

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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Dry, windy weather keeps fire crew busy

Area Remains Under Critical Fire Condition

Eldorado firefighters, joined others across West Texas this in battling a series of grass fires whipped by 50-mph winds. Dry conditions also contributed to the wildfires.

Most of the fires were scattered across counties north and west of Schleicher. But there were fires within the county, including one on the C.R. Sproul Ranch, and a grass fire in town that threatened the Buzz McCormick home. (see photo at right)

Local firefighters were dispatched to assist Crockett County firefighters Monday night as fires spared in Crockett, Upton, Reagan, Irion, Glasscock, Sterling, Tom Green and Coke counties.

The gusty and dry conditions were so bad that the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center on Monday issued an "Extremely Critical" fire weather warning for the second time this year.

At one point Monday night, the citizens of Robert Lee in Coke County were ordered to evacuate their homes. Hundreds of Robert Lee residents were directed to Bronte where shelters had been prepared. Later that night the townspeople were allowed to return to Robert Lee, but

homeowners living around Lake Spence were not allowed to return.

"Evacuations may be a tactic today," said Les Rogers, assistant chief regional fire coordinator with Texas Forest Service said on Monday. "Conditions similar to those we are facing today have directly impacted, threatened and caused the loss of whole communities in the past three years' fire seasons. We will see California Santa Ana-like winds in part of the state today.

West Texas grasses and vegetation are extremely dry. With the gusty winds predicted through Thursday, any fire that starts can travel up to 1,000 acres in 30 minutes - equal to a football field per minute.

"Citizens must be aware that they may have to self-evacuate to a safe area if a wildfire threatens. This is a dangerous situation and fires burning in these conditions will progress faster than a human can possibly run," said Mark Stanford, chief of fire operations for Texas Forest Service.

For more information, go to <http://tfsnews.tamu.edu> and click on Fire Danger/Advisories.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Eldorado volunteer firefighters were able to save this house in south Eldorado despite the fact that the fire burned right up to the edge of the structure. Homeowner Buzz McCormick, who works nights, was asleep in the house at the time of the blaze. Fire Chief Jerry Jones said he thought the fire was sparked by a welder working nearby. No other residences were damaged. Pictured on the firetruck are Tammy Fish and Leo Rodriguez.

NOTICE
County-wide Burn Ban
remains in effect!

Jeffs taken to Arizona to face second round of charges

Warren Jeffs, the jailed prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is now in the custody of Arizona officials. He was picked up in Utah on Tuesday by authorities from Mohave County Arizona and transported to Kingman, Arizona where he is due to stand trial on charges of arranging the marriage of two underage girls to older men, similar to the charges for which he was convicted in Utah last year.

Jeffs was due to make his first Arizona court appearance on Wednesday, some 2 1/2 years after he was first charged. The charges sent Jeffs into hiding and eventually landed him on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List.

He was apprehended near Nevada in 2006 and convicted in Utah last year on

two charges of rape as and accomplice. He received two consecutive 5 year to life prison sentences for those two convictions.

Now comes Arizona's turn. Jeffs was indicted there last year on four counts of incest and four counts of sexual contact with a minor.

Jeffs' attorney Mike Piccarreta has already announced his plans to ask for a change of venue in hopes of having the trial moved away from Kingman. And... it's not surprise that Mohave County Attorney Matt Smith is opposed to moving the trial.

If Jeffs is convicted of the Arizona charges he will most likely finish serving his time in Utah before finishing his sentence in Arizona.

County purchases truck, eyes funding needs at golf course

Nancy Lester and Oscar Martinez met with the Schleicher County Commissioners court Monday, February 25, 2008, to speak on behalf of the Eldorado Golf Club. They asked the commissioners for a \$6,000 increase in the county's contribution to the golf course so that the grounds keeper's salary could be increased.

Commissioner Lynn Meador asked about other pending expenditures, such as the club's riding mower. Oscar Martinez responded that the current mower is worn out and would need to be replaced.

Commissioner Matt Brown explained that the county's budget is already set and suggested they should have made their request when the budget was being worked on. The Commissioner Court said they would consider the requested and asked

for prices on a new mower, but took no action the matter.

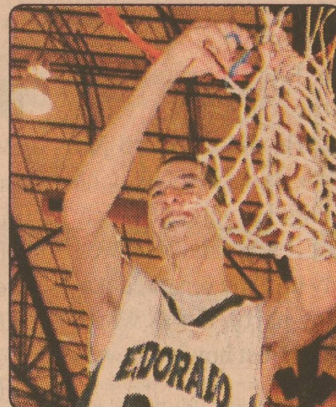
The court then proceeded to open two sealed bids for a new dump truck for the road department. One bid was rejected because it did not meet the bid specifications on the truck's gear reduction rear axle. The court accepted the second bid in the amount of \$113,755 for a Mack truck with a 16 ft. bed from Bruckner's Truck Sales.

The commissioners then tabled several agenda items. Items tabled were the ambulance bid, stray dog issue and purchase of a backhoe and tractor for county use. The court did approved purchasing a two year old 10 ft. Bush Hog shredder in the amount of \$4,500.00.

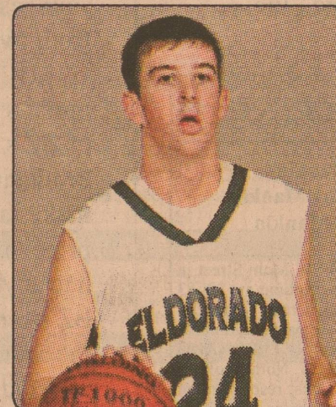
The commissioners then amended the cemetery rules
SEE COUNTY ON PAGE 6

EAGLES BASKETBALL ALL-STARS

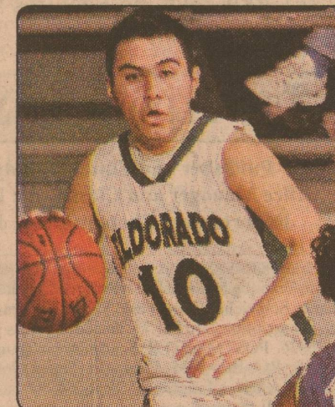
Seven members of the Eldorado Eagles 2008 Bi-District Championship team were named to the District 27-A All-District squad. Jorge Mata was the district's Most Valuable Player. Rance Cathey and Lalo Sanchez were 1st Team All-District While Dustin Ramos and Michael Redish were on the 2nd Team. Manny Gonzales received an Honorable Mention.



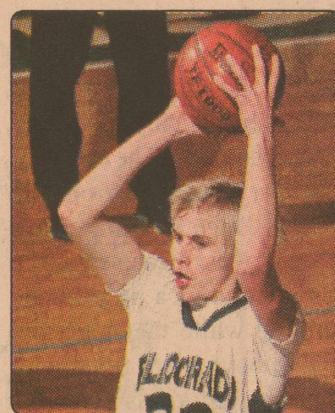
Jorge Mata
District 27-A MVP



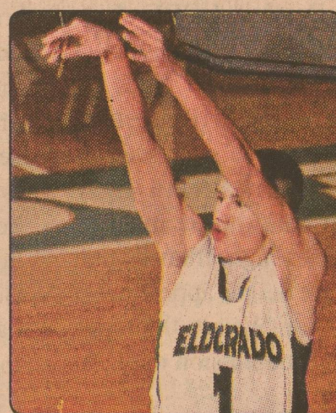
Rance Cathey
1st Team All-District



Lalo Sanchez
1st Team All-District



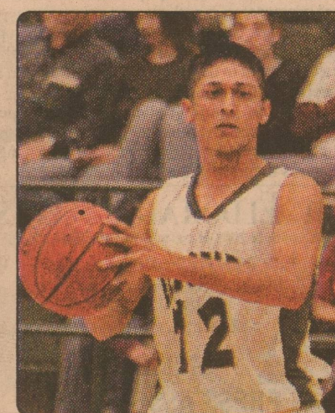
Tyler Dombroski
2nd Team All-District



Dustin Ramos
2nd Team All-District



Michael Redish
2nd Team All-District



Manny Gonzalez
Honorable Mention

SUCCESS FILE PHOTOS

Texas Primary Election Day slated Tuesday, March 3rd

Eldorado and Schleicher County voters, along with their fellow Texans across the state, will go to the polls Tuesday for Texas Primary Election Day.

With no locally contested races on either Primary ballot, it will likely be the hotly contested presidential primary races that drives turnout.

Here in Eldorado, Democrats and Republicans will vote at the same polling places.

Precinct #1 will vote at the First

Methodist Church Education Building.

Precinct #2 will vote at the Schleicher County Memorial Building.

Precinct #3 will vote at the Schleicher County Courthouse.

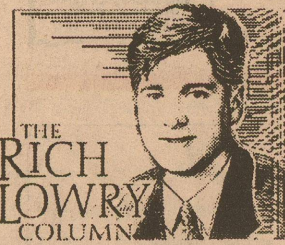
Precinct #4 will vote at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Headstart Building.

Voters may cast ballots in the Democratic, or Republican Primary, but not both. Early voting continues at the Memorial Building through Friday of this week.

Re-Liberators

BAGHDAD, IRAQ--"Greeted as liberators" has become one of the most scoffed-at phrases of the Iraq War. But a top U.S. general here plays on the phrase in describing security gains during the past year. "In some ways," he says, "our soldiers have come to be seen as re-liberators."

The neologism seems apt in the crisp, cool dusk of a Saturday evening in a Sunni neighborhood here in the Dora section of this city.



American soldiers, who a few months ago couldn't venture here without being shot at, are mobbed by clamoring children as soon as they leave their vehicles. Stores are open on a street that was deserted just months ago. An American captain -- "the mayor" of the neighborhood -- is greeted by name by an Iraqi boy who runs up to shake his hand, and two women approach him to ask about being hired by the Iraqi government as teachers.

The neighborhood is a showcase of a counterinsurgency campaign that has emphasized securing the population and getting to know local players. "We live in the neighborhood," explains Col. Ricky Gibbs. "How did we get there? We moved to the sound of the guns." It took months of combat for his troops to rout al-Qaida and establish outposts in his section of the city. Once it became clear that the Americans weren't going anywhere, "the people came out in droves."

The Army has contracted with an influential (and very brave) local doctor-turned-businessman in the neighborhood for road repairs, trash pickup and electricity generation. All of which means local jobs.

The question now is whether the enhanced security will harden into -- in a phrase the U.S. military uses often now -- "irreversible momentum" that will make the second liberation more enduring than the first, even as the U.S. begins to draw down the additional brigades of the surge.

It should be the Shia-dominated Iraqi central government contracting with people like the doctor. It can't (out of incompetence) or won't (out of sectarian motives). "We've had an American awakening and a Sunni awakening," he says, referring to the surge and the Sunni turn away from the insurgency. "Now we need a government awakening."

The central government hasn't attempted to consolidate change bubbling from below. There are 80,000 mostly Sunni security volunteers seeking integration into official security forces or transition into civilian jobs. There are volunteer teachers -- like those petitioning the American captain -- who await government salaries. Yet the government has left billions of dollars in revenue unspent.

In the meantime, we fill the gap, in keeping with the military's axiom that "money is ammunition." Commanders use discretionary funds at their disposal to contract for services and provide seed money for businesses.

"I can't spend it fast enough," Col. Gibbs says. This so-called CERP funding will run out in the summer, and Gen. Petraeus is asking for \$480 million more of it. Congress would be scandalously foolish to reject him.

Everyone acknowledges that Iraq's progress is fragile. The country is still violent, al-Qaida hasn't been totally vanquished, and the Shia south has its own alarming problems. But we have to try to capitalize on the opportunities created by the surge. There's not going to be a third liberation.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Definitions of "It"

It is bound to happen. Any day now, some pundit charting the "rags to riches" pilgrimage of Barack Obama in his race for the democratic presidential nomination, will mention that he has "it."

When he gets wind of "it," Bill Clinton, who hopes to be "first man" when the new president is inaugurated, will bristle.

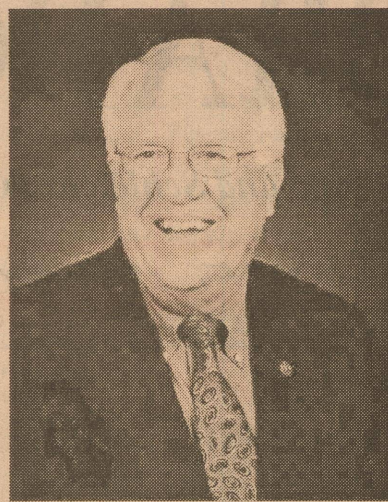
"It depends on what the meaning of 'it' is," he's likely to counter, altering by just one letter his much-quoted response to a grand jury a decade ago. It concerned what "is is."

My old mamma's oft-repeated line comes to mind in these days of overbearing campaign coverage.

"I'm just glad I got to live the simple life," she'd mutter every time she heard about new technology expected on the way. Take voting machines, for example. She liked paper ballots much better.

Mom got much satisfaction from scratching through the names of candidates she didn't like, taking along the softest pencil she could find. "I want to really 'black out' the losers," she'd laugh....

This being leap year, of course, means an extra day of rhetoric on campaign trails, and it also means a one-day extension of the flu season.



The Idle American
by Dr. Don Newbury

Our friendly pharmacist/Sunday school teacher, Wayne West, feeling poorly a while back, was unsuccessful in "wearing it out." ("It," in this case, needs no additional definition. "It" is that upper respiratory stuff that strikes so many at this time of year.) Finally, Wayne went to the doctor, who prescribed antibiotics. "I'm always glad to take medicine," he explained, "because it's an important reminder to me that pills are good for something besides just selling."

One of the reasons West's class

is popular is that he sometimes dispenses health tips we'd otherwise have to wait our turn, and/or pay money for, in other settings.

A while back, the effectiveness of flu shots was debated. Wayne's dead certain that after 90 days, their potency begins to wane. Doctors say February and March are the months when most people come down with the flu.

"Why, then, don't we get flu shots later, say in December?" someone asked. "Or maybe get a second shot each season," West offered with a chuckle, perhaps wondering if he needed to order more flu serum....

Speaking of second shots, don't we all know parents who'd like to have second chances to "get it right" in the naming of their children?

Jeanne Poole is still shaking her head about her first name. Coupled with her last name, it has resulted in much ribbing. She formerly worked in the pediatrics department at the Kansas University School of Medicine in Wichita.

Dr. Sechin Cho, head of the genetics department, claimed to have "his own Jean Poole." And Jeanne's mom was an RN who taught nursing, for crying out loud....

SEE IDLE AMERICAN ON PAGE 7

Democratic candidates debate in capital city

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN -- Barack Obama of Illinois and Hillary Clinton of New York met at the University of Texas to debate in a nationally televised forum on Feb. 21.

The two United States senators, vying to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, answered questions posed by Jorge Ramos, a reporter for Univision, the Spanish-language television network, and CNN reporter John King.

Among many topics were:

- universal health care
- economy/trade/jobs
- immigration policy
- federal taxation
- Iraq strategy
- care for wounded veterans
- care for military families

Clinton suggested her experience should make her the clear choice for Democratic voters. Obama asked for voters' help in his effort to change the nation's capital from a place "where good ideas go to die" and work with him to help America "live up to its promise" of liberty and justice for all.

Forty-thousand people applied to attend the debate in the UT recreation center, but admittance was limited to 1,000. Pro-Hillary and Pro-Barack crowds gathered outside the building and engaged in loud but peaceful volleys of chants.

Thousands more attended political rallies and debate watches were held at Sholz Garten, the Austin Music Hall and the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

To cap the debate, an Obama rally the following evening in downtown Austin drew a crowd estimated at 30,000. The city of Austin closed off streets near the rally to vehicular traffic.

Meanwhile, Republican candidates U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Clute scheduled appearances in various cities in advance of the Texas GOP primary.

Party primaries are set for March 4, and early voting ends Feb. 29.

SMU chosen as Bush library site

The future site of the George W. Bush Presidential Library will be Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

The SMU board of trustees announced Feb. 22 it had reached an agreement with the George W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

SMU is first lady Laura Bush's alma mater. Yale University, President Bush's alma mater, was in the running among eight potential sites.

A "Presidential Center," to be built on SMU's main campus, will consist of the presidential library containing Bush administration documents and artifacts, a museum with permanent and traveling exhibits and an independent public policy institute.

The library and museum will be operated by the National Archives and Records Administration.

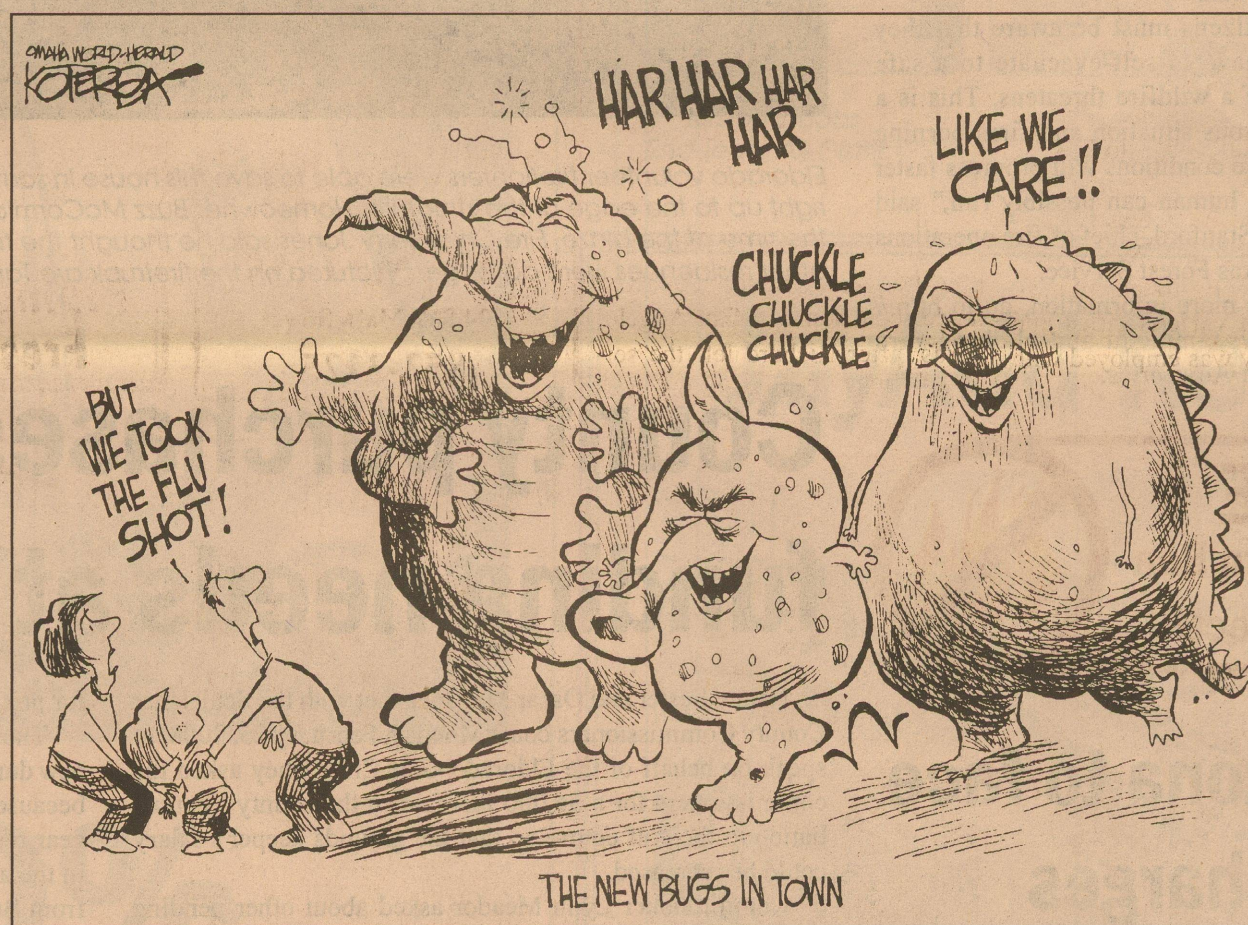
Bush was elected to two consecutive terms as governor of Texas and served from 1995 until 2000, when he resigned to run for president.

City considers owning wind farm

The City of Austin's utility company, Austin Energy, is looking into renewable or "greener" energy solutions for the future.

Michael McCluskey, deputy general manager of Austin Energy, said

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The Beatles Experience at the Mirage

In honor of my youngest son BZ's birthday we gathered at Las Vegas. All of our immediate family was there except for the three youngest ones whose ages range from two to four.

My son Kevin spent four months putting together a video of BZ's life. He did a superb job. Producing TV spots is the way he makes a living. He was extremely protective of it and never showed it to anybody until he unveiled it at BZ's birthday party. It was worth the wait. We all just howled. It was hilarious.

BZ is a musician and loves the Beatles. So does Jackson, our 17-year-old grandson. We went to see the Beatles' LOVE show, produced by Cirque Du Soleil at the Mirage.

It is the most thrilling stage presentation I have ever seen. It literally took my breath away. The custom built theater must be a dozen stories high. It needs that space because people appear to fly through the air. We see the ropes they use, but the illusion of flight is still there.

The music is stimulating. The



by Tumbleweed Smith

Beatles' producer went back to the master tapes and took the words to one song and put them to the music of another. It was an extremely innovative piece of audio production. Throughout the performance we heard playful conversation among the Beatles at a recording session.

LOVE has every theatrical trick ever imagined and then some. It features skateboarding, sky-high trampoline bounces, set pieces coming down from above or below and two Volkswagens on stage, one of which suddenly breaks up, sending parts flying. The audience is on sensory overload from the beginning. Huge screens on opposite sides of the theater show the Beatles in front of a psychedelic background while the stage and the space above it are filled with people doing all kinds of stunts. Giant sliding screams show digitally

projected images of Beatles in silhouette. A tricycle maneuvers around the stage with no one on it. A giant silky sheet covers the entire audience. It is a whirlwind of new, fresh ideas possible only with advanced technology. LOVE is unbridled fantasy performed with the joyous exuberance that only talented young people can provide. It is not only an interpretation of the Beatles' music, but also an interpretation of their impact on the world.

Beatles music is almost sacred. Nobody can perform it the way the four lads from Liverpool could. One of the early scenes shows the devastation in Liverpool after World War Two, the time the Beatles were being born. Suddenly the stage opens up and the catastrophic rubble falls into the abyss. The stage can instantly transform itself into different shapes, sizes and levels. The theater has hundreds of lights that put on a show of their own. You not only hear Beatles songs. You see and feel them as well. Please go experience LOVE. Your life will be enriched.

**David Dewey
"Burro" Griffin**

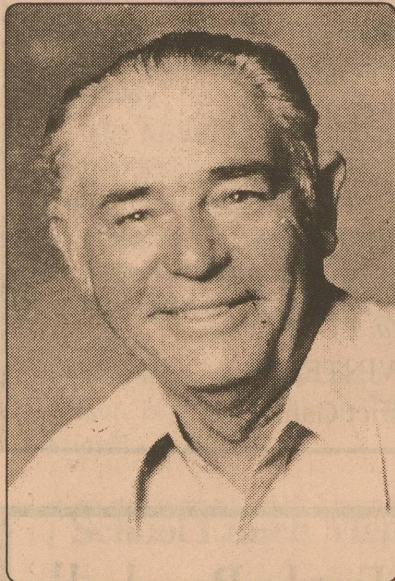
ELDORADO - David Dewey "Burro" Griffin, 78, died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at his residence. Service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Presbyterian Church with burial in Eldorado Cemetery. Arrangements are by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Survivors include son J.D. Griffin of Linden; daughter Kay Marling of Henderson; brother James A. Griffin of New Mexico; and sister Mary V. Bracken of Idaho.

John Pippen

ELDORADO - John Pippen, 77, died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, in a local nursing home. Services are pending at Kerbow Funeral Home.

William Radle, Jr.



SAN ANGELO - William "Bill" "Blackie" Radle, Jr., 84, of Eldorado, went singing with the Angels to meet his Lord on Friday, February 22, 2008 at a San Angelo hospital, surrounded by his loving wife of 58 years, his precious daughter, granddaughters, a great-granddaughter and a great-grandson. Services was Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at the Eldorado Cemetery Chapel. Services were under the direction of Stevens Funeral Home in Coleman.

William "Bill" "Blackie" Radle, Jr. was born July 11, 1923 in the Cleveland Community in Coleman County, the son of the late William and Nancy Janie Phillips Radle. He grew up in the Cleveland Community and attended schools in Cleveland and Santa Anna. He had to drop out of high school to help take care of his family when his father went blind. He married Norma Louise Sparks on May 21, 1949 in Valera. He worked for Joe Mathews in Santa Anna for 15 years as a mechanic and truck driver. In January, 1961, he went to work for the Texas Department of Transportation and retired after 28 years. He was a volunteer fireman in Sonora from 1961 to 1973. When he moved to Eldorado in 1973, he volunteered as a fireman as well. He taught at the San Angelo Fireman Training School and also taught fireman training at Texas A & M University for 17 years. He also was a member of the Church of Christ in Sonora.

Survivors include his wife, Norma Louise Radle of Eldorado; one daughter and son-in-law, Norma and Gary Brawner of San Angelo; four grandchildren, Amy Catherine Robledo of Mertzon, Kelly Jo Blakeway of Eldorado, Andrea Robledo of Bloomington, Indiana, Capt. Timothy Brawner and his wife, Barbara, of Altus, Oklahoma; five great grandchildren, Victoria Brown and Zachary William Brown, both of Mertzon, Jimmy Don Fleming of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida and Ally Brawner and Johnny Brawner, both of Altus, Oklahoma; the Odom Family and a very special grandson, Al Brown of San Angelo and several nieces and nephews, including Ruth Poldrack and her husband, Nick, of Coleman.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Shirley Jo Odom in 2007, two brothers, Charlie

OBITUARIES

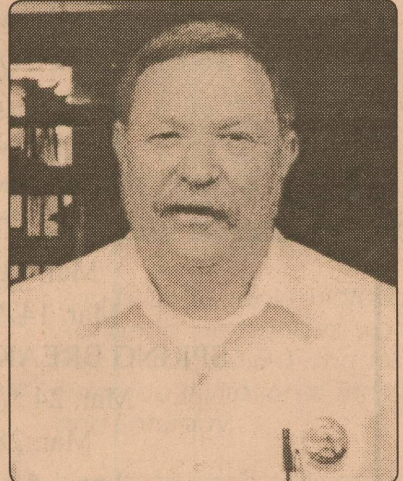
Radle and Phillip Radle and two sisters, Willie Lednicki and Selma Russell.

Memorials may be sent to Meals for Friends in Eldorado.

A family visitation was Monday, February 25, 2008 at Stevens Funeral Home in Coleman. Another family visitation was Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at the Eldorado Cemetery Chapel.

and her husband, Perry of Cedar Park, Texas; his stepgrandchildren, Wendi-Kay Warren-Hodges of Astoria, Ore., and Garrett Lee Hodges of Canyon Lake, Texas; one niece; five nephews; and other family members and close friends.

Pallbearers for the service were his nephews, Trey Nance, Michael Nance, Ed Smith, Jonathan Smith, Dustin Dempsey, and one nephew-in-law, Seth Vestal. The family wishes to express a special thanks to Dr. Rahman and his staff and Dr. Montoya and Dr. Jurado and the staff of the Angelo Dialysis Center. Rev. Doug and Lori Hurt and the Christoval Baptist Church.



**Dwain M.
"Pinkie" Dempsey**

SAN ANGELO - Dwain M. "Pinkie" Dempsey, entered into the glorious presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, Feb. 22, 2008.

Funeral service was Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, at the First Baptist Church in Christoval with the Rev. Doug Hurt officiating. Interment followed in Eldorado Cemetery, in Eldorado, Texas.

Dwain was born June 26, 1950, in San Angelo, Texas, to Tom M. and Loleta Burleson Dempsey. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Dwain served in Law Enforcement most of his life in various cities and most recently was employed with National Oil Well in Eldorado, Texas.

He married Pamela A. Eaton on June 2, 2005, in San Angelo. Dwain was devoted to his family and friends. His sense of humor, quick wit, compassion and also hospitality was endearing to all who knew him. Dwain loved people and would always make sure that any of his family and friends that were elderly or ill could count on him to be there for them if they needed him. His life was not defined by a list of accomplishments, but rather by the lives he touched and those who were blessed by receiving his love and care.

Dwain was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Scott Dempsey; and his father, Tom M. Dempsey. He is survived by his loving family: wife Pamela Dempsey of Christoval; his mother, Loleta Davis of Tahoka; two sisters, Tommy Nance and her husband, Jeff of Tahoka and Elaine Smith and her husband, Edward of Bryan, Texas; one brother, Tom M. Dempsey and his wife, Leesa of San Angelo; two stepchildren, Cory Hodges and his wife, Mandy of Canyon Lake, Texas, and Kyrissa Parsons

Richard Noe Jimenez

SAN ANGELO - Richard Noe Jimenez, 56, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008, in a local hospital.

Richard was born Dec. 6, 1951, to Alfonso and Dometila Jimenez in San Angelo, Texas. Richard was raised since an infant by his loving Aunt Carolina and Uncle Cucho Moran.

Richard grew up in San Angelo, Texas, where he graduated from San Angelo Central High School Class of 1971. After graduation, he joined the Air Force and was stationed in Okinawa; Great Falls Air Force Base, Mont.; Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas; and Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He was in the Air Force from 1973 to 1982.

Richard married his high school sweetheart, Evangeline (Vangie) Govea, in 1973 shortly after he joined the service. They made their home in San Angelo, Texas, after Richard left the service in 1983. They were married 35 wonderful years and celebrated their anniversary with a cruise to the Mexican Rivera.

Richard and Vangie were blessed with two wonderful children, Jeremy and Vanessa. Richard could not have been more proud of his son Jeremy, who followed his dream and graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He worked in films for Funimation Company. Vanessa holds a very special place in her daddy's heart from the moment he held her in his arms. From that moment, she had him wrapped around her tiny little finger. He was so protective of her and could not deny her anything.

He worked various jobs while working toward his Bachelor's in Arts, Sociology. He worked at the San Angelo State School, Sitel, Wal-Mart, and then later joining his Verizon family, where he will be greatly missed. He was a friend to all, never met a stranger. If you ever had the privilege of meeting him, he was a friend for life. He was so giving of his time and friendship. He also volunteered for anything and everything, while

dragging his wife along. Richard always had a smile and put everyone's needs ahead of his. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and sang lead in the Twin Mountain Tonesman Chorus for 12 years. He also volunteered with Children's Advocacy Center and the Prevention Crisis. He was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys and NASCAR, especially Jeff Gordon. He loved singing, traveling, and enjoyed life to the fullest.

He was preceded in death by Carolina and Cucho Moran; father-in-law Ruperto Govea Sr.; brother Luis "Prieto" Garcia; and sister-in-law Olivia Flores.

Surviving members of his family include his wife, Evangeline (Vangie) Govea Jimenez; son Jeremy of Coppell, Texas; daughter Vanessa and husband Johnny Perez Jr. of San Angelo, Texas; sisters Rickie Zuniga of San Angelo, Texas; and Cindy Velez of Pecos, Texas; sister Elida Velez and brother Roland and wife Pam Garcia, all of Eldorado, Texas. He also leaves behind sisters-in-law Chris Ornelas and Linda Grimaldo and husband Narcisco; and brothers-in-law Eddie Govea and Ruperto Govea, Jr., all of San Angelo, Texas. He has numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Ernest "Ernie" Garcia, Eddie Govea, Oscar Guerrero, Sam Guevara, Oscar Ornelas, and Johnny Perez, Jr. Rosary was Friday, Feb. 22, at Johnson's Funeral Home. Mass of the Christian Burial was Saturday, Feb. 23, at St. Mary Catholic Church. Interment will follow in Lawnhaven Memorial Garden Cemetery.

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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle
by Linda Thistle

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

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 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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See Solution on Page 8

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Eldorado boys exit State 1A Playoffs with loss to Thorndale

Eldorado's varsity boys basketball team gave it all they had last Friday night, and for nearly three quarters they were able to stay close to the Thorndale Bulldogs, the defending 1A State Champions.

But, a 38-point performance by Thorndale's All-State Brandon Irwin was more than the scrappy Eagles could withstand and the Bulldogs pulled away from Eldorado in the second half of the game.

The Eagles would end the night

on the short end of a 95-63 deficit as the Bulldogs took advantage of every rebound and turnover to extend their lead.

At the same time, Eldorado's young guns went cold and the point margin ballooned to the point of no return for the Warbirds.

Irwin was the game's leading scorer with 38.

Jorge Mata led scoring for the Eagle with 20 points on nine field goals and two free throws.

Paul Martinez tallied 12 points for Eldorado on four 3-point

buckets.

Dustin Ramos counted for nine points on three 3-pointers while Rance Cathey hit for eight points on two field goals, a 3-pointer and a free throw.

Michael Redish contributed six points. Lalo Sanchez hit for five. Tyler Dombroski counted for two

points and Dustin Gauna added a point with a free throw.

The loss ended the season for Coach Rene Valeriano's Eagles, but not before they brought home a District Co-Championship and a Bi-District title with their come-from-behind win over the Johnson City Eagles.

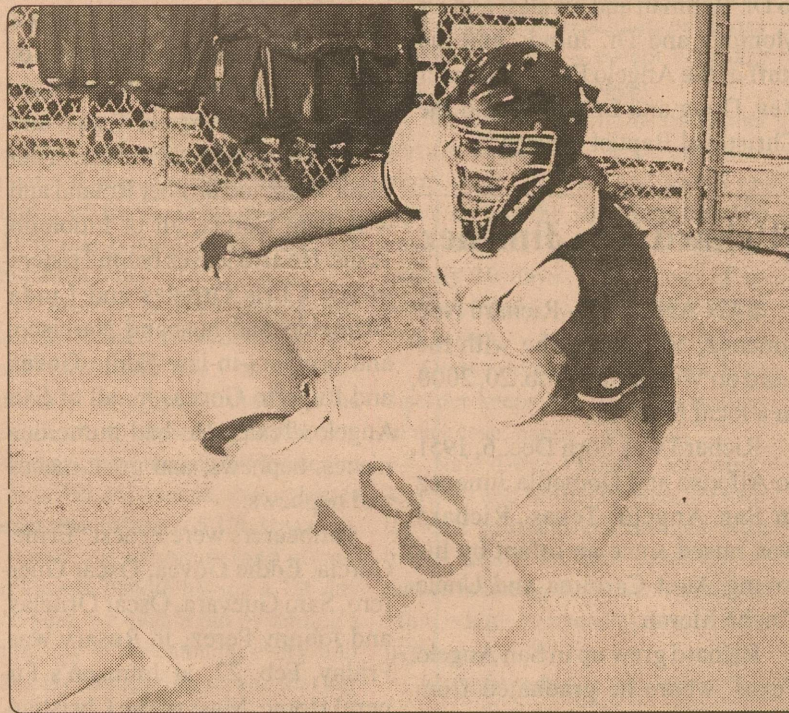


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

He's Out!

Eagles Catcher Dustin Gauna tags out a Brady Bulldog runner at the plate Monday afternoon as the Eldorado Eagles tallied a 12-2 win in their home opener.

Eagles nine take 12-2 victory in home opener

Garrett Lux pitched a 1-hitter Monday as the Eldorado Eagles baseball team notched up a 12-2 win over the Brady Bulldogs in the team's home opener.

Manny Gonzalez went 2-3 at the plate for 2 RBIs and added 2 stolen bases to pace the Warbirds high-octane offense.

Jorge Mata also went 2-3 at the plate for 3 RBIs.

Likewise, Lalo Sanchez was 2-3 at the plate. He tallied a double and a RBI.

Miles Mikeska also connected for a double as the Eagles red-hot bats took the Bulldogs out of their game early and kept the contest out of reach the rest of the game.

Coach Broussard's Warbirds are slated to face the Junction Eagles here at 4 p.m. on Friday, February 29th.

Talon 2008 Year-books are on sale now until March 3, 2008. Cost is \$25.00 each. Contact a Talon staff member to place your order.

ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL SCHEDULE 2007-2008

Feb. 09 @ LAKE VIEW SCRIMMAGE
 Feb. 16 REAGAN COUNTY @ ELDORADO
 Feb. 19 @ OZONA
 Feb. 21-23 CRANE TOURNAMENT
 Feb. 28-Mar. 1 SAN ANGELO TOURN.
 Mar. 4 REAGAN COUNTY @ BIG LAKE
 Mar. 11 *MILES
 Mar. 14 *MENARD
 SPRING BREAK: Mar. 17 - Mar. 21
 Mar. 24 *@ FORSAN
 Mar. 28 *EDEN
 Apr. 1 *@ WINTERS
 Apr. 4 *@ MILES
 Apr. 8 *@ MENARD
 Apr. 11 *FORSAN
 Apr. 15 *@ EDEN
 Apr. 18 *WINTERS
 *Notes District Games

2008 Eldorado Eagle Baseball Schedule

DATE	Opponent	Home/Away	Time
Feb 29	Junction	Home	4 p.m.
Mar 3	Junction	Away	4 p.m.
Mar 6-8	Ozona Tourn.	Away	TBA
Mar 11	Sonora	Away	7 p.m.
Mar 14	Miles*	Home	4:30 p.m.
Mar 24	Menard*	Home	4:30 p.m.
Mar 28	Forsan*	Away	4:30 p.m.
April 4	Winters*	Away	4:30 p.m.
April 7	Miles*	Away	4:30 p.m.
April 11	Menard*	Away	4:30 p.m.
April 15	Forsan*	Home	4:30 p.m.
April 22	Winters*	Home	4:30 p.m.

* Denotes District Game
 Head Coach- John Broussard
 Assistant Coach- Rene Valeriano
 Athletic Director- Johnny Burleson
 Superintendent- Billy Collins

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HONOR ROLL

**Eldorado Middle School
Honor Roll
4th Six Weeks**

5th Grade

"A" Honor Roll: Estephania Estrada, Arden Mertz, Ivie Mynatt, Abby Nolen, Whitney Perez, Stormi Rinehart, Esmeralda Ruezga, Tres Whitten and Kameron Wike

"A-B" Honor Roll: Dalton Buchholz, Jaqueline Castro, Breana Crofoot, Taylor Curtis, Jessica Gandar, Jessica Gonzalez, Elizabeth Guerrero, Tori Guerrero, Martin Iglesias, Mika Key, Josie Ledezma, McKenzie McAngus, Cody McCormack, Dominique Ochoa, West Ramon, Lucas Santellano, Abbi Spradley, Garet Swinford and Kiarra Treviño

"A" Honor Roll: Madison Albin, Morgan Bridges, Taylor Carter, Addye Chatham, Bailey Espinosa, Abriana Islas and Jackson O'Harrow

"A-B" Honor Roll: Michael Bilbrey, Obdulia Huerta, Macy Mikeska, Marcela Muñoz, Younger Northcott, Elizabeth Olivares, Lupe Pasillas, Yssenia Ramirez, Amber Shipman

7th Grade

"A" Honor Roll: Ryan Espinosa, Blaine Mitchell, Avery Nolen, Jessica Pasillas, Austin Stapp

"A-B" Honor Roll: Miranda Arisla, Will Barker, Camron Capps, Shelby Daniels, Lori Escobar, Veronica Fuentes, Kasey Gonzalez, Lane Griffin, Edward Hernandez, Nikki Herrera, Nancy Iglesias, Mary Lou Martinez, Rudy Montez, Brian Shriver, Marcus Perez, Hagen Porras, Dylan Ramos, Hector Reyes, Domingo Torres, Stacey Valeriano and Ruben Vazquez.

8th Grade

"A" Honor Roll: Brianah Creek, Abby Fuentes, Amanda Garcia, Evan Joiner, Oscar Robles, Christian Sanchez

"A-B" Honor Roll: Clarissa Castro, Robert Chavez, Ryan Fortenberry, Clarissa Gomez, Marissa Gonzales, Melissa Gonzales, Karina Granados, Polli Guerrero, Nelly Hernandez, Ashby Ragsdale, Ana Sanchez, Charli Swinford, Brianda Torres, Dacy Whiddon and Kaylee Wilha

Touch of History
by Rene Calcote

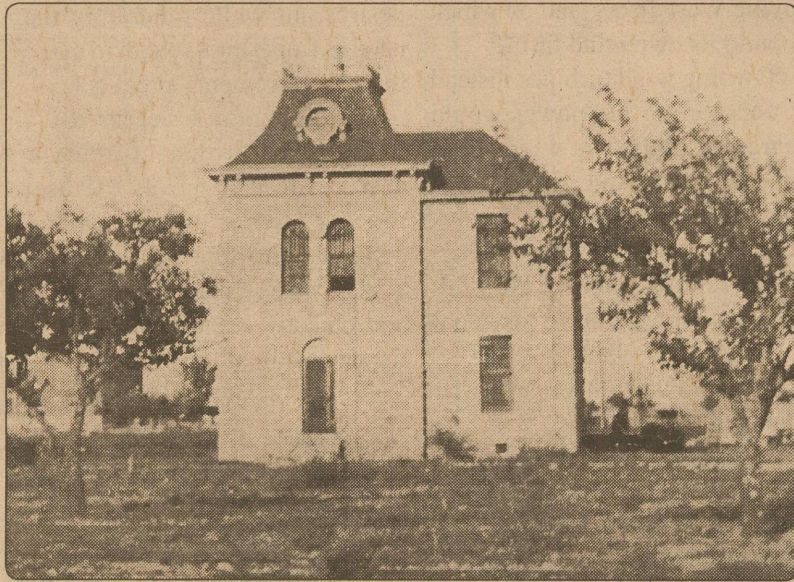


PHOTO COURTESY SCHLEICHER CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

First Schleicher County Jail
Current County Tax Office

The First Jail in Eldorado

Eldorado found its need for a place to incarcerate prisoners in 1905, and the Commissioners Court took bids for a contractor to build a jail. Bonds were approved and S.T. Hodges agreed to build the rock structure for \$8,750.

The building was a second empire structure with corner quoins and walls of rock-faced course ashlar. The rocks were quarried in Schleicher County. This was Eldorado's first rock building, and it was very outstanding.

Many law officials have lived in the jail during their term of office. Ola

Mae "Duge" McDonald was the only child born in the jail when her father, "Pomp" Watson, served as Deputy Sheriff in 1914. Orval Edmiston and his family lived in the jail twenty-four years while he was sheriff. Charlene Edmiston also cooked for the prisoners. Orval was Schleicher County Sheriff from 1957 until 1979.

The old jail still has the hanging gallows, even though no one was ever hanged. The gallows have been covered over, but they are still there.

The structure received a Texas Historical Medallion Plaque in 1962. It now houses the County Appraisal District.

Methodist Church sanctuary open to public for prayer

During the first full work week of every month, the Methodist Church sanctuary will be open from 11:00-1:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to stop by for some quiet time and to pray. This month's prayer focus is for

those that help protect our community.....firemen, police, and EMS.

The church will be open March 3-7th. Additionally, the World Day of Prayer is March 7th, and there will be a 24 hour prayer vigil.

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◆ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) (10:10am) (1:10pm) 4:10pm 7:10pm 10:10pm	◆ STEP UP 2 - THE STREETS (PG-13) (10:30am) (1:30pm) 4:30pm 7:30pm 10:30pm
◆ SEMI-PRO (R) (10:00am) (11:00pm) (1:00pm) (2:00pm) 4:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm	◆ THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13) (10:40am) (1:40pm) 4:40pm 7:40pm 10:40pm
◆ CHARLIE BARTLETT (R) (10:50am) (1:50pm) 4:50pm 7:50pm 10:50pm	◆ THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) (10:45am) (1:45pm) 4:45pm 7:45pm 10:45pm
◆ DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13) (10:25pm) (1:25pm) 4:25pm 7:25pm 10:25pm	◆ THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) (11:05am) 6:55pm
◆ FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13) (10:35) (1:35pm) 4:35pm 7:35pm 10:35pm	◆ VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) (10:15am) (1:15pm) 4:15pm 7:00pm 10:00pm
◆ JUMPER (PG-13) (10:20am) (1:55am) (1:20pm) (1:55pm) 4:20pm 4:55pm 7:20pm 7:55pm 10:20pm 10:55pm	◆ WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13) (10:05am) (1:05pm) 4:05pm 7:05pm 10:05pm
	◆ WITLESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 3:55pm 11:05pm

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PLAY BALL!
Baseball & Softball Signups
Pee Wee to Pony League
Ages 5-13 on or before May 1, 2008

FBC Fellowship Hall
March 6 & 11
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Final Signups
No Late Signups
NO EXCEPTIONS
Tryouts March 13th
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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Eldorado's Internet Homepage

Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the utility company might consider buying West Texas land on which to build its own wind farm.

Owning wind turbines instead of contracting for power would guarantee a supply of wind power into the future and give the utility more cost control, McCluskey said.

Currently, much of Austin's energy supply comes from coal-burning power plants.

'Own Your Own Future' launched

The Texas Education Agency on Feb. 22 launched a program to encourage youth to stay in school, graduate and pursue a career.

The program, "Own Your Own Future," comes through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Education Commissioner Robert Scott said the program "pro-

vides at-risk youth with career options tied to their passions and desires, all while reiterating the need to finish high school to make these achievements a reality."

The program is accessed via www.ownyourfuture.com, a Web site that moves the user through a series of question-and-answer sections that help the student chart a clear path to goals and objectives and participate in the decisionmaking process.



County Agent's Update

by Courtney Barbae

4-H Meetings Scheduled

I would like to remind all 4-H members that there will be a meeting on March 4th for the Junior High and High School students during the lunch at the middle school. Students will need to bring their own lunch to this day.

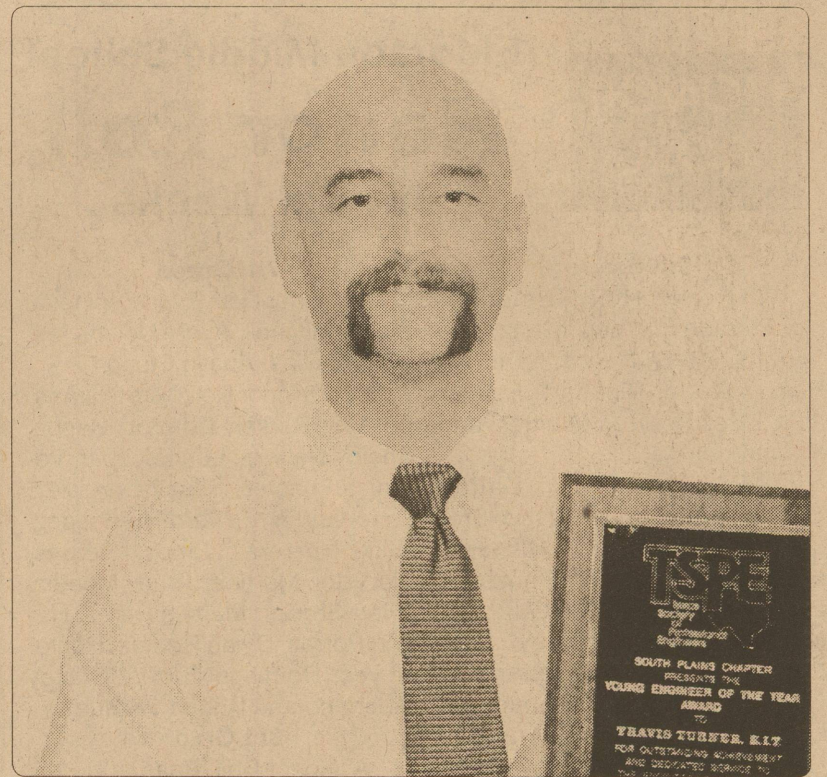
Elementary 4-Hers will meet from 3:00-3:40 at the elementary school.

4-H inspires new ice cream from Blue Bell

In honor of the Texas 4-H organization's 100th birthday, Blue Bell Creameries has introduced Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream. To sweeten the deal, the Little Creamery is donating a portion of the sales to promote 4-H educational programs.

Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream is a delicious cake batter ice cream with pieces of yellow cake, a chocolate icing swirl and four-leaf clover sprinkles.

Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream will be sold in Texas and across the company's 17-state distribution area. Blue Bell has also created a unique carton for this new flavor. It features four children in 4-H T-shirts and the organization's widely recognized four-leaf emblem. Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream will be available in stores in mid-February.



Travis Cole Turner

Turner named "Young Engineer of the Year" by South Plains TSPE

Travis Cole Turner was named "Young Engineer of the Year" by the South Plains Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) at a luncheon February 6th, 2008 at the Market Alumni Center at Texas Tech University.

Mr. Turner began his career with Xcel Energy in 1997 after graduating from Texas Tech University with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering as a Distribution Design Engineer. In late 2000, he and his family moved to Amarillo with Xcel Energy as a Distribution Reliability Assessment Engineer. In late 2001, he was promoted to Senior Transmission Design Engineer, where he stayed for approximately 3 years. In January 2005, he moved back to Lubbock to the Engineering Department at Lubbock Power

& Light (LP&L) as Manager of Electrical Engineering where he practices today. Travis Cole Turner graduated from EHS in 1991 and is the son of Sonny and JoAnn Turner of Eldorado.

Mr. Turner and his wife, LeAnn, have three children; Auti Cole 7, Makinna Brooke 3, and Cody Wyatt 18mos. He is Secretary/Treasurer of the South Plains Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Director of the South Plains Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Turner coaches PONY baseball and Youth Football in Frenship ISD and he and his wife, LeAnn, are very active in PTA. The Turner family are members of the College Heights Baptist Church in Lubbock.

County Commissioners...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to retain certain lots for pauper burials.

The court then approved the \$25.00 membership dues to the Concho Valley R C & D Area, Inc.

The men also signed and approved the bills for the previous month.

Judge Johnny Griffin then brought a recommendation the Commissioner's Court to consider replacing the mobile home at the cemetery with a new redi-built home. Griffin presented the court with several builders to consider when they begin the budget process in August. The options presented where in the

\$70 per foot price range.

At the closing county resident Shane West asked the court if he could pick up some large rocks in the right away on County Road 300 to be used at Pugh Park in Christoval in order to help slow down traffic near the ball fields where his children play.

Judge Johnny Griffin told the court since the rocks would be placed on Tom Green County property he recommended West should get permission from Tom Green County Court before Schleicher County could proceed.

The item will be placed on the March 10 agenda for a vote.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Part of a fight card
- Home furnishings chain
- Competed in "Bee Season," say
- Lhasa ___ (Tibetan dog)
- Not windy
- Lecturers' spots
- Joe Six-pack's overhang
- Tick off
- "Not to mention ..."
- Irish Rose's lover
- Full of fervor
- Ugly duckling, ultimately
- Hobby farm critter
- West Coast ball-park
- Like rich soil
- Meadow female
- TV's Dame ___ Everage
- Johnson of "Laugh-In"
- Punished with a stick
- Fizzy drink
- Tea leaves reader
- Tread the boards
- Metric weights, for short
- 1932 Marx Brothers classic
- ___ out (canceled)
- "Alice" actress Martha

DOWN

- Rummy treat
- Ready for business
- Like thrift shop goods

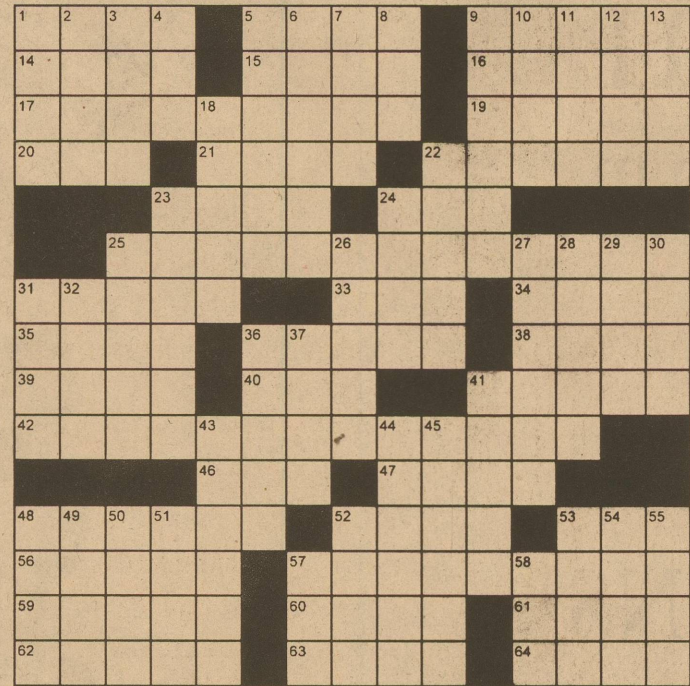
4. Anderson's "High ___"

- Swelling reducer
- Tigers great Al
- Model Macpherson
- Judge in a TV title
- Ancient foe of Athens
- Habitat for koi, often
- Barely defeat

12. Creditor's claim

- Like a sourball
- Off-color
- Fed the kitty
- Suzanne of "Three's Company"
- "Even ___ speak ..."
- Library stamp
- Words before cop or car
- Hanker for
- Fanzine subjects
- Reverse the effects of
- "Serpico" author Peter
- Place for mascara
- Cookie introduced in 1912
- Java purveyors
- Got 100 on
- ___ up (excited)
- Full range
- Hostilities ender
- Pollster Louis
- Hen's home
- ___ podrida (spicy stew)
- "Veni, ___, vici"
- Roulette bet
- ___ Lisa
- Give a hoot
- Lena of "Chocolat"
- Timetable, for short
- Candy unit
- Surfing spot

Is There a Draft in Here?



American Profile HomeTown Content

See solution on Page 8

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Eldorado Invitational Tennis Tourney

Eldorado's girls doubles team of Adrianna Hernandez and Victoria Belman lost to Sonora's doubles team Favila/Vela in the semi-final round during the Eldorado Varsity Tennis Tournament held Friday and Saturday with 10 teams participating. Sonora lost to Miles doubles team Gonzalez/Dawian in the final. Also playing for Eldorado were Ashley Paulson and Carlie McAngus and April Porras and Lindsay Pridemore.

Girls singles was won by Tabitha Bryant of Paint Rock. Playing for Eldorado in the girls singles division was Emily Espinosa and Krista Galindo.

In the boy's single division Corey Fenwick of Winters took first place. Playing for Eldorado was Zack Brame and Louie Buitron.

In the boy's doubles division Herbie Ellis/Ryan West of Miles won the finals against Mason Collins and JoMikel Leal of Paint Rock. Eldorado's doubles team was Richmond Adame and Robert Buchholz.

The Mixed Doubles team of Lauren Rubio and Ivany Sanchez lost to Collenback/Sullian Jost of Paint Rock in the second round after a bye in the first. Andra Kerley and Bryan Munn of Miles won the division.

The Eagle's tennis coach this season is Coach Manual San-Miguel.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Varsity Lady Eagle Victoria Belman and her doubles partner Adrianna Hernandez won the quarterfinal match against Paint Rock 6-3, 6-3 and lost to Sonora in the semifinal at the Eldorado Invitational Tennis Tournament held here last Friday and Saturday.

The Idle American...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This brings to mind the musty joke about the lady seated near the front at church.

The music minister whispered to the pastor, "Isn't that Fanny Green?"

"No, I think it's just the way the sun is hitting the stained glass," the parson responded....

On such a subject, former Los Angeles baseball manager Tommy Lasorda views the world through blue-colored glasses. Now 81, he's Dodger-blue, through and through. Memoirs in his new book, *I Live for This*, suggest the kind of loyalty rarely evidenced now.

Growing up poor when few high school students had cars, he remembers the day a salesman knocked at the door, peddling encyclopedias.

"We aren't interested," his dad said, "Our kids can walk to school like the rest of 'em."

With the attention to "it" in today's piece, it occurs to me to once again salute educators, some of whom are on the cusp of spring break and are counting the days until this respite. Some say this is the time they get their "second wind" to complete the school year.

I heard the other day of a kindergarten teacher who fielded a serious question from the mouth of an innocent.

"Why is it," the youngster asked, "that we have a letter to end the alphabet, but numbers just go on and on?" Maybe "it" will be answered after spring break....

A long-time speaker, Dr. Newbury writes weekly for about 125 newspapers. He welcomes inquiries and comments. Send email: newbury@speakerdoc.com Call: 817-447-3872. His website: www.speakerdoc.com

School Lunch Menu



BREAKFAST MENU

- Monday, February 25**
Banana Nut Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Tuesday, February 26**
Waffle Stix/Syrup, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Wednesday, February 27**
Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Thursday, February 28**
Pig-n-a-Blanket, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Friday, February 29**
Cinnamon Toast, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

CAFETERIA LINE

- Monday, February 25**
Chalupas, Lettuce and Tomato Salad, Spanish Rice, Pineapple Tidbits
- Tuesday, February 26**
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Hot Rolls, Carrot Stix/Dip, Brownies
- Wednesday, February 27**
Pep Pizza, Tossed Salad/w Tomato Bread Stix 5-12, Sliced Peaches
- Thursday, February 28**
Taco Rolls, Carrot Stix/Dip, Pear Halves
- Friday, February 29**
Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad, Oranges

BASKET LINE

- Monday, February 25**
Hamburger Steak/Gravy, Hot Rolls, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit
- Tuesday, February 26**
Chicken Nuggets, Broccoli /Cheese Tossed Salad/w Tomato, Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Wednesday, February 27**
Vegetable Beef Stew/Grilled Cheese, Corn Bread, Carrot Stix/Dip, Rosie Apple Sauce
- Thursday, February 28**
Chicken Fajita/Flour Tortilla, Refried Beans, Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Sliced Pineapple
- Friday, February 29**
Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Baked Chips, Sandwich Salad, Apples

SELF INKING STAMPS



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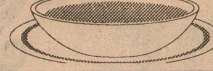
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Meals for Friends Menu



- Monday, March 3**
Spanish Meatballs, Rice, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Sliced Tomatoes, Pineapple Rings, Milk
- Tuesday, March 4**
Beef Burrito, Pinto Beans, Spinach, Coleslaw, Gelatin w/Pears, Milk
- Wednesday, March 5**
Oven Pork Chop, Noodles, Carrot, Bread, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Milk
- Thursday, March 6**
Meatloaf w/Tomatoes, Blackeyed Peas, Okra, Cornbread, Banana Pudding, Milk
- Friday, March 7**
Chicken Supreme, Herbed New Potatoes, Broccoli, Hot Rolls, Green Salad, Cherry Cobbler, Milk

BIRTHDAY LIST FEBRUARY

28th Catrina Lloyd, Dee Ann White, Gerald Lange, Doug Ward, Andre Fay, Brianah Creek, Rudy Spigarelli, Luis Santellano, Doug Ward

MARCH

- 1st** James Mack Holley, Michael Martinez
- 2nd** Betty Sue McAlpine, Byron Greer, Brayton Lucas Elias
- 3rd** Stephanie Estrada, Lexi Ann Chatham, Andy Baker, Annette Jackson, Justin Harlin, Lois Dean, Raymond Spears Jr., Mitch Wilkerson, Levi Jones, Taven Espinosa
- 4th** Teresa Vasquez, Miguel Estrada
- 5th** Robbie Len Saldivar, Steve Minor, Kimberly Hight, Deanne Walker
- 6th** Christy Meador, Rosa Hill, Dwayne Caulder, Rosa Fuentes

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY

- 29th** Martin & Cathy Torres, J.R. & Dianna Goodrum
- MARCH**
- 4th** Bob & Ima Jean Bruce

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NOTICE

Appraisal District Office
CLOSED ALL DAY
MARCH 3RD TO 5TH

MARCH 6TH & 7TH
CLOSED FROM
8:00 AM-12 NOON

Appraisal District Office &
County Tax Assessor's Office
will be
CLOSED ALL DAY
March 10th-12th

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- PRAISE...** Express delight for all the things you like about the child and you will help build self-esteem
- RESPECT...** Treat the child as a valuable person, who in return will learn self-respect and to respect others.
- SECURITY...** Provide boundaries to allow the child to grow safely and feel secure.
- LOVE...** Show your affection and say "I Love You!" often so the child knows how much you care.
- HUGS...** A hug can be empowering and let the child know they are worthy.

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Hospital 325.853.2507 ~ Family Clinic 325.853.3137

Card of Thanks

To our friends in Eldorado "THANK YOU" for supporting our "Won By One" youth group Valentine Day fundraiser for Speed The Light For Missions. God Bless, Agape Assembly of God Youth Group

Card of Thanks

Thank You! Thank You! To members of our dedicated Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department, Sheriff Department, our neighbors, and all the ranchers with their sprayers who helped put out the fire that started north of our home place, Monday evening. Schleicher County is full of wonderful caring people and thank you again. CR and Joann Sproul



Stargazer

Paul Derrick

Happy Leap Day

Most of us seem to prefer it when things come out even. A Dollar Store has more appeal than a Ninety-Eight-and-One-Half Cent Store, and it makes more sense that a bottle of drink is 12 rather than 12.17 ounces. And wouldn't it be easier if they just said gasoline is \$3 a gallon rather than \$2.999? It just seems to simplify life a bit when things come out even.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't share that sentiment when it comes to time. Two of our more important measures of time are based on natural phenomena. A day is one rotation of Earth on its axis, and a year is one revolution of the Earth around the Sun.

If Mother Nature shared our compulsive need for orderliness, she would have made one year an exact number of days, but she didn't. In the time Earth revolves around the Sun (one year), our home planet rotates on its axis 365.2422 times, thus a year is a fraction short of 365 1/4 days.

Since our calendars (and minds) can't easily handle having a 1/4-day each year, we even it out by adding a whole day to the calendar every four years. By convention, we add that day to each year that is evenly divisible by 4. That day, Feb. 29, is called Leap Day, and the year is called Leap Year. In the U.S., it's easy to remember as it coincides with presidential election years. So, next Friday will be Feb. 29,

not Mar. 1.

When it comes to months, Mother Nature is even more untidy. It takes our Moon 29 1/2 days -- approximately one month ("month") -- to orbit Earth. Since we don't like fractions of days, we round a month to 30 days. But even that doesn't quite work as there aren't an even number of months in the year. So we add an extra day to some months -- except February which got short-changed.

See how messy all this is. Mother Nature could have been so much more orderly if she had Earth revolve around the Sun in exactly 360 days, and the Moon orbit Earth in exactly 30 days. Then those of us with compulsive tendencies could rest easier.

On the other hand, maybe a little disorder keeps life more interesting. In any case, happy Leap Day.

Naked-eye Planets. Morning: Mercury and brilliant Venus are near the east southeastern horizon with bright Jupiter to their upper right; Saturn is setting in the west. Evening: Mars is high overhead as Saturn rises in the east.

Stargazer appears regularly in *The Success*. 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.

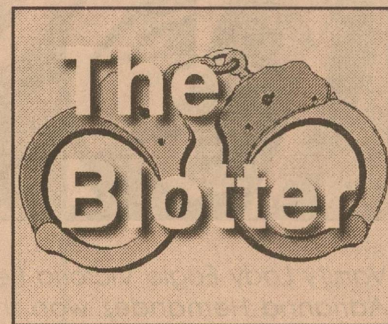
DPS seizure nets millions dollars of cocaine along the border

A Piedras Negras, Mexico resident was arraigned this morning in Del Rio on federal drug charges in connection with the seizure of 360 pounds of cocaine in Kinney County.

The cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$3 million, was discovered in 142 individual packages in a secret compartment in a flatbed trailer, after a DPS trooper noticed abnormalities in the trailer.

DPS Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement troopers stopped the flatbed tractor trailer for a routine inspection Sunday afternoon on eastbound U.S. 90 about 18 miles west of Brackettville at the Kinney/Val Verde County line. Investigators believe the truck was traveling from the Del Rio area to either Houston or Dallas.

DPS Narcotics investigators are continuing the investigation.



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

February 23 • Garza, Alicia Fuentes, female age 42, offense providing Alcohol to a minor. Released on bond.

• Martinez, Juan Jesus, male age 34, offense Driving While Intoxicated (3rd Offense).

February 25 • Hogeda, Crencio Esteban III, male age 25, offense Driving While Intoxicated w/open containers.

INCIDENTS

February 19 • 7:55 p.m. Caller advised a female driver vehicle collided with a deer 3 miles east on Hwy. 190.

• 8:32 p.m. Caller reported a gray horse loose on McIntosh Road about 1-2 miles. Officer notified.

Feb. 20 • 7:40 a.m. Subject on FM 2084 requested an ambulance for sister who was having chest pains. Ambulance responded.

• 6:33 p.m. Complainant reported loud music and requested an officer to do something about it. Officer responded.

• 7:02 p.m. Convenience store reported a 20 pound bag of ice was taken without being paid for. Officer notified and responded.

• 7:05 p.m. Caller reported two females fighting in the street. Officer responded.

• 10:08 p.m. Caller reported loud music near their residence. Officer responded and told subjects to lower the volume.

• 10:25 p.m. Caller reported their vehicle was being vandalized. Officer responded.

• 10:46 p.m. Caller requested

to speak with a deputy. Officer responded.

Feb. 21 • 7:33 p.m. Caller reported a fire near the Crowder yard south on Hwy. 277. Officer investigated.

• 1:03 p.m. Caller reported a reckless driver on Gillis. Officer responded.

Feb. 22 • Caller reported a grass fire on Hwy. 190 West. Volunteer Eldorado Fire Department responded.

Feb. 23 • 3:14 a.m. Caller reported loud music near their residence and requested a deputy. Officer responded.

• 4:54 a.m. Hospice worker reported a person had passed away. Justice of the Peace was called. Officer witness.

• 12:20 a.m. Caller informed Sheriff Office they would be calling varmints south of Eldorado into the morning hours.

• 6:48 p.m. Caller reported constant telephone harassment by their ex. Caller wanted the Sheriff Office to be aware of the harassment.

• 6:59 p.m. Caller requested a deputy for a domestic disturbance at their residence. Two officers responded.

• 7:04 p.m. 911 Call requested expediency in deputy's arrival to domestic disturbance.

• 9:05 p.m. Caller requested an officer for a possible criminal trespass. Officers responded.

Feb. 24 • 11:08 a.m. Caller reported a burglar alarm sounding. Officer investigated and found no signs of unauthorized entry.

• 1:32 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a basic transfer to San Angelo hospital.

• 7:25 p.m. Complainant came to Sheriff's office to speak with an officer in reference to ex-husband not returning children. Complainant was advised to pickup children and contact an attorney.

Feb. 25 • 1:31 p.m. Subject reported a grass fire on Old Sonora Road.

• 4:34 p.m. Complainant requested officer to residence in reference to stolen bicycle. Officer responded.

• 7:17 p.m. 911 Caller reported grass fire on neighbors property on FM 1828.

• 9:55 p.m. 911 Caller reported a reckless driver following behind caller. Subject could not describe vehicle. Officer responded.

Feb. 26 • 5:07 p.m. 911 Caller requested an officer to the high school. Student found baggy of unknown substance.

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Texas Comptroller to offer tax help

Comptroller Susan Combs' office will offer a free seminar to assist local taxpayers with their state taxes on Thursday, March 13, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

"Operating a business has many challenges, but figuring out your taxes shouldn't be one of them," Combs said. "Whether you are a new taxpayer, or one who has been in business for many years, this seminar will help you understand the laws that apply to you and your business."

At the seminar, taxpayers can learn about sales tax forms, tax-

ability issues, taxpayer responsibilities, and the array of services and information available from the Comptroller's office to assist taxpayers. Comptroller representatives will answer questions and provide assistance to attendees.

The seminar will take place at the Angelo State University Small Business Development Center, located at 2222 Dena Drive, Room 201.

For more information about the seminar, call the Comptroller's San Angelo field office at (325) 942-8364.

Those who are unable to attend the seminar can call the Comptroller's toll-free tax assistance line at (800) 252-5555. Tax forms and tax information can also be found on the Comptroller's Web site, www.window.state.tx.us

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Answer to Sudoku on Page 3

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

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

Is There a Draft In Here?

B	O	U	T	I	K	E	A	S	P	E	L	T	
A	P	S	O	C	A	L	M	P	O	D	I	A	
B	E	E	R	B	E	L	L	I	A	N	G	E	R
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D	O	D	G	G	E	R	S	T	A	D	I	U	M
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O	L	D	E	N	A	N	T	I	E	R	I	E	
P	A	I	N	T	R	A	Y	S	B	E	N	D	

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Eldorado Spotlight



Middle School student, Elizabeth Olivares, a 2008 PIP could balance, spin the basketball and smile at the same time. The PIPs performed during the last Eldorado Eagle home game. Olivares learned this skill while participating in the Player's In Progress Program.

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USDA Rural Development announces guaranteed loans for business & industry

TEMPLE, TEXAS, February 15, 2008 — USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program. Funding in the amount of \$53.7 million is available to create and maintain employment in rural communities.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to providing economic development opportunities in rural Texas communities," said Daniel Torres, Texas USDA Rural Development Business Programs Director. "These loans will help preserve or create jobs needed to

maintain the economic vitality of rural communities."

The B&I Guaranteed Loan Program allows lenders to make larger loans, provide more competitive rates and longer terms, and bring additional capital into the community. Loan proceeds may be used for working capital, purchase of machinery and equipment, purchase of buildings and real estate, and certain types of debt refinancing.

Banks and other authorized commercial lenders target communities with populations of 50,000 or less and locations not closely as-

sociated with urban areas. Priority is given to applications for loans in rural communities with a population of 25,000 people or less.

Although a borrower may get several loans for a project, Rural Development will not guarantee more than \$25 million in loans. Rural Development will guarantee 80% of a loan of \$5 million or less; 70% for loans between \$5 million and \$10 million; and 60% for loans between \$10 million and \$25 million.

Loans for working capital must be repaid within 7 years; loans for machinery and equipment within

15 years (or useful life); and loans for real estate within 30 years. A borrower must have collateral sufficient to protect the interests of the lender and the government. Personal and/or corporate guarantees are required in some cases.

Interest rates for loans may be fixed or variable and are ne-

gotiated between the lender and borrower. The lender performs a credit analysis and determines whether the borrower has adequate equity, cash flow, collateral, history, and the managerial capacity to execute the project.

USDA Rural Development is dedicated to delivering programs

in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural Texas residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Business Programs, contact the Texas State Office at (254) 742-9780 or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

LADY EAGLES ALL-STARS

The Eldorado Lady Eagles placed five members on the 2008 27-A All-District Basketball Team. Aubrey Martinez was named to the 1st Team All-District squad while Haley Higgins and Kirsten Stubbs received 2nd Team All-District honors. Cassandra Buitron and Bridgett Mitchell were named to the Honorable Mention Team.



Aubrey Martinez
1st Team All-District



Haley Higgins
2nd Team All-District



Kirsten Stubbs
2nd Team All-District



Cassandra Buitron
Honorable Mention



Bridgett Mitchell
Honorable Mention

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