combat engineer course at the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

During the course, students were trained in the techniques of road and bridge building, camouflage and demolition. They also received instruction in combat squad tactics as well as in the use of infantry weapons.

He is a 1986 graduate of Columbus High School.

Prospects excellent for spring turkey season

High turkey populations over most of Texas' turkey range should provide excellent hunting during the upcoming spring gobbler season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Rio Grande turkeys had an outstanding production year in 1985, which means large numbers of two-year-old gobblers will be available, said turkey program leader Don Wilson. "Spring 1985 was the second-best production period on record, and even though the 1986 year was only average there still should be unusually high number of birds," he said.

Hunters should be aware of a new alignment in spring turkey seasons this year. There are two separate seasons, with opening day earlier in 20 South Texas counties than elsewhere.

In Maverick, Zavala, Frio, Atascosa, Live Oak, Bee, San Patricio, Nueces, Dimmit, LaSalle, McMullen, Webb, Davall, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kennedy, Hidalgo and Wilcox counties, the season will be March 28-April 12.

All other counties authorized to have a spring season will have an April 4-19 season.

The season dates, which are earlier than in 1986, are set to coincide with peak gobbling activity. Wilson said most gobbling was over by the time last year's spring season got underway.

"High deer populations in most of the Rio Grande region, especially the Edwards Plateau, South Texas and East Texas," also is authorized for eastern turkeys in portions of seven East Texas counties where the birds have been re-established through stocking.

Prospective eastern turkey hunters should consult the department's 1986-87 Hunting Regulations Guide to determine when the rut was still underway in East Texas, the Edwards Plateau and other regions.

"More awareness among hunters and landowners of the importance of the antlerless harvest jumped to a record 85,500, which is a 28 percent increase over the previous season. The buck harvest also climbed by eight percent to some 41,300. The total estimated harvest in the Pineywoods was 59,700, or a 19 percent increase over 1985.

"Total harvest in the Post Oak Savannah region of East-Central Texas was 44,900, up 18 percent, and the harvest in the Cross-Timbers and Prairies of North-Central Texas climbed 21 percent, to 34,500.

"The harvest of male deer in West Texas also posted gains, with about 16,000 hunters taking 5,200 deer, a 15 percent increase over 1985. The success rate was about 32 percent.

"The javelina harvest increased some 20 percent, with a total harvest of 20,900.

Prevent tax refund check theft

The check is in the mail. Do not let a thief beat you to it!

Each year more than 700 million U.S. Treasury state and local welfare checks are distributed through the mail. Of these, some 200,000 are stolen or reported missing. On uncertain days during this time of year, tax refund checks are being mailed to taxpayers. It is at these times that many mail thefts occur and that letter carriers and postal customers, as well as police officers, should be particularly observant of private mailboxes. Social Security checks, welfare checks, disability payments, and the like are also issued and distributed on certain specific days in most areas.

The objective of the Postal Inspection Service Crime Prevention Program is to anticipate, recognize and remove risks that they relate to mail, postal employees, funds and property. Due to the vastness of our postal system, it is impossible to eliminate all areas of vulnerability to prevent theft.

After the mail has moved out of the internal control of the Postal Service, Postal Inspectors and police officers usually remain alert to attempted larcenies from mail collection boxes and private mailboxes. Actual vandalism against these receptacles also warrants attention.

The mail thief frequently works apartment units where there are many letter boxes, centrally located. Generally, he raids the boxes shortly after the mail is deposited, concentrating on those envelopes that contain government checks. When a suspect is arrested, the mail in his illegal possession must be treated as evidence — seized and recorded — and the Postal Inspector Service notified as soon as possible.

You can protect your mail by:

- Making sure your mailbox is secure.
- Promptly removing mail from mailboxes (especially checks).
- Immediately notifying the post office and mailers if you change your address.
- Reporting non-accept of checks, food stamps and A.P.'s to the issuing agency.
- Immediately advising the Postmaster or Postal Inspector when your mail has been stolen.

Theft of mail can be punishable by \$2,000 or five years imprisonment. Willful injury or destruction of any letter box may be punishable by \$1,000 or three years imprisonment. Problems regarding mail theft and mailbox damage should be reported to your local postmaster and to Postal Inspectors.

Colorado Valley Transit, Inc. to hold public hearing March 27

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by Colorado Valley Transit, Inc. at the Colorado County Agriculture Building, 316 Spring Street, in Columbus at 2 p.m. Friday, March 27 for the purpose of receiving input into 1988-89 area plans for transportation service to the elderly.

At the hearing, Colorado Valley Transit, Inc. will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with respect to social, economic and environmental aspects of the county transportation system. Interested persons may submit orally or in writing evidence and recommendations with respect to the said project.

If you have any questions or require further information please call Vastene Olier at 409-732-6281.

Soil essay, poster winners announced

Theodore Schultz, chairman of the Conservation District, announced the poster and essay contests of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District, announced the names of the winning students of the contests.

Elementary school winners were: Becky Midgett, Sheridan School, first place; Clint Riney, Columbus Elementary School, second, and Allison Grance, Columbus Elementary School, third.

Junior high school winners were: David Peach, Weimar Junior High, first place; Brent Garett Vacke, Weimar Junior High, second, and Faylene Dreiner, St. Michael's Weimar, third.

High school winners were: Jackie Becka, Columbus High School, first place; Suzie Belota, Columbus High School, second, and Garrett Whittier, Weimar High School, third.

The subject of the poster contest was "Resource Conservation."

Winners in the elementary school division were: Carl Lynn Cranek, St. Mary's in Nada, first place; Kristen Brod, Columbus Elementary School, second, and Cheryl Kotzka, Columbus Elementary School, third.

Junior high poster winners were: Keith Hudec, Weimar Junior High, first place; Shirley Perce, Weimar Junior High, second, and Vacki Richter, Weimar Junior High, third.

This year, 193 students entered the district essay contest, and 171 students entered the district poster contest. The winning students, their parents, and their teachers will be honored and recognized at the 38th annual conservation awards banquet to be held on April 9 at the Columbus High School cafeteria at 7 p.m. Other conservation awards winners will also be recognized at the banquet.

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| 5 LBS. OR MORE | LB. \$1.69 |
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Freezer Orders - Catering
Plate Lunches - BBQ

About town...

"In last week's paper, the Headlight unintentionally switched the names of Kevin Schmitt and Fernando Garcia in the Pinewood Derby race picture.

"Activities to be happening around Eagle Lake and surrounding area include: Prairie Edge Players to present The Butler Did It on March 27 and 28 at Prairie Edge Columbus High School.

Museum; Knights of Columbus Las Vegas Night on March 29; Pilot Club chicken spaghetti dinner on April 3 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center; blood drive at Rice High School in Altair this Friday, March 20, and Sheridan 27 men Club dog and cat vaccination clinic on March 27 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at Sheridan Fire Hall.

All-time record deer harvest achieved in 1986

For the third consecutive year, Texas harvested a record number of white-tailed deer.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials estimated that 443,000 white-tails were taken during the 58-day hunting season that ended January 4, an all-time high and an increase of 16 percent over the 1985-86 season total of 383,500.

A number of all-time highs were achieved, including largest overall harvest, highest buck harvest, highest antlerless harvest, largest number of hunters in the field, highest hunter success rate and the highest percentage of antlerless deer in the total harvest.

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said the estimated deer population last fall of some 4.2 million deer was a prime cause for the high harvest. "Even with the record harvest, hunters still only took slightly more than 10 percent of the herd," Gore said.

Gore said there were several factors contributing to the excellent 1986 deer season. They are:

- High deer populations in most of the Rio Grande region, especially the Edwards Plateau, South Texas and East Texas.
- More awareness among hunters and landowners of the importance of the antlerless harvest jumped to a record 85,500, which is a 28 percent increase over the previous season. The buck harvest also climbed by eight percent to some 41,300. The total estimated harvest in the Pineywoods was 59,700, or a 19 percent increase over 1985.
- The largest increase in the antlerless harvest came in the East Texas Pineywoods, where hunters harvested 18,400, which is a 52 percent increase over the previous season. The buck harvest also climbed by eight percent to some 41,300. The total estimated harvest in the Pineywoods was 59,700, or a 19 percent increase over 1985.
- Total harvest in the Post Oak Savannah region of East-Central Texas was 44,900, up 18 percent, and the harvest in the Cross-Timbers and Prairies of North-Central Texas climbed 21 percent, to 34,500.
- The harvest of male deer in West Texas also posted gains, with about 16,000 hunters taking 5,200 deer, a 15 percent increase over 1985. The success rate was about 32 percent.
- The javelina harvest increased some 20 percent, with a total harvest of 20,900.

Pop places third at state KC freethrow

Neysa Popp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Popp of Nada, won third place out of 20 regions in the 12 year old girls division of the Knights of Columbus state freethrow championship on Saturday, March 14 at St. Edward's University Gymnasium in Austin.

Neysa, a student at St. Mary's School in Nada, was sponsored by Nada Knight of Columbus County #3371.

To qualify for state, she had to win first place in local, district and regional competition. Local competition was held by the Nada KC's at the Garwood gym, district play was held in Sealy and regional competition was held in El Campo.

Hard water causes laundry problems

The quality of your local water supply has a lot to do with whether detergents can actually work to get clothes clean, says Dr. Ann Beard, a clothing specialist with Texas A&M University.

"In hard water, much of the detergent added to the washer goes to soften the water instead of clean the clothes," she says. "Over time, clothes washed in hard water become dingy or yellow, develop a build-up of silt, may have a stiff, harsh feel or show white or gray streaks on colored fabrics."

You can compensate for hard water — to a certain extent — by using adequate amounts of low-sudsing phosphate detergent and water as hot as recommended for the fabric. In addition to using extra detergent, water can be treated in the water with a non-precipitating water conditioner, or water softener, commonly sold in powder form in the detergent section of grocery stores.

State information program offers tax relief tips

Taxpayers in Colorado County can learn how to get property tax relief from the Colorado County Central Appraisal District office located in Columbus, according to Ron Patterson, executive director of the State Property Tax Board (SPTB).

Patterson said the SPTB staff is working with appraisal districts and local news media to help make taxpayers aware of filing deadlines for property tax exemptions and other forms of property tax relief.

"Property owners must file rendition forms by March 31 and apply for exemptions and special productive valuation by April 30 this year," Patterson said. Taxpayers should file all exemption and productive value applications, as well as rendition forms, with the local appraisal district.

A rendition is a report a property owner makes listing taxable property owned or managed on January 1, 1987. On it, a taxpayer can record an opinion of the property's value. "If the owner renders a property's value, the appraisal district must notify the owner if it places a higher value on the property," Patterson explained.

Some property owners are required by law to render their property. "Anyone who owns or manages income-producing personal property on January 1 must file a rendition statement with the appraisal district," Patterson said.

The chief appraiser may also receive other property owners or managers to render property; if so, the chief appraiser will send a notice and the appropriate rendition form. Property owners must file renditions by March 31.

Homeowners can usually get tax relief through residence homestead exemptions. "Homestead exemptions help homeowners because they allow a part of a home's value to be exempt from property taxes. This in turn reduces the amount of property taxes assessed on the house," Patterson explained.

Homestead exemptions are available for all qualified homeowners and additional tax relief is now available for persons who are disabled and those who are 65 and older. Elderly homeowners who receive the over-65 homestead exemption also get a "freeze," or ceiling on school taxes.

Disabled veterans, survivors of deceased disabled veterans and survivors of those who died on active duty also receive tax exemptions from all taxing units.

"Farmers and ranchers can also lower their tax bills," Patterson said. "If their land qualifies for productive valuation, the land will be taxed on its ability to produce, instead of its market value." Productive valuation comes in two forms, often referred to by the section of the Texas Constitution that provides them: open-space or "1-d-1" valuation and agricultural or "1-d-2" valuation.

Property owners who last year received homestead exemptions, disabled veterans' exemptions and open-space land valuation do not need to reapply in 1987, unless the chief appraiser requests a new certification to confirm the owner's current qualifications.

Patterson pointed out, however, that property owners who have not previously received tax relief on their present homesteads or land must apply in 1987. Farmers and ranchers who receive agricultural-use valuation must apply for it annually.

People who property is in more than one county appraisal district have an additional responsibility. They may have to file for exemptions and productive valuation in each appraisal district in which the property is located. If they do not, taxing units may tax the property on its full market value.

Applications for exemptions and special valuation must be submitted to the appraisal office by April 30.

Complete information on tax exemptions and rendition requirements is in a pamphlet SPTB produces, "Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies, Responsibilities." The pamphlet also explains how taxpayers can challenge the values placed on their property by protesting to the appraisal review board. The free pamphlet is available from appraisal district offices or from SPTB in Austin.

"Local governments will generate nearly \$9 billion this year," Patterson said. "It will help fund necessary services such as public schools, hospitals, fire and police protection, water, utilities and local colleges."

"I urge all property owners to learn about the property tax process, to file renditions and to take advantage of all forms of tax relief available to them," Patterson said.

Rotary's PolioPlus Program provides polio vaccine for children

Dr. Russell Thomas, local chairman for the PolioPlus Campaign, said attempts to nail down facts in the PolioPlus Campaign can be frustrating. One reason is that accurate health records, including causes of death and disease, are not available from many parts of the world. We often must rely on estimates, generally those of the World Health Organization. Also, health of the world's children changes from year to year, even month to month.

Major disease, malnutrition and injuries cause an estimated 15 million child deaths in developing nations each year. Of the 15 million deaths estimated, an estimated 3.5 million are caused by six diseases that could be prevented by immunization: polio, tuberculosis, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus. These six diseases are those targeted by the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunization, a program originated in 1974.

Rotary International's special commitment is to fight polio; by providing all the polio vaccines needed for up to five years in any approved immunization program; by providing an expert team to help plan and implement an immunization campaign; when invited; and by rallying Rotarians of the targeted country to mobilize themselves and other elements of the private business and professional sectors to support the campaign.

To guarantee polio protection for every child, Dr. Albert Sabin, a key early advisor to Rotary's PolioPlus Program, recommends giving two doses of oral vaccine each year for three years — six doses total. The cost of vaccines purchased for PolioPlus projects is projected to average 4 cents per dose. Rotary's pledge is to provide all the vaccine needed for any approved national or regional immunization program for up to five years. Based on the estimate of 100 million babies born

each year in countries where polio is not yet controlled, the following formula was developed: 100,000,000 (newborns a year) x 6 (doses) x .04 x 5 (years) = \$120,000,000.

PolioPlus was first called Polio 2005 because the target date for immunizing all the world's children against polio was 2005, Rotary's 100th anniversary year. Very soon it was recognized that many children unprotected from polio would be maimed or die while the campaign was being carried on. In supporting the goals of the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunization, Rotary endorses the hope that vaccination against polio and the other childhood diseases can be made available to every child by the year 1990. Beyond that, we want to accomplish the goal of eliminating polio from the world no later than 2005.

Administration and fund-raising costs must be supported by the PolioPlus Fund itself, not by other Rotary Foundation resources. But these costs may not exceed 10 percent of the projected amount to be raised.

The local Rotarians are selling chances for a 1987 Lincoln Towcar in the form of raffle tickets, as a means of raising monies for this most valued project. The raffle tickets are being sold throughout the New Orleans Rotarian District and can be purchased from any Rotarian until March 31. You may also contact any member for further information concerning this project. The drawing for the lucky ticket holder will be in May.

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A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable value. For example, if your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$5,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if were worth only \$45,000.

You qualify for a homestead exemption if you owned your home on January 1 and used it as your primary residence on January 1. It doesn't matter whether your home is a house, a condominium or a mobile home.

Exemptions are available to all homeowners to lower their school taxes. Additional exemptions are available to homeowners who are disabled or age 65 and over. Other exemptions may be offered to homeowners by school districts, counties, cities, and special districts. All taxing units offer exemptions to disabled veterans.

The deadline for applications is April 30, 1987. Contact your appraisal district before then if you need more time.

For more information, get a free copy of the pamphlet, Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies, Responsibilities, at your appraisal district office or from the State Property Tax Board in Austin.

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