

Coach Gary Grubbs named All-West Texas Coach of the Year



F ...See Page 4

It's Mias Amigas time again! Welcome Home Exes!



THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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VOLUME 102, ISSUE 26

"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"

JUNE 26, 2003

Hospital trustees move quickly to hire second physician

Dr. Lillian Perez will be joining the staff of Schleicher County Medical Center beginning August 15, 2003. The news came Monday night during the regular monthly meeting of the Schleicher County Hospital District's board of trustees.

The meeting was called to order by board president Randy Mankin. On hand for the meeting were trustees Delia Pina, Jim Martin, Ricky Fuessel, Shirley Joiner, J.D. Doyle and Frank Williams. Hospital Administrator Sharon Dietz and Assistant Administrator Beverly Minor were also in attendance.

Before meeting with Dr. Perez, the board entered into an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel

matters. They were joined in the closed-door session by attorney James Kosub and newly hired SCMC Chief of Staff Dr. James Lucas.

About twenty minutes into the executive session, Dr. Lucas left the room and Dr. Perez was called in for an interview. When the meeting returned to open session, the trustees voted unanimously to hire Dr. Perez.

Both Dr. Lucas and Dr. Perez were signed to 90-day contracts. It was noted, however, that the short-term agreements will be replaced by 1-year contracts, as soon as the documents can be prepared.

Board President Randy Mankin took the opportunity of a break in the meet-

ing to welcome the doctor to SCMC. "We are happy that Dr. Perez is joining our staff," Mankin stated. "We welcome her aboard and look forward to a long partnership with her. I know she will be an asset to this hospital and this community."

Dr. Perez comes to Eldorado from San Angelo where she currently practices at the La Esperanza Clinic.

Dr. Perez is retired from the U.S. Army and Air Force Medical Service. While in the service, she served four years as Chief of Medical Staff at Goodfellow Air Force Base where she supervised 90 civilian, enlisted and officers personnel in the Family Practice Clinic, Primary Care Clinic, Mental Health Clinic, Health and Wellness Clinic, and the Flight Medical Clinic. During that time she completed physician management training and joined the American Academy of Physician Executives.

During a two year tour at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, Japan, Dr. Perez served as Chief of the Medical Services Flight. That involved supervising nurse practitioners, midwives and obstetricians, physician assistants, general medical officers, family physicians, psychiatrists, social workers, pediatricians, emergency medicine specialists, general surgeons, two ear-nose and throat surgeons, as well as the air base's flight surgeons. During that time, Dr. Perez implemented weight management and preventive medicine programs. She directed the medical records department, including Japanese civilian personnel. She also managed clinic and ER schedules as well as hospital patients. It was at this time that Dr. Perez served on the Base Commanders Staff and completed the Air War College.

Since leaving the Air Force, Dr. Perez has practiced in San Angelo, while continuing to advance her education. She is completed a family practice residency in 1990 at the Texas Tech Regional Academic Health Center in Odessa. She is certified by the American Board of Family Practice and received a certificate of added qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. She is also board eligible in Executive Medicine and Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Perez and her husband, Juan, are both natives of Stockdale, Texas. She is a 1976 graduate of Sul Ross State University and earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in 1981 from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at North Texas State University. He husband, Juan Perez is an educator and school administrator, currently employed by the San Angelo ISD.

The couple looks forward to making their home here in Eldorado. "Juan and I both grew up in a small town, smaller even than Eldorado," Dr. Perez told the Success. "We know and understand what small town life is like and we are eager to get back to it."

Dr. Perez and her husband have four daughters, including Kathryn, 26, a graduate teacher at the University of Alabama, where she is currently pursuing a PhD. Also, daughters Vida, 22, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Relocating to Eldorado — Dr. Lillian Perez was hired Monday by Schleicher County Hospital District trustees. She will be moving to Eldorado and plans to open a clinic practice in mid-August. She will also be joining the medical staff at SCMC.

72nd annual Mias Amigas meeting slated for weekend

The 72nd annual meeting of Mias Amigas will be held Friday, June 27, and Saturday, June 28 in Eldorado. The festivities will begin on the courthouse lawn with registration and a sandwich supper. Everyone is asked to bring some kind of picnic food such as sandwiches, chips, dips, or desserts, and all the food is placed on long tables for the enjoyment of all. Bringing a lawn chair will make visiting much more comfortable as well.

Saturday finds the group meeting in the Memorial Building at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and registration. At 9:30 the old school bell rings, and at 10:00 a.m. the general assembly occurs. The graduating classes of 1953 and 1983 will re-

ceive special recognition on their 50th and 20th anniversaries, respectively. At 11:30 a barbecue lunch will be served under the trees on the courthouse lawn.

The Mias Amigas organization is an all school reunion of classes which have been graduated at least twenty years. Anyone who attended school in Eldorado or who taught in the system is eligible for membership, and guests are welcome. Organized in the early thirties by a small group of 'girls' who wished to maintain their contact with each other and their community, the reunion has met continuously for 72 years. Its sole purpose is to maintain and nurture friendships made through the school years.



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Award Winning Photographer — Texas Press Association president Bob Buckle, publisher of the Azle News, presented Kathy Mankin of the Eldorado Success a 1st Place plaque in photography. The award, part of the TPA's annual Better Newspaper Contest, was presented Saturday at the TPA's summer convention in League City.

Success claims awards at TPA summer convention

The Eldorado Success claimed four awards last Saturday during the Texas Press Association's summer convention in League City. The awards were presented as part of the TPA's annual Better Newspaper Contest.

Kathy Mankin picked up a 1st Place plaque for three of her photos. Meanwhile, Randy Mankin's "Over the Back Fence" column received 3rd Place honors in the Column Writing category, and a 4th Place award in Editorial Writing. The Success also placed 4th in Headline Writing.

"There are some truly great newspapers in Texas," commented Success publisher Randy Mankin following the contest. "It is an honor for the Success to be counted among them."

Newspapers across the state were represented at the convention in the Houston suburb. Attendees were treated to a tour of NASA's Johnson Space Center in nearby Clear Lake. While the

Better Newspaper Contest was the highlight of the convention, there were many informative and enjoyable programs scheduled during the 3-day event.

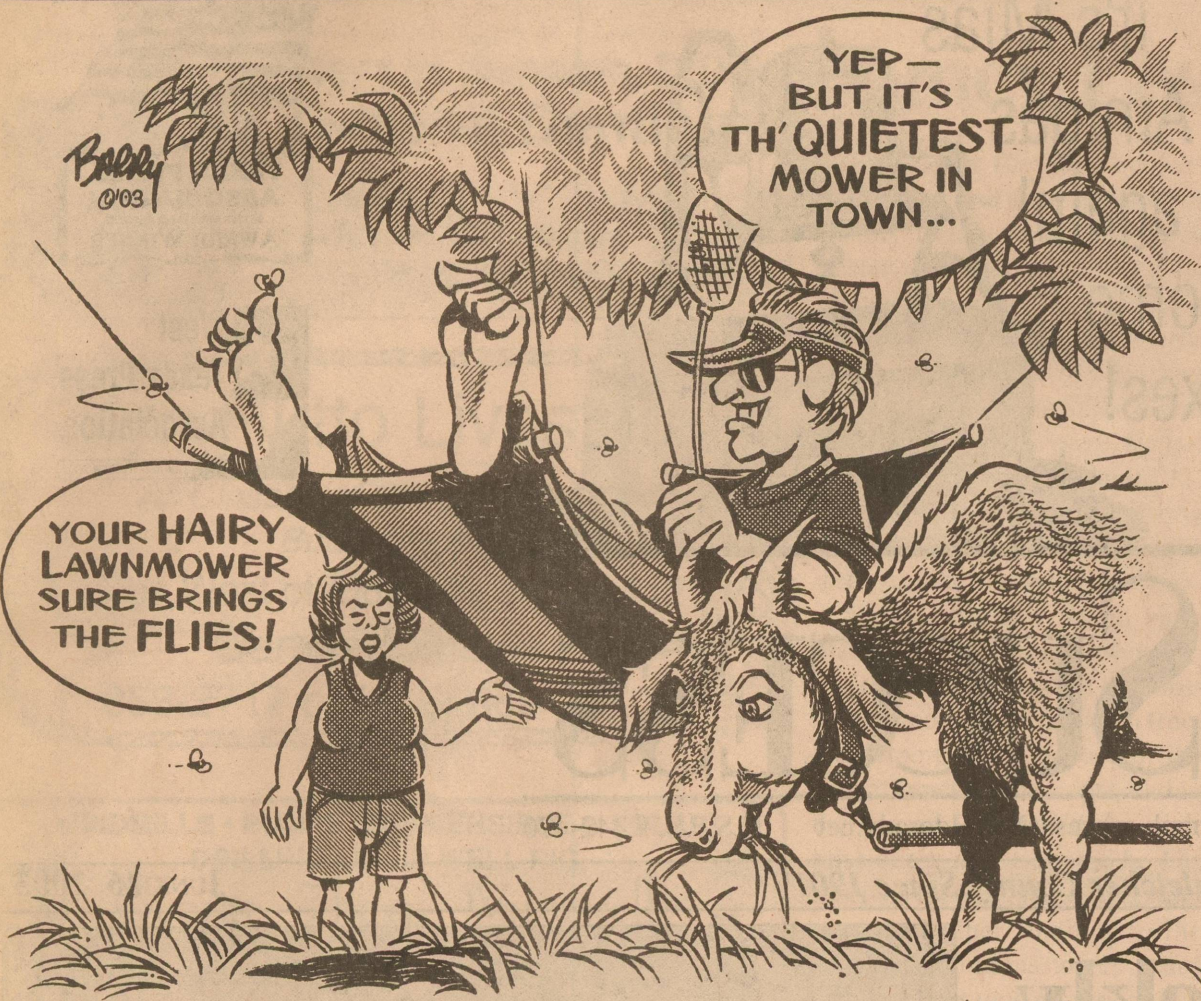
Willis Webb, publisher of the Jasper Newsboy, was elected to serve as TPA president during the coming year. As one of his first official acts, the incoming president appointed Success publisher Randy Mankin to serve a third term on the TPA's board of directors.

The Eldorado Success is a long-standing member of the Texas Press Association. The association was founded in 1880 for the purpose of supporting the journalistic craft within Texas. Currently there are 531 paid circulation newspapers in the state, including 91 dailies and 440 weeklies and semi-weeklies. The 4.2 million combined circulation is evidence that Texans continue to rely on newspapers as their primary source of news and advertising information.



PHOTO BY LORI STRICKLAN

Up against the wall — Eldorado's high school baseball field is getting a facelift this summer, including its own version of the Green Monster, a tall green wall in straightaway center field. Here, Alan Dykstra and Dillon Greer are shown helping to install the wall.



Finally, a diet plan that makes sense



Diet plans. There are thousands of them and none of them seem to work for me. My latest experiment, a high calorie, high carb diet called the Deluxe Mexican Dinner Diet hasn't worked any better than the Chicken Fried Steak Diet that I tried last year. Then there was the Potato Chips and Ranch Dip Diet. It didn't work either.

Just this week, however, I stumbled across a new diet plan. Although it seemed complicated at first, the more I studied it, the more sense it made. Consider the following.

It is common scientific knowledge that it takes 1 calorie to heat 1 gram of water 1 degree Celsius. So, it should logically follow that if you eat a very cold dessert (consisting mostly, but not entirely, of water), the natural processes by which the consumed dessert is

raised to body temperature in the digestive cycle should literally suck the calories out of the only available source, your body fat.

Please, don't abandon me yet, this takes a little math and a lot of faith but the pay off promises to be huge. So, here's another example...

A dessert served and eaten near 0 degrees C (32.2 deg F) will in a short time be raised to the normal body temperature of 37 degrees C (98.6 deg F). For each gram of dessert eaten, that process takes approximately 37 calories as stated above. The average dessert portion is 6 oz, or 168 grams. Therefore, by operation of thermodynamic law, 6,216 calories (1 cal./gm/deg x 37 deg x 168 gm) are extracted from body fat as the dessert's temperature is normalized.

Allowing for the 1,200 latent calories in the dessert, the net calorie loss is approximately 5,000 calories. Obviously, the colder the dessert, the better off you are and the faster you will lose weight, provided that is your goal.

The process works equally well, I am told, when drinking very cold beverages (insert favorite beverage here) in frosted glasses. Using domestic beer as an example, each ounce contains 16 latent calories, but extracts 1,036 calories (6,216 cal. per 6 oz. portion)

as it warms up in the body. Thus the net calorie loss per ounce of beer is 1,020 calories.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to calculate that 12,240 calories (12oz. x 1,020 cal./oz.) are extracted from the body in the process of drinking one can.

Frozen desserts, e.g., ice cream, are even more beneficial, since it takes 83 cal./gm to melt them (that is to bring them to 0 deg C) and an additional 37 cal./gm to further raise them to body temperature. The results here could really be remarkable and beats jogging and jazzercise hands down.

Unfortunately, for those who eat pizza as an excuse to drink pop, pizza (loaded with latent calories and served above body temperature) induces an opposite effect. But, thankfully, as the astute reader should have already reasoned, the obvious solution is to consume more of your favorite beverage, served ice cold, of course, and follow up immediately with large bowls of ice cream.

By strictly following this plan, and alternating the cycles of pizza, your favorite cold beverage, and ice cream, the determined dieter should achieve the desired weight in no time.

On the off chance that you lose too much weight, the process should work equally well in reverse. Just substitute fresh baked apple pie and steaming dinner rolls for the ice cream and switch the beverage to hot coffee.

If this doesn't work, I'm moving on to the Donuts and Milk Diet. If that fails, there's always the Watermelon, Pinto Beans and Prune Juice Diet.

School is out...reform is in

by U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

School's out for the summer, but Texas educators are hard at work bringing our schools into the 21st century. In June, Rod Paige, our nation's Secretary of Education, gave Texas the stamp of approval for its efforts to comply with the landmark education reform legislation, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Designed to change the culture of America's schools, it encourages creativity and flexibility, teaches students based on what works, and perhaps more importantly, makes schools accountable for achievement.

to formulate how it will close the achievement gap and make sure all students achieve academic proficiency. This month, for the first time in history every state submitted an accountability plan. The Texas plan is a blueprint to ensure each of our children receives a quality education. In addition to infusing accountability into our schools and requiring students to meet minimum testing requirements, the legislation also provided schools with other options to creatively address the challenges they face.

Transitions to Teaching
One element, the "Transitions to Teaching" provision, I fought hard to include in the legislation. Transitions to Teaching is based on

the successful military program, "Troops to Teachers" that placed former military personnel in the classroom. The prototype has successfully placed more than 4,300 teachers around the country in every state.

The Transitions to Teaching program recruits and retrains highly qualified mid-career professionals, retirees and recent college graduates as teachers in high-need schools. It supports the development and expansion of alternatives to initial teacher certification. With many states, including Texas, facing a shortage of teachers, filling those positions with qualified professionals will meet the immediate needs of students and can provide a more in depth educational experience. Equally important as recruiting these professionals is retaining them as educators, which is why the legislation calls for training, guidance, and support to encourage those who enter the program to make teaching a long-term career.

Single Sex Schools
Single sex schools and classrooms are another creative attempt to provide greater educational options for public school children. Studies have shown that single-sex programs can reduce barriers to learning by providing a less intimidating and more productive classroom. This has been shown particularly in urban areas and middle to high school grades. Girls educated in an all-girls environment often have more confidence and tend to pursue more science and math courses. Boys in same-

sex classes gain leadership qualities and are often more successful in language and writing courses when the distractions of the opposite sex are removed.

Last August I attended orientation at the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity Preparatory Academy for Boys, or WALIPP Prep Academy, in Houston. WALIPP was one of the first public single-sex schools in the nation to open its doors since the Act passed. Its mission aims to enable its students to, "achieve academically, develop vocationally and become productive citizens." This spring, WALIPP completed its first year serving middle school boys in inner city Houston and moved into a permanent facility to continue to expand on that mission.

While single-sex schools and classrooms are not right for every child - maybe not even for most children - they should at least be an option, and that's what is now established. The Department of Education will soon set forth guidelines for school districts interested in establishing single-sex schools or classrooms. When they are formulated, more of our schools will be encouraged to utilize single-sex offerings as a way to meet the requests of parents.

Looking to the Future
Texas is encouraging its schools to innovate and reach out to our children. Across the board, the education reforms will continue to expand public school opportunities and try to prepare the next generation to lead our nation in the future.



ROLLING ALONG

WITH TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Floyd County's Veterans Memorial

The veterans memorial in Floydada is not only a tribute to Floyd County people who served in the Armed Forces, but also a tribute to the dedication and resourcefulness of a teenage boy.

When Skyler Cornelius, then a sophomore in high school, was traveling with his family he noticed a monument to veterans in the small community of Benjamin, population 264. Skyler was impressed that a place so small would have such a fine memorial. He thought if Benjamin could do it, Floydada could.

With the help of his mother, Skyler contacted the folks in Benjamin and other cities that had similar monuments and found out what companies built the granite structures. He called the Willis Granite Company in Granite, Oklahoma and laid out his plans for one in Floydada. He said he wanted to put the names of all the men and women in Floyd County who had ever served in the military and had an honorable discharge. He figured he needed enough space for about two thousand names. The company said it would cost about twenty thousand dollars.

Skyler submitted his design for the monument and apparently it was more elaborate than the company first thought. The price tag shot up to sixty thousand dollars. It didn't phase Skyler one bit. He kept going to different places, making speeches about the monument, seeking donations. He contacted news media all over the South Plains and they went to

Floydada and interviewed Skyler about his project.

The newspaper in Floydada ran front page stories about the effort to raise money. The paper urged people who had been in the military to send in their information and make a donation if they so desired.

Skyler got the idea for the monument around Veterans Day in 2001. He wanted it finished by November 11, 2002. He envisioned a huge dedication ceremony on that date. The enthusiasm for the monument spread like wildfire. Skyler and his mother carefully logged all the names, making sure to get the correct spelling. The project had a board of directors composed of 28 school kids and 25 adults. By July, 2002, sixty-one thousand dollars had been donated.

The names kept multiplying and soon there were 4,000, double the number first expected. Skyler called the monument company again and told them he needed a bigger one. The monument company said he needed to raise thirty thousand more dollars.

"It was kind of a let-down, but it was also encouraging that we had that many people serving in the military," says Skyler. "Some of them date back to the Civil War."

The donations totaled \$93,000. Not a single fund raiser was held. Four thousand people attended the dedication on the court house square last November 11. That's more than the population of Floydada.

Skyler will be a senior in Floydada High School in the fall.

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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

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MEMBER 2003
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
West Texas Press Association
AWARD WINNER 2002

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
1. Places to shape up
5. Bits of wampum
10. List extender
14. It's no crime
15. "Dallas" matriarch
16. Hardly tanned
17. Ice cream thickener
18. Burglar deterrent
19. Similar in nature
20. Lose it
23. Best guess: Abbr.
24. Sock parts
25. Can't help but
27. He ate no fat
30. Cyber-writes
33. Hugs, symbolically
34. Mounts the soapbox
37. Uses a scope
40. Lose it
43. MTV viewer, most likely
44. Battled the bulge
45. Right-angle bend
46. Rodent catcher
48. Canvas site
50. Tavern round, maybe
52. Schlemiels
54. JFK posting
55. Lose it
62. Tracking ability
64. Supermarket sections
65. Philosopher Hoffer
66. Big commotions
67. Boot camp routine
68. The Beatles' meter maid
69. Spyglass part
70. Like uncirculated air
71. --do-well
- DOWN**
1. Beau for a doe
2. Walt Kelly's possum
3. Iraqi, but not Iranian
4. Levels of society
5. Handy's "___ Street Blues"
6. ___ Island Immigration Museum
7. "What a pity"
8. Gossip, so to speak
9. Highway hauler
10. Pollution watchdog org.
11. Doesn't remain neutral
12. Top invitees
13. Slowly, on a score
21. "That's a ___ baloney!"
22. The Windy City, briefly
26. Shepard in space
27. Easily molded
28. Paderewski, for one
29. Wimbledon winner in 1964 and 1965
30. Old anesthetic
31. Cross paths
32. Stadium near Shea
35. Country mail rtes., once
36. Play to ___ (draw)
38. Srta., across the Pyrenees
39. Unload, in a way
41. ___ close to schedule
42. Masterful
47. Show to a seat, informally
49. To the rear, nautically
50. Far from fresh
51. Disappear gradually
52. A dab hand has it
53. Where one may 47-Down
56. Tags on
57. Hor.'s opposite
58. Director Kazan
59. Sandusky's lake
60. Nick's time?
61. Slash mark
63. Sigmoid shape

See solution on Page 6

Losing It

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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66							67			68		
69							70			71		

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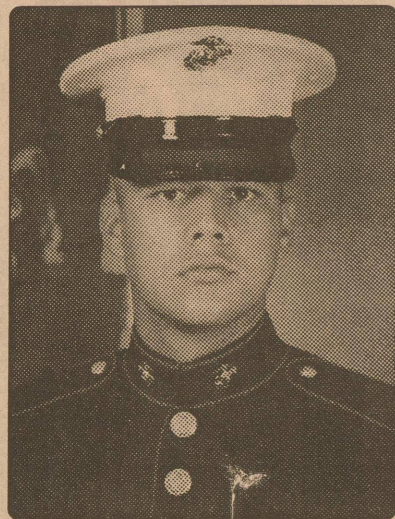
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MILITARY NEWS

Tyler Robledo



Pvt. Tyler Robledo

The congregation of Agape assembly of God would like to take this opportunity to offer a huge "Welcome home!" to Tyler Robledo. Tyler has been serving in Iraq with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and has recently arrived back home. We would also like to welcome his friend Marshall, who is in Eldorado visiting with Tyler after serving in Iraq as well.

Congratulations, on a safe return, Tyler. We are proud of you!

Tyler is the son of Toya Daniels and the grandson of Luther and Tooter Dunham of Eldorado.

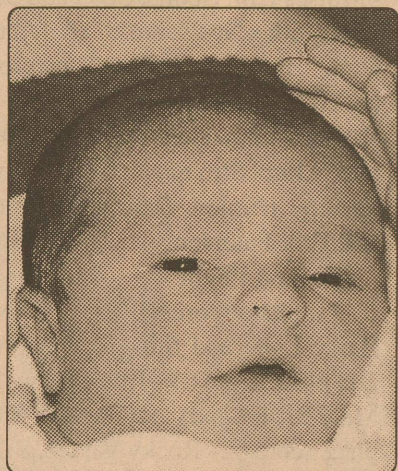
Pfc Stormi Sessom

Pfc. Stormi Sessom graduated from boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on December 18, 2002. She proceeded to AIT (advanced infantry training) in military intelligence at Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida from where she graduated on May 9, 2003. While at there, Sessom was awarded a Battalion Coin by her cadre for outstanding soldier during a two-day field training exercise.

She received a Physical Fitness Patch for exceeding 300 maximum points on her physical fitness test. Also, Sessom had the honor of serving as Platoon Guide over thirty-eight of her fellow soldiers.

Sessom is currently stationed in Bad Aibling, Germany. Her military occupational specialty is in signals intelligence/electronic warfare operations. She is the daughter of Jodie and Jack Baggett, Jr. of Ozona, and Eva Jo and Steve Sessom of Eldorado. Mail may be sent to:

PFC Sessom, Stormi
CMR 407, Box 455



COURTESY PHOTO

Nathan Andrew Walker

It's a Boy!

Trey and Marcia Walker of Midland, Texas wish to announce the arrival of their son, Nathan Andrew, who was born June 16, 2003 at Midland Memorial Westwood. Nathan weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19" long. He was greeted by his big sister, Kaitlyn, who is 3 years old, and grandparents, Herman and Deanne Walker of Eldorado, TX and Don and LaVon Mosher of Lubbock. Nathan means "gift from God" and everyone who has heard of the miracle God performed by allowing Nathan to grow in the earliest stage, will attest to the fact he truly is a "gift from God".

Great-grandparents are Granvil & Corrine Hext of Eldorado and (Ret.) Col. & Mrs. R.O. Mosher of San Antonio.

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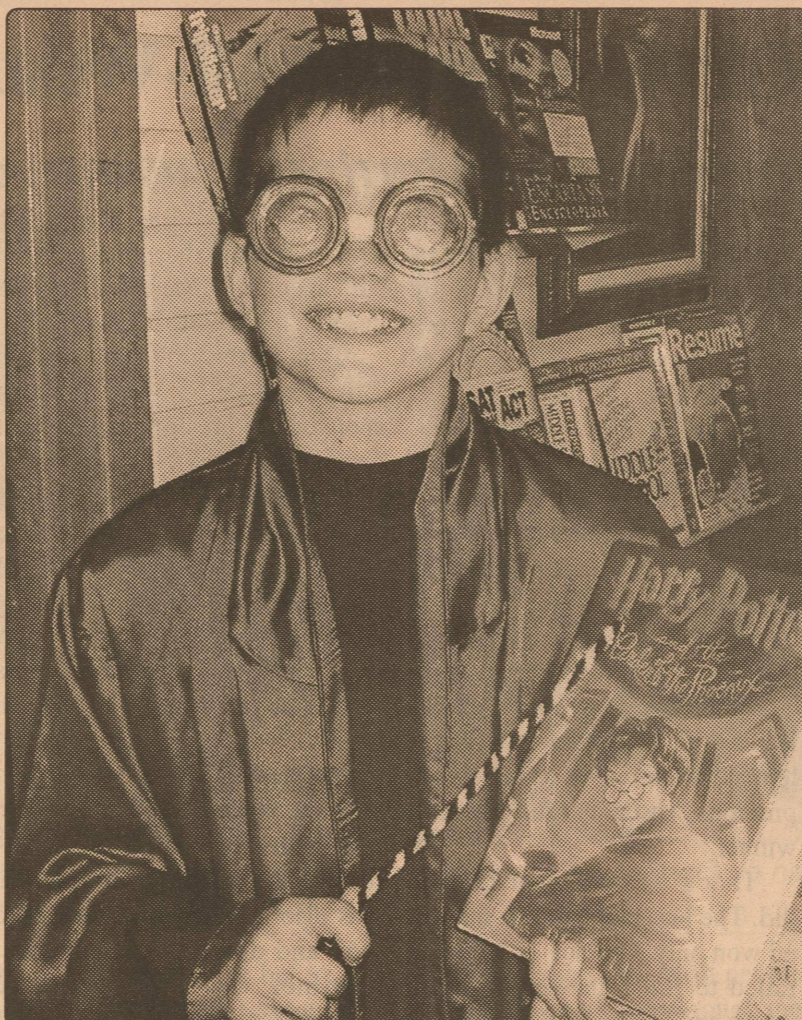


PHOTO BY LORI STRICKLAN

Harry Potter of Gryffindor House — Even as crowds of young fans were mobbing bookstores across the nation in hopes of finding R.K. Rowling's latest book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the young wizard arrived in Eldorado to deliver a copy of the book to the Schleicher County Public Library. Well...the young Mr. Potter was actually a very good likeness in the person of Kevin Freeman, himself a Harry Potter fan.

"Harry Potter" arrives at Schleicher Co. Public Library

Harry Potter (aka Kevin Freeman) arrived at the Schleicher County Public Library bringing with him R.K. Rowling's new book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" The new book ar-

rived at the library on the release date of June 21, 2003.

The Library has all of the Harry Potter books and they are ready for your summer reading pleasure.

Stepped up law enforcement aimed at drunk drivers

AUSTIN — State officials have a stern warning for motorists whose 4th of July holiday plans include alcohol: Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

State troopers and local law enforcement statewide will step up enforcement of the state's DWI laws between June 27 and July 13. Thousands of officers will be out in force during the 17-day period which coincides with the long Independence Day holiday weekend.

Texas is part of a massive nationwide effort aimed at getting impaired drivers off the nation's streets and highways. The mobilization is being spearheaded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in an effort to reduce alcohol-related crashes this summer.

Starting today, the Texas Department of Transportation will air new television and radio announcements in English and Spanish with the *Drink, Drive, Go to Jail* message. The ads will run during programs typically viewed or heard by men between the ages of 21 to 34. Research shows this age group is more likely to drive impaired than any other group.

Texas leads the nation in alcohol-related fatalities. The Texas Transportation Institute reports that 1,193 people were killed in drunk driving crashes in Texas in 2000. There were 10,— crashes in

which the driver was impaired by alcohol or drugs.

The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC). Penalties for a first DWI offense include \$2000 in fines, 72 hours to 6 months in jail and driver's license suspension from 90 days to a year.

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- X-MEN 2 dts (PG-13)..... 1:10 4:00
- ANGER MANAGEMENT (PG-13)..... 2:00 4:30
- RUGRATS GO WILD dts (PG)..... 1:00 3:15
- BRUCE ALMIGHTY dts (PG-13)..... 1:45 4:10
- BRUCE ALMIGHTY (PG-13)..... 2:45 5:10
- WRONG TURN (R)..... 1:20 3:20
- THE IN-LAWS (PG-13)..... 2:30 5:00
- LIZZIE MCGUIRE dts (PG).....

Times good for the week of 6/27 thru 7/01

- X-MEN 2 dts (PG-13)..... 6:45 9:30
- ANGER MANAGEMENT (PG-13)..... 7:10 9:50
- RUGRATS GO WILD dts (PG)..... 5:30/7:30 9:20
- BRUCE ALMIGHTY dts (PG-13)..... 7:00 9:30
- BRUCE ALMIGHTY (PG-13)..... 7:40/10:00
- WRONG TURN (R)..... 5:20/7:20 9:40
- THE IN-LAWS (PG-13)..... 7:15 9:45
- LIZZIE MCGUIRE dts (PG).....

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Eldorado Forecast

Thu 6/26	Fri 6/27	Sat 6/28	Sun 6/29	Mon 6/30
95/68	87/60	87/56	91/59	92/61
Partly cloudy. High around 95F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	Afternoon showers and thunderstorms likely.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.

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X BAR RANCH

DINNER SHOWS 2003

June 28-Jazz Concho: "Grub-N-Jazz at the Lodge" Spend the evening and/or weekend with us enjoying beautiful scenery, great food, live Jazz and friendly conversation. Dinner show includes meal and live entertainment by Jazz Concho of San Angelo. Menu: Beef/Pork Country Style Ribs, Sausage, Fresh Summer Fruit and Vegetables and Homemade Desserts.

August 9-Terry Maxwell and Music by the Pardis!

Place: X Bar Ranch, Live Oak Lodge near Eldorado, Texas
Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Meal Served +/- 7:30 Entertainment

Tickets sold in advance only for meal up to two days before each performance; Prices range from \$14 for adult/\$8 child for full evening. All tickets are non refundable, but are transferable.

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Grubbs named All-West Texas Coach of the Year

Arispe and Martinez win spots on All-West Texas Baseball Team

Eldorado Coach Gary Grubbs was named Coach of the Year by the San Angelo Standard-Times when it named its All-West Texas Baseball team on Sunday.

When Grubbs came to Eldorado one year ago, he not only took the helm of the Eagles football team, but he served notice that he intended to personally coach the baseball team, as well.

While it is not unknown for a high school athletic director to coach the baseball team, it is rare. Rarer still for one to take over a team that failed to complete its previous season and turn it into a winner.

That's exactly what Grubbs did. The baseball team he inherited won only 3 games in 2002 and failed to finish the season when injury and failing grades sidelined many of the players. Grubbs took the team and almost immediately turned it around, winning 20 games, the most ever for an Eldorado team and claiming a share of the District 2-2A title.

Through it all, he was unflappable. When the pre-season polls predicted Eldorado to finish 5th or 6th in the district, Grubbs just smiled and said, "We're gonna surprise some people."

Surprise was putting it mildly as league favorites Wall and Ozona found themselves chasing the Eagles throughout the season.

As the Eagles climbed into the Statewide polls, reaching as high as 5th, Grubbs maintained his reserved demeanor. "I'm tellin' you, we've got some good kids on this team."

And...Grubbs' "kids" came up big for him on the diamond.

When asked about the Coach of the Year honor, Grubbs characteristically turned the question into

a forum to praise his players. "This isn't about me," he said. "The kids deserve the credit."

Two of the players, Frankie Arispe and Philip Martinez, won spots on the prestigious All-West Texas team.

Arispe, a junior, was the Eagles ace pitcher. He went 8-2 on the season, striking out 108 batters on the way to a 1.52 ERA. Arispe, who was also the District 2-2A MVP, contributed with his bat, as well, batting .388 and driving in 23 runs.

Martinez, a senior, was named to the squad as a Utility Infielder, after a sterling season on the defensive side of the plate. His bat was also a weapon, as he batted .469 and drove in 27 runs. But Martinez was a threat on the mound, too. He compiled a 4-1 season record with a 2.74 ERA.

Four other Eagles were named to the Honorable Mention All-West Texas team including senior Michael Adame at 1st Base, sophomore Jared Grubbs at 2nd Base, junior Homer Hernandez at 3rd base, and junior Trey Chavez in the outfield.

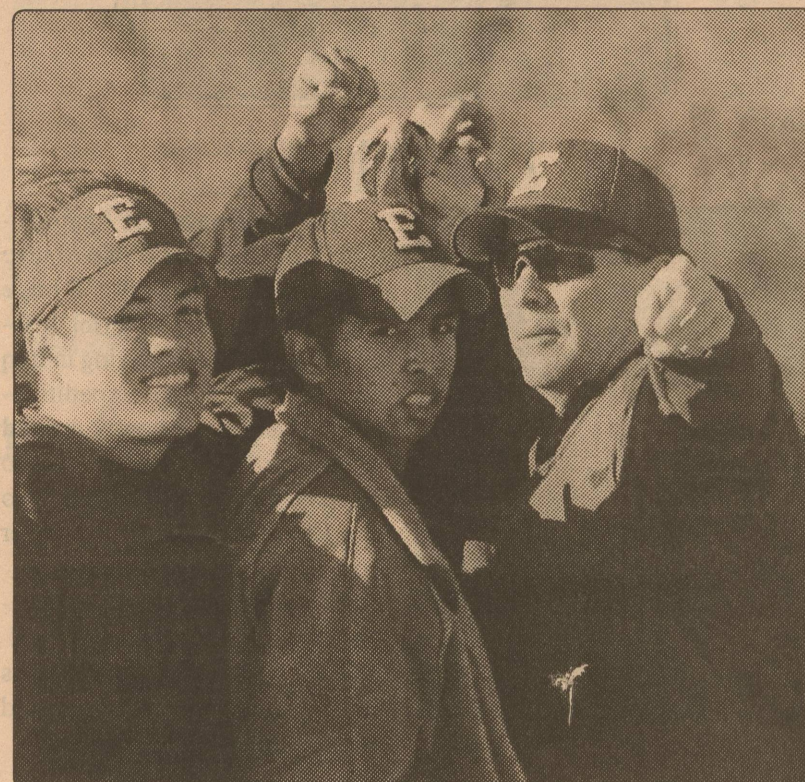
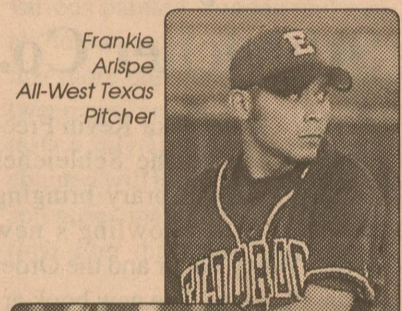


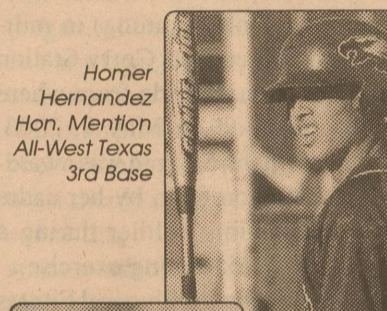
PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
Pointing the way — Eagles Coach Gary Grubbs was named the All-West Texas Coach of the Year by the San Angelo Standard-Times on Sunday. A well deserved honor considering the way he turned the Eagles baseball program around.



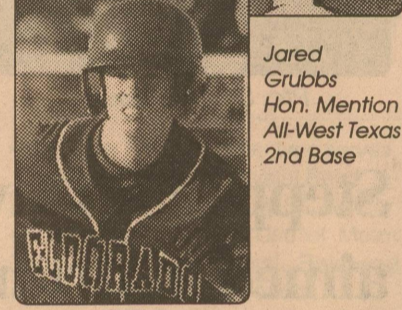
Frankie Arispe
 All-West Texas Pitcher



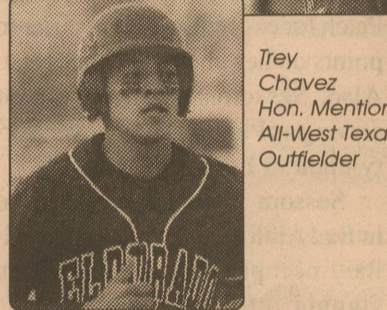
Michael Adame
 Hon. Mention All-West Texas 1st Base



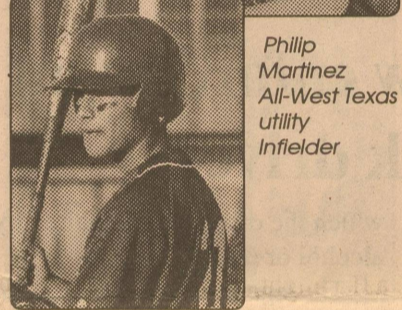
Homer Hernandez
 Hon. Mention All-West Texas 3rd Base



Jared Grubbs
 Hon. Mention All-West Texas 2nd Base



Trey Chavez
 Hon. Mention All-West Texas Outfielder



Phillip Martinez
 All-West Texas Utility Infielder

Eldorado Golf Club tourney results listed

The Eldorado Golf Club hosted a one day 3 Person Select Shot Tournament on Saturday afternoon, June 21st. There were 12 teams entered from Menard, San Angelo, and Eldorado. The results of the tournament were:

First Flight
 1st place score 54 - Donnie Gibbs, Robert Hernandez, and Bruce Hough; 2nd place score 56 - Tip Finley, Jon Cartwright and Ronnie Sauer; 3rd place score 58 - Adam Gauna, Mary Gauna and

Richard Garcia; 4th place score 59 - Moises Hill, George Scott and Su Scott; 5th place score of 60 - 1st team - Joe Garza, Roy Guerrero, and William Robledo; 2nd team - Richard Gonzales, Brooks Blair and Allen Steven; 3rd. team - Tommy Hunley, Danny Halbert, and Erik Paterson.

Second Flight
 1st place score 61 - Bill Wells, Barry Lane and Steven Snelson; 2nd place score 61 - Kerry Brown, Marc Brown and Cody Brown; 3rd place score 62 - Rocky Valdez, Billy Geller, and Matt Williamson; 4th place score 63 - Sam Henderson, Karen Henderson, and Lynn Griffin; 2nd team - Kirt Griffin, Clint Griffin and Jim Kosub.

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Huntsville State Park & big giant Sam Houston statue

by Mark Campbell

Considering we're so large, there aren't that many national lands in Texas. Actually there are 67 official spots but many of those are Corps of Engineers lakes like Texoma, Lewisville, and Whitney.

Others are grasslands or wildlife refuges or national areas/landmarks inside other lands like Big Slough Wilderness inside Davy Crockett National Forest.

Some are bona fide areas worthy of being recognized - Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains, and the Padre Island National Seashore.

But we're talking forests this week.

Texas' forests

This great state, second in size only to Alaska (which really doesn't count because it's really a freak state being way up there by the North Pole and all), has just four national forests.

Now that might be a wonder to folks in tree-deprived West Texas, but people who frequent the eastern part of Texas are almost insulted.

The four - Davy Crockett, Angelina, Sabine, and Sam Houston. Of the quartet, just one manages to push west of Interstate 45, Sam Houston which, at 163,000-plus acres is the biggest of the bunch even though all are pretty much the same size.

The other three in order of expanse are Crockett, Sabine and Angelina. Or Sabine, Crockett, and Angelina, depending on which source you believe.

About 50 miles north of Houston is Huntsville State Park and a statue of horrifying size.

Big giant Sam Houston

Normally when people think of Huntsville, they think of prisons. Those people haven't driven down I-45 lately. Like some kind of giant albino Sasquatch, a hu-

mongous statue of Sam Houston towers above the Pineywoods, threatening passersby on the freeway adjacent. Had Santa Anna ever gotten a look at this gargantuan Texan, becoming a republic would've been a snap.

Back in the day, the non-concrete Houston (that is, the human one) stood an imposing 6-6. But it took 60 tons of material to make him "the world's tallest statue of an American Hero" at 57 feet. Not counting the 10-foot tall granite block he stands on.

(Naturally, you have to wonder who would win if Big Sam fought Paul Bunyon; the latter would have his ox covering his back, but Houston wields an enormous walking stick that Babe would certainly want no part of.)

Visitors to the statue actually flinch before it. It towers over everything, kind of like a Lone Star Godzilla. Except white. And a man. And Big Sam doesn't breathe fire. (I don't think.)

Vehicles heading south on I-45 freak out to see the behemoth looming suddenly near the road. At night, the statue is lit up, making Houston look like he's some kind of colossal ghost that glows in the dark like those Aurora monster sets we put together as kids.

Who knows how many people have awoken at night, screaming, feverish from a dream of being pursued down the Interstate by the football-field-long strides of Big Giant Sam Houston?

Those fleeing the statue can find solace back at the small visitor's center that offers the usual Texas trinkets - plus a striped convict's t-shirt that says you've been to Huntsville.

At the park

Back down the other way on Park Road 40 is Huntsville State Park.

You know you're in the forest



Woodland bandit - A raccoon would love to get back to his afternoon snack in a litter barrel.

here. It's a mile drive before you even get to the park headquarters and already loblolly and shortleaf pines are blocking out the sun.

The pines are amazing, many growing straight up well over 60 feet tall. Some have fallen over and lean against neighbors giving the wood an ever-changing geometric look.

After paying \$3 per person at headquarters - where the bathroom is cooled with refrigerated air, something that will soon become quite valuable - comes what looked like a nice Nature Center building. When we were there, the place was closed (in fact, it was almost never open according to the sign) but inside were small alligators, snakes, and turtles that kids would love.

An 8-mile trail begins just behind the center. A large placard does everything it can to convince normal people not to hike this trail. It warns that it takes four hours, that you need water, that you need a flashlight, that if it gets dark you

could easily get lost. Most people just go back and peer through the Nature Center windows again.

Three main things

Huntsville State Park seems to cater to three specific groups - campers, bikers, and hikers.

Bikers and hikers share many of the trails. Once a hike begins, it's remarkable how suddenly everything gets quiet except for an occasional bird calling and the wind in the top of the pines high above. There's peace here.

As usual, it's a good idea to look back behind you because a trail always looks different when you're returning. (Plus Big Sam might be sneaking up on you even though it's hard to believe he could be quiet enough to tiptoe with those giant feet.)

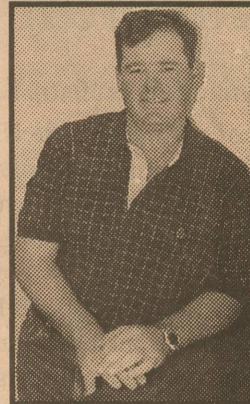
The 8-mile trail circles Lake Raven - Houston was nicknamed "the Raven" - and crosses some varied terrain including a swampy area where alligators potentially

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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He's a long, tall Texan - Giant Sam Houston startles visitors (including the author) as well as motorists on nearby Interstate 45.

9:15 a.m. Wednesday



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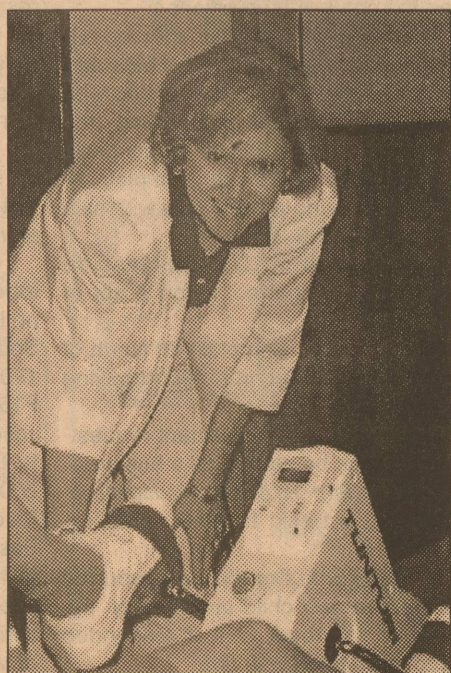
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Hospital trustees hire Dr. Lillian Perez

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

junior at Angelo State University, Paula, a junior at University of Texas, and Allie, 13, who will be in the 8th grade this fall.

Other Hospital Board Business

In other business, the hospital trustees voted unanimously to pursue a settlement offer recommended by attorney James Kosub in the lawsuit brought against the hospital district by former SCMC physician Dr. Randall Sloan. Details of the settlement offer are not known at this time. The case moved toward trial recently, but

the two sides failed to agree on a jury panel. Hospital officials declined to say whether worries that the case might be moved out of Schleicher County prompted the board to make a settlement offer.

A review of the hospital's financial records revealed that the district continues to operate in the black, using less than half of its tax subsidy.

Hospital Administrator Sharon Dietz advised the board that the Hospital's Day Care center is open with several employees taking advantage of the service. She also advised that hospital visits contin-

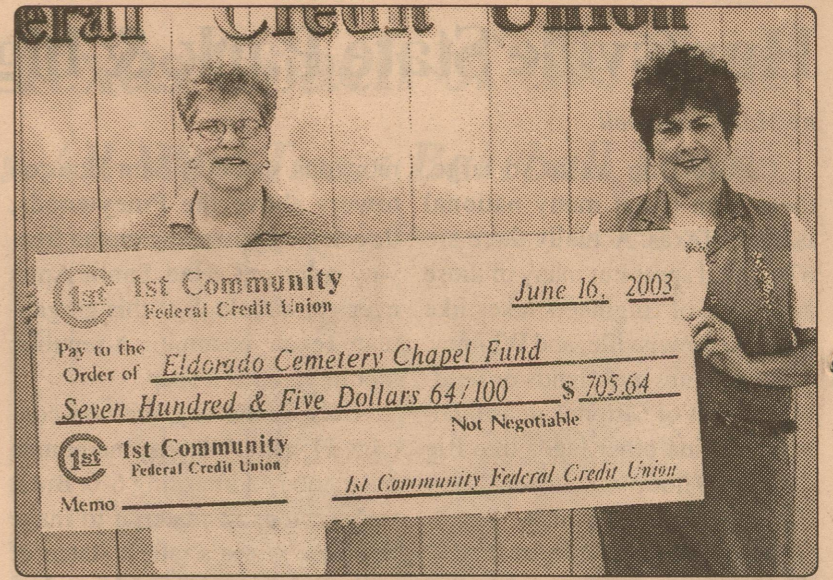
ue to hold steady, even as the district goes through the process of recruiting physicians.

The district's auditor, Larry Anderson of Lubbock, could not be in attendance due to an illness. Therefore, the audit report was rescheduled for next month's meeting. A brief discussion regarding a billboard owned by the district resulted in Sharon Dietz being directed to meet with an outdoor sign company to discuss options for the existing sign.

Before adjourning, the board reviewed and approved several policy and procedure manuals, including the Nursing Home Manual, Pain Management Manual and the Medication Administration Manual.

Chapel Fund — Juanice Orr (L) accepted a donation of \$705.64 last week on behalf of the Cemetery Chapel Fund from Dorothy Dacy (R) of 1st Community Federal Credit Union. Half of the money was raised at a dunking booth sponsored by 1st Community during Schleicher County Day, with a matching donation being made by the credit

PHOTO BY LORI STRICKLAN



So, exactly how full of bull is Eldorado?

As mentioned in the June 12 edition of the Success, the EOBBC is conducting a contest to see who can find the most "bull" in Eldorado. Contestants must search in a three mile radius of the site of the "Running of the Bull" festival...the courthouse square...for the bull logo being employed on the numerous promotional signs around town by the tongue-in-cheek organization. The total number of bulls, indoor and outdoor, should be counted, i.e. if a sign has more than one bull, all bulls on that sign should be counted.

Entrants may begin compiling their list of the locations of the various painted wooden and metal "toros" today, bearing in mind that more bulls may be added between now and the end of the contest on July 16. The last sign to be counted will be erected on July 12, so entries may be submitted anytime after that date. Entries may

be turned in on July 16 to a mystery attendant at the EOBBC World Headquarters...by THE stoplight. Anytime the attendant is not present, the entries may be slipped under the door or placed in a designated receptacle.

The winner of the contest will receive free admission to ROTB Festival, free entry in every bull shooting contest, free "Running of the Bull" shirt, free admission to car show, free admission to the EOBBC haunted house in October, free tour of the EOBBC world headquarters by appointment, free tour of Schleichersonian Hall of Fame by appointment, distinctive trophy, free souvenir ROTB sign, free ride in Batmobile, free ride in Camo Car, free tour of Hysterical District, free autographed picture of Jim Runge and other surprises to be announced in this publication between now and the end of the contest.

Area and statewide interest in the unique festival continues to grow. Last week the Lone Star Cloggers of San Angelo requested time to perform on stage for both days. Jessica Harper of the Concho Valley COG will be on hand to etch car windows with VIN's. Local Boy Scouts will operate carnival games and the dunk tank. Circus 101 graduates will offer face painting. Also, last week, Les Royal of Hico, professional tongue twister, signed on as a contestant...his motto is "Have tongue, will twist." Calls are fielded daily from prospective food and craft vendors, contestants, amusements and other attractions. Prospects should note that all applications should be in by July 1. In the event that there is still vending space available after that date, applications will be accepted with an additional \$10 late fee required for sign-up.

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NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Company (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act as set forth in the Texas Utilities Code, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all of the customers served by the Company in the incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas in the Company's statewide gas utility system (the "System"). The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact all classes of service and all fees and charges presently being assessed by the Company on its transmission and distribution systems. As of the filing date of the Company's Statement of Intent to change rates, the proposed rates are expected to approximately produce a \$69,524,311 or a 7.24 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from customers in the System. The proposed change will affect approximately 1,344,030 residential, 125,603 commercial, and 1,441 industrial sales and transportation customers in the System. The proposed change constitutes a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. The proposed changes in rates will not become effective for environs customers until similar changes have become effective within the nearest incorporated city or town. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$41.69, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$3.59 per month or a 9.4% increase. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$173.04, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$13.91 per month or a 8.7% increase. The effect of the proposed changes to rates and services for industrial sales and transportation customers, which may be significant for individual customers, will vary depending on type of service and consumption. The proposed change would constitute an increase of \$0.00 or a 0% increase in annual revenues to the Company for industrial sales and transportation customers. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas and all of the System cities and towns on May 23, 2003, is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with specific area questions or who want information about this filing may contact TXU Gas Company at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons located inside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with their respective municipality. Any affected persons located outside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, but have a limited time to do so. Pursuant to the Rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code Section 7.230, any affected persons may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the environs rates with the Docket Services Section of the Railroad Commission of Texas, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective. The Company is proposing to have these proposed rates become effective on June 27, 2003.

Este es un aviso para informar a los clientes de TXU Gas Company (la "Compañía") que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa de gas. Este aumento afectará a todos los consumidores de gas de la Compañía en el estado de Texas. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a TXU Gas Company al 1-800-460-3030.

Solution to puzzle on Page 2

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BIRTHDAY LIST

- JUNE**
26th Lito Belman
27th Mabel Freitag, Michael A. Redish, Austin A. Shockley, Rachel Nixon, Ramon Navila
28th Liz Anderson, Ross Hodges
29th Pedro Luis Garcia, Amika J. Gonzalez, Anthony Pina, Steve Blaylock, Megan Poynor, Kathy Smith, Brittany Galan
30th Charissa Sheppard, Ed Meador, DeAnn Rodriguez, Maureen Hodges, Colt Ashton, Ashton Murr, Alex Cardenas
- JULY**
1st Eric Loomis, Marguerite Gillespy, Jimmy Doyle, Glyn Hutto, Debbie Joy, Kristen Gray, Betty Smith
2nd Jennifer Lee, Lauren Lloyd, J.C. Bumgardner, Thelia Mayo, Marissa Barrera, Ross Whitten, Stephanie Thomas, Crystal Sherrod, David Wike, Jennifer Stafford
3rd Bernell O'Conner, Ashlie Whitten, Jimmy Saldivar, Maxie Holley, Stephanie Nolen, Tommy Johnson, Chris Barajas, Chris Pena, Abbie Mayfield

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- JULY**
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The Blotter

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

- ARRESTS**
June 18 • Morris, John Thomas, male age 31, arrested by SC Officer, offense Domestic Violence. Released on \$1,000 Surety Bond.
June 18 • Cadena, Fidencio, male age 21, arrested by SC Officer, offense Motion To Revoke/Cruelty to Animals. Released on \$500.00 Surety Bond.
June 18 • James, Curtis D., male age 41, arrested by SC Officer. Serv-

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- ing 5 days. Released after time served.
June 19 • Reza, Crystal Belia, female age 23, arrested by SC Officer, offense Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle/Criminal Mischief. Released on (2) \$2,000 Surety Bonds.
June 19 • Barker, Amy, female age 24, arrested by SC Officer, offense Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle/Criminal Mischief. Released on (2) \$1,000 Surety Bonds.
June 20 • Mendoza, Efrain Garcia, male age 35, arrested by SC Officer, offense Driving While Intoxicated (3rd or more.) Released on \$2,000 Surety Bond.
June 20 • Palao, Humberto Monte, male age 46, arrested by DPS Trooper, offense Driving Without License. Released time served.
June 22 • Mounce, William Randolph, male age 39, arrested by SC Officer, offense Public Intoxication. Released time served.
June 22 • Bundick, Darrell Gene, male age 43, arrested by SC Officer, offense Public Intoxication. Released time served.
June 22 • Hodges, Clara Mae, female age 51, arrested by SC Officer, Public Intoxication. Release time served.
June 22 • Trevino, Fernado, male age 36, arrested by SC Officer, offense Driving While Intoxicated. Released on \$1,000 Surety Bond.
June 22 • Hill, Efrain, male age 47, arrested by SC Officer, offense Driving While Intoxicated (3rd or more). Released on \$3,000 Surety Bond.
- INCIDENT REPORTS**
June 18 • 4:48 p.m. Complainant called to report a controlled burn.
• 8:00 p.m. Complainant requested an officer to come to their home because his wife was leaving him and he wanted some of his possessions returned. Officer responded.
• 12:30 p.m. Complainant on Highland reported a vehicle had stereo equipment taken. Valued at \$1,500.00.
June 19 • 2:50 a.m. Complainant reported an argument in apartment and requested an officer.
• 5:49 p.m. Complainant requested to speak with an officer.
• 8:30 p.m. Complainant requested an officer at the corner of Mills and West Street. Dogs were fighting with a smaller dog that had gotten too close to a fence. Officer responded.
June 20 • 9:21 a.m. Complainant reported losing a white cow with sale tags on County Road 412.
• 11:24 a.m. Complainant on McWhorter reported losing a set of keys.
• 6:32 p.m. Complainant North of Pave Paws called in to report having a controlled burn.
• 8:12 p.m. Complainant requested a watch be placed on a business.
June 21 • 10:45 a.m. Hospital requested a basic transfer. EMS responded.
• 6:13 p.m. Complainant reported a woman and child stranded on the side of the road. Officer responded and everything was OK.
• 7:08 p.m. Complainant request-
- ed an officer to investigate a broken a window in their daughter's room. Officer responded.
• 7:16 p.m. Complainant reported a two vehicle accident off Carson Street. Two officers and EMS responded. Vehicle #1 a 2001 Dodge Dakota pickup, driven by Nora Perez, of Eldorado was turning left onto Carson Street from West Murchison when Vehicle #2 a 1987 Kawasaki motorcycle driven by Climente Aguilar of Eldorado hit Vehicle #1 near the rear of the driver's side. Aguilar was ejected from the motorcycle. Aguilar was not wearing a shirt or a helmet. Subject was transported by ambulance to Schleicher County Medical Center. Driver of vehicle #2 was received a citation for improper passing.
• 11:10 p.m. Complainant requested assistance with their vehicle. Officer responded.
• 11:53 p.m. Convenience store employee requested an officer to remove subject away from one of the employee's vehicles. Subject was intoxicated and had rambling speech. Officer responded.
June 22 • 4:52 p.m. Convenience reported an 18 wheeler truck had hit the store. Officer responded and issued a blue form.
• 7:55 p.m. Complainant called 9-1-1 to report an elderly man had collapsed in the driveway. Officer and EMS responded.
• 8:28 p.m. Complainant at convenience store reported a gas drive off in the amount of \$20.00. Officer responded.
• 10:24 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a basic transfer. EMS-1 responded.
• June 23 • 7:50 a.m. Complainant reported that they had just been in an accident on Hwy. 277 South. Officer and DPS Trooper responded.
• 12:00 p.m. Complainant on South Main reported a vehicle was driving reckless around their street. Officer responded.
• 12:41 p.m. Convenience store employee called Sheriff Office to report a minor vehicle accident. Officer responded and issued blue forms.
• 5:20 p.m. Complainant reported they would have a controlled burn. Complainant called back and said to disregard controlled burn.
• 7:14 p.m. Complainant requested someone pick up a dog that had just bitten her grandson. Officer and animal control responded.
June 24 • 9:33 a.m. Complainant reported a minor vehicle accident with no injuries at the corner of Hwy. 277 South (Divide Street) and West Hwy. 190. Vehicle #1 was a white 1998 Ford F150 driven by Silverio Avila of San Jose, CA, who was traveling North on S. Divide. Vehicle #2 was a maroon 2002 Spectra KIA, driven by Denisa Estep of Eldorado, who was traveling East on Hwy. 190. Vehicle #2 stopped at the stop sign on Hwy. 190 then proceeded across S. Divide and struck vehicle #1 on the drivers side. Driver of vehicle #2 received a citation for Fail To Yield Right of Way-Stop Sign.

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The family of Pete Peters expresses their sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone in this community who has blessed our lives in so many ways. Your support and prayers have sustained us, during this loss. We especially thank the staff of the hospital and nursing home who took such good care of Pete during his final weeks.

Frances, Kay and Family

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Eldorado Spotlight

This week the Eldorado Spotlight shines on Ken Newman and Drew Bosmans. When the Spotlight camera caught up with the pair they were working on the landscaping around the Main Street Gazebo. Ken recently took over the landscaping duties for the Chamber Pride Committee.

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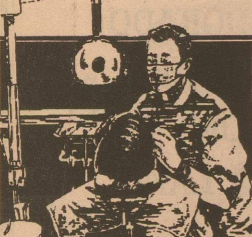
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Eldorado's Internet Hompage



Nancy Lester to step down as County Agent

Schleicher County Commissioners received the resignation of County Extension Agent Nancy Lester during their meeting on Monday, June 25. It was explained that Lester, who has worked for the extension service for 29 years, was given approval by the State of Texas to take early retirement. He last day on the job will be August 31, 2003. The men noted that during the past 10 years, Lester has been instrumental in helping Schleicher County students obtain more than \$200,000 in scholarships.

In other business the commissioners received information from the Airport Board. Justice of the Peace James Doyle, representing the Airport Board, told the commissioners about quotes he has received for fuel lock systems and presented other findings to the court. The commissioners heard the report but took no action.

Commissioners Johnny Mayo, Bill Clark and Matt Brown were present for the meeting, as was County Judge Johnny Griffin. Commissioner Kirk Griffin was absent. Also in attendance were Road Supt. Clay Burleson, Treasurer Karen Henderson and County Clerk Peggy Williams. Others, including County Attorney Marian Overstreet made brief appearance during the meeting.

At one point, a question of the

county's travel policy came up, with Treasurer Karen Henderson asking if it was her responsibility to enforce the policy. After a brief discussion the men voted unanimously to amend the policy so that county employees traveling within 60 miles of Eldorado may only be reimbursed for a noon meal.

Next, the Judge Griffin explained that he had received an estimate from Jamie Daniels in the amount of \$1,900 for repairs at the swimming pool. Daniels was directed to continue with the repairs, including the construction of a shade of the chlorine tanks, replacement of sinks and toilets in the women's rest room, and the installation of benches and a water fountain.

The men then tossed around ideas regarding building a new 60' X 75' building at the Civic Center. The building was in the original plans for the center but was eliminated when the county's engineering firm refused to approve foundation work carried out by county personnel. Among the questions discussed was whether to call for bids or to request a proposal from McCre Construction, the contractor that is currently working at the site. After visiting the site, the men ultimately decided to ask McCre Construction for a "firm price." Several minor changes will be made to the original plan, it was explained.

Next, Judge Griffin advised the men that he had contracted with Doug Garvin for fiber glass tanks to replace a broken cement tank at the county cemetery. It was also noted that local carpenter Ruben Minor will soon begin construction of a handicap ramp at the Memorial Building.

The court then voted to place a retired sheriff's dept. police cruiser at the airport as a courtesy vehicle.

The commissioners also discussed the purchase and storage of construction materials for the new livestock feeding pens at the Civic Center. County Agent Scott Edmonson also requested a sea container for storage. The men decided to continue seeking prices on some of the items but chose to begin ordering pipe. The project is estimated to cost between \$11,000-\$12,000 for materials. Mikeska Welding received the bid to construct the facilities.

At that point, Commissioner Matt Brown raised the question of an interlocal agreement between Schleicher County and the City of Eldorado. While the men agreed that some sort of agreement is needed, no formal action was taken.

In a somewhat related issue,

discussion turned to the construction of a sewage lift station at the Civic Center. It was noted that the county will retain ownership of the lift station and pipeline with the city operating the system with their licensed personnel. The project is currently on hold while the county's engineer, David Todd, works to secure a right-of-way from the state for construction of the pipeline. Once complete, the system will transfer sewage from the Civic Center to the city's sewer system.

The meeting ended with Judge Griffin advising the commissioners that representatives of the Texas Forts Trail had asked that \$1,000 be set aside in the county's 2004 budget for use by the Forts Trail. While no action was taken on the matter, commissioners Bill Clark, Matt Brown and Johnny Mayo each signed a resolution stating that they supported the Texas Forts Trail.



The work goes on — SCISD employee Oscar Martinez used a pressure washer to strip paint from a fence at the bus barn last week. Several maintenance projects are being carried out during the summer months.

Meals for Friends Menu



- Monday, June 30**
 Country Fried Steak, Baked Potato, Spanish Green Beans, Wheat Roll, Lime Rice Swirl, Juice, Milk
- Tuesday, July 1**
 Hot Dogs w/ Chili, Cheese, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Bun, Pineapple Waldorf, Brownie, Milk
- Wednesday, July 2**
 Chicken Strips, Baked Potato, Broccoli w/ Cheese Sauce, Dinner Roll, Peach Cobbler, Milk
- Thursday, July 3**
 Soft Tacos and Cheese, Pinto Beans, Corn w/ Sweet Peppers, Tortillas, Chopped Lettuce and Tomato
- Friday, July 4**
 Closed For Independence Day

FSA announces Crop Disaster sign-up

ELDORADO — Texas producers can expect to receive financial assistance for crop losses through the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), launched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday, June 6, 2003. According to Jan G. Wanoreck, County Executive Director for the Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County Farm Service Agency (FSA), CDP is available to producers with qualifying crop losses for the 2001 or 2002 crop years.

"We [Farm Service Agency] recognize the hardships caused by the Drought and believe this program will allow farmers and ranchers to regain some of their lost income," said Wanoreck.

Crop disaster payments for

2001 and 2002 production and quality losses will be calculated similar to the 2000 CDP. Eligible producers with greater than 35 percent loss will receive payment at 50 percent of the established price if the crop was covered by crop insurance or the noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) or if coverage was not available. Payments will be based on 45 percent of the established price for crops that could have been insured or covered by NAP, but were not.

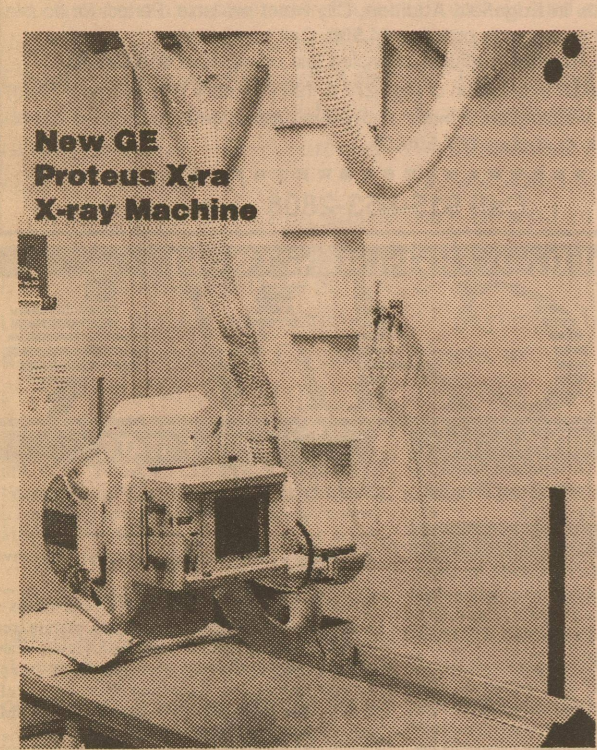
"CDP payments will be limited to \$80,000 per producer and/or entity, but funding for the program is unlimited," said Wanoreck. "Although no sign-up deadline has

been announced, we are striving to implement this program in a timely fashion in order to effectively benefit the producer."

Wanoreck encourages producers to begin organizing relevant crop loss documentation and contact the Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County FSA Office to schedule an appointment to discuss program eligibility and the application process.

For more information regarding CDP and other disaster assistance, contact the Schleicher/Sutton/Val Verde County FSA office at (325) 853-3535 or visit the USDA Web sites at <http://www.usda.gov> and <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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Exploring Sam Houston State Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

live. There are also shorter trails that crisscross the paved roadways.

Huntsville SP was loaded with people on bikes. Not just off-road bicycles that bounced through the trails but kids' bikes and street bikes, too. It's a good idea to have some non-automotive way to get around, especially since you can use the interlocking trails to get to other parts of the park quicker than driving.

Camping

The park is loaded with campsites. Aside from 191 places (many with water and electricity), there are 30 screened-in facilities. Some of each are near Lake Raven while others are a few hundred feet from the water under the soaring trees.

Some sites are especially remote. In fact, those on the far eastern part of the park had not been mowed recently because no one had been there in a while. This area is usually closed during the winter.

On the other side of the park, sites 174 and 175 are near the lake,

but that's also the site of the Prairie Branch trailhead and gets a lot of foot traffic. And there's a vehicle turnaround there to boot.

The camping areas are split into two distinct areas when the road Y's just past headquarters. The right fork has all the screened-in areas and is certainly more frequently used by locals.

Included here is a popular swimming area with a place to rent boats and canoes. There's a bathhouse and a lodge and a small dock to swim out to. On the day we were there, the swimming area was packed with people, many grilling at shaded picnic tables.

The mini-golf course has seen better times — like 1989. It can't be used at all.

The camping on the left fork is where almost all the sites are. There are so many places that three park hosts are slotted in to help out; there's just one on the other side.

The screened shelters are \$20 daily. Campsites vary from \$9 to \$12. Specific numbered sites can't be reserved; it's first come, first served, but one of the three camp-

grounds can be requested.

Other fun

It was phenomenally warm and sticky on the day we were there. (Remember, it's just 50 miles from the Humidity Capital of the World, Houston.) Once the forest is entered, the stillness is stunning. It's cooler in the woods, but it's still hot.

Taking water on a hike is essential. We got a good cell phone signal everywhere we went (in case you keel over).

The fishing in Lake Raven is solid. A 13-pound-plus largemouth bass has been caught — all bass are catch and release. Catfish and crappie are plentiful, too.

Lake Raven Stables takes riders on 1-hour trail rides (\$18) or on "Eat n' Ride" journeys for \$23 (breakfast) and \$24/\$30 (hamburger/steak).

A horse is not a bad idea out here — after all, you never know when Big Giant Sam Houston will break free from his granite perch and wreak havoc throughout the Pinyonwoods!