

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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HighMount Exploration tops 2008 list of county taxpayers

HighMount Exploration and Production, L.L.C. ranks as Schleicher County's top taxpayer for 2008 with \$34,754,590.00 of taxable value, which equates to a tax bill of \$748,162.05.

The lions share of that amount, or \$406,628.70 will go to the school district. SCISD's tax rate this year is \$1.17 per \$100 valuation. Schleicher County will claim the next largest slice of the pie at \$194,7836.79 with a tax rate of \$0.6165. Schleicher County Hospital District is next in line and will receive \$97,278.09 which it generates with a tax rate of \$0.2799. Meanwhile, Plateau Underground Water District, the smallest taxing entity in the county will receive the balance of HighMount's tax offering, some \$8,688.65. The water district's tax rate this year stands at \$.0250.

Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P was the county's top tax payer last year. The company was recently acquired by HighMount Exploration. The company's total tax bill last year came in at \$446,916.02. This year's levy represents an increase of \$301,246.03 which Chief Appraiser Janie Mitchell says is attributable to new wells coming on line since the last tax bills went out.

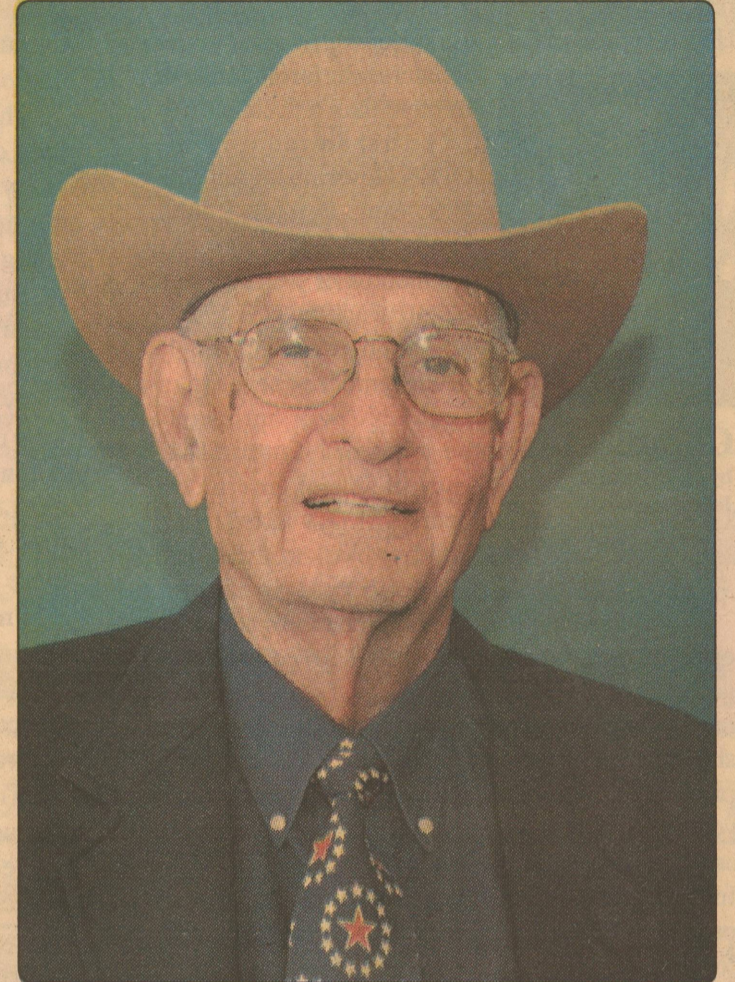
The remainder of the county's top ten taxpayers are all energy companies, except for the YFZ Ranch, which again placed 4th on the overall list.

Rounding out the top ten were: 2. Approach Operating, L.L.C. \$30,819,080.00; 3. Pogo Producing, Company \$22,878,710.00; 4. YFZ Land, L.L.C. \$20,191,850.00; 5. BJ Services, Inc. \$11,042,880; 6. Discovery Operating, Inc. \$9,685,050.00; 7. DGP Schleicher \$9,453,680.00; 8. Diamond S Energy \$9,121,840.00; 9. Unit Petroleum Company \$7,687,900.00; and 10. Southtex 66 Pipeline Company \$5,051,740.00

The City of Eldorado, which may collect taxes only within the city limits had a much smaller tax roll. AEP Texas North Company topped the list of city taxpayers with a taxable value of \$822,720.00.

The remainder of the city's top ten consisted of: 2. First National Bank of Eldorado \$682,920.00; 3. National Oilwell Varco \$489,950.00; 4. Eldorado Place Apartments \$420,700.00; 5. Verizon Southwest \$386,430.00; 6. Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. \$342,310.00; 7. Griffin Oil Company \$286,870.00; 8. Enterprise Rent-A-Car \$259,000.00; 9. Gerald V. Cryer \$242,680.00; and, 10. H.G. White \$217,200.00.

The city's tax rate this year stands at \$0.8531 per \$100 valuation. Chief Appraiser Janie Mitchell explained that the appraised values and tax payments listed above do not reflect discounts available for early payment.



Joe Ed Spencer

PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Spencer announces as candidate for County Judge

Joe Ed Spencer, a local rancher, is filing for the position of County Judge, subject to the Republican Primary. Spencer has over thirty years experience in Public Administration and Fiscal Management. He has served in Administrative capacities at Sul Ross State University, Tarrant County College, and Austin Community College. Spencer retired in 2000 as the CFO of Tarrant County College which had an operating budget of over \$132 million. He served as President of both the Texas Association and the National Council of Public and Community College Business Officers.

His family roots go back to 1907 when his grandfather purchased the old Bailey Ranch Headquarters. Spencer is a graduate of Eldorado High School, holds a BBA from Sul Ross College, an MBA from Texas A&M University, and additional graduate studies at the University of North Texas.

Through his administrative experiences, Spencer feels that he can bring excellent leadership to Schleicher County. As the political battles between the rural areas and the urban areas of Texas continue, the urban areas are gaining the bulk of the State Budget. Spencer believes that his experiences working with committees at the state level will enable him to assist the citizens of Schleicher County in securing more money from the state. He believes that economic development is the key to building a better local economy and will work to bring this about. Spencer looks forward to meeting and visiting with the citizens of Schleicher County about his goal to provide quality service to the taxpayers while keeping the tax rate as low as possible. He appreciates your support and vote.



Lydia Guerrero of Eldorado, her grandson Nicholas, and American Red Cross Disaster Relief volunteer Katherine Osborne surveyed the damage Thursday, December 27, 2007, following a fire that gutted the Guerrero home on East Callender Street. It is the second time in four years that Ms. Guerrero has lost a home to fire during the Christmas holidays.

PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Rabies aerial bait drop begins Jan. 6

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will begin field operations for its annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) bait drop Jan. 6 from the Zapata County Airport. The second portion of the drop begins about Jan. 11 from both Junction's Kimble County Airport and Fort Stockton-Pecos County Airport.

For several weeks in January, about 3.3 million baits filled with rabies vaccine will drop from five specially-equipped airplanes flying across 44 South and West-Central Texas counties, including Schleicher County.

"The goal of the 12-year-old program is to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to first contain the spread of rabies virus, then eliminate canine and gray fox rabies in the area," said DSHS veterinarian Ernest Oertli, ORVP director. "No human cases of rabies in either area have occurred since the vaccine airdrop began."

The number of canine rabies cases in South Texas has declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to none in 2002 and 2003, 1 reported in 2004, and none in 2005, 2006 and through November 2007. Gray fox cases are down overall from an all-time high of 265 cases in 1994 to 61 in 2007 through November. The fewest number of cases, eight, was reported in 2005.

The specialized bait of fish meal was designed for coyotes, and a dog-food bait containing molasses and vanilla flavoring was designed for gray foxes. Each bait contains 2 milliliters of oral rabies vaccine. "The vaccine inside the bait cannot cause rabies in people or animals," Oertli said.

Because baits contain a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people touch them, they should not be handled. Each brown bait, which measures 1.25 by 1.25 by .75 inches, is marked with a DSHS toll free

number, 1-877-722-6725, that people may call for information.

"People still need to get their pets vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian as required by law," Oertli said. He added that a domestic animal's rabies vaccination can be safely given even if the animal recently ate an oral rabies vaccine bait.

Counties in the 2008 South Texas vaccine distribution area are: Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, La Salle, Maverick, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Zapata and Zavala.

Counties in the 2008 West-Central Texas vaccine distribution area are: Brewster, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Ector, Edwards, Gillespie, Irion, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Llano, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Real, Reeves, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler and Zavala.

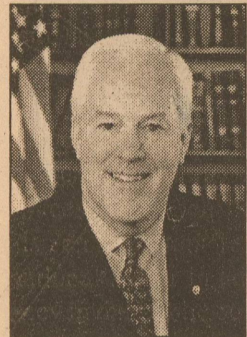


PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Kyle Stephenson of Humble, Texas shot this 21-point buck on Friday, December 28, 2007 on a ranch in the eastern portion of Schleicher County. The buck scored 203 on the Boone & Crockett scale.

More Texas sunshine in Washington

At a time when government seems to be growing by the day, Congress made an important move at year-end towards increasing government openness, transparency and accountability. Both the Senate and House approved the most sweeping reforms to our freedom of information laws in more than a decade.



Commentary
by U.S. Senator
John Cornyn

I first introduced the OPEN Government Act with U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., two years ago. After months of hearings and negotiations, it was finally approved overwhelmingly in December. The Cornyn-Leahy bill will not merely be a victory for transparency in federal government operations. It will be a vital building block to strengthen our democratic process.

Texas has long had one of the nation's strongest open government laws. When I served in state government as Attorney General, I had a key role in enforcing that law. So bringing a little Texas sunshine to the federal government was a top legislative priority for me when I arrived in Washington five years ago.

The Cornyn-Leahy bill updates the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to address undue delays and onerous burdens that often greet Americans looking for information from their government.

The underlying FOIA law was initially enacted more than 40 years ago. Achieving prompt responses has been a serious problem in its enforcement from the beginning. Some pending requests for information are more than a decade old, possibly sitting in a bureaucrat's drawer somewhere. And many information requests can only be resolved through costly lawsuits, which effectively prevent citizens from receiving information they're entitled to.

The bill restores meaningful deadlines—with consequences—to the FOIA system, encouraging government agencies to provide timely responses. It creates a new initiative for tracking pending FOIA requests and an ombudsman to review agency compliance. It provides safeguards against misuse of the law, and closes loopholes used to avoid compliance. It recognizes changes in the way information is circulated, and allows journalists and public representatives equal access to information.

The OPEN Government Act bolsters the most fundamental requirement for an effective democracy—a free and informed citizenry. It reinforces Abraham Lincoln's notion of a government "of the people, by the people, for the people" by facilitating the flow of information into the hands of Americans. I have tried to advance these principles throughout my years in public office.

These FOIA reforms come after years of legislative work that required significant bipartisan cooperation. In a year when gridlock seemed periodically to take over Congress, Sen. Leahy and I are proud that we were able to achieve consensus in both chambers, and among both parties, for this bill. It is clearly one of the signature accomplishments of the current Congress.

James Madison once declared: "The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." But I know firsthand that government, unless prodded, has a natural tendency to suppress distribution of information, particularly when it is inconvenient or embarrassing to those in office.

There are always exceptions to the rule that must be observed, such as the need to keep confidential information that could compromise our national security. Our FOIA reforms recognize that. But our underlying principle is this: when information can be made open and available, it should be.

These reforms will require federal agencies to make significant changes in the way they operate. I will be watching closely to make certain they comply. And Congress itself needs to do much more to improve transparency. The earmark process—when legislators insert narrow projects into a massive spending bill—should have far greater openness and accountability. I intend to pursue that reform as well.

Texas has long prided itself on its wide-open spaces, and open government. Accountability is also an important Texas value. Our state has been a national leader in advancing the ideals of transparency in our public business. We are all safer, and our liberty more secure, whenever Washington adopts more of that Texas sunshine.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee.

Here's to the Women of 2007

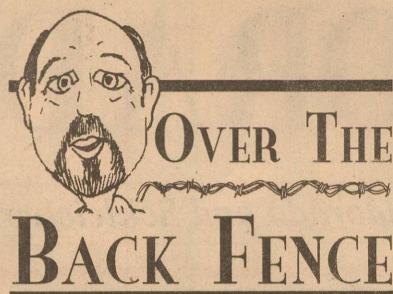
2007 was a year in which the news, or what passes for news these days, was dominated by women. It all began with the death of Anna Nicole Smith. Never mind that Smith's only accomplishment was posing nude for Playboy before convincing an aging Texas billionaire to marry her, the news media...especially the 24-hour news channels and the supermarket tabloids, printed and/or aired every sordid detail.

Then came the battle for custody of Anna Nicole's baby. The story was like the Energizer bunny, it just kept going...and going...and going.

But let's not forget Brittany Spears. I read somewhere that a celebrity psychologist believed many of Brittany's antics this year were nothing more than her acting out in order to focus the spotlight back on herself. The more attention Anna Nicole received, the more unstable Brittany became.

I'm sure there was more to it than that, but nobody can argue the fact that Brittany's self-destructive behavior spiraled out of control in 2007.

Hillary Clinton continued to push herself into the national headlines as she officially launched her bid for the presidency. I'm told that Hillary is the smartest woman who ever lived



OVER THE
BACK FENCE
by Randy Mankin

and that I should count myself lucky to be able to vote for such a selfless servant of the working people. The problem is, I'm not too impressed with the intelligence of the people who tell me how smart Hillary is. So, there you are.

Still, Hillary Clinton was a relentless newsmaker in 2007.

Then there was the story of NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak, the woman who drove 900 miles from Houston to Orlando, Florida, while wearing "astronaut diapers" in order to confront and attempt to kill her rival in a love triangle. Fortunately, Nowak failed to complete her mission. She continues to be the butt (no pun intended) of jokes on late night TV.

I wonder if Nowak could someday replace the late June Allyson as a spokesperson for adult diaper manufacturers. I guess it depends.

Okay, okay, enough of the bathroom humor. There were

plenty of women who deserved the attention they received in 2007. One was Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, another was former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto.

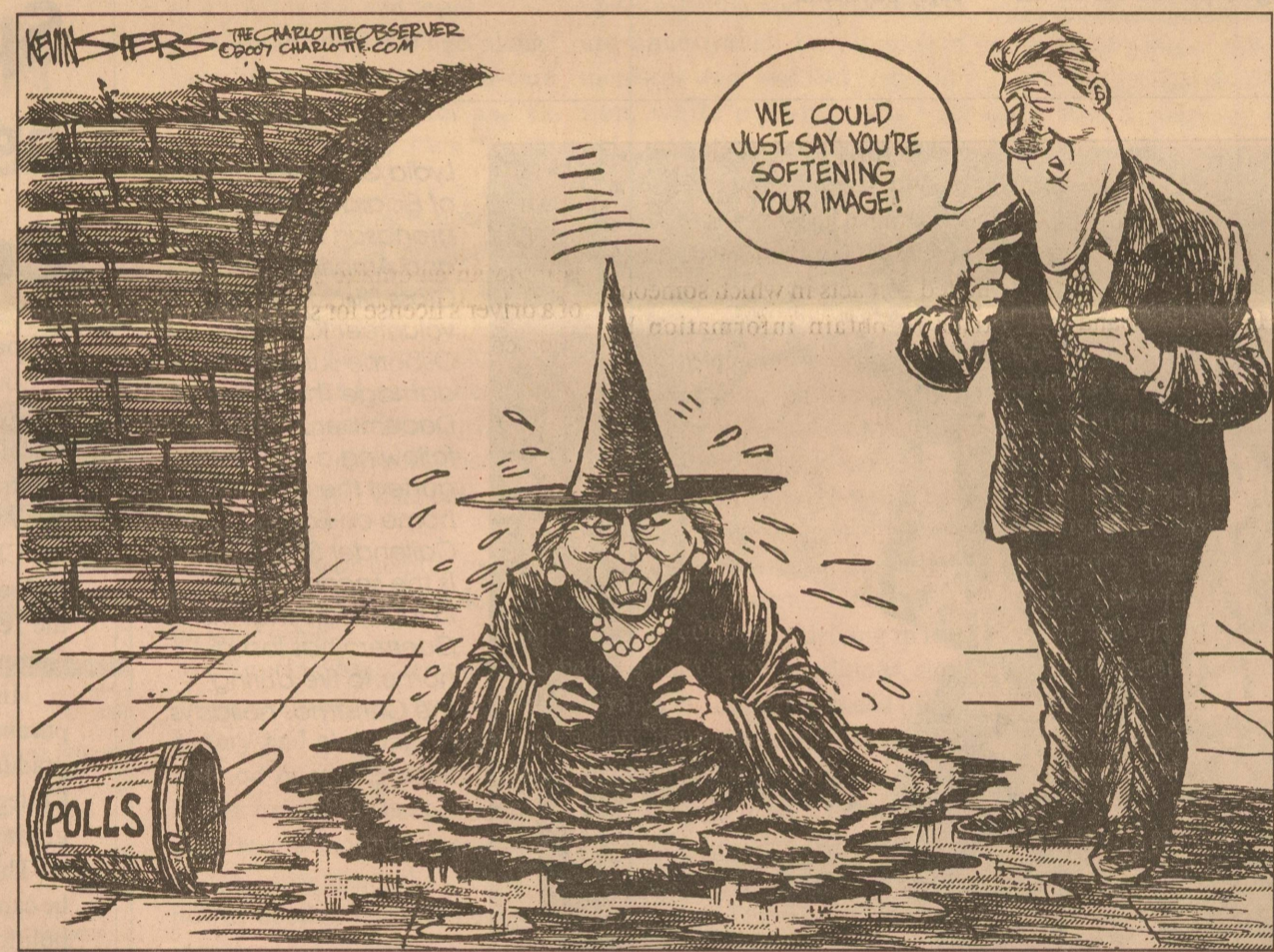
Sadly, Bhutto's assassination reveals just how volatile her country remains. But it also underscores the need for more people like her. People willing to forego personal safety in the quest of peace.

Her son quoted her this week as saying, "Democracy is the best revenge!"

Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson also passed this year. The 94-year-old was America's First Lady from 1963-1968. When President Johnson decided to retire to the family ranch near Stonewall, she took up the task of beautifying Texas, America and the world.

We can thank Lady Bird for the beautiful wildflowers that grace Texas roadways in the spring.

Rely on the TV news, or the supermarket tabloids, and it would be easy to give up on this old world. But remember, for every Anna Nicole story, there are others more lasting. Others like Lady Bird Johnson who lived to make her world a better place, and Benazir Bhutto, who died doing the same thing.



Backstage With Big Time Bands

During Charles Sweeney's high school years in Big Spring he started hanging out at one of the local radio stations. He was fascinated with newsgathering and spent a lot of time in the newsroom listening to the police radio and scanning news coming in on the Associated Press teletype machine.

When he went away to the University of North Texas he got part time employment on the college radio station and at a commercial station in a nearby city. After graduation he headed for Houston and joined the staff of KPFT, a community station. That means no commercials and not much money, but a lot of fun and creativity. One of the things he did was to hand out recorders to staff members and go from one end of Westheimer street to the other, interviewing all types of people. At the time, Westheimer stretched across all of Houston. He took all the interviews and put together a two-hour documentary.

Charles had the nickname Chip while growing up in Big Spring. When he got out on his own people started calling him Scoop. He



by
Tumbleweed
Smith

moved to San Francisco and got a job with Zodiac News Service, which supplied offbeat stories to news outlets all over the country. Later he became music editor for Zodiac and started covering the west coast music scene. Eventually he started managing bands and producing major concerts.

"Basically we'd arrive at some cow pasture at 3 or 4 in the morning with truckloads of equipment and literally build a city," says Scoop. "It's a lot more than just putting up a stage. You have to have a complete infrastructure with a totally self-supporting electrical system to power everything. You have to bring in water, toilets, and vendors to feed the people and we do all this in about 6 or 8 hours. By the end of the night you have to tear it all down. It's a busy 24 hours."

During the Judd's farewell

tour in San Bernardino, the crowd was larger than expected and the diesel powered generators got a workout.

"Halfway through the show, I got a call that the low fuel lights were coming on all the generators. That was bad. We ended up having to get 5-gallon water bottles and siphon diesel out of every tour bus and truck on the lot. The cops thought there was a real crime wave going on and several of them came up and asked us what we were doing. We told them we were trying to prevent a disaster. We ended up with a fleet of golf carts driving around the outside of the crowd, then filling up the generators during the show."

The audience numbered 35,000, some 10,000 more than expected. 500 porta-potties had to be moved a hundred yards further back to make more room for the crowd.

"We sent forklifts back there to pickup these things and move them. Every once in awhile there would be a scream from one of them. We'd apologize for the surprise move, but we didn't charge them for the ride." Scoop now lives in Elgin.

New year kicks off with 22 state laws

AUSTIN -- The 80th Texas Legislature last spring passed 22 pieces of legislation enacting state laws to take effect Jan. 1.

Here is a whittled down version of what just a few of those new laws do, based on analyses published by the House Research Organization and the Senate Research Center.

• HB 271 by Rep. Veronica Gonzales, D-McAllen, amends the Property Code by requiring a home seller to disclose to a buyer whether they are aware of any previous use of the residence as a methamphetamine lab.

• HB 310 by Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, amends the Transportation Code so that a vehicle's license plate and registration transfer with the person selling or trading in that vehicle.

• HB 481 by Rep. Jim Jackson, R-Carrollton, amends the Transportation Code to allow the seller of a used vehicle to report the sale to TxDOT through the agency's Web site within 30 days, in lieu of filing a written and signed transfer notice. The bill also increases the penalty for the buyer of a used car that did not transfer the title within the 20 business-day grace period.

• HB 538 by Rep. Bill Callegari, R-Katy, amends the Tax Code to allow a property owner to postpone their appraisal protest one time without showing cause, and increasing the postponement period from 15 to 30 days.

• HB 1751 by Rep. Ellen Cohen, D-Houston, amends the Business and Commerce Code and Government Code by imposing a fee of \$5 on a sexually oriented business providing live nude entertainment. Up to \$25 million in money generated by the fee, per fiscal biennium, goes to the state's sexual assault program fund. The amount of money received from the fee in excess of \$25 million goes to the state's general revenue fund.

• HB 3495 by Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, amends the Tax Code regarding the notice of an open meeting at which a governing body of a taxing unit will vote on a tax increase.

The notice now must include:

- Dates on which the first and second public hearings on the proposed tax increase were held;
- Total tax revenue raised at last year's tax rate;
- Amount of total tax revenue proposed to be raised excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll;
- Amount of total tax revenue proposed to be raised including the tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll;
- The proposed tax rate; and
- The mailing address of the location where the meeting to vote on the tax rate will be held.

A complete listing of new laws taking effect on Jan. 1 can be found by using the bill search function at www.legis.state.tx.us/.

Murdock named Census director

The U.S. Senate on Dec. 20 confirmed Steve H. Murdock as director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Nominated for the federal agency post by President George W. Bush, Murdock has been based at the University of Texas at San Antonio, serving as director of the Texas State Data Center.

State agency warns of scammers

The Texas Department of Insurance cautions seniors to beware of suspicious sales practices by scam-

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 3

OBITUARIES

Gerald Frank Lange

BALLINGER - Gerald Frank Lange, 91, of Rowena, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, surrounded by all of his family at Shannon Medical Center, Skilled Nursing Facility, in San Angelo.

He was born Feb. 28, 1916, in Olfen, Texas, to Joseph A. and Helena (Matthiesen) Lange. On Aug. 19, 1940, he married Gertrude O. Franke at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena. He was a man of the soil and farmed all his life in the Rowena area where he was well-known and highly respected. He was also an electrician and carpenter on the side. He loved working with wood, always making treasures for his kids and grandkids. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, a member of Rowena Knights of Columbus and past Grand Knight, and a member of the Rowena Volunteer Fire Department. He was a loving, devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who continued to counsel and encourage a large, busy family with an abundance of patience and kindness.

Gerald was preceded in death by his lifelong partner, Gertrude, on Jan. 31, 2002, after 61 years of marriage; his parents; a daughter, Eyvonne Lange; granddaughter,

Brittany Lange; sister, Sidona Taylor; and two brothers, Ralph Lange and Herbert Lange.

He is survived by his sons, Steven Lange and his wife, Natalie, of Rowena, James Lange and his wife, Janie, of San Angelo, Kenneth Lange and his wife, Barbara, of Miles, Dennis Lange and his wife, Joan, of Miles, Nelson Lange and his wife, Judy, of San Angelo and Howard Lange and his wife, Georgann, of San Angelo; his daughters, GERALYN Beach and her husband, Damien, of Eldorado and Mary Lee Pelzel and her husband, Alan, of Rowena; brothers, Erwin Lange of Victoria and Arnold Lange of San Angelo; sisters, Sister Helen Lange of St. Leo, Fla., and Lucille Franke of Rowena; and sister-in-law, Felda Lange of Olfen. Also surviving are 23 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, Dec. 29, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, with Father Bhaskar Morugudi and Monsignor Benedict Zeintek co-celebrating. Grandsons served as pallbearers. Burial followed at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Arrangements were with Lange Funeral Home.

Mary Ruth Ray Cervenka

BALLINGER — Mary Ruth Cervenka went to sleep and peacefully went to spend eternity with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, Dec. 24, 2007.

Mary Ruth was born June 23, 1911, in Como, Texas, to the Rev. William Paul Ray and Annie Armstrong Ray. She attended school in several towns, including Eldorado, Texas, and graduated from San Angelo High School in 1929.

She married Albert Burnie Cervenka in San Angelo, Texas, on her 18th birthday, June 23, 1929. They were married by her father, who was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church. Mary Ruth and Burnie made their home in Rowena, Texas, where Burnie was a farmer. They lived on Herman Street in Rowena for over 60 years.

Mary Ruth worked as dietitian for the Ballinger school lunchrooms for 13 years and also planned and served many beautiful banquets in Ballinger during that time. They moved to Midland in 1991.

Mary Ruth taught Sunday school at the 7th Street Baptist Church in Ballinger for many years. She was a member of Bellview Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, at the time of her death. She loved her Lord, her family and her many friends.

She was preceded in death by

her parents; her husband, Burnie; two brothers, Truett Ray and Junius Ray; and one grandson, Ralph Hall.

She is survived by three daughters, Joan Cobb and husband James of Midland, Texas, Ginger Routh of New Braunfels, Texas, and Lynda Hall and husband John Everett of Livingston, Texas; one brother, Cecil Ray of Austin, Texas; and one sister, Beth Hunsinger, and husband Arthur of Midland, Texas; eight grandchildren, Janet Cobb of Austin, Sherri Cobb of Midland, Brenda James and husband Gary of Katy, Texas, Kirk Greenwood and wife Lucy of New Braunfels, Texas, Lisa Bruce of Seguin, Texas, Jenny Thompson of Fort Worth, Texas, Donice Morris of New Zealand and Katy Hintze and husband Todd of Southlake, Texas; 15 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Friday, Dec. 28, at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger. Graveside service was Saturday, Dec. 29, in the Rowena Protestant Cemetery in Rowena. Services were conducted by the Rev. Myron Unruh, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church in Midland. Memorials may be made to Bellview Baptist Church, 1710 N. Big Spring St., Midland, TX 79701; Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas St., Midland, TX 79701; or a charity of your choice.

Touch of History

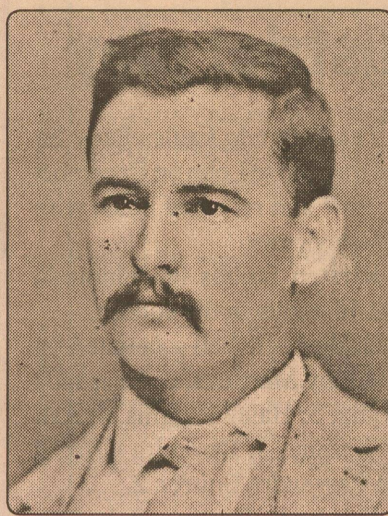
W. B. Silliman, the Father of Eldorado

One of the most important men responsible for the creation of Eldorado was Whittaker Bains Silliman. He was quite the entrepreneur; however his greatest passion was his practice of law. In 1895 he surveyed, and established a new little town, giving it the name, "Eldorado". He offered free lots to the citizens of Verand, who promptly moved their houses, on wheels, to this new location. Verand, Schleicher County's first town, failed to organize due to the residents being unable to obtain titles to their property. About twenty families moved to Eldorado.

W.B. Silliman was born in 1865, on a sandy land farm on the banks of the Brazos River in Austin County, TX. After graduation from college he lived in Christoval, San Angelo and Sonora before moving to the open prairie that was to be Eldorado. He served as County and District Clerk of Sutton Co. six years, but was anxious to embark on a new adventure in this undeveloped wilderness.

After being under the government of Menard, Schleicher Co. reached the time to establish her own government in 1901. Silliman helped lead this movement.

Silliman helped to establish Eldorado School, serving as presi-



dent of the school board for twenty years. He owned the school building, and leased it to the county. He also organized the ranchmen, and purchased the First National Bank of Eldorado. He served as president of the bank for eleven years.

In 1908 Silliman was elected to the State Legislature as a representative for his district consisting of thirteen counties.

Silliman married Sallie Murchison in 1889, and one son, Wilson Bains, was born to this union. Sallie died in 1890. Six years later W.B. married Sallie's sister, Agnes, and three children, Taylor, Jack and Agnes, were born to this union.

W.B. Silliman died in 1938, leaving the legacy of being the founder of Eldorado, "City of Gold."

Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

mers who represent themselves to be insurance agents.

Be especially cautious of unsolicited contacts in which someone tries to obtain information by asking another to complete studies or surveys or asks nursing home personnel to gather the information, the state agency said.

Agents and companies must be licensed in Texas to sell insurance. To verify a license, call toll-free, 800-252-3439.

TCEQ approves penalties

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Dec. 19 approved penalties totaling \$593,897 against 76 regulated entities for violations of environmental regulations.

Among those many violations were 13 for air quality, 14 for municipal waste discharge, 10 for public water system and seven for water quality.

Warning: think before giving drink

Alan Steen of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission reminds folks it is against the law to give alcohol to anyone under 21 (other than your child) even in your

own residence, even with parent's permission. Maximum criminal penalties for violators include up to a \$4,000 fine, up to one year in jail and an automatic suspension of a driver's license for six months upon conviction.

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Meals for Friends Menu

- Thursday, January 3**
Vegetable Beef Stew, Green Beans, Cornbread, Pear Half w/Cottage Cheese, Vanilla Pudding, Milk
- Friday, January 4**
Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Carrot Raisin Salad, Gelatin w/Fruit, Milk
- Monday, January 7**
Spanish Meatballs, Rice, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Sliced Tomatoes, Pineapple Rings, Milk
- Tuesday, January 8**
Beef Burrito, Pinto Beans, Spinach, Coleslaw, Gelatin, w/Pears, Milk
- Wednesday, January 9**
Oven Pork Chop, Noodles, Carrot, Bread, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Milk
- Thursday, January 10**
Meatloaf w/Tomatoes, Blackeyed Peas, Okra, Cornbread, Banana Pudding, Milk
- Friday, January 11**
Chicken Supreme, Herbed New Potatoes, Broccoli, Hot Rolls, Green Salad, Cherry Cobbler, Milk

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication only if they are signed and are accompanied with a day and night phone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for length or offensive material. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
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West Texas Press Association
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Winners of the \$100 drawing on December 21st were Chayse & Karnea Dannheim. Karnea and her daughter are shown here accepting the prize from Mary Jenkins.

Winner of the \$100 drawing on December 28th was Jason Chatham, shown here accepting the prize from Mason Vaughan.

Happy New Year

Weekly Sudoku Puzzle
by Linda Thistle

8		7		5	1
1			4	6	
	6	2		7	
7	5	4		1	
	4		3		9
9	2		3		
6	8			2	
1			5	2	3
	3		6	4	

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **
* Moderate ** Challenging *** Hoo Boy!

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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See Solution on Page 8

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FAX: 325-387-5423

BUSINESS HOURS
Mon-Fri: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Wins propel Lady Eagles toward district play

The Eldorado Eagles Lady Eagles traveled to Lohn on December 18, 2007 and returned home with a 51-26 victory.

Kirsten Stubbs led Eldorado with 16 points in the contest. Bridget Mitchell accounted for 7; Aubrey Martinez, 6; Rhapsody Swyter, 5; Haley Higgins, 4; Ashley Lozano, 3; Deyanira Cruz, 2 and Cassandra Buitron 2.

The Lady Eagles notched up another win on December 21, 2007 when they played host to Nueces Canyon.

The 59-50 win brought the Lady Eagles season record to 9-7. Again, Stubbs led the team in total points with 14 on the night.

Buitron was close behind with 12; Martinez, 9; Mitchell, 7; Higgins, 6; Kadie Niblett, 6; Meg Griffin, 3 and Corie Williams 2.

The Lady Eagles face one more road block before starting district play.

They will play host to McCamey this afternoon starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Lady Eagles will open district competition on the road next Tuesday in Menard.



Aubrey Martinez drove to the bucket on Friday, December 21st as the Lady Eagles downed the Nueces Canyon Lady Panthers in pre-district play. Martinez hit for 9 points in as the Lady Eagles cruised to a 59-50 win.

HOOP SCORES

8th Grade Girls

Christoval Tournament
December 13, 2007

Eldorado 06-08-08-02=24
Garden City 08-06-06-07=27

Scoring for the Lady Eagles: Briannah Creek, 15; Abby Fuentes 3; Melissa Gonzales 2, Marissa Gonzales 2, Dacy Whiddon, 2.

December 15, 2007

Eldorado 07-10-05-12=34
Christoval 06-07-02-02=17

Scoring for the Lady Eagles: Briannah Creek, 16, Abby Fuentes, Brianda Torres, 1, A. Sanchez, Melissa Gonzales 8, Dacy Whiddon.

You Looked! So Will Your Customers!

It pays to advertise in THE SUCCESS

EMS students excelled in UIL events

Eldorado Middle School students did an excellent job of scoring high and winning several gold and silver medals during the District UIL Academic meets held in early December.

39 students placed individually and/or as a team out of the seventy nine students. This was the second year for the Middle School to compete in Academic UIL Meet in many years.

8th Grade Mathematics Team placed 1st under the direction of coach Debby Griffin. Team members were Amanda Garcia who individually placed 4th, Oscar Robles 5th and Abby Fuentes.

8th grade Number Sense Team placed 2nd. Team members were Ryan Fortenberry, Evan Joiner and Christian Sanchez.

Listening Team members were Robert Chavez, Nelly Hernandez and Clarissa Gomez. Teacher Christy Meador, coach.

8th Grade Individuals Awards: Eli Esparza placed 2nd in Spelling. Coach Kara Garlitz.; Fortenberry placed 6th in Number Sense.

Clarissda Castro placed 1st in Ready Writing and 2nd in Editorial Writing. Her coaches were Traci Teaff and Samantha Carman.

Pollie Guerrero placed 2nd in Oral Reading and Marissa Gonzales placed 4th in Impromptu Speaking. Their coaches were Jim Wyatt and Katrina Gonzales.

Seventh Grade Number Sense Team and Mathematics Team each placed 1st. Dictionary Skills Team and Listening Team each placed 3rd.

First Place Number Sense Team members were Ryan Espinosa, Mary Lou Martinez and Marcus Perez. Coach Gail Stevens.

First Place Mathematics Team members were Jessica Pasillas, Lori Escobar and Edward Hernandez. Coach Debby Griffin.

Third Place Dictionary Skills Team members were Ryan Espinosa, Avery Nolen and Austin Stapp. Coach Samantha Carman.

Third Place Listening Team members were Rudy Montez, Jessica Pasillas and Cesar Cruz, coach Christy Meador.

7th Grade Individuals Awards: Science I, Mary Lou Martinez, 6th place, coach Dawn Whitten; Social Studies: Hector Reyes, placed 6th. Coach Jesse Rubio.

Number Sense: Ryan Espinosa placed 1st, Mary Lou Martinez placed 2nd and Marcus Perez placed 6th;

Mathematics: Jessica Pasillas placed 1st and Lori Escobar received a 5th place ribbon;

Rudy Montez placed 3rd in Listening; Lane Griffin placed 4th in Maps, Charts and Graphs, Coach Lavonne Espinosa; Austin Stapp placed 4th in Oral Reading, coach Katrina Gonzales.

6th Grade Team Awards: Art placed 3rd; Mathematics and Number Sense Teams placed 2nd.

3rd Place Art Team members were Yessenia Ramirez, Lisa Olivares, Lupe Pasillas and Morgan Bridges. Coach Traci Teaff.

2nd Place Number Sense Team members were Addye Chatham, Michael Bilbrey and Marcela Muniz. Coach Gail Stevens.

2nd Place Mathematics team members were Michael Bilbrey, Lupe Pasillas and Abriana Islas. Coach Debby Griffin.

6th Grade Individuals Awards: Number Sense: Addye Chatham, 2nd place and 4th place Michael Bilbrey;

Mathematics: 2nd place Michael Bilbrey; Listening: 4th place Macy Mikeska; Ready Writing: 3rd place Addye Chatham; Art: Yessenia Ramirez, 6th place ribbon.

Fifth Grade Teams Awards: Number Sense, 1st place, team members Esmeralda Ruezga, Tres Whitten and Whitney Perez. Coach Gail Stevens.

Fifth Grade Individual Awards: Number Sense, 1st place Esmeralda Ruezga, 3rd Tres Whitten, 5th Whitney Perez; Music Memory: 3rd place Tori Guerrero.



Gold Medalists
Eldorado Middle School 8th Grade Mathematics Team won the gold during the 2008 District UIL Academic Meet held recently. (L-R) Coach Debby Griffin, Amanda Garcia, Oscar Robles and Abby Fuentes. Garcia and Robles placed individually 4th and 5th place, respectfully.

It's official, Judge Griffin stepping down next November

Schleicher County Judge Johnny Griffin officially submitted his resignation, effective November 5, 2008 during a special meeting of the Schleicher County Commissioners Court on Friday, December 21, 2007. The commissioners voted unanimously to accept the resignation.

Griffin explained that he will soon qualify for Social Security and that he would be penalized financially for continuing to work. Griffin said, however, that he would continue on the job until a replacement could be elected.

The commissioners have made it clear that they aren't interested in appointing an individual to fill a vacancy. Griffin's delayed resignation makes it possible for persons interested in filling the unexpired term

to run in the upcoming primaries.

The special Friday meeting was called to order by Judge Griffin with commissioners Matt Brown, Kirk Griffin, Johnny Mayo and Lynn Meador in attendance. Among other business, the men approved the minutes of their previous meeting and authorized county election administrator Brenda Mayfield to contract with the Democratic Party chairwoman Phyllis Sauer and Republican Party chairwoman Kathy Mankin for the use of county voting machines during the March 4, 2008 primaries. The commissioners also approved the county's new personnel policy.

Discussion then turned to three sealed bids the county received for

a new ambulance. Prices ranged from \$121,500.00 to \$143,184.00 with each of the three ambulances under consideration being equipped differently. Ultimately, the commissioners decided to call for bids again with more stringent specifications. The men hope to receive new bids at their next meeting on January 14, 2008.

In other business, the commissioners authorized County Agent Cory Stevens to proceed with construction of a concession stand and restroom facility at the rodeo arena. They also voted to accept a \$31,493.00 sealed bid from Karr Tuck Pointing for repairs to the courthouse's stone facade. They also voted to allow Hill Country Telephone Cooperative to use county rights-of-way for buried fiber-optic cable. The cooperative recently purchased the fiber-optic transmission line originally installed by Broadwing. The company plans to complete installation of fiber-optic cable across the county.

Open casting call for major Hollywood family film

Francine Maisler Casting is conducting a statewide casting search for spirited, interesting, rural boys (ages 10 to 14) to be considered for leading roles in an upcoming major Hollywood family movie to be filmed in Texas. For story reasons, we are only looking for Caucasian boys at this time.

There will be an open casting call held on Saturday, January 5th in OZONA, TX at: The Crockett County Youth and Civic Center, 103 Medical Drive, Ozona, TX, 76943 (across from Lion Stadium), from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. For driving directions, lodging, and dining information, please call the Ozona Chamber of Commerce at 325-392-3737 or visit their website at <http://ozona.com/chamber-of-commerce.htm>

The casting call will consist of a brief talk with a member of the casting team and possibly an interview on camera. All participants should bring a non-returnable photo. Interested parties may call our Information Line at (512) 637-9782 or email us at PrimrosePictures@gmail.com, though no appointment is necessary.

While acting experience is not necessary, the production will provide compensation on the scale of professional actors. Filmmakers are specifically looking for children with

old-fashioned qualities in small town environments.

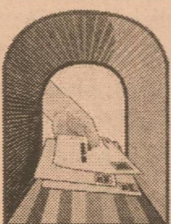
As Bob Hudgins, the Director of the Texas Film Commission, has said, "This story is set in Texas, and the Primrose team is determined to cast this part in Texas. This could be a rare opportunity for a young Texan to land a lead role in a major film, and I appreciate Primrose's dedication to making that happen."

While details of the project are being kept confidential during the casting process, the filmmakers have been nominated for Academy Awards and have produced numerous films that are considered to be critically acclaimed around the world.

"The filmmakers are known to us and are well-respected both nationally and internationally," Hudgins said. "I assure you that this is a professional, legitimate film project, and one that I expect we'll all be proud of."

The role calls for a boy who is confident, lively and thoughtful. This statewide search has been taking place since September of 2006 and will be completed by February of 2008. Filming will commence in March.

Francine Maisler Casting has cast films such as "Spider-Man", "Miami Vice" and "As Good As It Gets."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor express the opinions of their author. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the staff, management or ownership of the Eldorado Success.

County Attorney won't seek re-election

Letter to the Editor: -

I got the news that Clint Griffin, Esq., has filed to run for the office of Schleicher County Attorney. It is probably old news, but it is news to me. Actually, I have been expecting it ever since Judge Griffin made it known for sure, back last summer, I believe it was, that he is retiring. This cleared the way for Clint to run without there being a conflict between the offices of the Judge and the County Attorney. Since Clint has expressed his desire for the office, I have decided that I will not run for re-election. I would gladly serve for another term, however, I do have other things that I want to do, and this will move those things up by 4 years. And, at my age, that is significant.

We spend all our lives measuring our age by the length of time since our birth, but at my age I am making calculations based upon my estimate of the time left. So, I will gladly get cracking on the other things now that my time will be freed up. This is something that all you kiddos in your 30s and 40s

need to begin thinking about. As Jimmy Buffett says, "Time flies when you're having rum."

I greatly appreciate the citizens of Schleicher County allowing me to serve as the County Attorney. I have always said that the best job I ever had was my first real job, when I was in my 20s. I was employed as a petroleum landman in a 2 man land office. I won't get into boring details, but I couldn't believe that they actually paid me a salary to do that job. Now that I have had the opportunity to work as the County Attorney in a rural county, I am not sure which job I have enjoyed more.

I also have some gratification knowing that I paved the way for Clint. He had me perform the difficult task of running against the previous incumbent, and now, he looks around and says, "Hey, that looks like fun, I believe I would like to try that!" I am sure Clint will make a good County Attorney for Schleicher County.

My term ends at the end of December, 2008. In the mean time, Clint will always be welcome in the County Attorney's office, and particularly when the time gets closer at the end of the year, to get familiar with the files and procedures of the office to allow for a smooth transition.

Raymond Loomis

73RD ANNUAL SCHLEICHER COUNTY LIVESTOCK, FOOD AND PROJECT SHOW

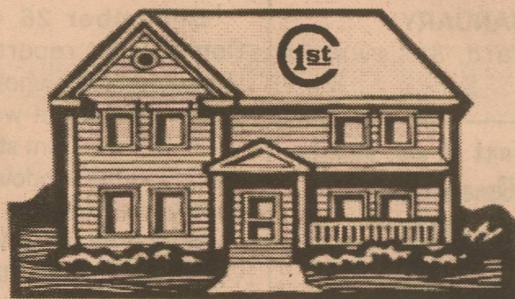
— SCHEDULE OF EVENTS —

- Wednesday, Jan. 9 4:00 PM Food Show Recipe Forms Due
- Thursday, Jan. 10 -- Creative Arts Entries Accepted, Photography Entries Accepted, Industrial Arts Entries Accepted
- Friday, Jan. 11 1:00 PM -- Barns Open to Animals arriving
- Friday, Jan. 11 2:00-5:00 -- Creative Arts Judged, Photography Judged, Industrial Arts Judged
- Friday, Jan. 11 5:30PM -- All Animals must be in barns.
- Saturday, Jan. 12 8:00 AM -- Show will begin with the following order: (1 Market Lambs (2 Market Goats (3 Market Steers (4 Market Swine (5 Gilts (6 Dorper Sheep (7 Breeding Boer Goats 8. Angora Goats 9. Little Britches Goat Show*)
- Saturday, Jan. 12 9:00 AM -- Food Show Entries Must be in place
- Saturday, Jan. 12 10:00AM -- Judging of Food Show
- Saturday, Jan. 12 12:00 NOON -- BBQ Lunch, Break from show
- Saturday, Jan. 12 Immediately Following show -- Presentation of Awards
- Saturday, Jan. 12 Approx. 2 PM -- Premium Sale
- Saturday, Jan. 12 2:00PM -- Creative arts, Industrial Arts, Photography Projects Released
- Saturday, Jan. 12 Following Sale -- Clean Up
- Saturday, Jan. 12 Following Clean Up -- Livestock Released

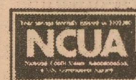
*The Little Britches show will be for any child 8 years and under who would like to show a goat as an exhibition. Goats will be provided for any child who would like to show.



Rick Sterling, Mortgage Loan Officer



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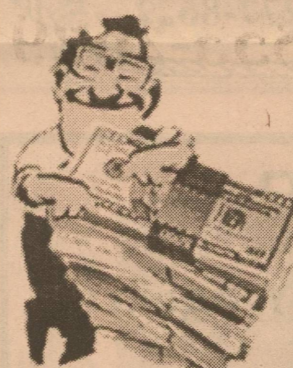
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Schleicher County Medical Center & Family Clinic

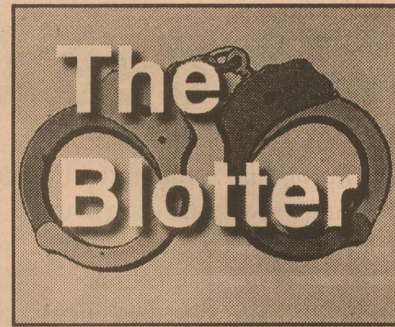
400 West Murchison ~ Eldorado, Texas 76936
Hospital 325.853.2507 ~ Family Clinic 325.853.3137



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Eldorado 4th graders sang Christmas Carols on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at the First National Bank gazebo on South Main Street.

PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN



The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Schleicher County Sheriff's Dept. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the Sheriff's office, nor does it include routine security checks, minor traffic stops or routine patrols. Accidents of major impact will be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ARRESTS

December 18 • Alvarez, Desiree, female age 27, offense Theft of Service. Released on PR Bond.
December 25 • Falcon, Hector, male age 21, offense Driving While License Invalid/Pre. Conviction. Released on \$1,000 Surety Bond.

INCIDENTS

December 21 • 12:04 p.m. Crockett County Fire Department requested assistance for a grass fire.
 • 3:36 p.m. Complainant requested an officer to investigate vandalism to vehicle. Officer responded.
 • 6:24 p.m. 911 Caller requested assistance from officer. Vehicle hit deer and smashed windshield and driver door.
 • 6:55 p.m. 911 Caller reported a reckless driver following their vehicle to close behind with high beams on.
 • 11:25 p.m. 911 Caller reported a man with a gun at old gas station on Main Street. Man 5'11" with long hair and beard. Officers responded.
December 22 • 1:40 a.m. Caller stated there was a blue 4 door Dodge pickup driving recklessly. Officer responded.
 • 3:33 a.m. Male caller said that he had been jumped and requested to speak with an officer. Officer responded.
December 23 • 8:06 a.m. Caller reported there would be a controlled burn about 12 miles northwest of Eldorado on ranch. Will burn over 300 piles of brush.
 • 11:18 a.m. Caller reported a deer had been shot on their ranch and requested a game warden. Game warden responded.
 • 2:44 p.m. Caller reported two stray dogs on ranch killed a deer. One dog looked like a border collie and the other dog look like a chow.
 • 5:46 p.m. Complainant reported students at High School gym. Teacher asked students to leave and they refused. Officer requested to force students to leave.
 • 6:35 p.m. Complainant reported a grass fire one mile on FM 915.
 • 6:37 p.m. Caller reported a unknown Angus bull on ranch property. Bull weighs approx. 900 pounds and has a yellow tag. Officer notified.
December 24 • 5:18 p.m. Caller reported a brown goat on the side of Hwy. 190 by the cemetery. Owner notified.
December 25 • 7:10 p.m. Caller reported a tan colored Suburban driving recklessly on Hwy. 277 North.
December 26 • 6:18 p.m. Complainant reported he was threatened to be shot by a hunter on ranch. Subject was checking wells. Complainant stated he had contacted the landowner in reference to the threat.
 • 6:22 p.m. Missing Person. Complainant stated their juvenile son had not returned home since December 25. Complainant called back and stated they located son.
December 27 • 1:20 a.m. House fire. Caller reported a house on fire on Mulberry and E. Calendar Ave. Caller stated back of house was on fire. Officer and

Volunteer Fire Department paged out.
 • 9:35 a.m. Caller reported a wounded deer on CR 346. Officer responded.
 • 11:50 a.m. Complainant reported missing livestock feed. Officer responded.
 • 5:37 p.m. Neighbor reported an open door on the residence next door. Neighbors were gone. Officer responded.
 • 6:39 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a basic transfer to San Angelo.
 • 7:42 p.m. Caller reported being in a minor accident on FM 2921. No injuries reported.
December 28 • 4:20 p.m. Caller requested fire department to ranch on CR 245 for a small grass fire.
 • 7:44 p.m. Complainant reported a reckless driver in an unknown vehicle pulling a loaded trailer.
December 29 • 12:47 a.m. 911 Call. Caller reported a stolen vehicle from their home. Sheriff Office informed the caller their vehicle was being repossessed.
 • 2:47 a.m. Caller reported excessive loud music on Rudd Road. Officer responded.
 • 3:25 a.m. Caller reported that an occupant in their vehicle was in labor and they were headed for hospital in San Angelo from Sonora. Dispatcher contacted Tom Green County Sheriff Office.
 • 3:48 p.m. Caller reported a controlled burn on CR 201.
 • 11:25 p.m. Hospital requested ambulance for basic transfer.
December 30 • 12:30 a.m. Caller reported a minivan conveying teens and some adults who were smoking marijuana & looking for trouble. Officer responded.
 • 12:58 a.m. Caller reported terroristic threats against juvenile and friend.
 • 10:21 a.m. Caller requested a wrecker for disabled vehicle.
 • 11:24 a.m. Caller stated that there were juveniles at the rodeo arena putting fireworks in the lock. Officer notified.
 • 11:34 a.m. Caller stated that their father had woke up confused and heart rate was high. Subject requested an ambulance.
 • 1:17 p.m. Caller stated they had a minor accident with no injuries, but also stated the accident started a grass fire. Officer and fire department paged out.
 • 7:00 p.m. 911 Call reported a grass fire 5 miles out on Hwy. 190 West.
 • 7:47 p.m. 911 Call reported grass fire 8 miles west on Hwy. 190.
 • 9:14 p.m. Complainant reported a grass fire about 8-10 miles on Hwy. 190 west.
December 31 • 5:30 a.m. Caller reported racket inside their home about 2 a.m. and could not figure out what it was. It was now 5:20 a.m. and there was a weird smell coming from inside the house. Officer notified.
 • 8:24 a.m. Caller reported a cotton module on fire. Officer and fire department dispatched.
 • 10:00 a.m. Caller requested the game warden.
 • 3:17 p.m. Subject noted a female was shoved into a vehicle. Officers responded and found it was a verbal argument between girlfriend and boyfriend.
 • 8:58 p.m. Complainant reported fireworks too close to their home. Officer notified and was unable to locate fireworks.
 • 10:53 p.m. Complainant reported neighbor popping fireworks inside City limits.
 • 11:29 p.m. Complainant reported husband at residence and requested an officer to check since husband moved out two weeks ago.
January 1 • 12:20 a.m. Caller reported a large fire on FM 2084. Officer and fire department paged out.
 • 9:24 a.m. Caller stated they would be burning brush piles at least until the wind picks up.
 • 10:08 a.m. Caller asked for a deputy at their residence for a domestic problem. Officer responded.

Alert: Identity thieves impersonate banks

A new identity theft scheme is targeting Texans, particularly those who bank at Amarillo National Bank, a legitimate Texas financial institution. Spoof e-mails are directing Amarillo National Bank customers to call a telephone number and confirm their personal information. Customers who make the call do not actually reach their hometown banker, but instead end up on the telephone with a scam artist who wants to steal their identity.

This type of scam, also known as "phishing," typically involves e-mails that falsely appear to have been sent by trusted and well-

known institutions, such as large banks or popular Internet-based merchants, like eBay and PayPal. In the latest twist, however, identity thieves are clearly targeting Texans by posing as trusted local institutions.

The Office of the Attorney General first learned of the Amarillo National Bank scam when its own employees received a series of e-mails with the subject line: "New Message From Amarillo National Bank." The e-mails read, in part:

We recently reviewed your account, and we suspect an unauthorized ATM based transaction. Therefore as a preventive measure we will temporarily limit your access to sensitive features. To ensure that your account is not compromised please call our security center ... and verify your identity to prevent deactivation.

If this is not completed by Dec 15, 2007, we will be forced to sus-

pend your account indefinitely, as it may have been used for fraudulent purposes.

The message provides a toll-free number for consumers to call and furnish their personal information. However, neither the e-mail nor the telephone number is affiliated with Amarillo National Bank.

As always, Texans should NEVER provide personal information in response to unexpected e-mails or telephone calls, even if they appear to be from a respected local institution.

The Office of the Attorney General is working with Amarillo National Bank and Texas banking groups to remind consumers that no legitimate institution sends e-mails or places calls to their clients threatening to suspend their accounts unless they immediately provide personal information. Texans who receive these types of e-mails or telephone calls should simply delete the message or hang up on the caller.

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 5th Zack Koenig, M'Kenna Gillespie, Matt McCormick, Haley Edmiston, Andrea Robles, Luis Aguilar, Trey Chavez
 6th Stacy Nicholson, Marcus Murr, Joyce Higdon, Andree Garza
 7th Ray David Buitron Sr., Dillon Greer, Bryce Leggett, Steve Parker, Steven Farrell
 8th Delia Herrera, Candi Homer, Thelma Bosmans, Gene C. Rojas, Dan McWhorter, Anna Troy
 9th Tata Belman, Raymond Riley, Keith Nance, Rocky Huichapa, Ricky Huichapa
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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
 1. Jockey's handful
 6. ___-friendly (easy to operate)
 10. Part of a semi
 13. Sandy's owner
 14. Grammy-winning Jones
 16. Grand ___ Opry
 17. Drafting instrument
 19. Harry Potter's best friend
 20. Predict
 21. Croupiers' tools
 23. Blemish on a QB's record
 24. Moon vehicles
 26. Baby docs
 27. It might say "You are here"
 29. Ventilation passageways
 33. Taking one's cuts
 36. Treater's words
 37. ZZ Top, for one
 38. The Ivy League's Big Red
 40. Sewer's guide
 42. Totally confused
 43. Tosses in
 45. Loser to Truman
 46. Prime Minister before Major
 48. Leary's hallucinogen
 49. Mauna ___
 50. Defaulter's loss
 52. Music store buy
 55. Thin cookie
 57. Weaver of spells
 60. Rhoda's TV mom
 61. Often-pickled pork morsel
 64. Guitarist ___ Paul
 65. Cosmetician
 66. Porkers' pads
 67. Blaster's need
 68. Coal carriers
 69. Corn loaves
 7. Sam & Dave classic
 8. Blow it
 9. ___4 (Toyota crossover SUV)
 10. Bottle opener, of sorts
 11. Natural emollient
 12. Uncle ___ (rice brand)
 15. Judean king
 18. 1965 Beatles movie
 22. Bordered on
 25. Nincompoops
 27. Animal on a Florida license plate
 28. Packed away
 30. Stephen of "Citizen X"
 31. Poop out
 32. PlayStation maker
 33. "... way to skin"
 34. Reggae's Peter
 35. One "B" in B&B
 36. Not as up-to-date
 39. "Well, ___-dahl!"
 41. Good stats for QBs
 44. Tugged out
 47. ___ diem
 48. Bereft, old-style
 51. Assaults from Moe
 52. Adam of "Chicago Hope"
 53. Springer show event
 54. Bench exercise
 55. Go limp
 56. Yemeni port
 58. Zodiacal divider
 59. Opposite of endo-
 62. "Sort of" suffix
 63. Classic Pontiac muscle car

Pitch It In!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		16
17					18						19
20									21	22	
23					24				25	26	
27	28								30		
33	34	35									37
38									39	40	41
42									43	44	45
46									47		48
49									50	51	
55	56								57	58	59
60									61	62	63
64									65		
67									68		69

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:
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PUBLIC NOTICE
 On October 22, 2007, The Center for Education Nonprofit Corp. (CENC) filed with the Federal Communications Commission two applications for construction permits for new noncommercial educational FM stations at Eldorado, Texas. The 50 kW FM station will be on Channel 205C2, and the 100 kW FM station will be on Channel 209C1; both will broadcast from a 300' tower approximately 7.5 miles southwest of Christoval, Texas. CENC has not yet acquired a main studio. Craig Laird, Scottie Ashley, and Shannon Hinkle are on CENC's Board of Directors. Copies of CENC's application and all related material are on file for public inspection at 204 SW Main Street, Eldorado, Texas.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ACCEPTING BIDS ON AMBULANCE

Sealed bids addressed to the Schleicher County Commissioner's Court will be received by the County Clerk until 10:00 a.m. January 14, 2008 when such bids will be opened and possibly awarded in the Commissioner's Courtroom for:

- 1 - Type 1 Medium Duty Ambulance / Single Fuel Tank Unit with Diesel Powered Generator
(Submit bid with trade-in and without trade-in)
- For information on specifications required, contact T. J. Rodriguez at (325) 277-3956)

The Commissioner's Court reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids received.

ALL BIDS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED: SEALED BID

Peggy Williams
County & District Clerk
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(325) 853-2833 ext 72

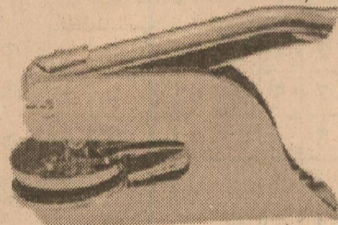
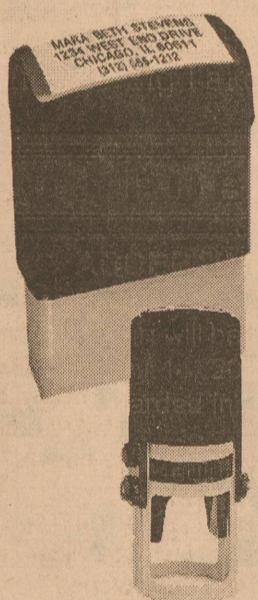
LETTER TESTAMENTARY FOR ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that original Letter Testamentary for the Estate of GERALD ALTMANN were issued on July 23, 2007, under Cause No. 16663, pending in the County Court of Schleicher County, Texas, to MARISELA SANTELLANO.

The residence of the Independent Executrix is Schleicher County, Texas. The address is c/o Kosub, Griffin, & Elkins, LLP, P.O. Box 460, Eldorado, Texas 76936.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law.

SELF INKING STAMPS



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Eldorado Spotlight



Fourth grader Fabian Gomez was one of the 4th graders who sang Christmas Carols Friday, December 21, 2007 at the FNB Gazebo on Main Street.

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Card of Thanks

To The Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department,
This letter of gratitude is for the outstanding response time and expertise of the Volunteers of this great community. The selflessness and competence to volunteer and keep the whole county safe is unequalled. The fires on the 23rd of December and on the 24th of December both were extinguished quickly with minimal damage. Once again, thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of The Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department. You all are the greatest!

The Brame Families

Employment

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS WANTED

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FULL AND PART-TIME HELP MR. D'S LIQUOR & BEER 216 HWY. 277 NORTH Sonora, TX 325-387-3351 Apply In Person tfn 24b

HIRING CNA NIGHT SHIFT

Schleicher County Medical Center, Nursing Home is hiring CNA for night shift from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Shift differential paid, mileage paid if traveling more than 20 miles to work. Benefit package and incentive programs, for full time employees. Contact Anita Jones, DON 325-853-2507 ext. 138. 47tfn

Schleicher County Medical Center Hospital 400 W. Murchison Eldorado, TX 76936 EOE Registered Nurse Part-Time, Nights ACLS, PALS and/or TNCC certifications preferred Benefits: 24 hour On-Site Childcare Contact: Vicki Farmer, BSN, DON Resumes may be faxed to 325.853.3523 Phone: 325-853-2507 ext.109

Schleicher County Nursing Home

Our home is located in a rural setting in Eldorado, Texas. We are a small 34 bed home, that offers personal care, in a family, friendly atmosphere. Activities are plentiful both inside and outside of our home. Come by and take a tour and visit with our staff. We are proud of our staff, who are focused on giving the best of care to our residents in order for them to attain and maintain their maximum interests and abilities. Contact: Sarah Huge Administrator or Anita Jones RN, Director of Nurses, at 325-853-3026.

Employment

Fort McKavett State Historic Site, under the direction of the Texas Historical Commission, announces four new job openings. Applications are being accepted for the following positions:

- Curator/Interpreter
- Maintenance Technician IV
- Maintenance Assistant
- Administrative Assistant I (Asst. Office Mgr)

To apply or to obtain further information regarding these positions, please log on to: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> and click on "Jobs". Please mail applications to Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX, 78711 or deliver them in person at 1511 Colorado St., Austin, TX, 78701. For further information regarding these job openings, please contact Ft. McKavett State Historic Site at (325)396-2358.

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ELDORADO - LOTS FOR SALE! Late model manufactured homes ONLY. All City Utilities. Some lots have trees. All lots have concrete curb and gutter. (325) 450-6966. 45

ELDORADO-Spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath, w/fully furnished garage apartment. Eldorado, 101 Maple, (Feisty) Bill, 325-450-8394. Caldwell Banker Pattersons Property. 45 b

ELDORADO-LAND FOR SALE- 160 Acres Schleicher County, barn, electricity, excellent hunting. 15 miles west of Eldorado. \$950 an acre. Call 325-387-9065 or 775-338-8745. 45tfn.

ELDORADO-HOUSE FOR SALE: 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Brick Home; Cotton Street; Approx. 5 Acres Outside City Limits; Call for appointment Bobby Smith Real Estate/Sonora 325-387-2728. 1-2b

ESTATE AND GARAGE SALES

ELDORADO- Small antique oak roll top desk, small antique round oak table w/2 chairs, brown tweed hide-a-bed, 4 pc section gray print w/ 2 recliners, walnut armoire and night stand, child's play kitchen, beautiful area rug, Color TV's, Queen mattress only, beautiful knotty pine King wooden headboard, 2 pine decorative mirrors, yellow French provincial chest of drawers, desks, lots more, SECOND HAND ROSE, 853-3736, Eldorado. Consignors must call ahead before bringing any items in.

Lynn Meador Real Estate

5 N. Divide ~ Eldorado, Texas 76936
Lynn Meador, Broker 325-650-6324
Jo Ward, Agent/ 325-853-2339

New Listing-116 Old Sonora Road: 2 BR 1 Bath Native Stone home on 5.5 acres of land. Pens and storage buildings. Adjacent to city limits with access to city utilities. \$57,500.00

New Listing-102 San Antonio St: 2 BR 1 Bath frame home on three lots. Several storage buildings included. \$28,000.00

208 McWhorter St. Very attractive 4 Bedroom 3 Bath home on a 3 acre tract. The home is in excellent condition with wood laminate floors in the living area, carpet, 2 central heat and air units, two living areas. Could be used as a 5 bedroom home or 3 bedroom and efficiency apartment. Corner lot with circular driveway and carport gives the home a lot of "country" appeal. Walking distance to county recreational facilities. \$160,000.

Commercial Listing: 100 S. Divide Street. Intersection of US Hwys 277, 190 and 915 at the stoplight. Good exposure for business in downtown Eldorado. Building contains approx. 1512 sq. ft. \$35,000.00

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN ELDORADO, TX

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Main Street REALTY

215 E. Main St., Sonora, TX, 76950,
Anita B. Hudson, Broker
Stacy J. Turney, Broker
Ph. 325-387-6115 ~ Fax 325-387-2402

320 +/- Acres - Schleicher County, Texas: \$1495 / acre - Approximately 100 acres of cultivation, with the remainder as range land. 2 BR/1 BA home, numerous pecan trees, barn and set of pens. Approximately 4 miles west of Eldorado on Hwy. 190 West.

1553 +/- Acres - Schleicher County, Texas: \$1395 / acre - Quality ranch located on FM 2596 in Schleicher County, approximately 13 miles SE of Eldorado. Many improvements.



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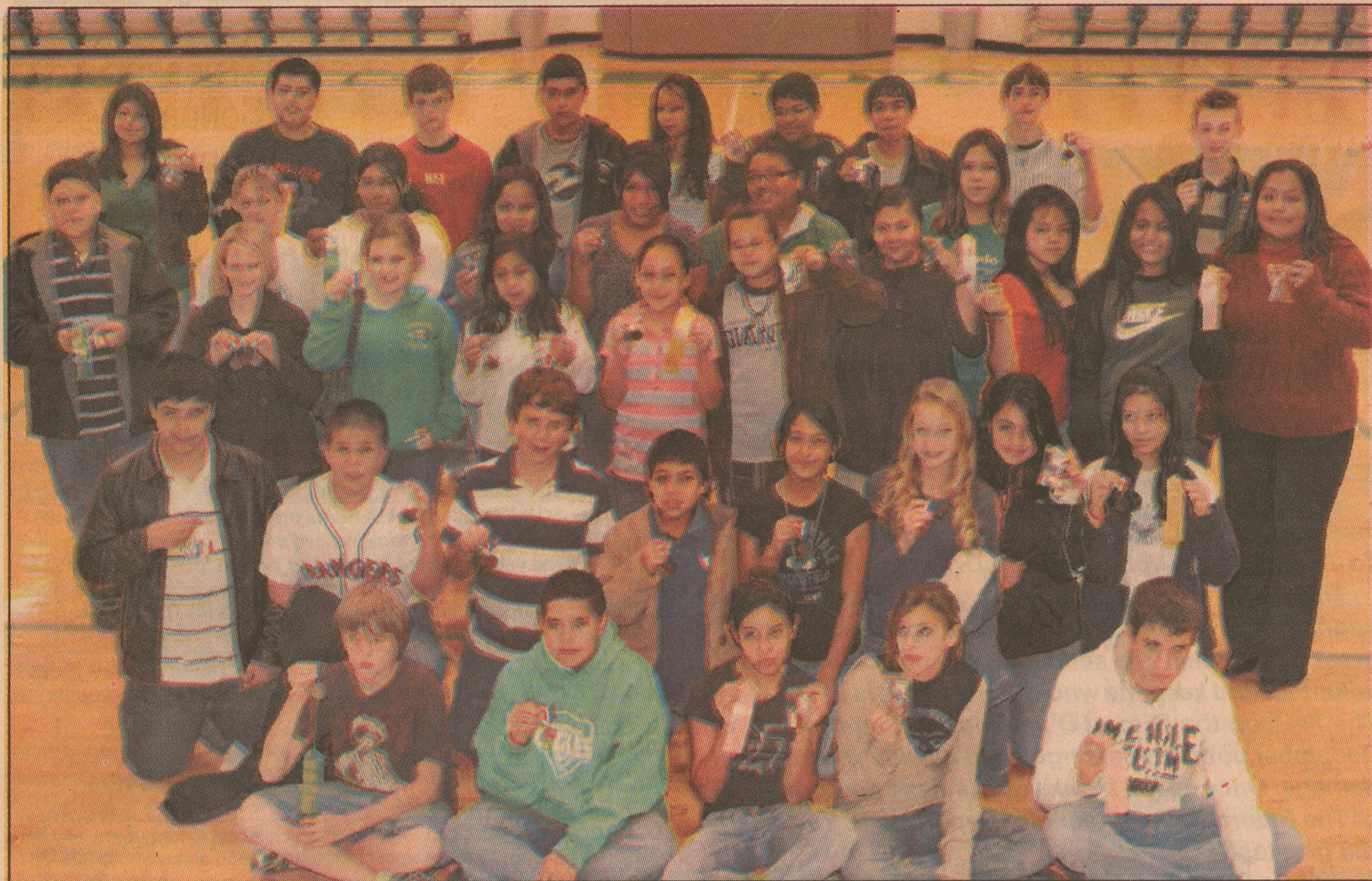
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Eldorado Middle School UIL winners posed with their awards during an assembly program on Friday, December 21, 2008. The youngsters racked up a number of impressive victories in recent competition. (See related story on Page 4)



Stargazer

Paul Derrick

Earth Closest to the Sun

On Jan. 2, in the heart of winter, we was closer to the Sun than at any point in the year, a fact that begs two questions: Why are we closer? Why aren't we hotter?

If Earth's orbit around the Sun was perfectly circular we would always remain 93 millions miles away, but our path is slightly oval-shaped, called elliptical. So once each year we reach a point farthest from the Sun, and once nearest.

At the farthest point, called aphelion, we are 94.8 million miles away, and at the nearest, called perihelion, 91.1 million miles from the Sun. Perihelion, always in early January, is Jan. 2 this year, and aphelion, in early July, will be July 4.

So if we're now closer to the Sun, why is it cold?

If our orbit was more elliptical, like Mars', then perihelion and aphelion would have a noticeable effect on our temperature, as it does on Mars. But since our distance from the Sun varies by only 4%, it isn't enough to make much of a difference.

Our seasonal temperature variations result from an event that occurred a few billion years ago when the solar system was young. A planet-like object (likely Mars-sized) struck Earth a glancing blow. This cataclysmic event destroyed the other body, and many astronomers theorize that debris blasted from Earth eventually formed our Moon.

The collision also knocked Earth a little wacky, leaving it with a 23-degree tilt on its axis--and this tilt creates our seasons.

During Earth's annual orbit around the Sun, the northern and

southern hemispheres take turns tilting toward and away from the Sun. When a hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun, the Sun's warming rays strike that half of Earth more directly and days are longer yielding more daily hours of exposure to the Sun's warmth.

The hemisphere tilted away from the Sun experiences the opposite as Sun's rays strike at a greater angle and there are fewer daily hours of warming sunlight.

Our northern hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun September through March, centering around Dec. 21, the first day of winter. At that same time, the southern hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun so Dec. 21 marks first day of summer below the equator. The other half of the year the seasons are reversed.

So aphelion and perihelion coming within two weeks of the summer and winter solstices is a coincidence that has no bearing on our seasons.

Naked-eye Planets. (The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west due to Earth's west-to-east rotation.) Evening: Mars, well up in the east, dominates the evening sky as Saturn rises around 10 p.m. Morning: Venus is the brilliant "morning star" in the east, Saturn is high in the southwest, and Mars is setting in the west.

Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or paulderrickwaco@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at stargazerpaul.com.

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◆ ONE MISSED CALL (PG-13) (11:05am) (2:05pm) 5:05pm 8:05pm 11:05pm	◆ JUNGLE (PG) (10:20am) (1:20pm) 4:20pm 7:20pm 10:20pm
◆ ALIEN VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R) (10:40am) (1:40pm) 4:40pm 7:25pm	◆ NATIONAL TREASURE: THE BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) (10:05am) (1:30pm) (1:50pm) 4:30pm 7:40pm 10:25pm 10:40pm
◆ ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (10:25am) (10:45am) (1:25pm) 4:25pm 4:45pm 7:45pm 10:45pm	◆ PS. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) (11:00am) (2:00pm) 5:00pm 8:00pm 11:00pm
◆ CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) (10:00am) (1:00pm) 4:00pm 7:00pm 10:00pm	◆ SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R) (10:05am) (1:05pm) 4:05pm 7:05pm 10:05pm
◆ ENCHANTED (PG) (10:30am) (1:30pm) 4:30pm-weekdays only	◆ THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13) (10:10am) (1:10pm) 4:10pm 7:10pm 10:10pm
◆ AM LEGEND (PG-13) (10:15am) (1:20pm) 4:20pm 7:20pm 10:20pm	◆ THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) (10:35am) (1:35pm) 4:35pm 7:35pm 10:35pm

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Winter Car Care Tips

(SPM Wire) It's a fact of the road that winter can affect just about any part of your vehicle, including your tires, engine, fluid levels and battery.

Drivers throughout the country are taking the time to protect their cars from the season and the wet or icy roads that can result.

"Cars and cold don't get along," says Jim MacPherson, a car-care radio show host, writer and expert on driving for TV's "Inside Edition."

"The plummeting temperatures cause all kinds of problems. So, in order to stay safe, save money and reduce fuel consumption, it's important to keep your car properly maintained and tuned," he says. "For specific suggestions for your car or truck, check the owner's manual that came with your vehicle."

Follow these helpful tips and the season should be a little easier on your vehicle:

- Routine Maintenance: It's important to ensure your vehicle's battery and charging system are in good operating condition. In colder weather, a battery's cranking power is reduced significantly. At the same time, the electrical power needed to start your car increases when the temperature plunges. Having quality jumper cables or a portable power pack in your trunk is a superb way to prepare for the worst. At the same time, check to make sure your heater and defroster work. Finally, check your wiper blades.

- Lubrication: To ease engine startup during cold weather, use a multi-viscosity oil which will help protect your car at temperatures below zero. Low-viscosity oils not only speed startup, but help reduce wear by flowing oil quickly to critical engine parts. Fully synthetic oils, such as Mobil 1, are specifically designed to protect your engine in all temperatures.

- Filters, Coolant and Hoses: Make sure all filters -- oil, gas and air -- are in good condition. Check your coolant level and thermostat functionality to ensure proper engine warm-up. Coolant should be changed every two years; extended-life coolants last about five years. Check for leaking or soft

hoses and replace. Also, be sure to check the radiator or coolant tank pressure cap.

- Tire Pressure: Examine your tires, checking for excessive wear and proper inflation. Good tread is needed to stay safe if you drive on snow and ice. Additionally, both under-inflation and over-inflation are undesirable. Low pressure increases wear and fuel consumption, while over-pressure can reduce traction, especially in icy conditions. If you live in an area with heavy snowfall, consider snow tires.

- Vehicle Warm-Up: You should allow your car to idle for a few seconds to make sure the lubrication is circulated throughout the engine, providing protection. It's not necessary to idle for a long time, as that simply wastes fuel and offers no more protection than will a few seconds of idling. Nonetheless, drive easily at first.

- Slow Down: If driving in less than ideal winter conditions, slow down. Do not exceed speed limits and keep safe driving distances. Avoid gas-wasting jackrabbit starts and pace your driving to help avoid the need for sudden stops, which is especially critical during wet and icy road conditions.

- Dealing with ice: Make sure you have window ice scrapers and de-icers for the locks. When you're stuck, having a small shovel is useful to dig out of the snow. The weight of a bag of sand in the trunk will give added traction in rear-wheel drive vehicles and can be used to sprinkle on the snow and ice to gain better traction. And don't forget personal protection such as a warm coat, hat and gloves, and a blanket, in case you get stuck in a storm.

- Keep Fuel in the Tank: Never let the fuel tank drop below the half-full mark. A sudden storm with unexpected heavy snowfall could leave you stranded for hours. Having an adequate fuel supply will allow you to idle the engine from time to time to keep warm.

"Your car will be a more dependable throughout the winter if properly cared for," says MacPherson. "Take care of you car in the cold and it will keep you from being left out in the cold."

Answer to Sudoku on Page 5

8	4	2	7	6	9	5	3	1
3	1	7	5	8	4	6	9	2
9	5	6	3	2	1	8	7	4
7	3	5	9	4	8	2	1	6
2	8	4	6	1	3	7	5	9
6	9	1	2	7	5	3	4	8
4	6	9	8	3	7	1	2	5
1	7	8	4	5	2	9	6	3
5	2	3	1	9	6	4	8	7

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

Pitch It In!

R	E	I	N	S	U	S	E	R	C	A	B
A	N	N	I	E	N	O	R	A	H	O	L
F	R	E	N	C	H	C	U	R	V	E	R
F	O	R	E	T	E	L	L	R	A	K	E
I	N	T	L	E	M	S	O	B	S		
	M	A	P	A	I	R	D	U	C	T	S
A	T	B	A	T	O	N	M	E	T	R	I
C	O	R	N	E	L	L	P	A	T	T	E
A	S	E	A	A	D	D	S	D	E	W	E
T	H	A	T	C	H	E	R	L	S	D	
	K	E	A	R	E	P	O	A	M	P	
W	A	F	E	R	S	O	R	C	E	R	E
I	D	A	P	I	G	S	K	N	U	C	K
L	E	S	E	S	T	E	E	S	T	I	E
T	N	T	H	O	D	S	P	O	N	E	S

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