

Local / State



Margie Hardy, a grounds maintenance worker at Texas A&M University, trims vines near the Old English Annex as part of the winter maintenance program. Staff photo by Colin Valentine

Begin preparing for spring

Hints for winter lawn care

By JUDY ALLS
Battalion Reporter
During the winter when lawns, trees and gardens turn brown, they are usually taken for dead. However, all of these outdoor plants are actually alive and still need attention and care.

in a plant's health, said Steve Brownlee, who works in the landscape maintenance and design department at The Greenery on Texas Avenue.

Brownlee offered the following suggestions for winter lawn care:
— Lawns should be watered once or twice a month to keep the ground from getting hard and cracked.

— Trees should be checked regularly for suckers, which are stems that come out from the main stump below the branch growth. Unless they are removed, these stems will stunt the tree's growth, and may deprive the tree of nutrients.

— Dead branches should be removed by cutting them at an angle with sharp shears. The stump then should be sealed to keep the sap from running out.

— Putting straw around the base of trees will help retain heat and moisture.

Winter is the best time to start preparing gardens, Brownlee said. Leaves raked from the yard should be spread over the garden

along with fertilizer, shredded newspaper, potato skins and water, which will help keep the ground moist, he said.

Flowerbeds should be kept clean to eliminate extra work in the spring and perennials should be fertilized and watered well once during the winter, Brownlee said.

Bulb flowers such as gladiolas and tulips should be dug up and kept in a dark place. When frost is no longer a threat, bulbs can be returned to the bed, he said.

Rose bushes should be pruned far back so they will grow taller and thicker in the spring, Brownlee said.

Rex Carey declares candidacy for House

Rex Carey, a Democrat from Midlothian, has announced his candidacy for the sixth district in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Carey, 42, who is expected to face opposition from incumbent Phil Gramm, D-College Station, said he plans to run an issues-

oriented campaign.

"A sound, strong Social Security system, reduced interest rates, economic stability and more equitable tax and spending programs will be the cornerstones of my campaign," Carey said.

While Carey favors more balanced defense and domestic spending programs, he also supports a return to the military draft.

"A draft is necessary to improve America's military capability," Carey said. "It will accomplish this by insuring that all economic and educational segments of our country are represented in the military."

Carey, a native of Stephenville, graduated from Baylor University in 1961 and received a master's degree in government from the University of Texas in 1967.

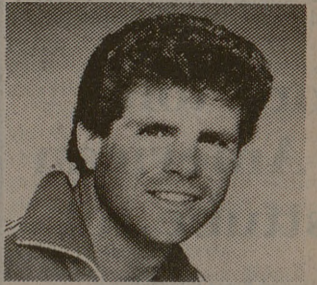
Buried alive record set

United Press International
KILLEEN — At 7 p.m. Saturday, "Country" Bill White plans to emerge — after 140 days — from a buried 3-by-3-by-6-foot plywood box, equipped with a television and telephone, and get a shower.

White broke his own record for being buried alive — 134 days, two hours and 55 minutes — on Sunday.

After his shower, White plans to visit a woman in England who started a romance with him by phone several weeks ago.

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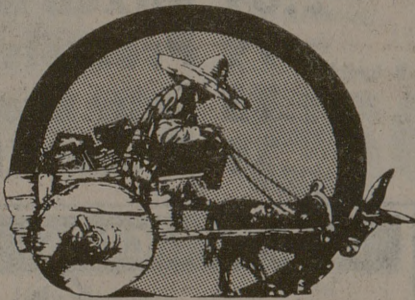
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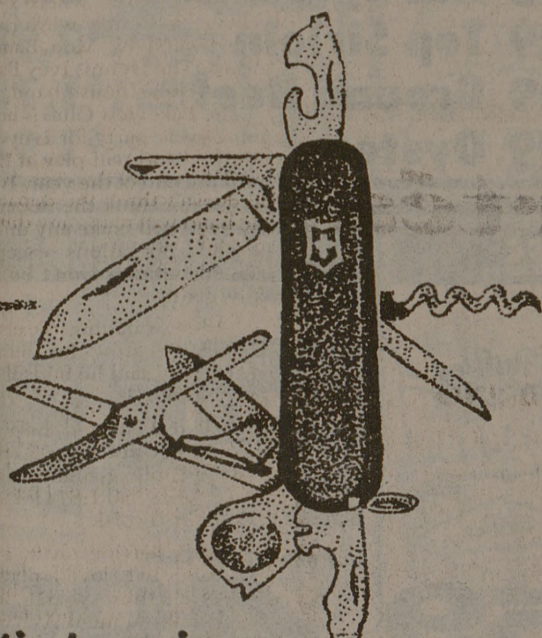
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