



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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• Why Schleicher County? • Now we know

Why did Warren Jeffs and his followers in the FLDS church choose Schleicher County as the place to build their first-ever temple? The question has perplexed area residents for nearly five years. Now, with the release of hundreds of pages of documents seized during the YFZ raid, we can report the answer. Jeffs said he was led to Schleicher County by divine revelation.

Jeffs detailed in dictations recorded by one of his scribes that the Lord revealed to him the name of two cities. He said he would travel to the cities before receiving the name to additional towns as he was systematically guided to Eldorado.

Once here, Jeffs said he noted the resemblance to the limestone hills in Jackson County, Missouri, the place where Mormon faithful, including Jeffs' fundamentalists, believe the God will eventually lead his people to establish the "Center Stake of Zion."

Schleicher County, it turns out, was only a test to see if his flock was faithful enough and committed enough to build a temple — sort of a trial run in preparation for the move to Missouri.

Once the location was picked, Jeffs directed the purchase of the former Red Cheek Ranch and an additional parcel from Kirk Griffin. The prophet then put markers on the hills and asked the Lord to reveal which marker rested on the temple site.

Jeffs then took his followers to the markers and showed them exactly where to build the temple and where to quarry the stone for the project. And, he provided specific instructions for building the temple, including exact dimensions and the location of worship areas within the mammoth structure.

A huge baptismal font was to be built in the basement, which he said should be built with 6-foot thick walls. A vault was

also to be constructed in the basement. The first floor or "terrestrial floor" was to have light green carpet and chairs. The second floor or "terrestrial floor" was to have light blue carpet and chairs with a spiral staircase and another stairway covered with white carpet leading upward to the fourth floor or "celestial floor" which was to be decorated in all white. The celestial floor was also intended to house a "School of the Prophets."

At one point in the documents Jeffs indicated his disapproval of drapes that had been hung in the temple. He ordered the drapes removed and burned since they could not be used for any other purpose.

Jeffs also ordered a house and barns that had been built on the property by previous owners to be destroyed. Calling them "accursed things," Jeffs wanted every trace of prior use or habitation to be completely removed from the property.

Jeffs' dictations came to light as a civil custody case involving Warren Jeffs' 17-year-old daughter Teresa was dismissed by the court. Once entered into evidence in a civil case, the documents entered the public domain.

Jeffs taught his followers that the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel" would soon return to Earth from another planet. He said the group would land in the Pacific Ocean near Alaska. Meanwhile, the "City of Enoch," which he said was lifted up into the heavens before the flood, would return to its original site in the Gulf of Mexico. At that time, God's elect on Earth were to have constructed Zion in Missouri.

Other portions of the dictations show Jeffs as a paranoid prophet, on the run from the law and in constant fear of assassination. Several times he recorded dreams or visions in which black assassins were coming after him with knives

SEE JEFFS ON PAGE 8



SUCCESS FILE PHOTO

FLDS Prophet Warren Jeffs said he chose to build his temple in Schleicher County after God revealed the location to him. Jeffs explained in dictations made public recently that the limestone hills around Eldorado closely resemble those in Jackson County Missouri, where Mormon faithful, including Jeffs' fundamentalists believe the Lord will allow Zion to be constructed.

TFS issues Wildfire Danger Alert for much of Texas

COLLEGE STATION — Texas Forest Service (TFS) is urging citizens across the state to be aware of heightened wildfire danger due to high winds and low relative humidity levels on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The areas of highest concern are the Panhandle, West Texas, Central Texas, the Hill Country and South Texas. This includes the cities of Paris, Wichita Falls, Childress, Perryton, Dalhart, Amarillo, Lubbock, Abilene, Brownwood, Midland/Odessa, Pecos, El Paso, Presidio, San Angelo, Del Rio, San Antonio, Laredo, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Victoria, La Grange, Austin, Waco and Dallas/Fort Worth.

"The combination of dry fuels, strong winds and critically low humidity will make fast moving wildfires," said Kent Prochazka, a National Weather Service meteorologist working with TFS. "Wildfires that start on Tuesday or Wednesday will be very difficult to control."

These potentially devastating wildfires can quickly endanger public safety and

property. Citizens should be aware of the conditions and should not engage in activities that could lead to an accidental wildfire starts. In Texas, humans cause 95 percent of wildfires.

Since the beginning of the winter 2009 wildfire season, which began on January 22, 2009, TFS has responded along with local fire departments to 167 wildfires for

27,563 acres. During the same period, local fire departments have reported an additional 1,149 wildfires for 24,095 acres according to an online database managed by TFS.

For more information on fire advisories and area conditions, go to <http://texasforests.tamu.edu> and click on Fire Danger/Advisories.

SCISD & School Finance Laws

by Billy Collins
SCISD Superintendent

Last Monday night in the regular board meeting, the Board of Trustees moved to officially call for a "Chapter 41 Wealth Equalization Election".

The SCISD trustees did so because this fall, the Texas Education Agency officially notified SCISD, by letter, that we are a Chapter 41 school district. Our rising property values can be largely attributed to large increases in the values of oil and gas during the last 3 years. Most districts with substantial mineral values in our area are already designated as Chapter 41 by the state.

This is a mathematical calculation done based on local property values and the number of students in the district, or more specifically, Weighted Average Daily Attendance. If a district is over \$319,500 per WADA (or Weighted Average Daily Attendance), it is officially designated as a Chapter 41 School district. Lists of all districts in this category are located on the TEA website.

There is no way that a school district can prevent becoming a Chapter 41 school, although some have tried, unsuccessfully, to avoid paying recapture to either the state of Texas or a partner school district.

Chapter 41 status requires LOTS of specific procedures and planning. Estimates of recapture have to be made and put in the annual budget and lots of additional reporting to the state is required.

Close attention must be paid to student enrollment, tax collections, and trends in local property values. Multi-year planning is required to manage this process.

Important points for consideration:

- A school district absolutely MUST exercise an option to equalize its "excess wealth". There are ways to minimize what the district is responsible for, but it must "settle up" with the state by one option or another. No Chapter 41 school district in Texas has ever successfully avoided its Chapter 41 financial obligations.
- There are 5 options available to school district to equalize wealth:
 - 1) Consolidate with another district
 - 2) Detach property
 - 3) Purchase attendance credits from the state
 - 4) Contract to educate nonresident students from a partner district
 - 5) Consolidate tax bases with another district

• An election is required, to gain approval from the voters of the district, in order for the board of trustees to exercise any of these options.

• The question in this election is the issue of state versus local control of funds. If the school district does not exercise one or more of these options, the STATE will select a method of equalizing wealth. Only if our local district refuses will the state become involved in this process, since most districts adhere to the requirements and settle up.

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 6

School board okays final gym design

The Schleicher County ISD board of trustees met Monday evening, February 16th in a special called meeting where they heard from their architect Larry Harvey of Lubbock.

Harvey distributed and described an updated set of plans for renovations to the Middle School gymnasium. The board reviewed the plans before voting to authorize Harvey to advertise and call for bids for the gym renovation project.

Since the gym project was the only item on the agenda, the meeting promptly adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the SCISD board of trustees is slated for 6 p.m. on Monday, March 9th in the High School Library.



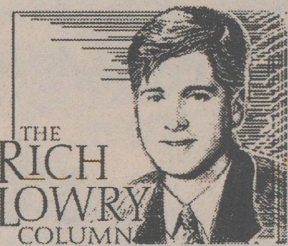
PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Rance Cathey puts a shot up over a Bulldog defender as the Eldorado Eagles defeated Miles 62-52 Tuesday night. The win closed out the Eagles regular season at 7-3 with a 2nd Place finish in district. The Eagles will face the DeLeon Bearcats Tuesday night in Ballinger in the Bi-District round of the State 1A Playoffs.

Last Gasp for Limited Government?

Republicans fought an inspired battle against the stimulus bill, holding all but three of their 219 senators and congressmen. And they still lost.

Some of the almost \$500 billion in stimulus spending will enter the permanent "baseline" of the federal budget, the starting point for all future budgets that, in the immutable law of Washington, always grow and never shrink.



From Ronald Reagan to Newt Gingrich, Republicans intent on limiting government during the past 25 years have succeeded in a limited way: From 1983 to 2000, the size of the federal government relative to GDP declined from 23.5 percent to 18.4 percent. Federal spending didn't shrink, but it grew at a slower rate than the economy, providing more breathing room for the private sector.

It had bounced back to 20.9 percent last year, and could conceivably go as high as 28 percent this year. According to Newsweek (cover: "We Are All Socialists Now"), in 2010 total U.S. government spending will be 39.9 percent of GDP, only about 8 percent less than the average in the socialistic Eurozone countries. Is American exceptionalism about to be bundled off on a long trip to the Continent, never to return?

That's the momentous question posed by Obama's presidency. Those who favor socialism of the creeping variety are feasting on a collapse of Wall Street's reputation as complete as that of the early 1930s, when one critic said of disgraced banker Charles E. Mitchell: "If you steal \$25, you're a thief. If you steal \$250,000, you're an embezzler. If you steal \$2,500,000, you're a financier."

The lost moral authority of the financial sector -- and the market generally -- has accrued to government, now on the hook for \$9.7 trillion worth of interventions in the economy. Whether this program is perceived to work, whether Obama further nationalizes health care and how much of our wealth is claimed by looming entitlements will determine the country's future, and its nature.

The backdrop to the debate over these questions is a roiling, up-for-grabs populism. The ascendant left-leaning populism feeds off anger at the new "malefactors of great wealth." But a right-leaning populism is building. It takes the same anger but lumps government in with the malefactors, through its bailout of failed industries and its self-serving irresponsibility symbolized by silly pet projects in the stimulus bill and burgeoning deficits (which Republicans are newly outraged about).

Obama can't get on the wrong side of this populist sentiment. It is why he did his rapid about-face on the nomination of Tom Daschle (a liberal swell enjoying a privileged Washington lifestyle, while neglecting his tax bills), and won't yet ask for more spending as part of the latest financial bailout. Obama's position gets more precarious if he ever imposes a broad-based tax increase to pay for an imminent deficit of nearly \$2 trillion, larger than the entire federal government a mere eight years ago.

If Obama manages to cement an aggrandized government, his domestic political accomplishment will equal Ronald Reagan's -- although, obviously, in reverse. The late sociologist Seymour Lipset wrote a brilliant book on why the U.S. didn't embrace socialism, called "It Didn't Happen Here." In a few years, its conclusion might look premature.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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It's good to get personal with your doctor

by Gary Applebaum, M.D.

I've been a primary care physician, working mainly with the elderly, for 20 years. In that time, I've seen thousands of patients and witnessed tremendous medical advancements. And I've come to realize that a personal relationship with a patient is the most valuable tool a doctor can wield.

As the debate heats up over healthcare reform, I'm worried that personalized medicine will be compromised.

Comprehensive healthcare reform is certainly needed. Costs are spiraling out of control and the number of uninsured Americans continues to rise. But in our efforts to fix what's broken, we must be careful not to break the things that work.

Reform-minded policymakers are putting a great deal of stock in "evidence-based medicine" and "comparative effectiveness research." These systems collect and compile scientific studies on medical treatments and then rank their effectiveness at treating particular diseases. Both are valuable resources when patients and physicians assess the merits of unfamiliar treatments.

But if public and private insurance plans use evidence-driven medical research to tie the hands of doctors, rigidly mandating treatment regimes based purely on cost, patients will be harmed. That's exactly what we're seeing with Britain's comparative effectiveness program -- severe restrictions on treatment

In My Opinion



COMMENTARY

Gary Applebaum, M.D.

choices and hamstrung medical innovation.

I fully support improving the methods with which information is collected and distributed. Doctors, patients, and the healthcare system at large would certainly benefit from more information.

But to dispense care effectively, doctors must have the freedom to mix that information with our experience and our personal knowledge of our patients. Evidence shows that such freedom actually contains healthcare costs in the long run.

Consider avoidable hospitalizations. Generally, they are caused by Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs), which are illnesses that with the proper medical care would normally not require hospitalization. Typical ACS conditions include bacterial pneumonia, diabetes, asthma, and congestive heart failure.

Cutting down ACS-induced hospitalizations would translate into huge savings for the healthcare system. A recent study by the Partnership for Health and Accountability

found that Georgia alone spent nearly \$1 billion in 2003 on roughly 120,000 preventable hospitalizations.

Personalized physician care at regular intervals combats disease progression, preventing complications and costly hospital stays.

The American healthcare system currently puts disproportionate focus on treatment cost. An effective cost-containment strategy would emphasize early disease management and preventative medicine. This requires personalized care.

The most-promising patient-centric approach to care is called a "medical home." This is when a single primary care physician functions as the point of contact between a patient and the medical community. This physician is intimately familiar with the patient's medical history and particular needs. He knows what will work and what will not. And his decisions aren't restrained by out-of-touch and arbitrary policies.

As we reform our healthcare system, policymakers must remember that while medical research is a science, practicing medicine is an art. And all art is personal. The one-on-one relationship between a physician and a patient must be preserved and protected.

Gary Applebaum, M.D., is a senior fellow at the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest. He is the former Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Erickson Retirement Communities.

Speaker Straus names 34 chairs of standing committees

AUSTIN — Texas House Speaker Joe Straus on Feb. 12 exercised one of his most important duties in naming standing House committees.

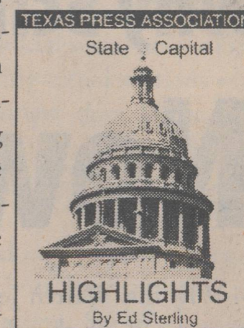
Straus, R-San Antonio, assigned leadership roles and responsibilities in an egalitarian fashion, reflecting a near balance of 76 Republican seats to the Democrats' 74.

Straus said 15 of his 34 new chairs have not chaired standing committees in prior sessions, and of the 34, 18 are Republicans and 16 are Democrats.

Here are just a few committees and chairs: Appropriations, Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie; Ways & Means, Rene Oliveira, D-McAllen; State Affairs, Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton; Calendars, Brian McCall, R-Plano; Human Services, Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs; Criminal Jurisprudence, Pete Gallego, D-Alpine; and Public Education, Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands.

Straus also named Rep. Craig Eiland, D-Galveston, as speaker pro tempore.

As for the state Senate, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst stuck with his chairs from the 2007 session, with the exception of the Administration Committee. Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth, former chair of the committee, lost his re-election bid last fall, so Dewhurst named Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, as the committee's new chair.



Some of Abe's kinfolks live in Alto

Bob Pearman of Alto got a special present from his oldest daughter, Ellen, this past Christmas. It was his family tree. She did a lot of research on both his mother's and father's sides of the family. Bob found out he had a famous relative.

"On my dad's side, my fourth great-grandfather turned out that he was a first cousin to Abraham Lincoln. I thought that was kind of cool. That's definitely a present I will always cherish."

Here's the way it shapes up: His 4th great grandfather, William Pearman, was married to Mary Elizabeth Hanks, whose sister Nancy Hanks married Thomas Lincoln. Abraham was born on February 12, 1809 to Nancy and Thomas Lincoln. William and Mary had a son named Weldon Pearman. That would make Weldon and Abe first cousins.

Christmas morning, with the family gathered around the Christmas tree, Ellen asked that her father open his present last.

"When it came my turn, I opened the book containing the



by Tumbleweed Smith

family tree. My daughter told me to start from the front and go through it to the end. I got to my grandfather and my great-grandfather and she took it from there. She told me the Pearmans were originally from England and settled in Virginia and South Carolina. On the very back sheet she revealed the kinship to the former president."

The family tree was presented in a beautifully bound 60-page book with gold lettering on the front of it. Bob keeps it handy in the office of his car dealership in Alto. The book has several photos, newspaper articles and family documents, including his dad's high school diploma and his grandfather's World War One draft registration card. One article from the Alto Herald reports on the opening of his grandfather's

service station. The book contains census records showing when and where various family members were born.

Bob's brother JD was surprised to learn he was kin to Abraham Lincoln.

"I was pretty shocked, you know, being a southern boy. You never really know about family members from a long time ago. I thought more than likely we'd be kin to John Wilkes Booth. But as it turns out, our four-back great-grandfather being first cousin to Abraham Lincoln is pretty interesting. It's not something that turns up all the time.

Bob's father had a friend who called him George.

"I asked Daddy one time, 'what does your friend mean when he calls you George? He said oh, that comes from George Washington Never Tell A Lie Pearman.' Maybe that falls in there somewhere, too. We might be kin to Washington as well."

Abraham Lincoln would have been two hundred years old this year.

Stimulus money will flow to Texas

On Feb. 13, Congress passed the conference report of House Resolution 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, without a "yea" vote from any Republican member of the Texas congressional delegation.

H.R. 1, President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus package, got a thumbs-down earlier this month from Gov. Rick Perry, who said he would be against the package unless it offered more tax cuts and less spending.

But the president got all the support he needed in a 60-38 filibuster-proof vote in the Senate and 246-183 vote in the House that included "yeas" from Texas' 12 Democratic reps.

Texas' share of the stimulus spending has been estimated at \$16 billion, but the money must be used as directed. Details on that will come.

As finally passed, H.R. 1 is about two-thirds stimulus spending and one-third tax cuts.

Water must play increasing role

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' new report, "Liquid Assets: The State of Texas' Water Resources" studies Texas' current and future water resources, the issues facing water planners and funding methods that could be used to develop water resources.

Combs said, "By 2060, more than 46 million people could be living in Texas, and demand for water will increase by an estimated 27 percent."

"According to the Texas Water Development Board, failing to meet this demand could cost businesses and workers in the state approximately \$9.1 billion per year by 2010 and \$98.4 billion per year by 2060."

AG launches restitution program

Attorney General Greg Abbott on Feb. 11 made public a restitution program he said is for eligible Countrywide Financial Corp. residential mortgage customers who lost their homes to foreclosure.

In 2008, Abbott initiated an investigation into allegations that Countrywide encouraged homeowners to accept loans they could not afford, failed to fully disclose risky loan terms to

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 6

OBITUARIES

Edwin Martin Jackson III



Trey graduated from Eldorado High School in 1980. He later graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Care. He was employed as a respiratory therapist for the past 15 years at Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio, Texas caring for the smallest of patients in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Trey was a loving husband, father, son, and brother. He was also a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan. Sadly, those Sunday get-togethers will never be the same without him. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

SCHERTZ — Edwin Martin Jackson III (Trey) was born November 8, 1962 in Sonora, Texas and passed away February 11, 2009 at his home in Schertz, Texas at the age of 46.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edwin Martin Jackson Jr.

Trey is survived by his loving wife Britta, daughter Meagan, and son Ryan; mother Shirley Jackson; two sisters, Sherwin Voss and husband John, and Cindy White and her husband Danny; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Schertz Funeral Home Chapel in Schertz, Texas. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery.

You are invited to sign the guestbook at www.schertzfuneralhome.com.

Hutchison to address annual TSCRA convention

FORT WORTH — U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison will address cattle raisers at the Opening General Session of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Convention in Fort Worth. The Opening General Session will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 21.

"I am pleased to be addressing the 132nd Annual Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Convention in Fort Worth," said Sen. Hutchison. "The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers play an important role in protecting and promoting the agriculture industry. I will continue to work hard to ensure that Texas remains a leading beef producing state."

"The Texas agriculture industry is still going strong even though we are experiencing tough economic times," TSCRA President Jon Means said. "Approximately 80 percent of Texas land is used for agriculture. Additionally, our state ranks first in the nation in the number of cattle and calves. To maintain that status, the cattle industry needs strong leaders in Washington, like Senator Hutchison. We must continue to work alongside our elected officials to ensure the safety and prosperity of the Texas cattle industry."

More than 2,000 ranchers and landowners will gather in Fort

Worth for a weekend of programs and educational sessions, a trade show with more than 200 companies, networking and fellowship with fellow cattle raisers.

BIRTHDAY LIST FEBRUARY

- 19th Dustin Ramos, Patrick Fuentes, William Robledo, Matt Peters, Carlos D. Estrada, Abby Fuentes, Randy Beach, Sharon Ussery, Edward Dominguez, James Beach, Karen Ussery
- 20th Bridgett Mitchell, Richard Adame Jr., Manuel Martinez, Wes Adkins, Jacob Politte, Cheryl Forlano
- 21st Chelsey Martinez, Orval Edmiston, Luiz Martinez
- 22nd Eric Cheatham, Peggy Daniels, Emilio Valejo Jr., Heather Nixon, Jimmy Powell, Josh Young, Ricky Fuessel
- 23rd Mike Prater, Caleb Daniels
- 24th Abelardo Montalvo, Marina Lozano, Toni Hendrick, Amanda Wanoreck, Susie McAngus
- 25th Tammy Dombroski, Georgina Caldwell, Shanna Edmiston, Kymm Nixon, Velma Tyler

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY

- 21st Candi & Kurtis Homer
- 22nd Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Perez
- 23rd Bill and Becky Rankin
- 24th Jose Lino and Benita Fuentes
- 27th Jimmy & Nancy Powell
- 29th Martin & Cathy Torres, J.R. & Dianna Goodrum

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San Antonio Stock Show Results

SAN ANTONIO — Eldorado producers were well represented this week among the winners at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.

Dalton York, son of Brian York and Kallie Kohls York, and grandson of Norman and Kathy Kohls, had the Grand Champion Full Blood Buck in the Junior Goat Show. Dalton shows animals with the Eldorado 4H youths. The 11-year-old won a scholarship in 2007 and has continued his winning streak ever since.

Davis Hutto placed 4th and Jackson O'Harrow placed 8th in

the Market Goat division. Other local youths participating in that division were Kevin Dykstra and Jaymie O'Harrow.

Ivie Kate Mynatt placed 10th with her Finewool Cross Lamb. Her brother, Will Mynatt also participated in that division.

Powell Ranch Dorpers of Eldorado claimed Reserve Champion Dorper Lamb in the Open Dorper Lamb Show. Father, son and daughter team of Johnny Powell, Megan and Marty Powell also captured several high placings in individual classes.

Just Between Friends partners with New Bridge Family Shelter

New Bridge Family Shelter is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter, clothing, food and other resources to abused woman and children. They currently serve all of the Concho Valley and San Angelo, TX.

The partnership between JBF and New Bridge Family Shelter makes sense because both groups strive to help families. JBF provides high quality clothing, furniture, toys and other baby-related items at low prices. Consignors also earn up to 70 percent when they sell their items. Hundreds of Concho Valley families make cash from de-cluttering their homes and many more reap the benefits of clothing their children and meeting other childcare needs for their children.

New Bridge Family Shelter reaps the most benefit from the thousands of donated items at the end of the sale. From clothing to toys to furniture, New Bridge Family Shelter is able to give these items to families in need.

Just Between Friends will hold their Spring 2009 sale April 3rd and 4th at First United Methodist Church GYM. Exclusive presales will be held for first-time moms,

grandmothers, foster parents, teachers, military families, and volunteers and consignors of the sale. JBF will be taking a \$3 admission fee on April 3rd to benefit New Bridge Family Shelter. JBF will also be donating all unsold items to New Bridge Family Shelter.

"It is a privilege for JBF and our consignors to help abused woman and children through New Bridge Family Shelter," explains JBF Owner Sandy Jameson. "New Bridge Family Shelter helps an average of 30-35 families each month."

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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle
By Linda Thiele

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

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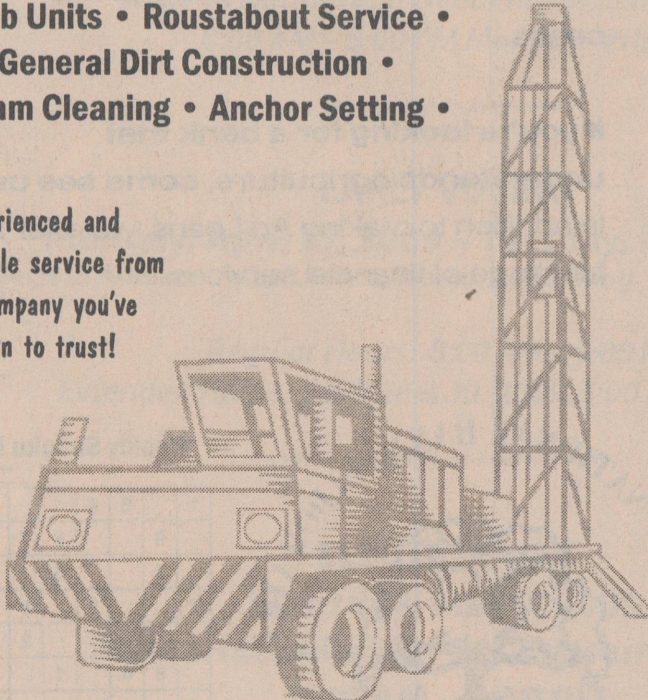
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Eagles wrap up regular season, head into playoffs

by J.L. Mankin
The Eldorado Eagles boys basketball team secured the spot of the number two seed from District 13-1A with its 62-52 win over Miles at home Tuesday.

The victory placed the Eagles in a playoff pairing against DeLeon Tuesday in Ballinger at 7 p.m.

"I'm very happy with our draw in this whole thing," head boys basketball coach Conon Emmons said. "I haven't seen a lot about their team just yet, but from what I can gather I think we will match up very well."

The Warbirds will use a warm-up game in Menard Friday to keep their skills sharp. That contest will be against Richland Springs at 5 p.m. in the Menard high school gymnasium.

The Eagles had a chance at the district title going into their final two regular season games, but dropped a 51-52 battle against Menard last Friday to give the Yellow-jackets the crown and the Warbirds a chance to secure second place with a win over Miles.

The Miles win came and Emmons turned his attention directly to the teams next big challenge against DeLeon.

"We didn't end up winning the district," Emmons said. "I think our team will benefit with not having a bye during the first round like Menard will have now. We will be able to keep our rhythm and keep our stride going."

Menard finished their district run with a 9-1 record while Eldorado and Miles both shared a 7-3 record with Eldorado holding the edge over Miles due to head to head wins.

Dustin Ramos led the Eagles in scoring over the past two games with 23 points against Miles and 20 in Menard.

"I think if you look at our season and look at how our team has performed you will see a very unselfish team that can attack you with several players, if not all of them," Emmons said.

Mason Baker finished the season

with 27 points for the Eagles. Seventeen of those came against Miles while the remaining ten were in Menard.

Rance Cathey had a good showing by posting 14 points against Miles and 11 in Menard for a total of 25.

Paul Martinez ended up with 10 points down the stretch with four coming against Miles and six in Menard.

Ryan Castillo placed four points on the board against Miles and two in Menard, while Miles Mikeska notched up two against Menard.

"We are very excited to be in the playoffs," Emmons said. "I hope that our excitement can spill over into the community and result in a good turnout for our playoff run. These young men really respond to the energy a strong crowd brings to a game."

Once again, the Eagles will face the DeLeon Bearcats next Tuesday night in Bi-District play. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m. in Ballinger with the winner advancing in the state 1A playoffs. The game will be carried live on KLDE FM 104.9.

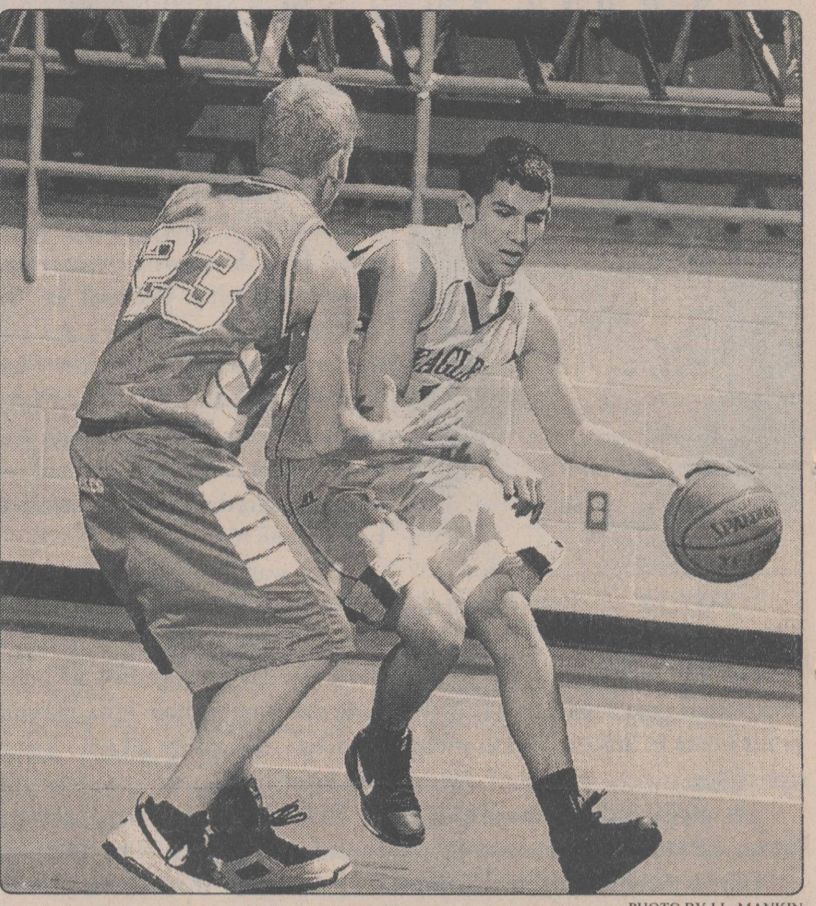


PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN
Dustin Ramos works the ball down court in the Eagles game with Miles Tuesday night. Ramos tallied 23 points in the 62-52 win over the Bulldogs. The Eagles now set their sights on the DeLeon Bearcats next Tuesday night. The two teams will square off at 7 p.m. in Ballinger in the Bi-District round of the State 1A Playoffs.

JV girls basketball season wrapup

submitted by Coach Jesse Rubio

The Eldorado Junior Varsity Lady Eagles basketball team under the direction of Christi Collins closed out a successful 2008 - 2009 season on Tuesday, February 10th. The JV team finished the year with 12 wins and 6 losses.

During the course of the season the JV Lady Eagles captured 2nd place in the Eldorado JV Tournament falling to the Mason Lady Cowgirls who would give Eldorado 3 losses on the year when the season concluded. The JV girls would also fall to Irion County two times but both games were very close and down to the wire. The other loss on the year was the first game of the year to Rankin in overtime by one point.

The JV Lady Eagles are to be commended for

working hard and their enthusiasm throughout the 08-09 basketball season. The JV Lady Eagles roster was as follows:

Freshmen: #10 Abby Fuentes, #12 Melissa Gonzales, #14 Brianda Torres, #23 Marissa Gonzales, #34 Kiki Rodriguez, #40 Ana Sanchez, and #32 Allysa Galindo
Sophomores: #20 Carli McAngus, #22 Ashley Paulson, #24 Laura Garcia, #42 Amy Alvizo, #44 Brittaney Gauna, and #50 Lauren Rubio. Amy Alvizo finished out the last three games of the year helping the varsity squad.

Managers Kairos McCollum and Charli Swinford, were a tremendous asset to our players and coaches.

Congratulations to Coach Collins and the JV Lady Eagles on a good basketball season.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2009 Junior Varsity Basketball Team: Front (L-R) Abby Fuentes, Carli McAngus, Melissa Gonzales and Alyssa Gallindo; Back (L-R) Kairos McCollum, Brittaney Gauna, Brianda Torres, Lauren Rubio, Ashley Paulson, Laura Garcia and manager Charli Swinford. Not pictured Marissa Gonzales, Kiki Rodriguez and Ana Sanchez.

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SCISD School Lunch Menu

BREAKFAST LINE
Monday February 23, 2009
Banana Nut Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
Tuesday February 24
Breakfast Hot Pocket, Choice of Juice, Milk
Wednesday February 25
Waffle Stix/Syrup, Fruit Cup, Choice of Juice, Milk
Thursday February 26
Pig-n-a-Blanket, Choice of Juice, Milk
Friday February 27
Cereal Bar, Crackers, Choice of Juice, Milk

CAFETERIA LINE
Monday February 23, 2009
Corn Dogs, Cole Slaw, Carrot's Stix', Sliced Peaches
Tuesday February 24
Corn Chip Pie/ Cheese Cup, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Chocolate Cookies
Wednesday February 25
Fish Nuggets/Tatar Sauce, Cole Slaw, Mac & Cheese, Pineapple Slices
Thursday February 26
Lasagna / Bread Stix, Peas, Tossed Salad, Pear Halves
Friday February 27
Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad, Apple Halves

BASKET LINE
Monday February 23, 2009
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Sandwich Salad/ Baked Chips, Carrot Stix / Dip, Sliced Peaches
Tuesday February 24
Corn Chip Pie/cheese cup, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Chocolate Cookies
Wednesday February 25
Fish Burger, Carrot Stix / Dip, Baked Chips, Pineapple Slices
Thursday February 26
Hamburgers, Baked Chips, Burger Salad, Pear Halves
Friday February 27
Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad, Apple Halves ALL MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

7th Grade Boys

February 2, 2009
Eldorado 06-08-06-00=20
Mason 04-07-04-08=23
Scoring for the Eagles: Bailey Espinosa 2, Jackson O'Harrow 4, Mike Bilbrey2, Bobby M. 3, Tyler Martineez 9.

7th Grade Boys

February 9, 2009
Eldorado 06-12-00-08=26
Irion County 05-02-07-14=28
Scoring for the Eagles: Bobby M. 3, Bailey Espinosa 10, Mike Bilbrey 4, Tyler Martineez 7. 3 Point Goals: Martineez (2)

HOOP SCORES

8th Grade Boys

February 2, 2009
Eldorado 11-06-02-06=25
Mason 09-09-08-11=37
Scoring for the Eagles: Will Barker 6, Rico Martinez 5, Dylan Ramos 4, John Paul Galan 8, Diego Sanchez 2. 3 Point Goal: Martinez (1)

February 9, 2009
Eldorado 10-16-08-13=47
Irion County 03-02-06-11=22
Scoring for the Eagles: EdHernandez 2, Blaine Mitchell 4, Brian Shriver 1, Will Barker 14, Rico Martinez 10, Dylan Ramos 8, Ben Martin 1, Diego Sanchez 5. 3 Point Goal: Martinez (2).

February 16, 2009
Eldorado 02-09-07-11=29
Menard 05-15-08-02=30
Scoring for the Eagles: Edward Hernandez 6, Will Barker 6, Rico Martinez 6, Dylan Ramos 7, Diego Sanchez. 3 Point Goal: Hernandez (2)
Eight Grade Record is 9-4.

EAGLE Basketball Playoff T-Shirts \$10 each limited quantities Pre-sales @ Second Hand Rose



Elementary students tie GEESO records

The annual free throw contest known as Great Eldorado Elementary Shoot Out, or GEE-SO for short, was held recently and two students tied records set in years past.

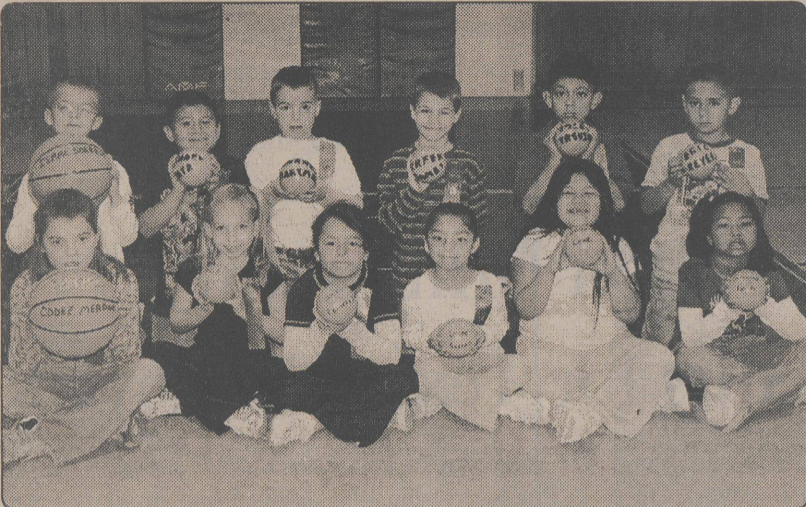
In the Kindergarten division, Michael Creek tied 2001 Champion Blaine Mitchell with 7 free throws.

In the fourth grade girls' division, Branda Gail Arispe tied the record of 12 free throws, held by several young ladies. Other young ladies who currently share the champion spotlight with Branda are Clara Herrera (1996), Lynley Glass (2000), Sierra Arispe (2004), and now Branda Arispe (2009).



COURTESY PHOTO

2009 GEESO Kindergarten Winners - Boys: (L-R) 1st-Michael Creek; 2nd-Hunter West; 3rd-Junior Esquivel; 4th-David Barajas; 5th-Mason Hutto; 6th Kyson Snelson. Girls: (L-R) 1st-Glaicy Sierra; 2nd Ashlyn Porter; 3rd-Kiely Johnson; 4th Kimberly Martinez; 5th-Aislin Nixon; 6th-Angel Barker. Not Pictured: Mason Hutto and Glaicy Sierra



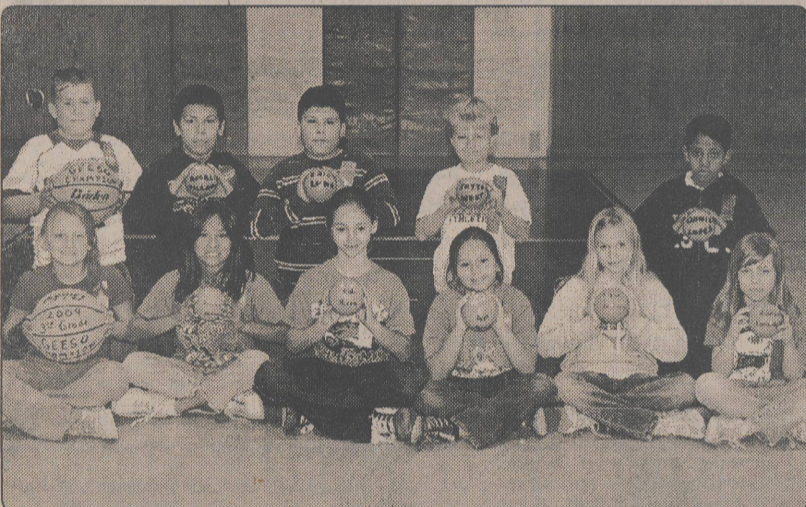
COURTESY PHOTO

2009 GEESO First Grade Winners: Boys: (L-R) 1st-Isaac Sorrels; 2nd Michael Mata; 3rd-Garrett Hariman; 4th-Kreek James; 5th-Jose Trevino; 6th-Eric Reyes. Girls: (L-R) 1st-Codee Meador; 2nd-Kami Lux; 3rd-Jackie Covarrubias; 4th-Laura Suarez; 5th-Gisselle Lowe; 6th-Samantha Lozano.



COURTESY PHOTO

2009 GEESO Third Grade Winners - Boys: (L-R) 1st-Wiley Martin; 2nd-Amalio Villanueva; 3rd-Eric Luna; 4th-Jayton West; 5th-Austin Albin; 6th-Daniel Lopez. Girls: (L-R) 1st-Brooke Carman; 2nd-Mercedez Ochoa; 3rd-Andi Morris; 4th-Ayja Garcia; 5th-Taylor Emmons; 6th-Hannah Fortenberry. Not Pictured: Austin Albin.



COURTESY PHOTO

2009 GEESO Second Grade Winners: Boys: (L-R) 1st-Shawn Solis; 2nd-Ram Barajas; 3rd-Julian Pena; 4th-Mundo Garcia; 5th-Wyatt Mertz; 6th-Julian Gandar. Girls: (L-R) 1st-Courtney Espinosa; 2nd-Hope Barajas; 3rd-Jacquelynn Lozano; 4th-Myra Sierra; 5th-Yajaira Martinez; 6th-Payton Whitten. Not Pictured: Shawn Solis.



COURTESY PHOTO

2009 GEESO First Grade Winners: Boys: (L-R) 1st-Isaac Sorrels; 2nd Michael Mata; 3rd-Garrett Hariman; 4th-Kreek James; 5th-Jose Trevino; 6th-Eric Reyes. Girls: (L-R) 1st-Codee Meador; 2nd-Kami Lux; 3rd-Jackie Covarrubias; 4th-Laura Suarez; 5th-Gisselle Lowe; 6th-Samantha Lozano.

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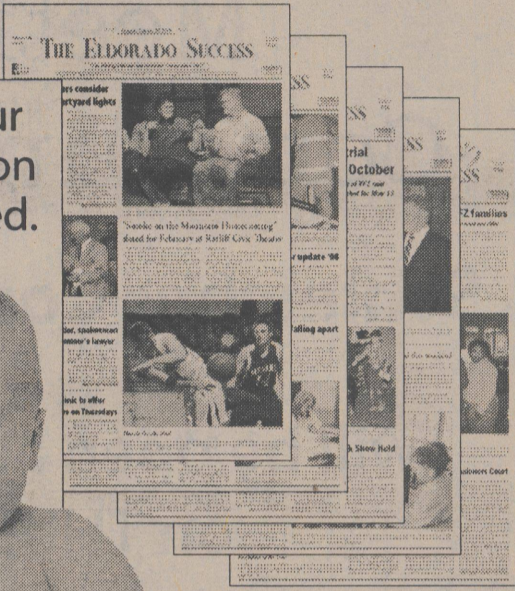
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SCISD and Chapter 41 school finance laws . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Regarding the options, I recommended, and the board approved, an election to approve Options 3 and 4 of the choices listed above. Very few districts, if any, have ever exercised options 1, 2, or 5.

This election will be on the May ballot along with trustee elections. We are recommending a vote of "FOR" for both options 3 and 4 that will be on the ballot. I will provide sample ballots before the election with more information for voters.

If both propositions fail, by law, we must have the election AGAIN until one or more of the options is approved by the voters. Again, these elections have all passed at one time or another. Rarely has a

district ever had to hold the election twice, but it did happen once in our area.

A number of districts in our area are Chapter 41 and have already passed the election to approve options 3 and 4. Sonora, Ozona, Irion County, Reagan County, Rocksprings, Sterling City, Comstock, McCamey, and Iraan-Sheffield are among the districts in the area that are Chapter 41 and are currently required to pay recapture through one or more of the options listed above.

Option 3, or purchasing attendance credits from the state, is the districts best option for this year. We are actually going to receive more state aid than we pay back this year. In practical terms, this year

will simply be a reduction in the state aid to the district. We are forecasting approximately \$900,000 in state aid this year. This would be reduced by approximately \$30,000 to \$60,000 this year, as determined by the formulas.

Option 4, or contracting to educate nonresident students from a partner district, is the option frequently used by districts paying very large amounts of recapture. It is an option that I plan to exercise for our district in the future. Through this option, districts may enter partner agreements, such as technology consortiums, with the intent of bringing some benefit to both districts. Region 15 has several such agreements between districts in

place and is currently drawing up plans for more technology agreements, such as an area-wide computer network, in the future.

Again, this election and the process that goes along with it are required by state law, specifically House Bill 1, passed during the summer of 2006 in a special session of the Texas Legislature. We will make sure that we do all that is required us and do our best to minimize our recapture so that we keep as much of our funds as we can for our students.

Please contact me in my office if you are interested in discussing more information regarding this election or the implications of Chapter 41 finance for SCISD.

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TWC identifies \$154 Million in federal tax credits for Texas employers

AUSTIN - Texas employers can save hundreds of millions of dollars by utilizing the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). In Fiscal Year 2008, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) assisted businesses by identifying nearly \$154 million in potential tax savings, which are available to employers who hire job seekers from qualified targeted populations.

"It's an especially good time for employers to take advantage of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit," said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. "This incentive allows them to benefit from federal tax savings, improve their bottom lines and boost the current economic climate."

WOTC is a credit of up to \$2,400 per qualifying employee. It is designed to encourage employers to hire new employees from nine targeted groups of qualified job seekers who may face barriers to employment, including:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients
- Veterans, which includes a specific subgroup for disabled veterans
- Ex-offenders
- Designated community residents
- Vocational rehabilitation referrals
- Summer youth
- Food stamp recipients
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients

• Long-term Family Assistance recipients
Employers who hire disabled U.S. military veterans who have military service-related disabilities may receive up to \$4,800 in tax credits.

Employers who hire from families who have received long-term TANF benefits may be eligible for up to \$9,000 per employee in tax credits over two years. Long-term Family Assistance recipients must have entered employment after December 31, 2006, and before September 1, 2011, for employers to be eligible.

Although nearly \$154 million in qualified tax savings is significant, only 3 percent of Texas' 447,554 employers took advantage of WOTC for FY 2008. To help employers recognize WOTC-qualified job applicants, TWC mails conditional certifications to job seekers, who can then take the forms to job interviews. They can show employers they have the opportunity for potential tax savings if the job seekers are hired and are in one of the nine qualifying targeted groups.

Applications for the credits can be submitted year-round to TWC's WOTC Unit for certification. All applications must be postmarked no later than 28 days from the qualifying worker's start date.

Employers seeking more information about WOTC and TWC's WOTC Employer Packet may visit www.texasworkforce.org or call TWC's WOTC Unit at 1-800-695-6879. Information also is available at www.irs.gov.

Texas is Number One exporting state for 7th consecutive year

AUSTIN - The U.S. Department of Commerce has named Texas as the top exporting state in the nation for the seventh year in a row based on 2008 export data. Texas' exports increased more than 14 percent over the last year, totaling \$192.14 billion, approximately \$23.92 billion more than 2007.

"Maintaining our rank as the nation's top exporting state is proof positive that Texas has sound

policies in place to cushion it from the effects of an economic downturn," said Gov. Perry. "By maintaining low taxes and reasonable and predictable regulations, business in Texas can continue to flourish, ensuring our ongoing position as a top exporting state and competitor in the global marketplace."

Texas' top export recipients in 2008 were Mexico, Canada, China, the Netherlands and Brazil which

respectively imported \$62.08 billion, \$19.2 billion, \$8.4 billion and \$7.06 billion in Texas-manufactured goods and services. Texas' top exporting industries in 2008 were chemicals, computers and electronics, machinery, petroleum and coal, and transportation equipment which posted increased exports of 9.5 percent, 5.1 percent, 9.3 percent, 72 percent and 2.74 percent, respectively.

TDA secures exemption to help Beekeepers

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has been granted approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue a Section 18 specific exemption allowing the use of fenpyroximate (Hivastan) in beehives to control varroa mites.

Varroa mites are external honeybee parasites whose untreated infestations kill honeybee colonies. The Texas beekeepers asked TDA to secure this exemption for use in late winter and early spring, when application is most effective.

Hivastan may be used following all directions, restrictions and precautions on the product label, as well as restrictions within the exemption notice. The exemption expires Sept. 30, 2009.

Applications can only be made by certified applicators, licensed applicators or persons under the direct supervision of licensed

applicators. For more information, contact your county Texas AgriLife Extension Service office or TDA at (512)

463-7544 or 800-TELL-TDA. A copy of the approval notice is located on the TDA Web site at www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

Capital Highlights . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
borrowers and wrote loans for unqualified borrowers in an effort to increase market share.

AG halts 2 retirement schemes
On Feb. 13, Attorney General Abbott charged the owners of two investment plans with orchestrating a fraudulent scheme that targeted retirees and teachers.

Howard G. Judah Jr. of Houston and Gregory F. Jablonski of Castle Rock, Colo., falsely guaranteed lucrative investment returns, misrepresented their "life settlement" policy investment offerings, failed

to disclose material information to investors and committed multiple violations of the Texas Securities Act.

Travis County District Judge Suzanne Covington granted the attorney general's request for receivership and issued an order seizing more than \$19 million held in several bank accounts under the defendants' control.

Abbott's office said the enforcement action charges the defendants with failing to make required disclosures, selling unregistered securities and other violations of the Texas Securities Act.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Mercury is one
- Hardly a he-man
- Rarely read mail
- "_" at the office
- "Milk's Favorite Cookie"
- Bit of verbal fanfare
- Donnybrook
- Rocker Clapton
- Groundhog Day mo.
- Toll rds.Y
- 24-hour race site
- Smelly smokes
- Litter's littlest
- ___Lingus
- Celeb on a TV ad, e.g.
- Rack up
- Cost of a call, once
- The good life
- Compete in logrolling
- In great shape
- Ballet attire
- Jai ___
- Space chimp of 1961
- Test episode
- "Let's Be Heard" radio host
- Word on US currency
- Word before crime or mail
- Kix and Trix
- "Goodfellas" star Ray

DOWN

- Puts into an irritable mood
- Marsh wader
- Billy Blanks fitness system
- Forum greeting
- Babe Ruth and Barry Bonds, for two
- Does the trick
- Nest eggs, briefly
- Alice's sitcom boss
- Loaded with industrial waste
- Check an assault
- Prefix with glide or sail
- Deuce follower
- They're big at McD's
- Telephone button abbr.
- Envelope abbr.
- Late nineteenth century time
- Country music's LeAnn
- ___grigio (wine)
- Stake driver
- Regarding, on memos
- Not masc. or fem.
- "The Purple Cow" rhyme scheme
- O'Shea of "The Verdict"
- Graceful steed
- "No man is an island" poet
- 4:00 PM service holder
- Boxster automaker
- Slum pest
- Boomers' kids, collectively
- It's sold in bars
- "Looks ___ ev Yer-rything!"
- Loyal subject
- Mall binge
- "Tomb raider" Croft
- Revered one
- Algerian seaport
- Wart giver of folklore
- Symbol of deficit
- ___ Master's Voice"

Laundry Day

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
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American Profile Hometown Content See solution on Page 8 02/19/2009

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PHOTO COURTESY SCHLEICHER CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Myrtle Williams and Mrs. Gratten Crosby on the ranch.

Touch of History

by Rene Caloote

Crosby family, Schleicher County pioneers

The huge native oak tree stands in the yard near the Crosby ranch home where Kathleen Crosby St. Clair lives, 25 miles southeast of Eldorado. The beautiful old tree is a symbol of Kathleen's roots in Schleicher County.

Kathleen's great grandfather, Christie C. Crosby, came from Cork County, Ireland when he was a young man to start a new life in America. He first settled in Mason County where he met and married his wife, Em Vandiver. Eight children were born to this union, one being Gratten Christie Crosby.

Gratten grew up in Mason with a love for cattle and ranching. One of his most enduring memories was of a cattle drive to Utah with his two older brothers.

Gratten married Delia Lindsay in Mason, and the young couple made the move to Schleicher County in 1901. The family filed on school land in Middle Valley during the famous "land rush" years.

The first home for the Crosby family was a tarp covered wagon bed under the big old oak tree. Later they

built a single room house of rock cemented together with clay from the water well Gratten had drilled. The rafters were Spanish oak and the roof was red sheet iron. The dirt floor was covered with straw. A room made of canvas was built for a kitchen, and worked real well until the cows chewed the canvas and broke the dishes.

A two room house was later built from a granary hauled by freight wagon pulled by horses from Mason.

The trip to Eldorado from the Crosby ranch was an ordeal in those days. It would be an over night trip by wagon or horse back, so groceries were bought in Fort McKavett, 15 miles east of the ranch.

Gratten and Delia's son, J.C. went to the Mayer rural school, and later attended Allen Academy and Howard Rayne College. He married Lillian Hannie and one daughter, Lillian Kathleen, was born to this union.

In 1928, the Crosby's built a large ranch home near the same giant oak tree that sheltered the family so many years earlier in the tarp covered wagon.

Iron Chef America challenger coming to San Angelo in April

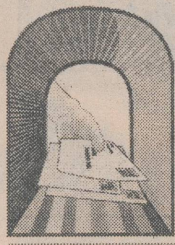
Executive Chef David Bull of The Stoneleigh Hotel & Spa's signature Modern Italian restaurant Bolla is coming to San Angelo to prepare a six-course dinner for the Wine and Dine event of the San Angelo Wine and Food Festival. The festival, which runs from April 30 to May 2, will be celebrating 25 years for 2009 and is honored to have Chef Bull prepare this gourmet dinner for the event.

In addition to appearing on the Food Network in 2006 as an Iron Chef America challenger, Chef Bull was nominated for the

prestigious 2007 James Beard award of "Best New Chef Southwest." Chef Bull most recently joined The Stoneleigh team after an extensive tenure at The Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas. While serving as the Executive Chef of The Driskill Grill, David led his team to receive The Austin American Statesman's sought after "Number One Restaurant Award" for three consecutive years. With Chef Bull at the helm, the Five Star Driskill Grill was also recognized as one of the Top 50 Hotel Restaurants by USA Today as listed for Conde Nast

Traveler. Bull achieved celebrated acclaim as one of the "Best New Chefs 2003" by Food & Wine Magazine and appeared on several Public Broadcasting Syndications in the years that followed. And recently, his restaurant, Bolla, has been named the #4 on Texas Monthly's Top Ten Restaurants in the state of Texas (February 2009 issue).

For more information on the Wine and Dine or the other San Angelo Wine and Food Festival events, please go on line at www.sanangeloarts.com.



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.

Unhappy with school's handling of discipline

Dear Editor:

I was taken by surprise, or better yet, blind-sided, last Friday when I got a call from a local police officer telling me that he was calling about an incident involving my son at the middle school one whole week before. My first reaction was anger toward my child for putting himself in that situation. Then my anger quickly turned toward the school for not letting me as the parent know what had happened. No phone call, no conference no letter, nothing, how is that?

To say that you were just real busy that day doesn't cut it. That's just an excuse for not doing your part in contacting a parent.

I don't think it should be left up to the child to tell his or her parents and then do a "follow up" within the next few days to make sure the child did so. I never got a follow up.

Who are we kidding if we honestly think that every child is going to run home and tell on themselves? Some kids might, but obviously mine didn't.

How are we as parents expected to do our part at home in reprimanding our child for something they did at school when we have no idea there is even a problem?

If my child breaks a rule or does a wrong at school I totally agree with him paying the consequences for it, which he is doing.

I'm just angry that the proper administration could not or would not take a few minutes out of their "very busy" day to let me know what was going on. I find it appalling that the school is quick to contact a parent regarding lunch charges, tardies or absences, but when a disciplinary

problem involving the authorities occurs, it is not even brought to our attention!

I've always been one to trust that school personnel will keep an open line of communication concerning the best interest of my child. It's sad how that trust can be lost so quickly.

I am very disappointed in the way the whole situation was handled.

Sonia Martinez



Ms. Maude Invites everyone to

Smoke On The Mountain Homecoming!

Performances

February 20--February 22; February 27--March 1.

Theater Box Office will be open Mon.-Fri 2:00 pm-5:00pm, beginning February 2-27. Call 853-2900 or come by the theater office (115 SW Main, Eldorado). Limited seating. Tickets/must be prepaid.

New publication highlights Texas' historic courthouses

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) publication Courthouse Cornerstones, will be featured for a limited time beginning mid February on the agency web site. The publication reports on updates to the THC's award-winning Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The program provides partial matching grants to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic county courthouses.

Articles featured in the forthcoming Courthouse Cornerstones include a story about the draw of restored historic county courthouses as heritage tourism destinations and the effect of courthouse restorations on downtown revitalization throughout the state.

Since its inception in 1999, the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has enriched the architectural landscape of Texas and has awarded \$207 million to counties throughout Texas. To date more than half of Texas' 234 surviving historic county courthouses

are participating in this matching grant program. Prior to the most recent Round V funding by the 80th Texas Legislature totaling nearly \$62 million, construction activity related to the projects has created 7,750 jobs and almost \$170 million in local taxes.

In May 2008, the program received the prestigious Preserve America Presidential Award at a special White House ceremony with First Lady Laura Bush. The Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program's work has garnered national and international attention from other organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Association for Preservation Technology International and the Texas Society of Architects.

To view Courthouse Cornerstones visit www.thc.state.tx.us. To learn more about the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512.463.6094.

Meals for Friends Menu



MONDAY February 23, 2009

Beef Tips, Rice, Cooked Carrots, Cornbread, Fruit Cup w/Strawberries & Banana, Lemon Meringue Pie, Milk

TUESDAY February 24th

Oven Baked Chicken, Lima Beans, Broccoli, Bread, Chunky Mixed Fruit, Milk.

WEDNESDAY February 25th

Ground Beef Steak, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn w/Peppers, Hot Dinner Rolls, Carrot Salad, Applesauce, Milk.

THURSDAY February 26th

Vegetable Beef Stew, Green Beans, Cornbread, Pear Half w/Cottage Cheese, Vanilla Pudding, Milk.

FRIDAY February 27th

Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Carrot Raisin Salad, Gelatin w/Fruit, Milk

Second Hand Rose Consignment

NOW ACCEPTING DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS

Hwy 277 South
Open 10-6pm
Mon-Sat. 853-3736

Texas 2x2

Display Advertising Network

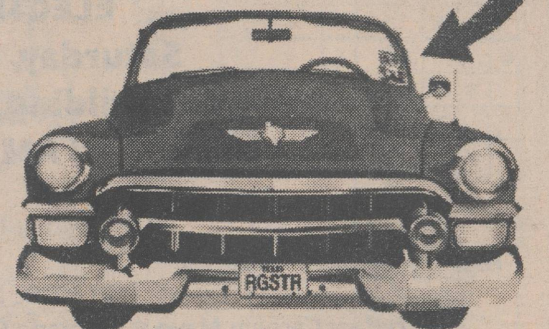
Reach more than a half million Texas consumers with affordable 2x2 advertisements.

Call: THE ELDORADO SUCCESS for details
853-3125

Keeping your vehicle registration sticker current means you're sticking up for the Lone Star State. That's because the fee you pay goes to build and maintain our highways, roads, and bridges. Which is why the Texas Department of Transportation urges you to *Put Texas in your corner.*

It not only says you obey the law, it says you're sticking up for all of us. Learn more by calling (512) 465-7611, or visit: www.registeredtexan.com.

Put Texas in your corner.



Jeffs' words provide insight into world of the prophet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

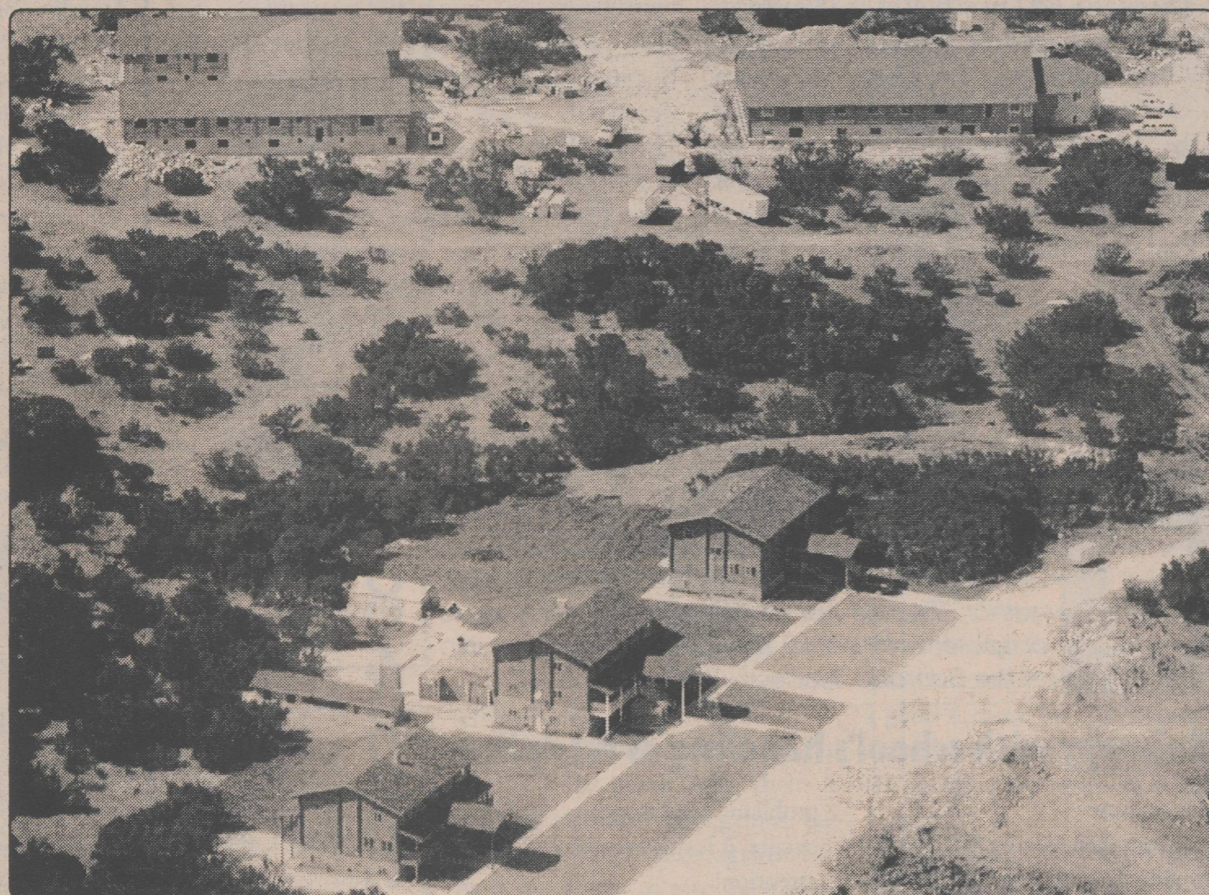
in their shoes. Another had him under attack by a woman who threw "circular star spikes and razor blade points with poison on them."

Jeffs interpreted the dream as meaning that a woman assassin wanted to kill him in a "quiet way, not even using a gun." He also decided that the vision meant the guards on his land were not prepared and that something needed to be done to have an "active and awake guard."

Most of Jeffs' dictations were recorded by Naomi Jeffs, one of his younger wives. But, at one point, when she questioned his handling of an issue involving her mother, Naomi was sent back to Short Creek (Hildale, Utah/Colorado City, Arizona) and another of his wives was tapped to serve as scribe. Soon enough, however, Naomi was restored to her position, which she maintained until the moment of Jeffs' 2006 capture during a traffic stop outside of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Another nagging question is also apparently addressed in the documents...where do Jeffs' followers get their money?

Jeffs' fugitive lifestyle and the monumental construction projects at the YFZ Ranch were funded by a steady flow of money from the faithful in Short Creek. Jeffs even wanted to create a non-profit trust fund similar to the United Effort



This photo, taken in June, 2004 shows the first three dormitory-style buildings constructed at the YFZ Ranch (foreground) with the meeting hall and another residence under construction in the background. Court documents released recently reveal that Jeffs made his home in the southernmost of the three buildings, shown here at the bottom of the photo. He also directed the meeting hall be used for "priesthood work" and church ordinances until the temple could be built.

Plan (UEP) trust that served as the financial arm of his church in Utah and Arizona.

The documents reveal that Jeffs ordered his followers to form a new trust and that God told him to call

it the United Order Trust of Texas. Jeffs said he wanted to transfer ownership of the group's Schleicher County property to the new trust. He even wanted money from the sale of UEP trust lands to be funneled into the United Order Trust of Texas to pay for construction of the massive white limestone temple on the YFZ Ranch.

While papers were drawn up to create the new trust, there is no evidence they were ever signed or that the trust was ever put into effect.

FLDS observers often wondered if Jeffs lived at the YFZ Ranch during its early days. His dictations reveal that he made his home in the southernmost of the original three dormitory-style buildings that went up in 2004.

From there Jeffs directed an immense construction project during the early months of 2004, including the building of a meeting hall that doubled as a house of worship until the temple could be erected. Jeffs also oversaw and directed operations at two other locations, one near Mancos, Colorado and another near Pringle, South Dakota.

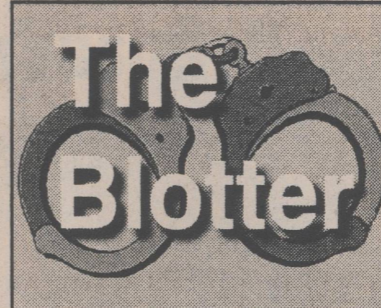
Those two sites, along with the YFZ Ranch were often referred to as "Lands of Refuge."

Jeffs goes on to describe how former members of the FLDS church, whom he called apostates, cooperated with anti-polygamy activists, journalists and law enforcement agencies in a conspiracy, or secret combination, to attack him and his work on behalf of God.

At one point, while Jeffs was in jail in Washington County, Utah awaiting trial, he seemed to indicate that he expected to be martyred for his cause. Jeffs said his blood would atone for the sins of nations and bring about the second-coming of Jesus.

Jeffs remains in jail in Mohave County, Arizona awaiting trial on two counts of sexual conduct with a minor. He has been indicted here in Schleicher County on one count of sexual assault, another count of aggravated sexual assault of a child, and a third count of bigamy.

He was convicted in 2007 in Utah on two counts of rape as an accomplice, fined \$37,000, and sentenced to two consecutive prison terms of 5 years to life.



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 may be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ARRESTS

FEBRUARY 3 • Rodriguez, Emanuel, male age 20. Offense DWI Released 2/5/09 \$1,000. surety bond.

FEBRUARY 4 • Sellers, Darrel, male age 48. Offense assault, terrorist threats. Released 2/5/09 2 \$2,000 surety bonds.

FEBRUARY 10 • Holsey, Michael Brandon, male age 25. Assault F3 family violence. Released 2/11/09 \$10,000. surety bond.

FEBRUARY 14 • Rodriguez, Emanuel, male age 20. Offense PI, burglary of habitat. Released 2/15 \$20,000 surety bond.

FEBRUARY 15 • Ortiz, Monica, female age 23. Offense DWI. Released 2/15/09 \$1,000 surety bond.

FEBRUARY 15 • Martinez, Jose Alfredo, male age 21. Offense evading arrest w/vehicle, DWI, driving reckless.

INCIDENTS

FEBRUARY 10 - 5:46 PM • Caller reported smoke near their property. VFD investigated.

6:10 PM • Caller reported approx location of fire. Fire Chief discovered the actual fire was on the end of Poor Boy Road.

6:40 PM • Caller reported a power line down near the ground on 1828. Electric company contacted.

FEBRUARY 11 - 9:41 AM • Hospital requested a basic ambulance transfer.

3:34 PM • Complainant reported fraudulent charges on their checking account. Officer responded.

FEBRUARY 12 - 10:05 AM • Caller reported a hit had been placed on a local subject. All units notified.

12:00 PM • Caller reported he had hit a deer and needed assistance. Wrecker notified. Issued blue form.

12:00 PM • Caller reported an injury at the elementary school. EMS responded.

4:00 PM • Caller reported smoke on FM 864. Officers responded.

7:12 PM • Complainant advised that they had worked on a vehicle and vehicle owner picked up vehicle without paying for services.

FEBRUARY 13 - 11:39 AM • Caller reported his chains and locks were removed from his gate near PAVE PAWS on more than one occasion. Officer notified.

FEBRUARY 14 - 9:12 AM • Complainant reported broken door knob on E. Murchison. No entry. Officer responded.

1:57 PM • Complainant stated that her mobile home was broken into on Eldorado Drive. Requested officer.

9:20 PM • Caller requested officer at her residence on North Main. Possible break in.

FEBRUARY 15 - 2:00 AM • Caller reported being home alone when a suspicious vehicle parked in front of their residence, caller requested an officer. Officer responded.

4:14 PM • Caller advised a black car outside her residence.

4:17 PM • Caller reported trash being dumped on McIntosh road.

8:20 PM • Caller requested to speak to an officer.

FEBRUARY 16 - 9:11 AM • Officer advised S.O. that tires and wheels had been taken from a red Ford pickup on S. Main. Estimated about \$2,000.

FEBRUARY 17 - 12:16 AM • Alarm agency reported alarm going off at retail store. Officer checked and everything seemed ok. Officer called key holder and key holder never showed up.

6:21 AM • Key holder to retail store called advising S.O. she had not heard her phone when the alarm agency called her. Key holder was on her way to store.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE RESOURCE CENTER

February 18, March 6, and March 18 are the regular shopping trips to San Angelo--Call to get on the list of riders

Medicaid trips to San Angelo are every **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**, other days can be arranged but we need a 3 day notice for those trips. Any other medical appointments may ride if a Medicaid is going on you appointment day.

Call to make those arrangements. 853-2574

DPS will be at our office every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of each month: **9:30 a.m. -3:15 p.m.**

W I C will be here in Eldorado **Feb 23**, 9 a.m until about 3 p.m.

The Resource Center is offering **"Free" Income Tax Preparation** again this year. **This is for one day only, March 7, 2009.** AARP will be doing those taxes this year at 1st Community Federal Credit Union Building. You have to call to make an appointment and get the information you need. Call 853-2574. You may leave a message if we are not there. Your call will be returned. Remember this service is **free** to any one.

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

Laundry Day

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

Answer to Sudoku on Page 3

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

CITY OF ELDORADO CITY OFFICERS ELECTION MAY 9, 2009

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD #1 (Two Year Term)
- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD #2 (Two Year Term)
- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD #3 (Two Year Term)

Applications Forms: City Secretary, City Hall, 6 S. Cottonwood St.

Filing Period: February 7 - March 9, 2009

Write-In Declaration Deadline: March 16, 2009

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday - Friday

EARLY VOTING

Monday, April 27, 2009 - Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Election Administrator's Office, Memorial Building, 1 N. Cottonwood St.

Regular Hours: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Extended Hours: April 28 & 30, 2009, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ELECTION DAY

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Memorial Building, 1 N. Cottonwood St.

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Carolyn Mayo @ Eldorado City Hall, 6 S. Cottonwood St. 853-2691

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Eldorado (hereinafter called the OWNER) will receive Bids for WATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, TCDBGP Contract No. 728131, until 2:00 PM (local time), Thursday, April 2, 2009 in person at City Hall, #6 South Cottonwood, Eldorado, Texas or by mail to Carolyn Mayo, City Secretary, City of Eldorado, P.O. Box 713, Eldorado Texas 76936-0713. **All Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at: 2:00 PM (local time), Thursday, April 2, 2009.**

Consideration for award of the Bid will be made at 6:00 PM (local time), Monday, April 6, 2009, City Council Meeting, City of Eldorado City Hall, #6 South Cottonwood, Eldorado, Texas 76936.

Bids are invited upon the several items and quantities of work as follows:

Base Bid- Furnish and install 2,760 L.F. of 8-inch C-900 PVC water line, 80 L.F. of 6-inch C-900 PVC water line, 20 L.F. of 2-inch SCH 40 PVC water line, 120 L.F. of 1-inch CTS polyethylene service line, 540 L.F. of 3/4-inch CTS polyethylene service line, 5 Each 8-inch gate valves, 3 Each 6-inch gate valves, 1 Each 2-inch gate valve, 1 Each 1-inch gate valve 2 Each 8-inch tapping sleeves and tapping valves w/box, 3 Each 6-inch tapping sleeves and tapping valves w/box, 3 Each 6-inch fire hydrants, 35 each 3/4-inch connections, miscellaneous fittings, 324 L.F. highway boring and jacking including 16-inch casing, 85 L.F. highway boring and jacking including 2-inch casing, and 120 S.Y. of pavement patch.

Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at the office of GSWW, a Division of Burgess & Niple, Inc., 1030 Andrews Highway, Suite 211, Midland, Texas 79701.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased for \$100.00 from GSWW for each set of documents obtained. No refunds will be made.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the OWNER, negotiable U.S. Government bond (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable Surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total Bid shall be submitted with each Bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Office of Rural Community Affairs, and as set forth in the Contract Documents, must be paid on the project, and the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin on the entire project.

Attention is also called to General Condition 148 "Restrictions on Public Buildings and Public Works Projects." The Bidder certifies by the submission of its bid that the Contractor, Subcontractors, and materials used on this project are not of a foreign country included on the USTR list.

The Prime Contractor will review the equal employment opportunity section under the General Contract Conditions - Part I and will take affirmative action to meet minority and female participation goals in each task. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any informalities in the Bidding.

If the Bid is not awarded at the previously mentioned meeting of the Eldorado City Council on Monday, April 6, 2009, then the Bids may be held by the OWNER for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders.

Date: February 12, 2009

By: John Nikolauk

Mayor, City of Eldorado

WEST TEXAS CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

CLASSIFIED ADS

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SONORA
OZONA
BIG LAKE

Place your non-commercial classified ad in the Eldorado Success, Devil's River News, Ozona Stockman and the Big Lake Wildcat for one low, low price. Call today for details!

853-3125



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ACCEPTING SEALED VEHICLE BIDS

Schleicher County Independent School District will accept sealed proposals for one 1500 2WD GMC Yukon XL's or Chevy Suburban.

Bid proposals should be sent in a sealed envelope and marked "SEALED PROPOSALS—Yukon XL, Suburban" on the front of the envelope.

Copies of exact proposal specifications may be obtained by contacting in person, by writing, or by telephone the following person:

Oscar Martinez, Maintenance Director
or Billy Collins, Superintendent
Schleicher County Independent School District
PO Box W
Eldorado, TX 76936
(325)853-2514, ext 221

Sealed proposals should be sent to the person as stated above and must be in the possession of the said person no later than 12:00 noon, Thursday, May 4th, 2009. Bids will be opened at that time. SCISD reserves the right to refuse all bids.

NOTICE OF ELECTION Groundwater District

The Plateau Underground Water Conservation & Supply District will hold an election Saturday, May 9, 2009, to elect Directors to fill six year terms for Precinct 2 and Precinct 3. Eligible candidates must be 21 years of age and own real property in the precinct.

Contact the Plateau UWC&SD office at 203 SW Main St. in Eldorado by Monday, Mar. 9, 2009, to file for candidacy.

EMPLOYMENT

Schleicher County Medical Center - Nursing Home

POSITION: Maintenance Director/Van Driver

REQUIREMENTS: Qualified individual will be compassionate with elderly, creative, energetic, computer literate, excellent communication skills, be outgoing, work some weekends and/or holidays, have basic knowledge of plumbing and electricity, be knowledgeable mechanically, and be able to work outdoors, high school diploma or GED.

EXPERIENCE:

Experience in long-term is a plus.

Ask for an application at or bring resume' to:

Schleicher County Medical Center, 400 W. Murchison, Eldorado, TX 76936

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Schleicher County Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.

REAL ESTATE

ELDORADO-House for Sale: Sunset Acres, 3BR, 2BA, 2 Living Areas, 2 Dining Areas, Updated paint and floors. Established yard, new privacy fence. 325-277-1792. 6-9b

Estate/Garage Sales

ELDORADO - "YARD SALE" 210 S. Cottonwood Friday & Saturday 7:00-?? Complete dining room set, crib, clothes, (different sizes), kitchen, much more. burritos & coffee for sale. 8p

Lynn Meador Real Estate

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

206 N. Divide. One and a half story frame with 2 BR-2 Bath. Two additional rooms for possible bedrooms, living room, kitchen/dining and utility. Central heat/air conditioning, new interior paint and carpet. **\$54,000**

212 N Divide: 3 BR 1 Bath on corner lot. Needs repair. Hardwood floors, new double pane windows, kitchen and bath tile. Good investment property. **\$27,500**

800 N. Divide: Excellent commercial property with good exposure on US 277 (Divide St) formerly known as The Hitch'in Post. Metal building with drive-thru and doors has been upgraded and remodeled. Refrigeration units, attic storage. Other equipment available. A lot of commercial potential with this property. **\$150,000**

FM 2596, 10 acre tract with 3 BR 2 B home in excellent condition. Lots of improvements including metal barns, pens, shop and storage, fenced yard, 1 mile SE of Eldorado. **\$139,000**

104 Old Mertzson Rd - 4BR-2 Bath home on 0.308 acre tract. In very good condition with spacious floor plan, attractive hard wood floors, plenty of storage, central ac/heat, new roof, metal privacy fence and all metal shop/storage. Over 2100 square feet of living area. Near school. **\$98,000**

**ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN ELDORADO, TX
NO RENTAL LISTING AVAILABLE
SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY CALL TODAY!
Call 325-853-2808**

EMPLOYMENT

COOKS NEEDED: ASK FOR
Dawn or Brian@325-853-3333. 9b

Schleicher County Medical Center Nursing Home is looking for **Certified Nurse Aide** to work a Full time position. For details Call Anita Jones, D.O.N. 325-853-2507 Ext. 138. 48tfn

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, addressed to the Schleicher County Commissioners' Court will be received by the County Clerk, until 10:00 a.m. February 23, 2009 when such bids will be opened and possibly awarded in the Commissioners Courtroom for:

One (1) transport
Load of Diesel Fuel
(Include all applicable taxes)

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

Peggy Williams
County & District Clerk
P. O. Drawer 580
Eldorado, Texas 76936
Phone - (325) 853-2833 ext 72
Fax - (325) 853-2768

SERVICES

Liquid Cattle Feed - 16% protein, 10% fat All-natural, competitively priced. Lorenzo Lasater 325.656.9126.

TREE trimming, TRASH removal & YARD work, general repair, painting, and honey dos. REASONABLE!!! Call (512) 577-2882. 8p

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: REGISTERED BORDER COLLIES - Sire is a working dog, Dam is the great granddaughter of the world champion "Gathering Dog Wisp". Contact Sam or Jenny Luedecke @ 658-7508 or cell: 325-277-9544. 8p

ELDORADO-CEMETERY PLOTS SIX spaces available for purchase. Lot 42, Block C, East Division. \$80. each or \$450. for all. 817-457-8998. 7-9b

FOR SALE For Parts: Runs good, 1989 Chevy, 1/2 Ton Extended Cab, 350 motor and transmission. Call after 7 p.m. 325-277-6217 \$600 5-8p

2003 GMC YUKON 88K miles, Power Locks, Power Windows, Power Seat, XM Radio Receiver. \$10,500. FMI: 325.226.3577. 6-8b

For Sale: Breeding Age Registered Brangus Bulls - Top Bloodline. Fertility Tested. Call Tommy Reeh, Doss, Texas at 830-669-2325. 45tfn

FOR SALE: Heating/AC units, dining rooms sets, hide a bed couch, end tables, hot water heater, vacuum, small antiques, & misc. 325-853-2239 8p

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



**TexSCAN Week of
February 15, 2009
AUCTIONS**

FORECLOSED HOME AUCTION Texas Statewide 500+ Homes must be sold! Reduced, free brochure 1-800-655-5078, www.USHomeAuction.com

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\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS & Repost! 1998 Honda Civic \$800! 1992 Toyota Celica \$400! 1999 Chevy S-10 Low-rider \$950! Cars from \$500! Fee for listings, 1-800-544-1092 ext. 7883

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CDL-A DRIVERS: EXPANDING Fleet offering Regional/OTR runs. Outstanding pay package. Excellent benefits. Generous home tie. \$300 lease special on Volvos. National Carriers, 1-888-707-7729, www.nationalcarriers.com

DRIVER: JOIN PTL today! Company Drivers-Earn up to 38¢ cpm. 1/2 cpm increase every 60K miles. Average 2,800 miles/week. CDL-A required. www.ptl-inc.com 1-877-740-6262.

DRIVERS - CDL-A TEAMS - Dedicated run for experienced drivers, hazmat endorsement, good home time stable family owned 35+ years. Andrus Transportation, Call 1-800-888-5838 Ext. 1402

EXAM / PREP

POST OFFICE HIRING Nationally! Average pay \$20/hr, \$57K/yr, including Federal benefits, OT optional fee-based test, prep materials, not affiliated with the US Postal Service. 1-866-533-5973

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

SAWMILLS FROM ONLY \$2,990.00. Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. norwoodsawmills.com/300n. Free information: 1-800-578-1363, Ext300-N.

HOMES FOR SALE

FORECLOSURES & BANK REPOS 5BR/3BA \$17,275 or \$235/month! 4BR/2BA \$10,100 or \$199/month! (5% down, 30 years, buy@8%) These Homes won't last! Fee for listings call 1-800-544-6258 Ext. 9847

FORECLOSED HOME AUCTION Texas Statewide 500+ Homes must be sold! Reduced, free brochure 1-800-655-5078, www.USHomeAuction.com

MISCELLANEOUS

AIRLINES ARE HIRING. Train for high paying aviation maintenance career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Housing available. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 1-888-349-5387.

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from home. Medical, Business, Paralegal, Computers, Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial aid if qualified. Call 1-866-858-2121, www.CenturaOnline.com

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Eldorado resident **Mary Roden** received the 2009 Ombudsman of the Year Award at the Area Agency On Aging Volunteer Recognition Banquet held in San Angelo on February 13, 2009 for her outstanding volunteer service.

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AG's fugitive unit arrests sex offender using MySpace

Gregg Abbott objects to recent technology industry report

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's Fugitive Unit last week arrested a convicted sex offender who accessed a social networking Web site in violation of his parole conditions. According to Fugitive Unit officers, Jesse Clay Scott, 33, of Seguin used both his home computer and his cell phone to access his MySpace.com account. Scott was paroled in 2008 after serving five-and-a-half years in prison for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old Bexar County female.

"Last week's arrest reflects the Fugitive Unit's ongoing effort to crack down on convicted sex offenders who illegally access social networking sites," Attorney General Abbott said. "Despite his release conditions, the subject in this case repeatedly used his personal computer and cellular telephone to access a MySpace.com profile. This case demonstrates that parents and law enforcement must work cooperatively to educate young users about the potentially dangerous individuals hiding behind a seemingly benign online profile."

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles frequently prohibits paroled sex offenders from using the Internet. Despite that prohibition, investigators with the Office of the Attorney General discovered that Scott established an online MySpace account, which he used on his personal computer. After Scott's arrest, investigators discovered that he also used his cellular telephone to access his online profile.

Scott's arrest comes just weeks after a technology industry task force released a report downplaying the dangers facing children online. The report and task force stem from a "Joint Statement on Key Principles of Social Networking" agreement that 49 state attorneys general negotiated with social networking giant MySpace.com. Citing inadequate safeguards for children and concerns that the agreement would

give parents a false sense of security, Attorney General Abbott declined to join the agreement.

Questioning the report's findings, Attorney General Abbott said: "Since our Cyber Crimes Unit first began its online predator crackdown, we have arrested more than 100 sexual predators for using the Internet to prey upon children. Although these arrests plainly illustrate the dangers that children face online, this report minimizes the dangers posed by online sexual predators. The report's conclusions are not only erroneous, but worse they give a false sense of relief to parents who should be increasingly concerned about their children's online activities. The Office of the Attorney General will continue working with law enforcement and parents to protect young Texans from Internet predators."

The Attorney General's Fugitive and Cyber Crimes units have arrested 28 convicted sex offenders who accessed MySpace in violation of their parole conditions. Four additional subjects were arrested for using MySpace to meet and sexually proposition users whose online profiles indicated they were between the ages of 12 to 14 years old. In all four of those cases, the profile actually belonged to an undercover Cyber Crimes Unit investigator.

Attorney General Abbott has repeatedly urged MySpace.com and other social networking sites to implement specific safety measures that would help prevent young users from receiving unwanted sexual advances and sexually explicit images.

To help law enforcement officials protect young Internet users and crack down on cyber predators, Attorney General Abbott recently called for statutory changes that would update Texas' sex offender registration laws. Citing the prevalence of sexual predator activity online, the Attorney General asked legislators to supplement existing sex offender registration requirements by also requiring sexual predators to register their e-mail addresses, mobile telephone numbers, social networking aliases and other electronic identification information.

Attorney General Abbott's proposal features four key recommendations:

- Sex offender e-mail registration.

Texas law should require all registered sex offenders to record their

online identities and account information with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This new requirement would apply to sex offenders' e-mail addresses, screen names, or other assumed identities used for web-based chats, instant messaging, social networking or other similar electronic communications platforms.

• Sex offender mobile telephone number registration. Dramatic growth within the mobile communications sector has increased children's access to cell phones. As a result, young Texans now frequently send text messages, transfer photographs and chat online with their mobile telephones. To help prevent sexual predators from using mobile phones to prey upon children, registered sex offenders should be required to register their cell phone numbers with DPS.

• Law enforcement must share information. DPS should be authorized to release sex offenders' online identities to the Office of the Attorney General, social networking sites and other specified Internet platforms. By sharing this information with authorized entities, sex

offenders can be pre-screened and their online profiles can be removed by website operators.

• Prohibit use of Internet for certain convicted sex offenders. Both the courts and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles should be granted expanded authority to prohibit certain high-risk sex offenders, as a condition of parole or probation, from using the Internet to access pornographic material; accessing a commercial social networking site; promoting sexual relations with children younger than 18; or communicating with a person younger than 18 when the offender is older than 18.

Since taking office, Attorney General Abbott has earned a national reputation for aggressively arresting and prosecuting online child predators. The Fugitive Unit and the Cyber Crimes Unit, which protects children from online sexual exploitation, have combined to arrest more than 900 sex offenders since 2003. Cyber Crimes Unit investigators also have traveled to schools and communities statewide to offer educational cyber safety programs.



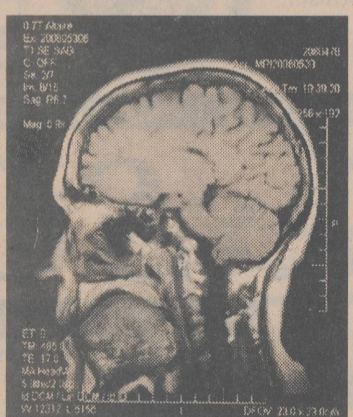
PHOTO BY SARAH MANKIN
THE TWINS — Vickie Schwiening and Carl Weaver portray Denise and Dennis, the Sanders family twins in the current *Way-Off Broadway* production of *Smoke* on the Mountain Homecoming. The play's run continues for the next two weekends at the Tom Ratliff Civic Theater in Eldorado.

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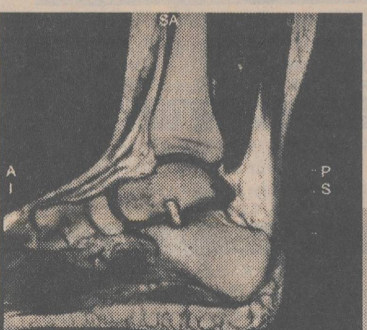
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IRS expands E-File program, offers faster refunds

(SPM Wire) It's always good to quickly get your hands on your tax refund -- and in today's economy it's doubly-important for many Americans.

With this in mind, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has rolled out an expansion of its e-file program for 2008 federal tax returns, highlighted by new features that will allow expanded access to electronic filing and help people looking for faster refunds. The e-file program also includes new improvements to the Free File program that will allow nearly all taxpayers to e-file for free.

All taxpayers are being urged to use e-file this season, including those who have never done so before. Last year the average tax refund was \$2,429 -- no small sum in any economy.

"These are tough times, and e-file is the best way for people to get cash in their pocket quickly," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "Filing electronically with direct deposit can get refunds to taxpayers in as few as 10 days. Combined with important changes in the Free File program, we believe e-file is a better option than ever before for the nation's taxpayers."

The e-file program totaled nearly

90 million tax returns in 2008. Almost 58 percent of all returns were filed electronically. Last year, there was a surge in e-file from home computers. Nearly 27 million people prepared their own e-file return. That's an increase of more than 19 percent from the previous year.

Taxpayers may use IRS e-file through their tax preparers, or with a computer using tax preparation software. This software is available on the Internet for online use or for download. Many retail stores sell the software for offline use. The IRS does not charge taxpayers to e-file their completed returns, but some tax preparers and software manufacturers may charge a fee. However, this year a number of large software companies are waiving this additional fee.

In addition, most taxpayers qualify for free tax preparation offered through Free File on IRS.gov. Regardless of income level, taxpayers who are comfortable with filling out paper tax forms and who don't need extra assistance can use the IRS's new Free File Fillable Forms. These new online versions of paper tax forms that can be e-filed are available for the first time by visiting the IRS.gov Free File site.

Taxpayers who use e-file and who

choose direct deposit can receive their refund in as few as 10 days. That's because with e-file, there's no paper return going to the IRS. And with direct deposit, there's no paper refund going to the taxpayer. So it's all electronic and much faster than paper.

IRS e-file allows taxpayers to file their returns now and pay later if they owe taxes. It allows taxpayers to file both federal and most state returns at the same time.

To get all the benefits of electronic filing, taxpayers must make sure that when they are done with their returns, they take the final step of e-filing them. Taxpayers who use a paid preparer should make sure their preparer are taking this final step, too. In addition to error checks contained in the return-preparation software, additional checks are done during the e-file transmission process. That's why the error rate is so low for e-filed returns. In fact, the error rate is significantly reduced from 20 percent with paper returns to about one percent with e-filed returns.

E-filed tax return information is protected through encryption. Also, taxpayers receive an acknowledgment within 48 hours that the IRS has accepted their return.