

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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Wildflower season begins along Texas roadways

TxDOT website points the way to best viewing

The season for viewing wildflowers is only just beginning in Schleicher County, but other areas of the state are already being inundated with thousands of sightseers as Texas Bluebonnets, and an abundance of other wildflowers reach their prime in those locations.

Motorists searching for the best places to see wildflowers along Texas highways now have help at their fingertips. The Texas Department of Transportation's wildflower hotline (800-452-9292) and Internet web site at www.dot.state.tx.us/wflwr/main.htm give users information on the best spots to find wildflowers along the 79,000 miles of the Texas highway system.

The hotline will be active at all hours through early May. Maps showing the best spots for viewing wildflowers are available through the TxDOT web site.

To make it easier to find wildflowers in bloom, hotline callers may request information by seven regions: Central Texas and Hill Country, Southeast Texas and Upper Gulf Coast, East Texas and Piney Woods, South Texas and Lower Gulf Coast, West Texas, North Central Tex-

as, Panhandle and Plains.

Information on the hotline and Internet comes from TxDOT's maintenance offices, from chambers of commerce, and parks officials.

"There should be an above-average crop of Bluebonnets," said Ben Bowers, a vegetation manager with TxDOT. "If the wet weather continues, the wildflower crop will be as abundant as last year."

Many blossom-watchers consider April the best month for viewing wildflowers in abundance.

Each year, TxDOT spreads more than 33,000 pounds of wildflower seeds along Texas roadways. Each pound of 170,000 seeds contains at least 30 varieties of wildflowers.

The department's wildflower program is part of a comprehensive effort in vegetation management that encourages the growth of native species requiring less mowing and care.

The annual wildflower issue of *Texas Highways* is also available on newsstands. For subscription information, visit www.texashighways.com.

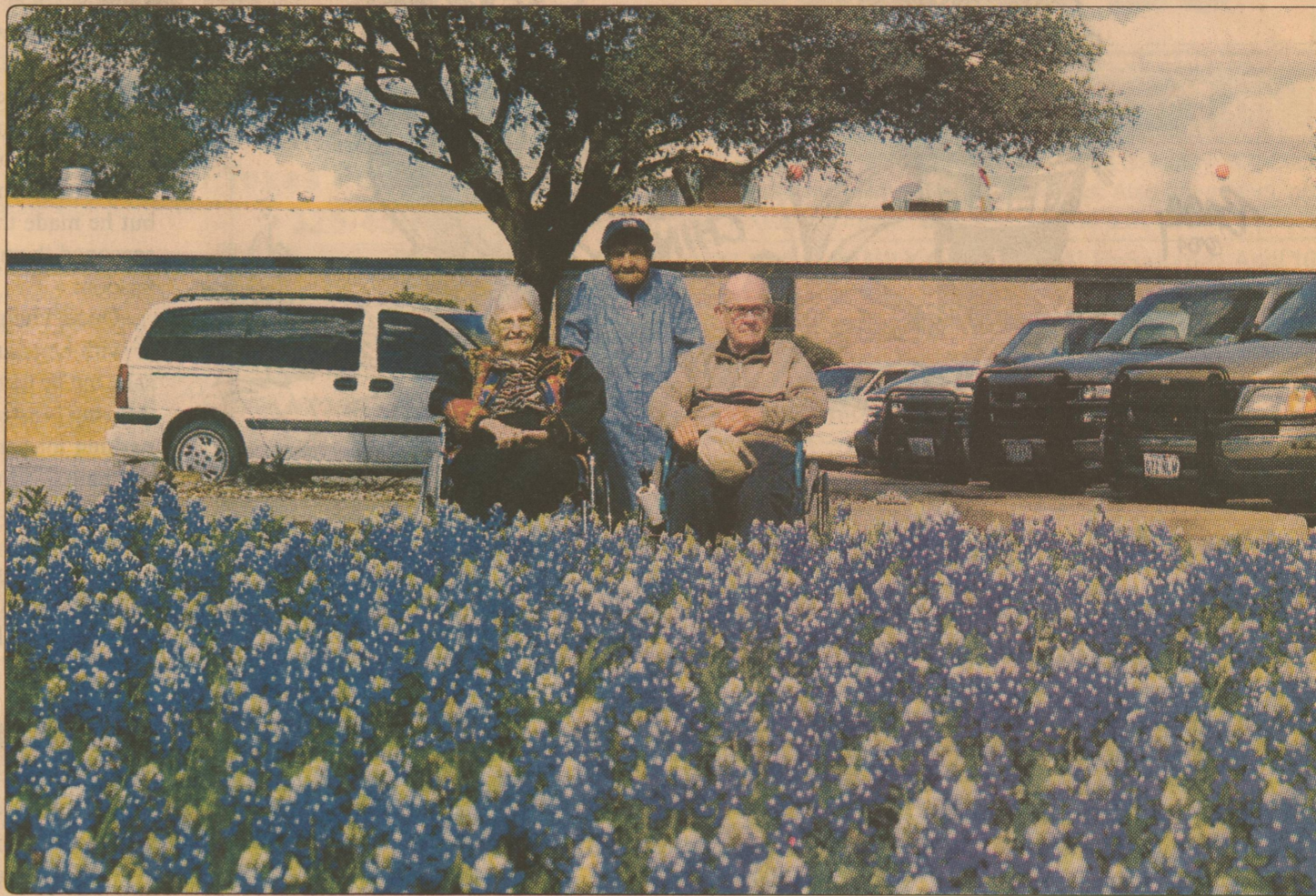


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

A field of blue — Schleicher County Nursing Home residents (L-R) Ivy Sonnamaker, Elma DelaGarza and George Gower, took advantage of a beautiful Tuesday afternoon to get a closer look at patch of Texas Bluebonnets that have bloomed in front of the facility.

Gillespie honored by El Camino Girl Scout Council

On Saturday, April 3, 2004, the Girl Scouts El Camino Council held their Annual Awards & Recognition Luncheon and Annual meeting in Uvalde, at Southwest Texas Jr. College. Volunteers honored included Trainers, Event Coordinators, and Service Unit Directors from the Council's 18 county jurisdiction. Among those was Shannon Gillespie of Eldorado who received an Appreciation Pin.

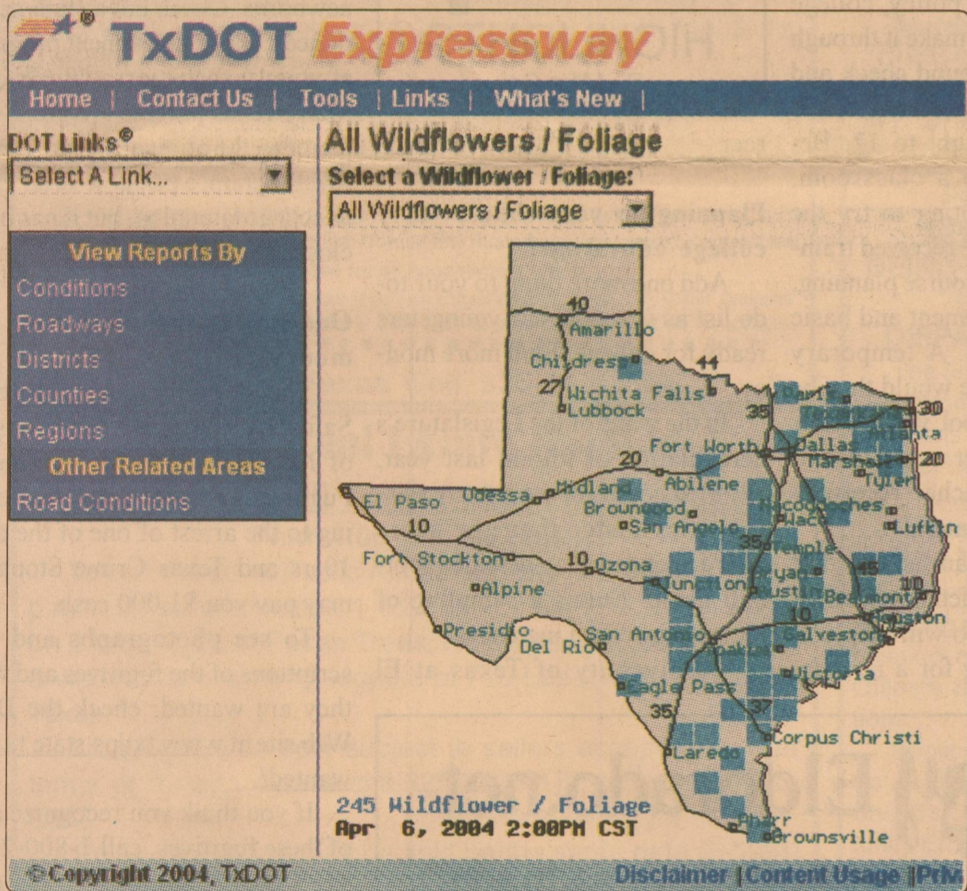
Gillespie's award was presented in recognition of her outstanding service to the Girl Scouts. A statement prepared

by the El Camino Council explained that Gillespie's service went above and beyond that expected of her.

In all, eighteen volunteers received Girl Scouts of the USA's Outstanding Volunteers Award, recognizing their service to the organization. Among those was San Angelo's Helen Adams and Council Executive Director Nancy Henderson who received the Thanks Badge. Barbara Burrell of Uvalde and Doris Shank of Mertzon received the Thanks Badge II. The two badges represent the highest awards in Girl Scout-

ing. Eldorado's Mary Doran received a Tenure Pin in recognition of her 10 years of service to the scouts while and Susan Lloyd of Eldorado received a Tenure Pin honoring her 25 years of service.

New board members were also elected during the meeting, including Linda Ramon of Uvalde, 2nd Vice President and members at large, Sherry Halfman, Sherry Smith, Beverly Spain and Richard Fuentes of San Angelo, Jo Ann Hernandez of Sonora and Dick Whipple of Uvalde's Southwest Jr. College.



It's on the map — The TxDOT website pictured above displays a map showing areas of the state where viewing of wildflowers and/or foliage along state roadways is particularly good. Detailed information may be obtained by clicking the individual counties. The website can be found in the Internet at www.dot.state.tx.us/wflwr/main.htm

EOBOC plans community-wide Easter Egg Hunt

by Jim Runge

The EOBOC is anxious to show off it's recently groomed Hysterical District and is hosting a community wide Easter egg hunt at the location this Good Friday, April 9. The park can be found at the intersection of Highway 277 and Highway 190 West in the southern portion of Eldorado.

The hunt will begin at 3 PM and will be conducted in waves, with the toddlers being the first to hunt, followed by preschoolers, first and second graders, and finally the third and fourth graders. New eggs will be "hidden" for each group. Every resident of Schleicher County, and even Easter visitors, under the age of eleven are invited to participate.

One little known fact is that the candy eggs often used for Easter egg hunts are actually Tagoo Bird eggs. The Tagoo Birds winter in Sugarland, Texas and have quite a sweet tooth. In addition to feasting on the sugar cane all winter, some of the birds raid the sugar factories there at night and sup on the raw sugar solution. The resulting eggs, of

course, are the candy coated variety distributed each spring. As we all know, the Taboo Birds lay their eggs in flight, so these candy eggs have a much higher survival rate upon hitting the ground. The Easter Bunny goes around picking up these eggs to distribute to the various Easter egg hunts around the nation. If we are lucky, an actual Tagoo Bird may show up to witness and bless the festivities from it's nest.

This event will also give those adults who have not had the opportunity to visit this renowned plot lately, which doubles as the Tagoo Bird Refuge and Sanctuary, a chance to read the numerous signs and displays located around the perimeter. Bluebonnets and other wildflowers are beginning to dot the grounds, adding Easter color to an already colorful attraction. Egg hunters should meet at the historical Tagoo Bird sign on the NE side with their baskets and Easter bonnets. An Easter Bonnet Contest will be held to begin the festivities at 3 PM with prizes being awarded to the wildest forms of headgear. The hunts will

commence after the hat judging.

Several anonymous donors are providing the eggs, although more eggs may be needed if the response is monumental. To donate individually wrapped eggs, distribute eggs or help supervise the hunt, contact Jim Runge at 853-2434 or eooboc@hotmail.com. Spectators are encouraged for this inaugural hunt, which might differ from other Easter egg hunts, as EOBOC events sometimes do.

Other surprises may be added during the week to make the hunt more memorable. Licensed Tagoo Bird callers are encouraged to attend, also, in order to call in the elusive creatures. It is hoped that we might even have some eggs fall from the sky after being freshly laid, so the birds must be called throughout the hunt in order to increase this possibility. Pockets of rain are predicted throughout the weekend, so we will try to dodge it by having the hunt in mid-afternoon, but if we fail, we will try again Saturday afternoon at 3 PM. Plenty of parking is available, so please do not park in the spot reserved for Mr. Tagoo.

Easter Sunrise Service slated

The Eldorado Ministerial Alliance will be sponsoring an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 11. The service will begin at 7:00, and will be held outside at the Memorial Building, weather permitting. Breakfast will be hosted by the Templo Getsemani Church. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, in Scripture, in prayer, and in praise.

Utah Sheriff to visit Eldorado

Sheriff Kirk Smith of Washington County, UT, plans to visit Eldorado in the coming days to update local authorities on his dealings with members of the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints (FLDS), a large number of whom live in the community of Hildale, UT, located in a remote corner of his county.

There has been much speculation in recent weeks that a three-building complex, being erected on the YFZ ranch, some four miles north-northwest of Eldorado, is affiliated with the FLDS. Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran says that he has invited Sheriff Smith to visit Eldorado in hopes of glean more information about the group.

"Sheriff Smith has gained some valuable experience in dealing with the FLDS in Washington County," Sheriff Doran told the Success.

"If the group on the YFZ ranch is associated with the FLDS, and I'm becoming more and more convinced that they are, then we can benefit greatly from hearing what he has to say." Smith has served as Sheriff of Washington County since 1999. During that time, Hildale and its sister city, Colorado City, AZ, have come under increased scrutiny amid accusations of church-sanctioned polygamy among FLDS members. The two towns also found themselves at the center of a complicated power struggle following the death

of FLDS Prophet Rulon Jeffs. His son Warren Jeffs eventually assumed the mantle of Prophet, but not without resistance from several longtime FLDS members, many of whom have since been excommunicated from the church.

Smith's department also gained national attention when his officers located a piece of the Space Shuttle Columbia, which disintegrated during reentry on Feb. 1, 2003.

The debris was unusual in that most of the shuttle's pieces came down much farther east, in Texas and Louisiana.

Recently, Sheriff Smith's deputies stepped in and took over law enforcement duties in Hildale after the entire city police force was suspended when its officers failed to keep their law enforcement certifications up to date. The certifications are required

under Utah's Peace Officer Standard and Training Council.

Sheriff Smith was recently named as Utah's "Lawman of the Year" by the Utah Sheriff's Association. He oversees a large department, by Schleicher County standards, that patrols the extreme southwest corner of Utah. Washington County is the home to approximately 110,000 residents and is the state's fastest growing county.

Smith is expected to arrive in Eldorado later this month. No exact date has been released to the public.



Sheriff Kirk Smith, Washington County, Utah

EHS scholars shine at Dist. 2-2A Academic Meet

Eldorado High School science and number sense teams will advance to the U.I.L. Academic regional meet in Abilene on April 24. Two individuals medalists will also compete at Regional in their divisions. They are Anna Troy in Prose and Josh Trejo in Mathematics and Calculator.

The following results are from Wednesday's, March 24 and Monday's, April U.I.L. Academic District Meet at Wall.

Members of the first place number sense team sponsored by Mr. Tom Gray who will be traveling to regionals are Kolby Dombroski, Will Griffin, Travis Joiner who received a 4th place ribbon and Josh Trejo who was 1st place medalist.

Science team members going to regionals are Travis Joiner who placed 1st overall, top physic and was alternate in Chemistry; Will Griffin who placed 4th overall and was top biology. Other members were Josh Trejo, Ashley Doran, Tony Chavez and Kyle Taylor. This team was sponsored by Mrs. Angela Case & Mrs. Amy Rutherford.

The Calculator, Spelling, Mathematics and Literary teams each received a silver medal.

The Calculator team consisting 1st place medalist Josh Trejo, Mitchell Cole who placed 6th, Clara Herrera and Tony Chavez. The Calculator team tied for 1st team and lost in a tie breaker with Wall and received 2nd team status. The Calculator team sponsor was Mrs. Amy Rutherford.

The Mathematics team sponsored by Mr. Tom Gray received a silver medal. Individual members scores were Will Griffin who placed 6th, Travis Joiner placed 5th and Josh Trejo received a 2nd place medal. Also participating was Kolby Dombroski.

Taking another silver medal home was the Spelling team consisting of Charlotte Adame, Laurie Almazan who received a 4th place ribbon and Rachel Joiner who placed 6th and Diego Barrera. The Spelling team was coached by Teresa Vasquez.

The Literary Criticism team placed second over all. Team members were Sheryl Alexander, Kasey Boysaw, Kolby Dombroski who placed 6th and Julie Hight.

This team was sponsored by Mrs. Linda Thomas.

Anna Troy received a bronze medal in Prose. She was coached by Mrs. Candace Henry.

Computer Applications team, sponsored by Mrs Paige Ragsdale, consisted of Taylor Baker, 9th place, Emily Newman, 7th place and Chandra Wanoreck who placed 6th. Allison Reynolds and Diego Barrera were alternates.

Emily Newman received a 6th place ribbon in Accounting. Other members of the Accounting team were Travis Joiner and Jessica Robertson. Their sponsor was Mrs. Marilyn Whitten.

Current issues and events team members participating were: Frank Edmiston, Emily Newman, Karina Sanchez and alternate Will Griffin. The current issues and event team sponsored was Mrs. Teresa Baker-Shirley.

Feature writing participants were Heather Homer, Chelci Rodriguez, Courtney Whitten. Participating in news writing were Lauren Brown, Maxie Holley, Courtney Whitten who received a 4th place ribbon, and alternate Chelci Rodriguez.

Editorial Writing participants were Kolby Dombroski, Will Griffin, Karina Sanchez and alternate Chelci Rodriguez.

Competing in Headline Writing for Eldorado High School were Rachel Joiner, Allison Reynolds and Chandra Wanoreck.

The Journalism team was sponsored by Mrs. Teresa Vasquez.

Karina Sanchez placed 4th in Persuasive Speaking and was coached by Mrs. Teresa Baker-Shirley.

Mrs. Candace Henry coached Ashley Doran and Alison Sproul in Poetry.

The Ready Writing team consisted of Will Griffin, Rachel Joiner, Krista Troy who received a 4th place medal and alternate Kolby Dombroski. This team was sponsored by Mrs. Teresa Vasquez.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

One Act Play "April Fish" actors receive honors: L-R Anna Troy received All Star Cast recognition last Saturday for her performance as Assunta the mother in a comedy-drama "April Fish." Also receiving honors was Brence Minor who played Assunta's son Anselmo. He received Honorable Mention.

Troy & Minor earn individual honors at District OAP contest

Eldorado's One-Act Play cast and crew turned in an excellent performance last Saturday during the District 2-2A One Act Play Contest in Ozona. Unfortunately Eldorado's play, "April Fish" did not advance to the Area contest.

There were several bright spots for the EHS troupe, including Anna Troy, who was named to the All-Star Cast. Brence Minor was named to the Honorable Mention All-Star Cast and Johnny Larez received recognition as an Outstanding Crew Member.

The plays presented by Reagan County and Wall will advance to compete again next week.

"April Fish," written by Ted Pezzulo, was set in the 1940s apartment of Assunta and Fortunato, located in New York's "Little Italy."

Assunta summons neighbor Pietro to fix an enormous hole in their bathroom wall; however, Fortunato has just spent all of the family's money on a magnificent gold tooth. In order to avoid payment, the family comes up with a traditional bit of Italian trickery, "April Fish."

The cast included: Brence Minor, Anna Troy, Travis Joiner, Emmanuel J. Samaniego, Krista Troy, Kristen Mittel, Rachel Joiner,

Jorge Bustos, Diego Barrera, Lacy Ragsdale, and Tony Chavez.

Crew members included: Kolby Dombroski, Brittany Jennings and Johnny Larez

Directors were EHS teachers Teresa Vasquez, Paige Ragsdale, and Angela Case.

Costumes were provided by the Way Off-Broadway Players and Angelo State University.

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 • ELLA ENCHANTED (PG)
 *1:50 *4:15 *7:00 9:20
 • DAWN OF THE DEAD (R)
 *2:20 4:45 7:30 10:00
 JERSEY GIRL (PG-13)
 *2:00 4:20 7:15 9:50
 TAKING LIVES (R)
 *1:30 4:40 7:20 9:40
 HIDALGO dts (PG-13)
 *1:00 *4:00 *7:00 9:45
 LORD OF THE RINGS: Return of the King (PG-13)
 *1:00 *4:50 8:40
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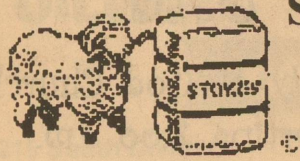
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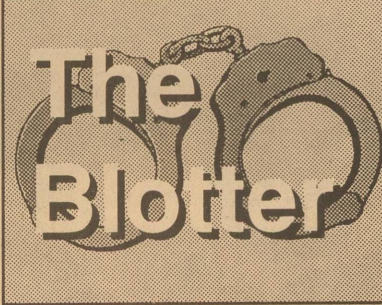
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The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Schleicher County Sheriff's Dept. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the Sheriff's office, nor does it include routine security checks, 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

March 31 • Gonzales, Joe Ledesma, male age 43, offense Driving While License Suspended, and ????. Arresting officer DPS trooper. Released on \$1000.00 Surety Bond.

April 2 • Porras, Francisco, male age 22, offense Out of Coun-

ty Warrants. Arresting officer S.C. deputy. Transferred out of county.

April 2 • Ochoa, Jesus Guadalupe, male age 29, offense Possession of Dangerous Drug. Arresting officer S.C. deputy. Released on \$1000.00 Surety Bond.

April 6 • Ryan, Nathanael Lamm, male age 20, offense Possession of Marijuana (less than 2 ounces.) Arresting officer S.C. deputy.

April 6 • Toneys, Mark Dempsey, male age 39, offense Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Arresting officer S.C. deputy. Released on citation.

INCIDENTS

April 1 • 12:20 a.m. Complainant requested an ACLS transfer. EMS responded.

• Complainant stated someone had burglarized his residence. Officer responded.

April 2 • 11:55 p.m. Complainant called and stated alarm going off called back again and was able to contact key holder.

• 3:00 a.m. Complainant requested a transfer. EMS responded.

April 3 • 5:24 p.m. Officer was advised of criminal mischief on Laredo Street.

• 5:48 p.m. Officer stated an 18-wheeler had hit the traffic light on Murchison and Divide.

• 7:05 p.m. Complainant on Main reported loud music. Officer responded.

• 7:18 p.m. Complainant reported of an intoxicated driver in a white Chevrolet S-10 pickup. Sutton County was notified.

• 11:16 p.m. Complainant on Main reported loud music. Officer responded.

• 4:03 a.m. Complainant traveling US Hwy. 277 north stated that some subjects were throwing stuff out of the vehicle and hit his windshield. Officer responded.

April 4 • 10:14 p.m. Complainant called to report a possible intoxicated driver. Officer responded.

• 2:46 a.m. Mertzson sheriff of office called and advised that there was a one vehicle accident on Hwy. 915 involving an 18-wheeler that went off the road in the mud. Needed officer assistance. Officers responded and truck was removed from the mud with help of officers.

April 5 • 4:30 p.m. Complainant on County Road 201 requested a Criminal trespass be served on a male subject. Officer responded.

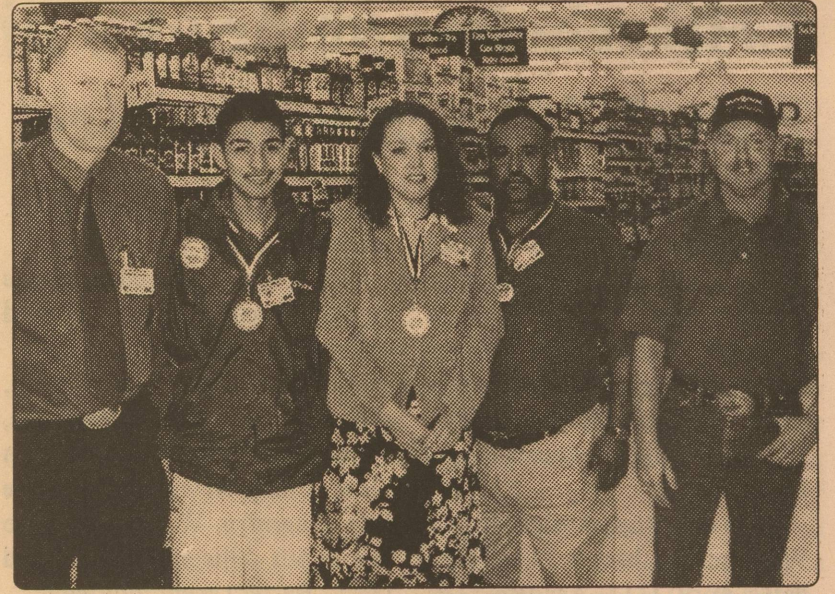


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Welcoming the new boss — Frank Coates (L), the new manager at the local Super S store as welcomed last week by employees Frank Martinez, Jeannie Olivarez, Ruben Tambunga and James Williams. Coates and his wife Donna come to Eldorado from Blanco where he managed the Super S store there. He is a native of Coahoma.

Runoff election slated here next Tuesday

Runoff elections will be held here Tuesday, April 13, 2004 in the Democratic and Republican primaries.

Locally, most interest will be focused on the Democratic runoff where Jeannie Snelson will face Betty Robles for the party's nomination for Tax Assessor-Collector. The winner will then face Lee Ann Higgins, who won the Republican primary last month.

Polling places for the Democratic runoff will be the same as on election day: Pct. 1 Methodist Church Education Bldg.; Pct. 2 Memorial Bldg.; Pct. 3 Courthouse Commissioners Meeting Room;

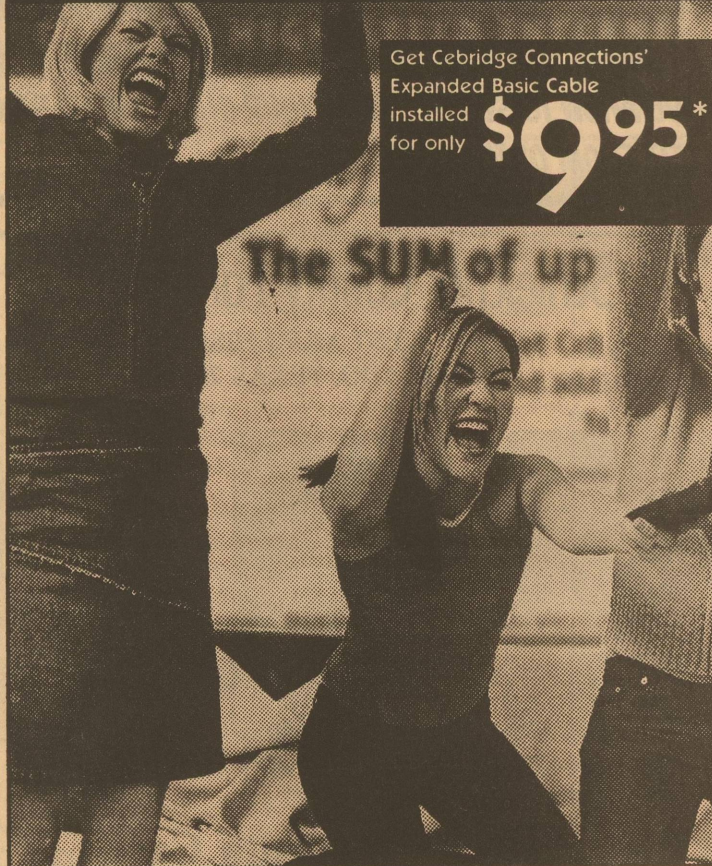
and Pct. 4 Catholic Church Headstart Bldg.

Meanwhile, the Republican runoff will feature only one race, that for Railroad Commissioner between Victor G. Carrillo and Robert Butler. Republican County Chairwoman Bessie Jones explains that since there is no local race on the ballot, she expects a very light turnout. The polling places in Pct 1 & 4, are the same as the Democratic primary. In Pct. 2 the Republicans will vote at the Fire Hall and in Pct. 3 the polling place will be in the County Annex. As is customary, polls open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.

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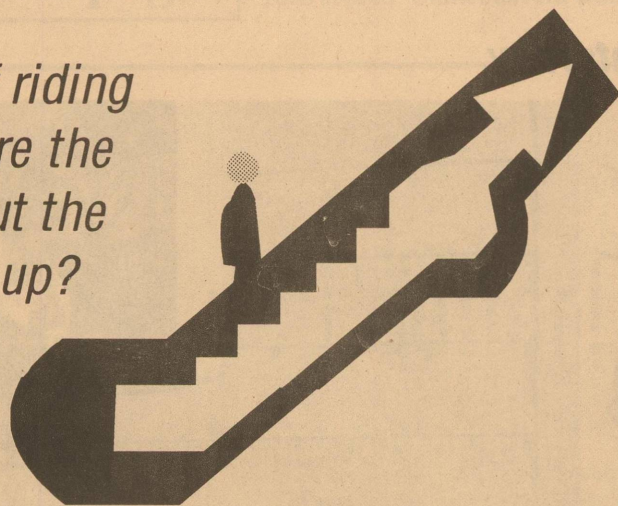
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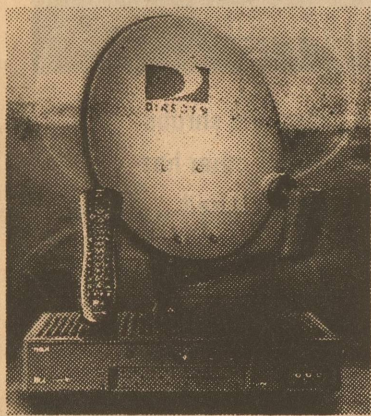
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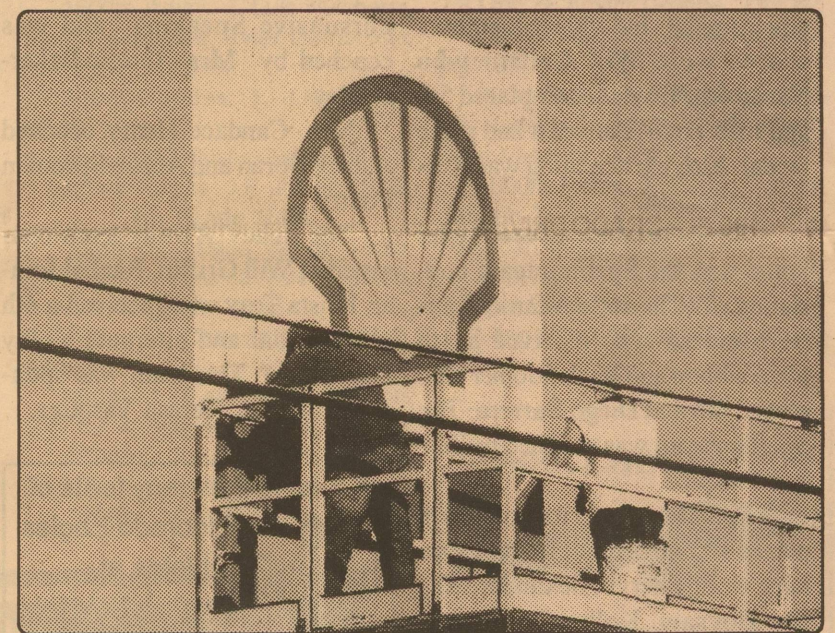


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

A New Sign In Town—Texaco Star Stop #5 changed logo's last Wednesday as Lone Star Sign Company out of Odessa/Midland put the finishing touches of paint on the new Shell Logo. Texaco Star Stop #5 will now be Shell Star Stop #5.

Solution to puzzle on Page 2

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

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