

# HELOTES ECHO

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 14

HELOTES, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS July 18, 1980

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## Person-to-Person

The record heat wave continued in Helotes this week, with the daily high temperature continuing to be 100 degrees or higher, for every day since June 30.

Robert Charles Walters of Route 15, Box 188M has been selected for inclusion in the 1980 edition of "Outstanding Young Men in America," a project of the U.S. Jaycees. The criteria for selection include the men's voluntary service to their community, professional leadership, academic achievement, business advancement, cultural accomplishments and civic and political participation.

Dr. Joel Saegert has been named assistant vice president for academic affairs at UTSA. He has been an associate professor of marketing there since 1976. He has both a bachelor's and a doctor's degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Mrs. Russell Zweiner, vacationing in Las Vegas recently, looked up from the slot machine she was playing in one of the casinos and saw a neighbor from the Helotes area, Bertha Stovall of San Geronimo, also vacationing there. They greeted each other with surprise and delight among all the strangers in that place far from Helotes.

Benny and Modesto Lyon of Helotes Park Estates are back from an eight-day vacation in the mountains of New Mexico and southern Colorado. They reported morning temperatures in the 40's, although the daytime temperatures ranged fairly high.

The new manager of Handy-Andy No. 40 in Helotes is Harry Harris, a former assistant manager of another store in the Handy-Andy system.

Installment credit hit a record-high \$300 billion at the first of the year — excluding mortgages and loans by parents to make down payments, says Bonnie Piernot, a family resource management specialist.

## Folklife Festival To Be In S.A.

### University Bank To Open New Building Saturday



New headquarters of University National Bank at IH-10 and Loop 1604.

The surroundings may be new but the opening will be as old fashioned as ragtime and jazz, barber shop quartet singing and an antique car display from the San Antonio Museum of Transportation.

That's how University National Bank will celebrate the opening of its new headquarters on IH-10 and Loop 1604, Saturday, July 19, starting at 1 p.m.

Along with inspecting the new banking facilities, guests will be

treated to the sounds of Chuck Reilly and the Alamo City Jazz Band and two barber shop quartets, "The Dawn Patrol" and the all-girl "Close Chord Encounter."

In addition to the sounds of jazz and four-part harmony, Congressman Tom Loeffler, Mayor Lila Cockrell and San Antonio City Councilman Gene Canavan will also appear to help officially open the new home of the three-year-old bank.

Construction on the 7,500 sq. ft. new home of University National Bank began in December of last year. It was designed by the Marmon Mok Partnership and built by Davis Constructors. University National Bank currently has assets in excess of \$17 million. San Antonio Attorney Ralph Langley is chairman of the board of University National Bank, and David J. Smiser is its president and chief executive officer.



Congressman Tom Loeffler, scheduled to take part in the Old Fashioned Opening ceremonies Saturday, for the new University Bank Building, is shown during a recent event in Washington. Rep. Loeffler, right, is accepting an award for his efforts to protect rural telephone subscribers.

The presentation was made by Eleanor Haskin from Vermont, president of the Organization for the Protection and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies.

In the background are two of the many executives of telephone companies from throughout the Nation present for the ceremony. They are Glenn Bergland, president of Lake Mills (Iowa) Telephone Company; and H. Zeine Goatcher, executive vice president of Cimarron Telephone Company (Mannford, Okla.)

## Activities At HemisFair Start July 31

The ninth Texas Folklife Festival will open Thursday, July 31, at the Institute of Texan Cultures on HemisFair Plaza and continue through Sunday night, August 3.

The festival will offer a 15-acre tour that equals visits to the better part of two continents. Eight stages scattered across the grounds spotlight music and dance. Every style and form of entertainment can be sampled, from a fiddlers' contest to a Czech family band and a Polish royalty dance to Spanish flamenco.

Chefs from 31 ethnic, cultural and national groups will vie for the visitors' attention with their exotic blends of homestyle cooking. And they all share recipes. Those with small appetites can sample as many different dishes as their heartier friends because cooks offer 20 or 40 cent samples along with the larger, full-priced portions.

Festival visitors can have their fancies tickled by the numerous storytellers who tell yarns while rocking in oversized wooden chairs placed under shade trees. Not to be outdone, most of the craftspeople, demonstrators and artists are as skilled with their tongues as they are with their hands, and tell funny, adventuresome stories. The result is a vivid picture of Texas life told by those who lived it.

Advance ticket prices are \$3 for adults, \$1 for children under 13, and children under six are admitted free of charge. At the gate, prices go up to \$4 for adults. A hand stamp allows visitors to enter and leave the festival grounds as often as they wish during a single day.

Low cost shuttle bus service will be available from downtown parking lots. Park

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

## UTSA Sets Registration

August 1 is the priority deadline for students who want to attend the 1980 fall semester at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Students who have submitted the necessary paperwork to the university by that date will be considered for admission first, according to Dr. John H. Brown, director of admissions

and registrar.

The fall semester at UTSA will begin August 25. Regular registration will be August 20-21 in the Convocation Center on campus.

For more information about admission and registration, phone the UTSA Office of Admissions and Registrar, 691-4530.



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*Lloyd Murphy is the only District 45 candidate who is fighting for conservative leadership in Texas government. He is travelling this large seven-county district every day in trying to meet the 50,000 voters. He expects to visit this area weekly during the next 12 weeks before the Nov. 4 General Election. Watch this newspaper to find out when he'll be visiting and try to meet him.*

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## Robertson To Head Cornyval 81

Jerry Robertson of Braun Station has been elected president of the Helotes Spring Festival Association for 1980-81 and will be in charge of the 1981 Cornyval next May.

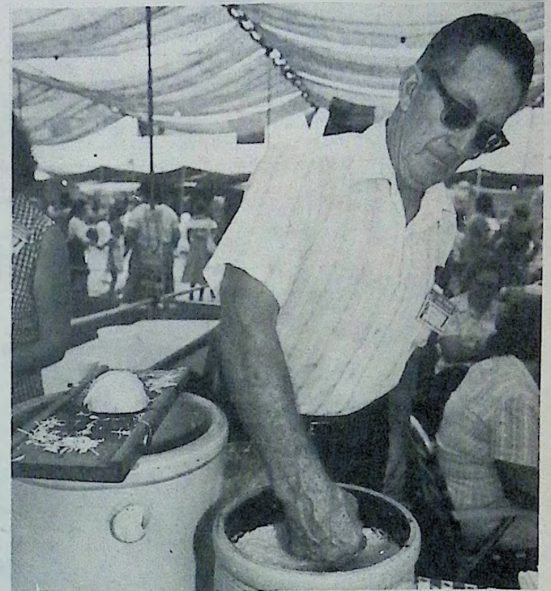
Other new officers elected this week are Fred Wendt, executive vice president; Bill Maskew, first vice president; Ken Sanders, second vice president; Barbara DiMartino, third vice president; and Helen Wendt, secretary. Re-elected treasurer was Neva Goodpaster.

Jim Benke, outgoing president, reported at the association meeting Monday night on the Floore Country Store patio that the 1980 Cornyval produced net receipts of approximately \$11,500. The expenses were about \$10,000.

Of the \$11,500 over expenses, \$5,000 has been set aside for expenses for preparing for the 1981 Cornyval. The remaining \$6,500 may be applied to the purchase of a building to be the permanent headquarters of the association. The members voted Monday night to have Benke and a special committee investigate possible locations in Helotes and report back at the September meeting.

A barbecue party for all workers in the 1980 Cornyval will be held Saturday, August 16, at the Braun Station East swimming pool. The party will be open to all persons who assisted behind the scenes or in the parade, dances, booths, coronation or special events.

## Texas Folklife Festival Will Open July 31



The Kendall County Community, with members from Boerne, Bandera and Comfort, preserve German traditions at the Texas Folklife Festival. This year's Festival will be held July 31-August 3 on the grounds of The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio. The Kendall County Community will hold a sauerkraut school, and wine-making, tatting and crocheting demonstrations. Advance Festival tickets are now on sale for \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 13. Children under six are admitted free. Gate tickets will be \$4.00. The Festival is a special program of The Institute of Texan Cultures.

### THE LEON VALLEY DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC, P.A.

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF

### THE LEON VALLEY CHILDREN'S CLINIC

and the association of

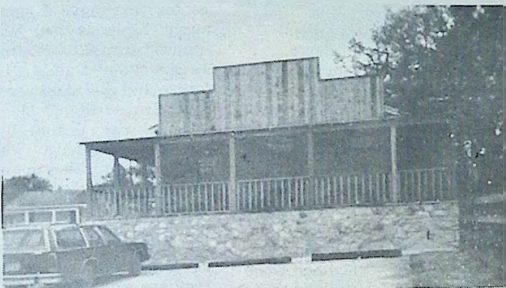
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[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

and Ride buses coming from Wonderland Mall on IH-10 will take visitors to the festival grounds for a \$1.50 round trip fee.

The festival is to be open from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, and from noon until 11 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Aug. 1, 2 and 3).

## Gary McMillan Dies At 33

Gary McMillan, a well-known C & W musician in this area, died in Nashville, Tenn. on July 4, at the age of 33. Funeral services were held Monday, July 7 in Eagle Pass with burial at Quemado, Texas.

A native Texan, he had a Country & Western band in San Antonio before moving to Nashville, where he was a member of the C & W Association. He was a professional draftsman and was employed by a Nashville drafting company at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, and two little daughters, Starr Lynn and Shelley Rene. In addition to his mother, Jonell McMillan, he leaves two sister. They are Darla Henrich and Linda Johnson, who is manager of Klipz 'N Klotz Beauty Shop and Boutique at Helotes Park Plaza.

Sympathy is extended to his family in their loss.

**Farm Safety**  
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## New Woolco Will Open

A new San Antonio Woolco Department Store will open Wednesday, July 23, at 6700 Huebner Road in Leon Valley.

Official Opening ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. with San Antonio radio personality Bruce Hathaway serving as master of ceremonies. On hand for the occasion will be Ken Alley, mayor of Leon Valley, and Charles Dempsey, president of the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous business people and local dignitaries.

The ribbon-cutting honors will be given to Bonnie Edwards, personnel supervisor.

According to Mr. Jesus

DeLaSantos, manager of the new Woolco. "Our new store offers 90,000 square feet of modern shopping and service facilities, including spacious aisles, air-conditioning and a wide variety of merchandise for the home and family. In fact, the new outlet will be a full-time department store, selling all merchandise at competitive prices."

This Woolco also features a Red Grill, offering fast-food sandwich-and-burger lunches as well as more complete meals.

The public is invited to attend the opening ceremony.

## Christmas IS Coming

Christmas IS coming, so get ready, set, and go NOW... and "do some Christmas things" this summer.

If you don't read on, you'll have only yourself to blame when Christmas catches you unprepared this year.

Lillian Chenoweth, a family resource management specialist, says spending some time and money on

Christmas now will actually avoid most of the frantic, "short-money," rushy things about Christmas later.

Mrs. Chenoweth, on the home economics staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System, says early planning and action makes almost everything about Christmas easy.

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Saturday, August 2—

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Saturday, August 9—

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BLACK MOUNTAIN

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Saturday, August 16—

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Sunday, August 17—

SOUTHERN COMFORT

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Friday, August 22—

DARRELL McCALL

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Saturday, August 23—

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Saturday, August 30—

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## HELOTES ECHO

"Ye shall know the Truth"  
VOLUME 16, NUMBER 14  
JULY 18, 1980

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In the past two years, the productivity of the nation's trucking industry rose an average of eight percent a year. The productivity and efficiency gains have been returned to the consumer in the form of lower costs.

## Pinatas Came From Orient With Marco Polo's Help

Pinatas. They are several centuries old, their origins aren't known and they've become a \$225,000 a year business in South Texas alone. That's an amazing history for a paper-covered clay jar.

Pinatas, in all their colorful shapes and forms, will be on exhibit at the Institute of Texan Cultures till August 11 for visitors to touch while discovering the game's origins, history, folklore and importance in Mexican society.

The brightly colored, fanciful pinatas will dangle from the ceiling of the Hall of Mirrors on the main exhibit floor of the Institute at HemisFair Plaza. Accompanying the pinatas are text panels detailing their more than 400-year history and a case will explain and show how they are made.

The pinata game of hitting an object-filled clay jar was possibly brought westward from the Orient by Marco Polo, who described this game to his Italian compatriots. The Renaissance rules required a blindfolded person to swing at a pineapple-shaped object dangling overhead. When the 'pignatta' (the Italian name for the

jar) was broken, jewels and baubles tumbled out and the players scrambled for possession.

The game was taken from Italy in the mid-16th Century and the Spaniards adopted and adapted the pastime. Incorporating it into Spain's religion-centered culture, they designated the first Sunday of Lent as Pinata Sunday and gave the game religious significance. (The pot represented evil; its contents, temptation; and the blindfolded player, the childlike blind faith that overcomes evil.)

The container, or "olla," was a squat, ugly water vessel. To disguise its homely appearance, the Spaniards added layers of clay shaped to look like religious symbols and then decorated the pot with dried flowers, feathers and wood. Also, the Spaniards chose to call the entire game, not just the decorated pot, pinata.

When the conquistadores claimed the New World for Spain, they took more than their religion with them. They also shared their customs and celebrations with the conquered people. The pinata was included in that exchange. The game's enthusiastic welcome in Mexico gave the ancient pastime new life and a new look. The Mexicans used it at Christmas, and at birthday parties and other special occasions. They changed its appearance further when

tissue paper became available and began making pinatas decorated like roses and carrots and fanciful animals.

When American tourists

began traveling to Mexico, they bought pinatas faster than pinatas could be made. Now many are made in San Antonio.

## Have Checks Sent To Bank

People receiving social security checks in the San Antonio area can have them deposited directly into a checking or savings account at a financial institution of their choice. Gilbert G. Gonzalez, Social Security district manager in San Antonio said recently. Direct deposit has several advantages, Gonzalez said, including:

- No worry about the check being lost.
- No worry about the check lying in the mailbox when away from home.
- Savings in time and transportation and no standing in line to cash or deposit check.
- Money in an account is safer than carrying cash.

A person can deal with any financial institution he or she chooses, to arrange direct deposit, a person should complete Form SF-1199 available at the financial institution. A monthly benefit check shows all the information necessary.

Direct Deposit only authorizes deposits into your account; it does not authorize withdrawals.

## Pola Negri Gives Statue

A classic, bronze sculpture of Pola Negri, one of Hollywood's greatest stars of the silent film era, was given to the permanent art collection of Trinity University by the film actress, President Ronald Reagan announced this week.

Crafted in Paris in 1928 by artist Jose Maria Sert, the bronze sculpture is Miss Negri's second gift to the University. In 1965 the film star gave Trinity her personal collection of 450 volumes of books and periodicals on theater, costume and design plus other literary works of American and European writers.



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## Indian Arts Depicted



Helotes Indian lore is being studied by several local groups with the intention of preserving traditions. Here, a local housewife, Teri McVey, who took part in the Indian ceremonies during Cornyal '80, depicts Little Snow Owl, a young Indian squaw.

She is posing for a commissioned work by Artist Paul Kime, who was one of the directors of the pageant. He has made a study of Indians and is well-known for his Western art.

Lynn Menchaca, who portrays Morning Star in the pageant, has announced that a meeting will be held, with an expert on Indian dances and costumes as guest director to plan future pageants. The date is tentatively set for August 23 at PARC Building. Everyone interested in joining the dance group is invited.

## Lionesses Plan Sale At PARC

For those who enjoy shopping for gifts and contributing at the same time to a worthy cause, the Lioness Club of Helotes has the answer.

The Lionesses will sponsor a sale of Princess House Crystal, with items ranging from \$6.95 to \$36.95 to be held at PARC Building at the Helotes Hills United Methodist Church on Tuesday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m. Twenty per cent of all net sales will go to the Club project, the Crippled Children's Camp building fund.

Joy L. Smith, consultant for Princess House, a subsidiary of Colgate-Palmolive, displayed some lead crystal products at the Tuesday meeting of Lionesses held in the party room of El Chaparral Mexican Restaurant. The Lions, meeting jointly, had a report from the District Lion's Club on the exchange program for foreign students, also.

Harley Halstead, deputy district governor of the Lions requested Helotes Lions participation in hosting some of the 43 students to visit in this area July 28 as guests of the Lions Clubs.

For those who wish more details about the upcoming sale, Robin Williams, president of the Lionesses, may be contacted.

## Dog Parovirus Cases Rise

Fifty-six confirmed cases of canine parvovirus, an often fatal disease in dogs, have been found in Bexar County, survey of 67 local animal hospitals has disclosed. The survey, conducted by Veterinary Medical Association of Bexar County, also indicated that a total of 281 cases were suspected.

"The disease," said Mary E. Mainster, D.V.M., association president, "is highly contagious. It is spread by feces and urine and can live for a long

time outside of the animal's body."

The veterinarian said there is a vaccine which is effective if administered early.

"The symptoms," she continued, "are primarily those of vomiting and diarrhea together with loss of appetite and dehydration. Parvovirus has a 50 percent mortality rate, with older dogs having a better chance of survival than young animals."

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## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special election for the office of mayor of the city of Grey Forest, on Saturday, August 9, 1980.

Said election will be held at the City Hall in Grey Forest. The polls at the City Hall will be open from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 7:00 o'clock P.M. on this day.

Absentee voting for the election shall be held at the city hall, beginning on the 20th day and continuing through the 4th day preceding the election. Said place of voting shall remain open between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 4:00 o'clock P.M.

Dated this the 15th day of July, 1980.

**Fay Scarborough**  
City Secretary

**Kathy Waldrop**  
Mayor Pro-Tempore  
City of Grey Forest, Texas

## NOTICIA OFICIAL

(Se da aviso por le presente que se llevara a cabo una Eleccion de Funcionarios de la Ciudad el dia 9 de August de 1980, en la ciudad arriba mencionada para el proposito de elegir a los siguientes funcionarios para dicho ciudad: Alcalde Dicha eleccion se llevara a cabo City Hall en Grey Forest.

Los sitios de votacion arriba designados para dica eleccion se mantendran abiertos en el mencionado dia de elecciones de las 7 a.m. a las 7 p.m.

La votacion ausente para la eleccion arriba designada se llevara a cabo en el Edificio City Hall, en dicha ciudad, y dicho lugar de votacion ausente se mantendra abierto por lo menos ocho horas en cada dia de votacion ausente no siendo sabado, domingo o dia festivo oficial del Estado, principiando 20 dias y continuando hasta el cuarto dia anteriores a la fecha de dicha eleccion. Dicho lugar de votacion se mantendra abierto de las 9 a.m. a las 4 p.m.

Fechado esta dia 15 de Julio de 1980.)

**Fay Scarborough**  
City-Secretary

**Kathy Waldrop**  
Mayor (Alcalde)  
Pro Tempore  
Ciudad de Grey Forest, Texas

## Baptists Set Fall Studies

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's off-campus center at Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio has announced its schedule for the 1980-81 academic year.

The San Antonio campus will offer fall courses in Systematic Theology, Elementary Greek, the Pastoral Epistles, the Book of James, Survey of Adult Education, and Educational Psychology.

The purpose of Southwestern Seminary is to provide graduate theological education for men and women preparing

for Christian ministry. The off-campus extension program enables persons already involved in ministry to be trained without leaving their fields of service.

Admission to the off-campus center is on the same basis as to the main seminary campus in Fort Worth. Application should be made to the Director of Admissions, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX/76122.

August 1 is the deadline for fall application. Classes start September 1.

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# ECHO-LOG

[Note: The Log is a list of selected special interest events which may appeal to some readers. Events that continue more than one day are listed under the opening day only.]

## FRIDAY, JULY 18

Photograph exhibit, "City Landscapes," black and white prints by Michael Johnson, continues in San Antonio Main Library, S. St. Mary's and Market Sts., daily during library hours. The exhibit will close July 31. Admission free.

Exhibit of the San Antonio Dollmakers Guild will open, Westfall Branch Library, IH-10 and Vance-Jackson Rd., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. A variety of doll types will be shown. The exhibit will continue through Aug. 15. Admission free.

## THURSDAY, JULY 24

Summit Oaks chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet, Trinity United Methodist Church, 5319 Newcome, 1 p.m. For FUN DAY. Guests welcome.

## SUNDAY, JULY 27

Benefit jazz concert by Beto and the Fairlanes and Pianist Nobuko, La Villita Assembly Hall, 5 p.m. Admission \$5. All proceeds will go to the Bexar County Easter Seal Society. The concert is to be produced by KTUF Radio.

Panel discussion on American sculpture with Gerry Frost of San Antonio, David Deming of Austin and James Surls of Splendor, Witte Museum, 2:30 p.m., in connection with Witte's current exhibit, "Vanguard American Sculpture: 1913-1939." Admission \$1.50.

## TUESDAY, JULY 29

"Tenant Organizing: Developing a strong tenant voice in San Antonio" will be the topic of a seminar sponsored by the Women's Law Center, Government Employees Credit Union, IH-10 at Vance-Jackson Rd., 7 p.m. Admission free.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Exhibit of the work of photographer Alan Peeler will open, Westfall Branch Library, IH-10 at Vance-Jackson Rd., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and continue throughout August. Admission free.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Dedication of the Old Spanish Missions Historical Research Library at Our Lady of the Lake University, 10 a.m., will open La Semana de las Misiones, a five-day celebration of the history and heritage of the five Spanish missions in San Antonio. On August 4 the celebration will present living history demonstrations of pottery making, weaving and cooking at La Espada Mission.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

The Michelob Light Grand Champions tennis tournament, for professionals 35 years of age or older, will open, Northern Hills Country Club, 7 p.m. Admission \$250 (for four persons for the four nights of the competition). Ends August 10.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

The San Antonio Police Department will hold an auction of motor vehicles unclaimed by former owners, Police Storage Lot, 3625 Growdon Rd., 10 a.m.

## Election Set For Mayor

Grey Forest will hold a special election Saturday, August 9, to choose a new mayor. Two candidates filed before the deadline, Columbus Stutes and Manuel Vara.

The winner will succeed Virginia Springer, who resigned as mayor in June. Her term actually ended in April, but she

continued in office after the write-in winner of the regular election refused to take the office.

The election will be held in the Grey Forest city hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on August 9. Absentee voting will begin July 20.

## Announcement

To date, two candidates have timely filed for the office of Mayor of the City of Grey Forest in the upcoming election on August 9, 1980.

These two candidates are Mr. Columbus Stutes and Mr. Manuel Vara.

## Ella McDermott Dies At 87

Miss Ella May McDermott, 87, of San Antonio, a longtime visitor to Helotes and aunt of Mrs. Charles Brown here, died on Wednesday, July 9, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, of a heart attack.

Miss McDermott, who was born in Rock Rapids, Iowa on Nov. 8, 1892, lived in San Antonio for about 60 years. She was active in many civic and social clubs and worked at Kelly Field in civil service from the entrance of the United States into World War II until her retirement about 16 years ago.

She was in excellent health until the time of her death and was active in the parish of St. Pius X Catholic Church.

As a Bicentennial gift to her extensive family she published a Genealogy of the allied families of her grandparents, all whom came from Ireland. Some 750 living members descended from McDermott, McGivern, Gallagher, and Gillespie, are recorded in the book.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mildred Condon of San Antonio, and 20 nieces and nephews as well as many great-nieces and nephews. Among her survivors in this area, in addition to Mrs. Brown are her niece Mrs. Drusilla Perkins Kazen of San Antonio, and the children of her late nephew, Douglas Perkins, a former teacher at John Marshall High School.

Her friends of many years and relatives gathered for funeral services at Pope Pius X Church on Saturday, July 12 and for the rosary on Friday before. Officiating at the Funeral Mass was Msgr. Maneth, pastor.

Other relatives of Miss McDermott gathered in Peoria, Illinois for final services and burial at St. Mary's Cemetery alongside her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh J. McDermott.

Miss McDermott's influence will remain on those who knew her.

## Lifeline Rates Said Needed

San Antonio consumers should have lifeline electric rates adopted by City Public Service Board so that everyone can afford to have the energy necessary to meet basic needs. This is the opinion of two attorneys from the Bexar County Legal Aid Association.

Legal Aid attorneys Marc Schnall and Jose Rodriguez also urged CPSB to adopt policies that will prevent cutoffs of electricity to consumers when it is dangerous to health, such as during severe weather in winter or summer. CPSB should provide fair hearings to consumers who dispute the cutoff and give two separate advance notices before termination, they said. Special consideration should also be given to elderly and handicapped consumers before

cutoffs.

A lifeline rate will offer a minimum amount of energy necessary to meet basic needs at an affordable price. Concluding that a small energy consumer pays more-per kilowatt hour than a large user under the

present rate structure, Legal Aid said that CPSB has a responsibility, as a public utility, to establish a lifeline rate so that energy costs can be equitably distributed to everyone, including the poor, elderly and handicapped.



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## Electric Bills Average 37% Higher In Heat

The current heat wave has prompted numerous questions from City Public Service customers on how to use energy most efficiently during hot weather.

Richard V. Gonzalez, CPS' Superintendent of Consumer Information, said, "Electrical usage is always highest at this time of year, but it's particularly true this year because record-breaking temperatures are causing cooling equipment to work longer and harder to overcome the heat."

As a result of the high consumption, the average amount on residential electric bills is running 37% higher than a year ago. Customers having difficulty paying their bills can contact CPS' Customer Service Center, 225-2541, to see if the due date can be extended, Gonzalez said.

"We've always cooperated with our customers facing financial hardship," he added, "but for us to be of assistance, it's essential the customer let us know that a financial hardship exists."

To keep electrical usage at a reasonable level, Gonzalez recommended adjusting air conditioners so room temperatures are at 78-80 degrees. He suggested using a thermometer to check for the proper temperature range instead of relying solely on the air conditioner's thermostat.

He added that air conditioner filters should be cleaned every two weeks to avoid lint and dust build-up, thus keeping the unit at peak efficiency. Drapes or shades on windows exposed to the sun should be closed during the daytime, and it's a good idea to shield areas of a house exposed to sunlight by use of vines or awnings. Likewise, it's wise to grow shade trees that lose their leaves in winter so the house can benefit from the sun's warmth during the cold weather.

Gonzalez further advised customers not to cool unused rooms, to avoid excessive openings of refrigerators and freezers and to be sure to keep windows and doors closed when air conditioning is being used.

Other summer energy-saving tips which Gonzalez mentioned are as follows:

- Use electric fans, which are relatively inexpensive to operate, to help improve air circulation.
- Use heat-producing appliances sparingly. Reduce cooking time to a minimum, and use small cooking appliances when possible to avoid heating up the entire kitchen.
- Weather-strip or caulk around doors to the outside or to

unused areas to prevent loss of cooling. Metal weather-stripping is more durable than felt.

Gonzalez noted that the Consumer Information Division has a number of pamphlets containing summer energy conservation hints. Staff members are available by phone at 227-3211, Ext. 302, to answer customers' inquiries pertaining to energy conservation.

## Campout Course Studies Texas Animals, Plants

For people who think college consists of attending lectures on campus and completing reading and writing assignments at home, a course offered at UTSA last month would astonish them.

Thirty-three students and three faculty members departed in four vans to study plant and animal ecology from the pine forests of Bastrop to the mountains of Big Bend and the deserts of West Texas.

The 18-day extended campout turned typical college students into tanned, toughened campers

and backpackers, according to Dr. O. W. Van Auken, associate professor of plant ecology in the Division of Allied Health and Life Sciences. The other two faculty were Drs. George Gamboa and James Rutledge, assistant professors in the same division.

The purpose of the short course was to expose students to plants and animals indigenous to various parts of the state. The group traveled to the Blackland Prairies, to the Amistad area near Del Rio and Seminole Canyon before spending

five days in the Chihuahuan Desert at the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area. They hiked to an elevation of about 8,000 feet as they studied the flora and fauna of Big Bend and the Guadalupe Mountains and then returned to a desert environment in the Monahans Sand Hills.

The students were assigned research projects which included a study of the distribution of certain desert plants, a comparison of desert plant water potentials, mobbing behavior in birds, hummingbird behavior and a study of digger wasps and their prey selection activity patterns.

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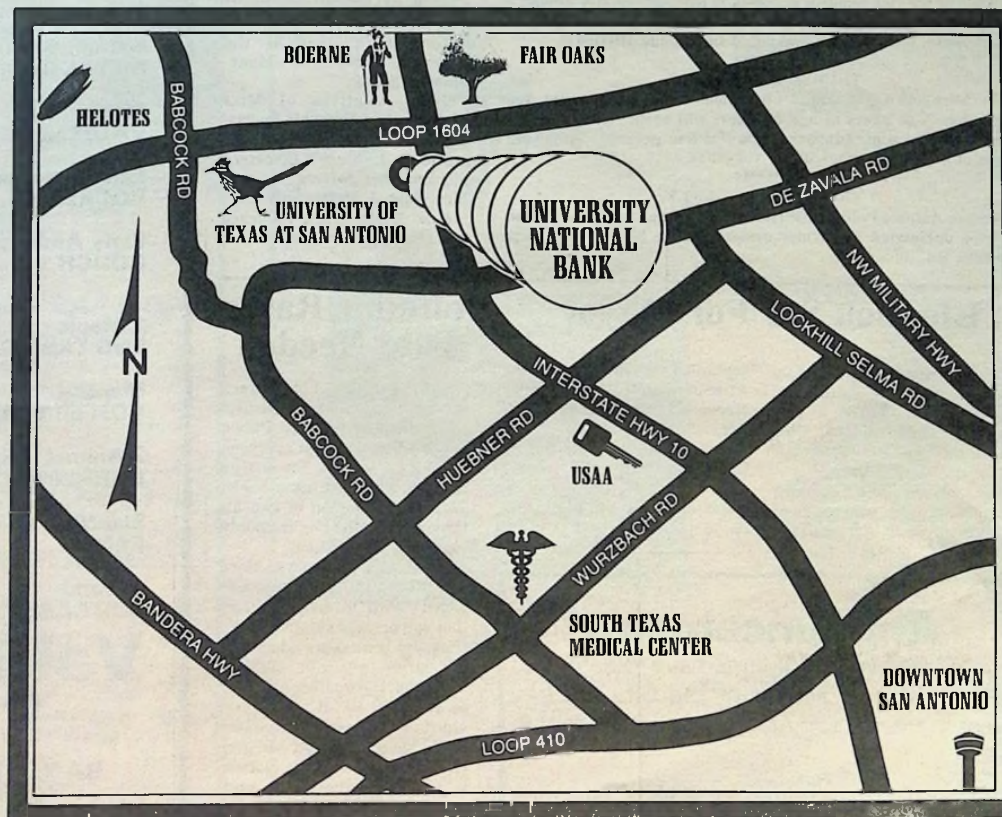
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