

# THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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## Fire ants, quickly becoming a pain for residents of Schleicher County

It first came ashore at the port of Mobile, Alabama in the 1930s, and ever since, the pesky Red Imported Fire Ant has been on the march, spreading its ever-growing territory across the United States. Originating in South America, the six-legged menace is believed to have caught a ride on a north-bound freighter. Its march to Schleicher County was slow but steady, arriving here in the mid-1990s almost unnoticed to many due to the drought conditions.

"Fire Ants don't like dry conditions," County Agent Scott Edmonson tells the Success. "When it gets dry they start burrowing, looking for moisture."

However, during wet weather, or in well-watered lawns and gardens, Fire Ant mounds spring up, almost over night, looking a lot like gopher or prairie dog mounds.

There are two types of imported Fire Ants: the Black Imported Fire Ant and the Red Imported Fire Ant. Here in Schleicher County, it is the Red variant that has begun building mounds everywhere, especially since the wet weather began in 2003.

"We first noticed them in some of the flower beds around the courthouse a few years back," Edmonson says. "But, for the most part, the drought drove them underground and made it difficult for them to spread. Now, they're popping up everywhere."

Edmonson says the Fire Ant is well named. "I know from experience that it can deliver a very painful sting," he says.

Fire ants are aggressive and will defensively attack anything that disturbs

them. Unlike a bee, that can deliver only one sting, the Fire Ant can deliver repeated stings, as well as painful bites with their mandibles, and not just to human victims. Each year, Fire Ants can and do create havoc with pets, livestock and wildlife. They are also damaging to

mounds in pastures can reach 18 inches in height, but most mounds in turf grass areas are usually just a few inches tall.

- The mound or nest has no opening in the center like most ant mounds. (See Figure 1). Red imported fire ants leave and enter the mound housing the colony through underground tunnels.

- When you shovel into the colony's mound of soil you see white objects. This is the brood - the eggs, larvae and pupae of developing ants.

- Fire ants are small, only about 1/8" to 1/4" long. Variation in size is a distinguishing characteristic of imported fire ants. Many other ant species are uniform in size.

- When you disturb the mound, dozens to hundreds of reddish-brown worker ants crawl up vertical surfaces (like grasses and other objects) on and around the mound. Few native ants charge up vertical surfaces.

- If you get stung it feels like being burned. A day or so later, the imported fire ant's unique venom forms a white fluid filled pustule or blister at the red sting site that is very characteristic - only fire ant venom causes this symptom! (See photo at right)

- Worker ants bite (with mandibles) and sting (with stingers) aggressively and repeatedly.

### Control options, the battle is joined...

While there may not currently be an effective way of eliminating the Red Imported Fire Ant, that doesn't mean that researchers aren't trying. And, their efforts are meeting with some success.

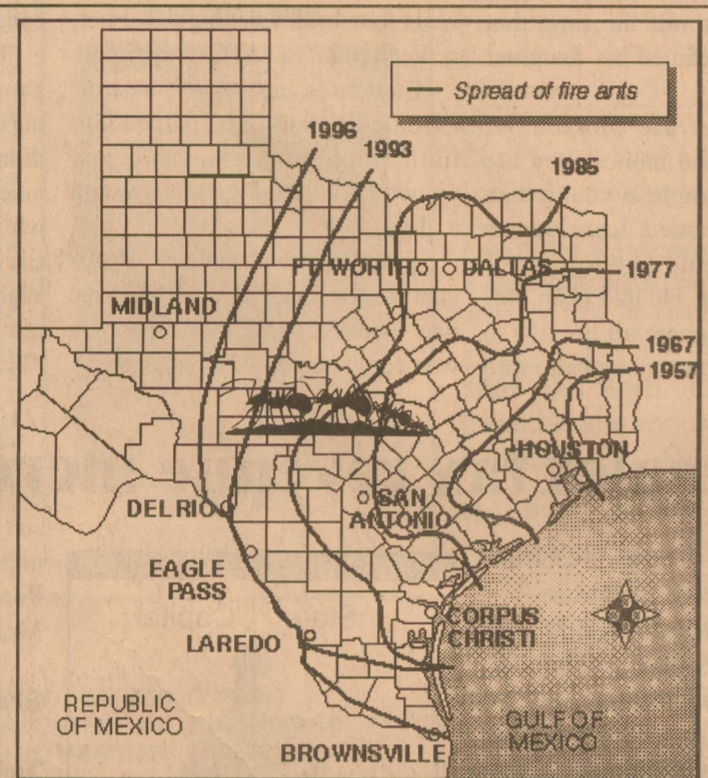
"Control is a better word than elimination," says Scott Edmonson. "People seem to be having the best success getting their Fire Ant problem under control by using a combination of control techniques."

Edmonson says that there are a number of commercial baits and sprays on the market that can be effective when used in concert with other techniques. Broadcasting ant bait around the yard followed by treatment of individual mounds has met with the most success. However, other, less traditional, tech-



**Fiery nuisances** — Red Imported Fire Ants arrived in Eldorado nearly a decade ago but have laid almost dormant due to drought conditions. Now, with the advent of wetter weather mounds like the one pictured above in the Centennial Park lake bed are beginning to pop up around town. Fire Ants pack a powerful sting that leaves fluid-filled blisters (above right) around the red sting site. The pesky insects are also known for gumming up electrical switches like relays like the one pictured at right.

TOP PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN, OTHERS COURTESY OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



**Westward march** — The red imported fire ant was accidentally introduced into the U.S. from South America around the 1930s to the port of Mobile, Alabama. It spread naturally through intra- and interstate commerce, reaching East Texas during the 1950s. Since then, it has spread over the eastern two-thirds of Texas and now infests about 56 million acres.

Source: Fire Ant Research and Advisory Committee. Graphics: Agricultural Communications, Texas A&M University System.

homes, buildings and especially electrical equipment. Add to this the problems they cause with gardens and lawns, and the economic impact of the Fire Ant is tremendous.

### You can tell you have fire ants if...

- You see a mound of fluffy "worked" soil, particularly a few days after a heavy rain. (See photo at right) Undisturbed



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

**A work of art** — Shirley Emmons stands at the front of the 1907 First National Bank building on Main Street and displays an oil painting she recently completed of the historic structure. She hopes to sell prints of the painting as a fund-raiser for the building program Agape Assembly of God.

## Local sales tax collections resist statewide trend

"The state collected \$1.32 billion in sales tax revenue in January, up 5.9 percent compared to January 2003," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn announced recently. But in Schleicher County, the numbers weren't so good, with down arrows across the board as collections trailed those of last year for all three local jurisdictions.

The City of Eldorado and Schleicher County saw January collections decline by 25 and 21 percent, respectively over the same period one year ago. Year to date numbers are slightly better with the county's collections down some 12 percent while the city's numbers lagged by 9 percent. (See chart below)

It was a different story statewide. Strayhorn sent Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts February sales tax allocations totaling \$477.8 million, up 7 percent compared to a year ago.

niques are also being employed.

Researcher Steve Tvedten reports that pouring boiling water directly on Fire Ant mounds can result in the elimination of as many as 60 percent of the mounds treated. He suggests scooping out a hole in the top of the mound and pouring at least 3 gallons of very hot or boiling water on each mound. One wonders if the risks involved in this method might not pose more danger than the ants themselves.

Electrical attractants, used to lure ants to borax or boric acid, are also meeting with good results. This technique is

based on the fact that the ants seem to be attracted to the electrical fields that surround such circuitry as air conditioner and telephone switches. (See photo above)

Perhaps the most promising steps toward controlling and eventually eradicating Fire Ants are being made in the field of biological control. Predator and even parasite insects are now being employed at research facilities across the nation in hopes of fighting fire with fire, or should we say, Fire Ants with other bugs. One such project, under way

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### February 2004 Sales Tax Rebates

Local Jurisdiction	February '04	February '03	% Change	2004 YTD	2003 YTD	% Change
City of Eldorado	\$ 7,798.76	\$ 10,517.60	25.85%↓	\$14,561.91	\$16,083.13	9.45%↓
Schleicher County	\$ 6,931.38	\$ 8,798.89	21.22%↓	\$12,251.12	\$13,992.44	12.44%↓
Schleicher Co. Health Ser. Tax	\$ 6,986.67	\$ 8,385.43	16.68%↓	\$12,307.16	\$13,553.33	9.19%↓



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## 58 Years of Marriage and Still Holding Hands

Louise and Andrew Williams live in an attractive and well-kept home on one of Rotan's main streets. A graceful mesquite tree shades the driveway. Their home looks like a honeymoon cottage. Two sweethearts live inside.



by Tumbleweed Smith

"The reason I fell in love with him was because he bought me a coke," says Louise. "We had nothing much and lived way off out in the country and I went to this little country school. We were out by the football field one day and he asked me could he buy me a coke. I was really impressed. I decided right then and there that's the man I want to marry."

It is not unusual to see Louise and Andrew Williams holding hands while walking down the street in Rotan.

"We met at school in Hobbs when we were thirteen years old," says Louise. Hobbs is a little place just outside Rotan."

There's not much at Hobbs now, but Andrew says it used to be quite a place.

"It's unbelievable to drive

through out there now. At one time there was actually 350 of us going to school in Hobbs."

Andrew says he and Louise had fun on dates.

"We'd come to Rotan to come to the show. Them days, everybody went to the show. There used to be three movie theaters here in Rotan."

Louise says after graduation, Andrew went to college, then was drafted and had to go to the service.

"And I cried so much."

Andrew was in Italy during world War Two. They got married when he returned.

"He had to call his mother," says Louise, "to see if it was all right to marry me. After going overseas and fighting for two years, he still asked his mother if he could get married. I tell you, I

have had a dream life. He has always been the nicest husband you ever saw. We've been married 58 years."

I asked both of them how they had managed to keep the romance alive and fresh.

"Gosh, that's not hard," says Louise. "When you have somebody so nice to you. I just couldn't ever tell anybody how wonderful he is to me.

We do nearly everything together. It's just always been that way. Even when we were tending some mother cows and had to go see about them at 11PM and 4 AM I went with him. He always opens doors for me and everybody laughs about that. I really don't expect it or even want him to especially, but he does it. He really spoils me."

Andrew replied, "I just loved her so much when we married and never got over being in love with her."

"I just wish everybody could have this kind of life," says Louise.

"Every day is exciting and fun and full of love."

## Don't care for your name? What if your parents had called you Moon Unit?

When I was a boy, I wondered why my folks named me Randy. I didn't know any other Randys at the time, so it seemed odd, and almost unfair that I was given a name so unlike those of my friends. Why couldn't I have been named Tommy, like several of the boys I grew up with, or Billy or some other, more common name.

You have to understand that I went to a very small school...there were only seven kids in my 8th grade class and just three seniors in high school that year, one of whom failed. Still, when I transferred to a larger high school and I finally met some other kids named Randy (three to be exact) I was dismayed to learn that two of them were girls.

Well, I learned later to accept my name, and to even appreciate it. That was about the time that Frank Zappa named his daughter Moon Unit.

Some folks are blessed, or cursed, with the names they are given. For example, a young man from Texas named Jesse James decided he would like to run for State Treasurer. He had been kidded about his name all his life so he decided to turn a handicap into



an asset and put his name on the ballot. For the next 33 years Texans refused to let anyone other than Jesse James handle the state's money.

Then there was the woman named Mrs. Belcher Wack Wack. Her maiden name was Belcher. She married Mr. Wack. Then, when he died, she married his brother. Her two sons Nick Wack and Paddy Wack were half brothers...true story.

The index of births in Wales reveals four brothers, Bugless, Energetic, Euphrates, and Goliath Smith. Euphrates, now there's a name. I wouldn't want to be named Goliath, though. Some little guy named David might show up with a sling shot.

Then there was a New Orleans gent named Thadeus Vice. Mr. Vice was arrested some 890 times. He was convicted on 421 occasions.

Or how about Mary Malouf Teabaggy. She grew up in Boston, right on the harbor where the original tea party was held.

John Senior, Jr., of New York City probably took a lot of kidding from his classmates. So did Private Sergeant Major who enlisted in the Army and rose to the rank of...you guessed it, Major.

Some names, like Silence Bellows, have to be repeated a few times before they can be appreciated. Mr. Bellows was, for a number of years, the editor of the Christian Science Monitor.

One of my favorites is Tetley Ironsides Tetley Jones. He was chairman of the board of the Tetley Tea Company in England. I can't help but wonder if he and Sir Thomas Lipton ever sat down for tea. If they had the could have called Miss Teabaggy to join them.

In the end, I suppose that a name is what you make of it. Thomas Crapper did just that. No, he didn't invent the toilet, but he held nine patents, all of which he earned while perfecting that most necessary of modern conveniences. Wallace Raybrun wrote Mr. Crapper's biography, a book titled, "Flushed with Pride."

## State sales tax revenue increases again

AUSTIN — The good economic news continues for Texas.

January sales tax receipts were up compared to a year before, the fifth straight increase in revenue to state coffers.

Earlier this month, the Legislature Budget Board was briefed by economists who predicted this would be a much better year for the state's economy.

Texas may gain as many as 150,000 jobs this year, University of North Texas economist Bernard Weinstein told the LBB.

One problem: Jobs lost during the recent economic downturn tended to be of the higher paying variety. Many of the newly-created jobs, and anticipated positions, are in the service industry and government.

Both categories are lower paying than many of the jobs lost, a factor that translates into lower consumer spending. That, of course, means less in sales tax revenue.

### Special session in April?

The buzz around the Capitol is that early April, possibly April 10, is D-Day for the special session on school finance.

That would be a month after the primaries and six months before the November general elections.

### TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



Believe this or not, but another component of the buzz is that one of the school funding considerations that ranks fairly high up the list is an increase in the sales tax.

### New Main Street communities...

Since 1981, the Texas Historical Commission's Main Street program has helped 145 communities in the state revitalize their historic downtown areas.

The cities selected for Main Street funding this year are Grand Saline, Pecos, Pharr and McKinney. Architectural renderings for downtown renovations in each of these cities will be unveiled by First Lady Anita Perry-in ceremony set for March 30 in Pharr and Pecos and the following day in McKinney and Grand Saline.

### Beam up all the cell phones?

If you watched the original "Star Trek" on television back in the '60s, or caught the series on syndication, you know that Captain Kirk and the other members of the Enterprise crew had a communication device that looked remarkably like today's small cell phone.

These days, according to the Department of Public Safety, cell phones are becoming almost as dangerous as entering Klingon territory. Traffic crashes related to cell phone use (because of the driver distraction they cause) jumped 44 percent from 2000 to 2001. And if data from 2002-03 were available, which it isn't, the percent of increase probably is even greater.

In real numbers, reported cell phone-related crashes jumped to 1,032 from 716. Seven people died in cell phone-related crashes in 2000 and eight deaths were reported the following year.

A more traditional problem, road rage, was blamed on 219 crashes in 2001. That represents an increase of 143 percent from the 90 crashes attributed to road rage the year before.

"It is difficult to draw conclusions at this point," said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr., "but the data probably understates the problem. There is no doubt that cell phone misuse and road rage create major problems on Texas roadways."

The solution: Don't use your cell phone when you're driving.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS												
1. "You ___ for it!"	49. Elaborately decorated	68. Overact	6. Trapper's haul	21. Slogs along the surf								
6. People to hang with	51. Say nay to	69. Burn slightly	7. Name on a wanted poster, maybe	25. U.S./Canada's ___ Canals								
10. Gulp from a flask	54. Brand of mower	70. Former ring champ Spinks	8. Caron title role	26. Trickle out								
14. Give up, as a right	56. Publican's stock	71. Japanese noodles	9. Aquanaut's workplace	27. Sicilian spewer								
15. Nobelist Wiesel	63. Prefix meaning "many"	DOWN	10. Piece of indisputable evidence	28. School founded by Henry VI								
16. Outfielder's call	64. James ___ Carter	1. "Begone!"	11. Jittery from caffeine	29. Household picker-upper								
17. "It's ___ the Game"	65. Comic Fields	2. Shopper's lure	12. Lacking sense	30. Storm centers								
18. Oscar winner Kedrova	66. Twiddling one's thumbs	3. "___ the ump!"	13. Rest room sign	33. The Crimson Tide, familiarly								
19. Algerian port	67. "There's more	4. Up to no good	34. Firefighter's need	36. Turner or Cantrell								
20. California game fish		5. Stand for	35. Turner or Cantrell	37. Send out								
22. Smallville family name			37. Send out	38. Give stars to								
23. Itar-___ (news agency)			38. Give stars to	41. Electrical problem								
24. Stage whispers			41. Electrical problem	44. Airline to Stockholm								
26. Lawn sign			44. Airline to Stockholm	48. Close again								
30. Black, to bards			48. Close again	50. Baseball yearbook listing								
31. Rebuke to Brutus			50. Baseball yearbook listing	51. "Analyze This" director Harold								
32. Popular auction site			51. "Analyze This" director Harold	52. Artfully dodge								
35. Leering sort			52. Artfully dodge	53. Guy, informally								
39. Slaughter in baseball			53. Guy, informally	54. Bit of statuary								
40. Big band horns			54. Bit of statuary	55. Synthetic fiber								
42. Explorer Vasco da ___			55. Synthetic fiber	58. Far from ruddy								
43. Suit part			58. Far from ruddy	59. Deep sleep								
45. Fly swatter material			59. Deep sleep	60. Proton's place								
46. Knot or watt			60. Proton's place	61. Construction area								
47. Screen vamp Theda			61. Construction area	62. Many a new driver								

See solution on Page 6

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:

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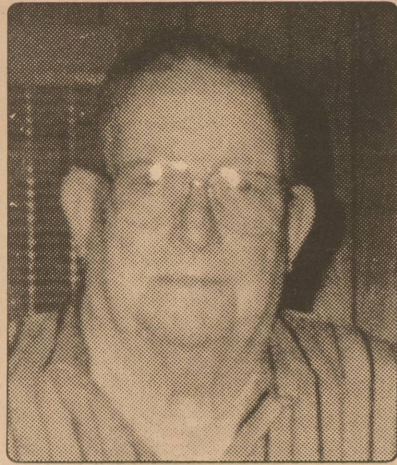
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- EUROTRIP dts (R)  
2:30 \*5:00 \*7:30 9:50
- CATCH THAT KID dts (PG)  
1:30 \*4:00 \*6:30 9:00
- BUTTERFLY EFFECT dts (R)  
1:45 \*4:20 \*7:15 10:00
- TORQUE dts (PG-13)  
2:40 \*4:45 \*7:00 9:10
- YOU GOT SERVED (PG-13)  
2:15 \*4:40 \*7:20 9:40
- MYSTIC RIVER (R)  
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- CALENDAR GIRLS dts (PG-13)  
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# OBITUARIES

## John William Luman



ELDORADO - John William Luman, 77, died Monday, Feb. 16, 2004, in a local hospital. Grave-

side services were held Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2004 in Eldorado Cemetery with Rev. Andy Anderson of First Baptist Church of Eldorado officiating. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

He was born May 8, 1926 and moved to Eldorado in 1960 as an employee of Atlantic Richfield.

Survivors include his wife, Aline Walters Luman of Eldorado; a son, William Luman of Rankin; a daughter, Bonnie Lowe of Eldorado; and sister, Lillian Jordan of Groves; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



## Beta Sigma Phi Report

by Barbara Jackson

Six members were present for the January 27, 2004 meeting in the home of Laura McCutcheon. After a short business meeting Mrs. McCutcheon gave the program on What It Takes to be Happy. After the program members enjoyed a wonderful meal catered by Chef Brad Spradley.

On February 10th eight members were present for the chapter's annual Valentine Salad Supper in the home of Geneva Wade.

Each member brought a salad of choice which was enjoyed by members: Flora Hubble, Dorothy Clark, Dorothy Dacy, Laura Mc-

Cutcheon, Barbara Jackson, Mary Leigh Dunagan, Kim'et Nelson and the hostess. Because it was her anniversary Mary Nolen was not in attendance as she celebrated with husband Keith.

Laura McCutcheon won the sunshine gift. Each member received a valentine gift from her secret sister as well as other sorority members. A rock heart with a valentine verse was presented to each by Flora Hubble and Dorothy Clark gave each of us a heart with candy inside. We also received pretty Valentines from the hostess. Our next meeting will be in the home of Dorothy Dacy on February 24th.

## Budweiser Clydesdales to appear in San Angelo

The world famous Budweiser Clydesdales, the symbol of quality and tradition for Anheuser-Busch since 1933, are scheduled to make several appearances in the Concho Valley the week February 25th-28th. The horses will be on display at Fort Concho, Sunset Mall and will wrap up their visit with an appearance in Ballinger.

The eight-horse Hitch will be harnessed and hitched to the famous red beer wagon at Fort Concho on Thursday, February 26th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and February 27th the "Gentle Giants," as they are often referred to, will be on display at Sunset Mall from 3:00-6:00 p.m. In addition to their stop in San Angelo, the Clydesdales will make an appearance in Ballinger February 28th 12:00-3:00 p.m. Stable viewing will be available Wednesday, February 25th-28th from 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Fort Concho except during scheduled perfor-

mances. The Clydesdales' appearance in the Concho Valley is one of 300 made annually by the five traveling hitches. Canadians of Scottish descent brought the first Clydesdales to America in the mid-1800's. Today, the giant draft horses are used primarily for breeding and show. A single Clydesdale hitch horse will consume as much as 20-25 quarts of feed, 40-50 pounds of hay and 30 gallons of water per day.

Each hitch travels with a Dalmatian dog. In the early days of brewing, Dalmatians were bred and trained to protect the horses and guard the wagon when the driver went inside to make deliveries.

Budweiser Clydesdale traveling hitches are based in San Antonio, St. Louis, MO, Menifee, CA, San Diego, CA, and Merrimack, NH.



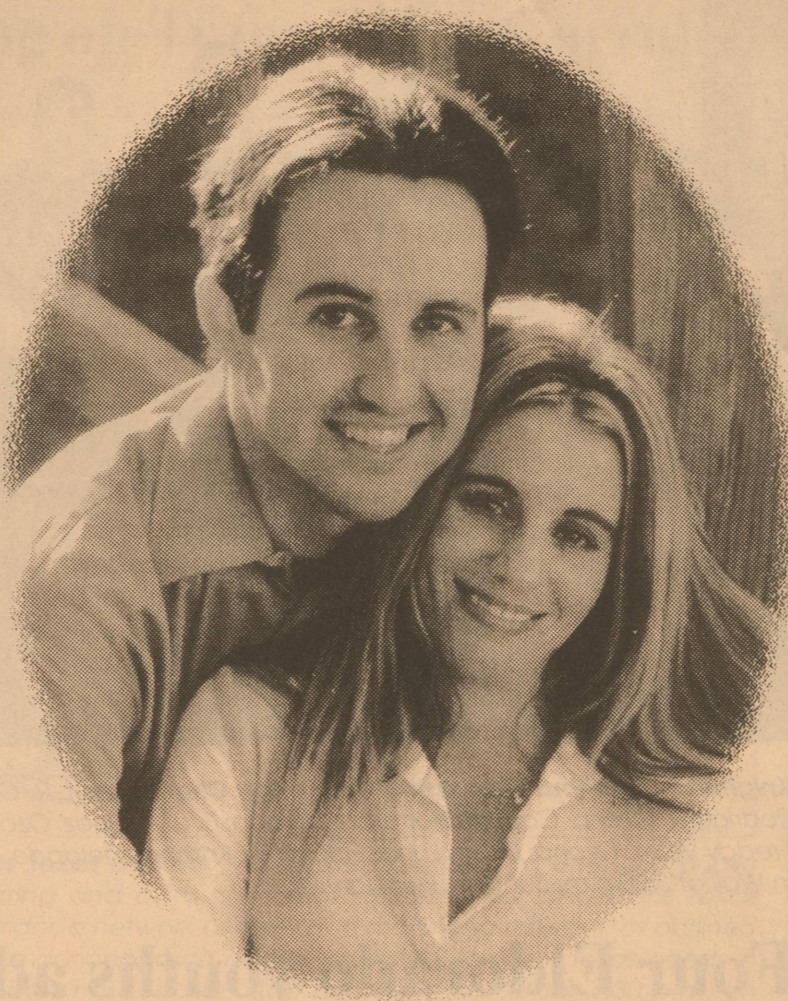
## Say Cheese!

It's time for Spring Portraits, Friday, Feb. 20th. Portraits scheduled all day for grades 5-12. Dress your kids up pretty!

I am Mary Ann Pina Gonzalez, one of the Primary Candidates seeking your consideration for Tax Assessor - Collector of Schleicher County. I have been and will continue to visit as many citizens as time possibly allows during this period. If elected, my main goal is to transfer all County and Hospital Tax Collections to one central location, that being the Appraisal Office. This transition would give you the tax payer the benefit and convenience of receiving your tax statements all in one mailing. Not only would this reduce mailing supplies but give the appraisal office complete capability on any inquiries and payments received. This has been an issue that our County Commissioners and Appraisal Board have discussed in the past, although has never been considered by past and present Tax Assessors - Collectors. The Tax-Assessors Office would be strictly for Motor Vehicle Registrations and Voter Registrations. Another concern I have for the working citizens of Schleicher County is making the office available during the lunch hour. Your needs are my interest and concerns.

I hope to have instilled an overall of my goals and intentions in better serving our community. Your vote and consideration is greatly appreciated!

Political advertisement paid for by Mary Ann Pina Gonzalez.



Alyssa Danyelle Halbert & Neil Andrew Cooper

## Halbert/Cooper engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Danny J. Halbert of Eldorado, Texas are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Alyssa Danyelle Halbert, to Neil Andrew Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cooper of Houston, Texas.

Alyssa is a 1993 graduate of Eldorado High School and a 1998 graduate of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology. She is a Legal Caseworker for Child Pro-

ductive Services in Seguin. Alyssa is also a certified Kardio Kickbox and PIYO Instructor in New Braunfels where she currently lives. Neil is a 1996 graduate of Spring Woods High School in Houston and a 2000 graduate of Texas Lutheran University with a Bachelors Degree in Communications Studies. He is currently pursuing a professional career as a singer/songwriter.

The wedding will take place on June 12, 2004, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Braunfels with reception and dance following at The T-Bar M Ranch Resort.

## 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
- 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 Martin, Amanda Wanoreck, Susie McAngus, Danny Sanchez
- 25th Tammy Dombroski, Georgina Caldwell, Shanna Edmiston, Kymm Nixon, Velma Tyler

## ANNIVERSARIES

### FEBRUARY

- 20th Ramon & Martha Adame, Rudy & Teresa Perez
- 21st Candi & Kurtis Homer
- 22nd Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Perez
- 23rd Bill and Becky Rankin
- 25th Carlos and Mali Rios
- 24th Jose Lino and Benita Fuentes

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## Eldorado Forecast

Thu 2/19	Fri 2/20	Sat 2/21	Sun 2/22	Mon 2/23
70/43 Mainly sunny. High around 70F. Winds S at 15 to 25 mph.	72/46 Windy with times of sun and clouds.	69/34 Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	62/34 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	60/44 Overcast. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.

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**Knights of Columbus 2004 District Free Throw Champions-L-R: Girls Division- Stacie Quiroz, Ozona; Allyson Jarrett, Eldorado; Cristine Rodriguez, Ozona; Carmen Herrera, Eldorado; Eva Vasquez, Ozona; Boys Division-L-R: Matt Turland, Ozona; Joseph Turnbull, Eldorado; Freddy Veloz, Ozona; David Luna, Eldorado; Anthony Delgado, Ozona. These district winners will advance to Regional Competition in Wall at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, February 29.**

## Four Eldorado youths advance to K of C Regionals

Four Eldorado youths will be advancing to compete in the Regional Knights of Columbus Free Throw in Wall, February 29 at 3:00 p.m.

Local youths won the boys and girls 11 and 13 year old divisions.

In the 11 year old division champions are Allyson Jarrett and David Luna.

Carmen Herrera and Joseph Turnbull are the champions in the 13 year old division.

These students were among the 9 winners of the Eldorado Competition which was held on February 7 in the Middle School Gym.

Also competing were Amy Alviso, Zack Brame, Dylan Dombroski, Amika Gonzales and Manny

Gonzales.

Eldorado hosted the District Competition with Ozona and Sonora Knights of Columbus clubs in the Eldorado Middle School Gym this past Sunday.

District winners from Ozona in the 10 year old bracket were Stacie Quiroz and Anthony Delgado. The 12 year old winners were Cris-

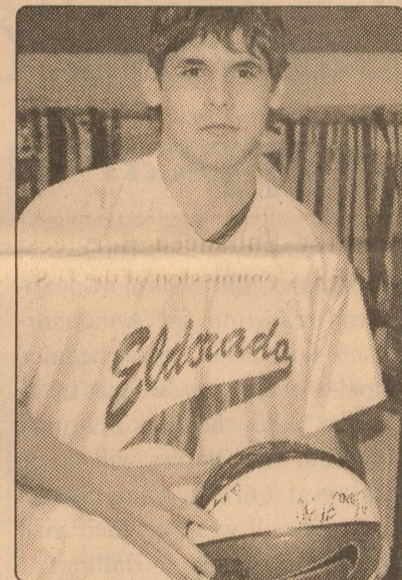
tine Rodriguez and Freddy Veloz and in the 14 year old division winners were Eva Vasquez and Matt Turland.

Each contestant was allowed 15 free-throws attempts in each age division. Ties were settled by successive rounds of five free throw per contestant until a winner emerged.

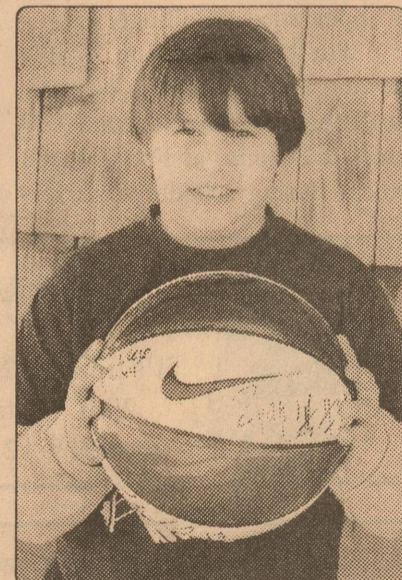


**2004 PIPS — Players In Progress for 2004 were (Front L-R) Claire Wideman, Caitlyn Grubbs, Addy Chatham, Straitly Pridemore, Whitney Sullivan, Joshua Seymore, Jessica Gonzalez, Colten Crowder, Baylee Griffin; (Middle L-R) Brianda Torres, Brianah Creek, Shelby Seymore, Stacey Valeriano, M'Kenna Gillespie, Hagen Porras, Michael Bilbrey, Abbigal Spradley, Jonah Griggs; (Back L-R) Dylan Dombroski, Ashley Paulson, Allyson Jarrett, Zachary Brame, Morgan Gillespie, Tyler Farmer, Ashley Sullivan. Not Pictured: Miranda Arispe, Jessica Gandar, Dalton Morris, Sierra Arispe and Ashby Ragsdale.**

## Winners of Project Graduation Varsity Basketball Drawing



Junior Kolby Dombroski and member of the Eagle's Varsity Basketball team won the 2004 Project Graduation Drawing for the Autographed Varsity Girl's Basketball. The drawing was during the last home game for the Eldorado Lady Eagles.



Second Grader Tyler Martinez won the 2004 Project Graduation Drawing for the Autographed Varsity Boy's Basketball. The drawing was during the last home game for the Eldorado Eagles.

Covering the many feats of Eldorado Eagles athletes at **THE SUCCESS** It's the best source around!

### Varsity Boys

February 10, 2004  
Eldorado 10-13-17-15=55  
Ozona 12-08-16-10=54  
Scoring for the Eagles were: Terrell Boysaw 21, Michael Ballew 3, John Fay 9, Ryan Cathey 1, Trey Chavez 16, Kolby Dombroski 3, Frank Wipff 2. 3 Point Goals: Terrell Boysaw 1, Ballew 1, John Fay, Trey Chavez 2.

February 13, 2004  
Eldorado 10-07-12-16=55  
Grape Creek 20-11-14-13=58  
Scoring for the Eagles were: Terrell Boysaw 18, John Fay 4, Ryan Cathey 3, Trey Chavez 20. 3 Point Goals: Terrell Boysaw 2, Trey Chavez 1.

February 17, 2004  
Eldorado 05-17-20-11=53  
Sonora 16-20-21-33=90  
Scoring for the Eagles were: Trey Chavez 12, Terrell Boysaw 11, John Fay 10, Michael Ballew 5, Ryan Cathey 5, Kolby Dombroski 5, Frank Wipff 5. 3 Point Goals: Terrell Boysaw 2, John Fay 2, Ryan Cathey 1, Trey Chavez 1, Kolby Dombroski 1. Eldorado ended their season 1-9 in District.

### Varsity Girls

February 10, 2004  
Eldorado 02-11-10-09=32  
Ozona 05-12-06-08=31  
Scoring for the Lady Eagles were: Kasey Boysaw 9, Maxie Holley 2, Britany Sellers 4, Betsy Green 6, Chandra Wanoreck 3, Clara Herrera 6, Jessica Robertson 2. 3 Point Goals: Betsy Green (2), Chandra Wanoreck (1). Eldorado ended their season 1-9 in District.

### J.V. Girls

February 3, 2004  
Eldorado 10-08-05-00=23  
Big Lake 07-13-06-16=42  
Scoring for the Lady Eagles were: Chelsea Sellers 2, Katey Blair 13, Josie Diaz 1, Marianne Guzman 4, Kristin Mittel 2, Myra Robles 1. Also playing: Karina Sanchez.

February 6, 2004  
Eldorado 09-13-06-10=38  
Wall 06-13-15-05=39  
Scoring for the Lady Eagles were: Karina Sanchez 11, Katey Blair 20, Marianne Guzman 8. Also playing: Alicia Corrales, Anna Fuentes, Chelsea Sellers, Sandra Garza, Tiffany Hernandez, Josie Garza, Kristin Mittel, Myra Robles, Kimberly Samaniego.

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## What'll he think of next? Jim Runge gears up for Sadie Hawkins Day and 2nd annual Elgoatarod

Just when Eldoradoans thought they had heard it all, Jim Runge, the mastermind behind the EOBOC (Eldorado Olympic Bid Organizing Committee) and the Running of the Bull Festival, has come up with another reason to stay in Eldorado and have fun—as opposed to going somewhere else and spending all your money.

This time, Runge plans a combination event, including a once-every four years Sadie Hawkins Day celebration and a “Protest March Protesting Protest Marches.”

Naturally, it's all in fun and fits in with Jim Runge's unique view of the world.

The fun begins at noon on Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004, with an after-church pot luck reception in the historic 1907 bank building on Main St. Runge emphasizes that to truly enjoy the occasion, participants should begin by attending the church of their choice.

Then, at 1:30 p.m. the action moves to Runge's Hysterical District and Tagoo Bird Sanctuary at the south end of town where a tra-

ditional Tagoo Bird Calling will be held. Runge is also billing a Ground-Hog Day style event in which a critter named Eldosutawney Phil is consulted regarding his (or her) shadow.

At 2:00 p.m. a tour of the Hysterical District will be held so that participants can take in some of the latest displays.

Then, at 2:30 p.m., singles attending for the Sadie Hawkins Day portion of the event will be joined by couples and others, as a protest march to protest protest marches will begin forming near the Hysterical District's No Eye Deer exhibit.

The march will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will travel in a northeast-

erly direction, concluding at the World Headquarters of the EOBOC, located adjacent to Eldorado's only stoplight. Marchers are encouraged to dress in their favorite Dogpatch costume.

A “Wild & Crazy” parade is slated to follow along behind the protesters.

Once the marchers reach the EOBOC headquarters, a Protest Rally is planned. Of course, the rally is supposed to be a protest against protest rallies.

The day will be rounded out with a judging of best Dogpatch costumes and prizes for the zaniest floats, best dressed animals and wildest vehicles in parade. A Sadie Hawkins

Race/Chase will be followed by a supper break at local restaurants.

A “Captured Singles Reception” will be held at 7:00 p.m. along with a dance and games in 1907 bank building. Formal festivities will conclude at 8:00 p.m. with a traditional Snipe Hunt but informal revelry will continue at the bank building as the dance will continue.

Any group or individual wanting to participate or to schedule a concurrent event of their own are encouraged to contact Jim Runge, event coordinator and honorary mayor of Dogpatch, at the EOBOC headquarters or by calling 325-853-2434. You may email him at eoboctexas@hotmail.com.

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## CARES Commission recommends study of Big Spring VA Hospital

Washington, D.C.—The Big Spring Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital may be the subject of a study about its future, according to the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission of the U.S. Veterans Administration.

The CARES Commission's recommendations were released in a briefing to Congressional staff this morning. The Commission recommendation for the Big Spring VA is twofold:

1) “The Commission concurs with the DNCP (Draft National CARES Plan) proposal insofar as it relates to studying the possibility of no longer providing health care services at Big Spring. The study should take into account the input of stakeholders regarding access to care.

2) The Commission recommends that VA establish a clear definition and clear policy on the CAH (Critical Access Hospital) designation prior to making a decision on the use of this designation.”

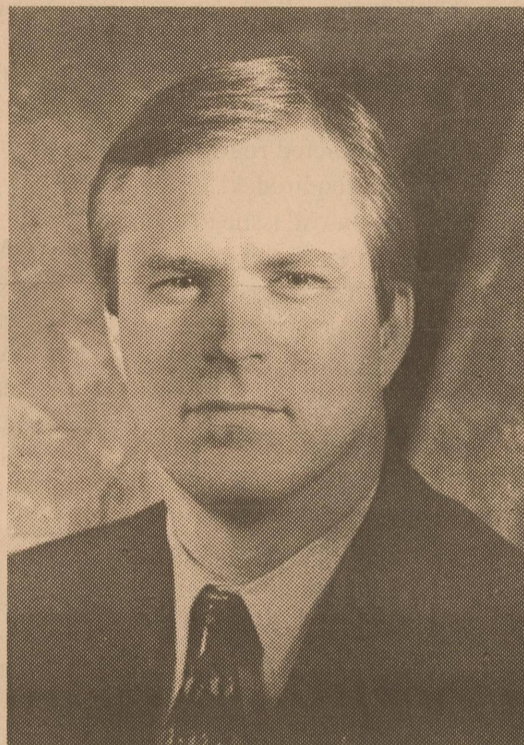
“If there's going to be a study of the Big Spring VA Hospital, I will work to ensure the officials understand the importance of the facility to veterans who live in remote areas.” Congressman Charlie Stenholm (TX-17) said. “While I understand the Commission recommends a study of the possibility of closing the Big Spring VA, they will have to answer a lot of tough questions from me and others about this recommendation. I look forward to joining with stakeholders to express the fact that geographically remote veterans in West Texas deserve the reasonably close care provided by the Big Spring facility.”

“I support the VA's efforts to improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of its health care system,” Stenholm added. “However, I also believe it's important for Congress to provide sufficient funds to ensure the VA can provide the services needed by our veterans.”

The CARES Commission recommendations have been presented to Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who will make a final decision on the recommendations after 30 days.

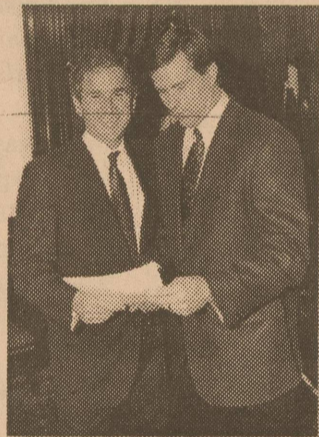
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE



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and extends more than two hundred miles east-to-west and over three hundred miles north-to-south. It's a big district—Harvey's driven over 60,000 miles traveling the district and learning your viewpoints on local issues.

As the vice chair of the House Republican Caucus, Harvey helped lead our statewide effort in 2002 to elect a republican majority in the



Texas Legislature. In 2003, he was appointed Chairman of the Cultural & Recreational Resources Committee which has oversight responsibility for Texas Parks & Wildlife, the Arts Commission, the State Archives & Libraries, the Historical Commission

(courthouse restoration & main street program) and Texas tourism industry.

Texas faces some very important issues. We have an upcoming session on school finance. Harvey is working on a plan to lower property



taxes, abolish Robin Hood, and improve

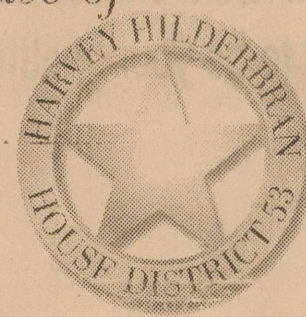
our education system.

Harvey is a family man, an outdoorsman, rancher, and businessman. His love of Texas and Texans is obvious in every legislative endeavor.

Most important at this time in our region's history, we need Harvey's leadership in the Texas House. And Harvey wants your vote.



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# Harvey Hilderbran

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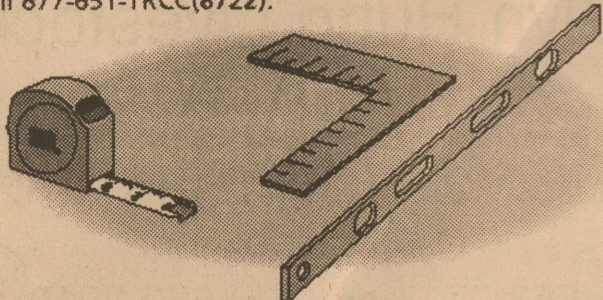
## Keeping an Eye on Texas

### Builder Deadline Looming

All homebuilders in Texas are required to register with the Texas Residential Construction Commission on or before March 1, 2004.

A builder, according to the TRCC, is defined as any business entity or individual who constructs, supervises or manages the construction of a new home, a material improvement to a home or an improvement to the interior of an existing home when the cost of work exceeds \$20,000.

For more information, go to <http://www.trcc.state.tx.us/> or call 877-651-TRCC(8722).



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller ([www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)) and the Texas Residential Construction Commission.

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## 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.

### Home Builders must register with TRCC

Dear Editor:

According to House Bill 730, which was passed during the 78th regular legislative session, all builders in the State of Texas are required to register with the Texas Residential Construction Commission (the "commission"), using a commission prescribed form, and remitting a filing fee of \$125 on or before March 1, 2004.

A builder is defined as any business entity or individual who for a fixed price, commission, fee, wage or other compensation constructs, supervises or manages the construction of a new home, a material improvement to a home, other than an improvement solely to replace or repair a roof of an existing home, or an improvement to the interior of an existing home when the cost of work exceeds \$20,000.

The builder registration form will collect information regarding the builder and whether the builder operates as an individual, a corporation, a partnership, sole proprietorship or other form of business. The form will collect contact information, such as addresses and phone numbers. The form will also collect information that

allows the commission to conduct a required criminal background check and to otherwise make the statutory determinations that the applicant is at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the U.S. or a lawfully-admitted alien, and that the applicant is honest, trustworthy and has integrity to the satisfaction of the commission.

Each builder will be required to designate an individual as a "designated agent" and that designated agent will be required to register as a builder separately from the builder entity. A builder who is an individual may serve as both the registered builder and the designated agent. Contact information will be collected about the "designated agent" in addition to the builder. Builders who wish to do so may also designate secondary agents; however, each secondary agent will be required to provide the same information as the designated agent.

Within 15 days after the receipt of a completed registration form and the required \$125 fee, the commission will issue to each builder that meets the requirements of the Act, a certificate of registration.

The commission, which was also created by House Bill 730, is responsible for registering new homes and home builders in the State of Texas, overseeing a state-sponsored inspection and dispute resolution process, preparing and adopting building and performance standard and limited statutory warranties, providing voluntary certification of arbitrators, providing for the filing of arbitration awards and managing three task force groups.

Beginning February 1, 2004, builder registration forms will be available on the commission's website at [www.trcc.state.tx.us](http://www.trcc.state.tx.us). Individuals not able to access the forms on the website may request a packet of information by calling the commission's toll-free consumer helpline at 1 (877) 651-TRCC.

Sincerely,  
Stephen D. Thomas  
Executive Director



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN  
**Made with love** — Roxanne Adame (L) and Antonia Barrera (R) made chocolate dipped strawberries last week at Amigo's Dream Restaurant in preparation for Valentine's Day.

## Hinojosa & Griffin place at Ft. Worth Livestock Show

Ft. WORTH — Marcus Hinojosa, a 4-H member from Eldorado, exhibited a Third Place Black/Other Purebred in the Junior Barrow Show at the 2004 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show on February 6, 2004 while Will Griffin, also a 4-H member from Eldorado, exhibited a Sixth Place European Crossbred steer.

Also competing were Mark Bybee, Wes Brown, Lauren Brown, Megan Griffin and Robert Chavez. Justin Friar and Jeffrey Friar of Brady, who are members of the Schleicher County 4-H Club, were also present and competed at the show.

The Stock Show's Junior Division this year is hosting 7,508 entries by youth of Texas as the culmination of yearlong agricultural educational projects in various areas of livestock production. Junior premiums will exceed \$89,356.

The junior entry list is part of

the overall count this year of more than 24,000 head of cattle, sheep, swine, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas, goats, poultry, pigeons, and rabbits. The 108th Annual Stock Show, underway at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, will continue through February 8. Total prize and premium money for the Livestock Show and its accompanying World's Original Indoor Rodeo is approaching \$700,000.

The Stock Show provides an annual opportunity to showcase the livestock industry and the growing Metroplex. The hundreds of thousands of visitors who attend the Show during its 23-day run include many people from nations outside the United States. Last year the Show hosted over 930,000 visitors from more than 60 other countries.

For more information, please contact the Stock Show office at 817-877-2400 or visit us on-line at [www.fwssr.com](http://www.fwssr.com).

## Correction

by Shanna Weaver  
Communications Director  
Ft. Worth Livestock Show

It has come to our attention that there was inadvertently an error when reporting results from the Junior Barrow Show. The Stock Show reported that Mark Bybee, a 4-H member from Eldorado, ex-

hibited a First Place Yorkshire in the Junior Barrow Show at the 2004 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show on February 6, 2004, which is incorrect. Bybee actually placed 14th in the Yorkshire division of the Junior Barrow Show. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## We're trying hard to serve you better!

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### Meals for Friends Menu



- Monday, February 23**  
Beef Tips, Rice, Cooked Carrots, Cornbread, Fruit Cup w/ Strawberries, Lemon Meringue Pie, Milk
- Tuesday, February 24**  
Oven Baked Chicken, Lima Beans, Broccoli, Bread, Chunky Mixed Fruit, Milk
- Wednesday, February 25**  
Grd. Beef Steak, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn w/ Peppers, Hot Dinner Rolls, Carrot Salad, Applesauce, Milk
- Thursday, February 26**  
Veg. Beef Stew, Green Beans, Cornbread, Pear Half w/ Cottage Cheese, Vanilla Pudding, Milk
- Friday, February 27**  
Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Carrot Raisin Salad, Gelatin w/ Fruit, Milk

### Solution to puzzle on Page 2

Jackpot Up

A	S	K	E	D	P	A	L	S	S	W	I	G
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## Local residents invited to hearing on Trans-Texas Corridor

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials will invite Schleicher County residents to look ahead to the future of transportation in Texas at a Trans-Texas Corridor public hearing next Monday (Feb. 23) at 1:30 p.m. at the Schleicher County Courthouse.

Public involvement at hearings conducted in each county in the state by March will allow citizens to help determine Texas needs Trans-Texas Corridor, according to Patsy Rainwater-Maddux, the San Angelo District Information Officer. Schleicher County residents will have the opportunity to either speak at the hearing or submit written comments that will be sent to the Austin headquarters.

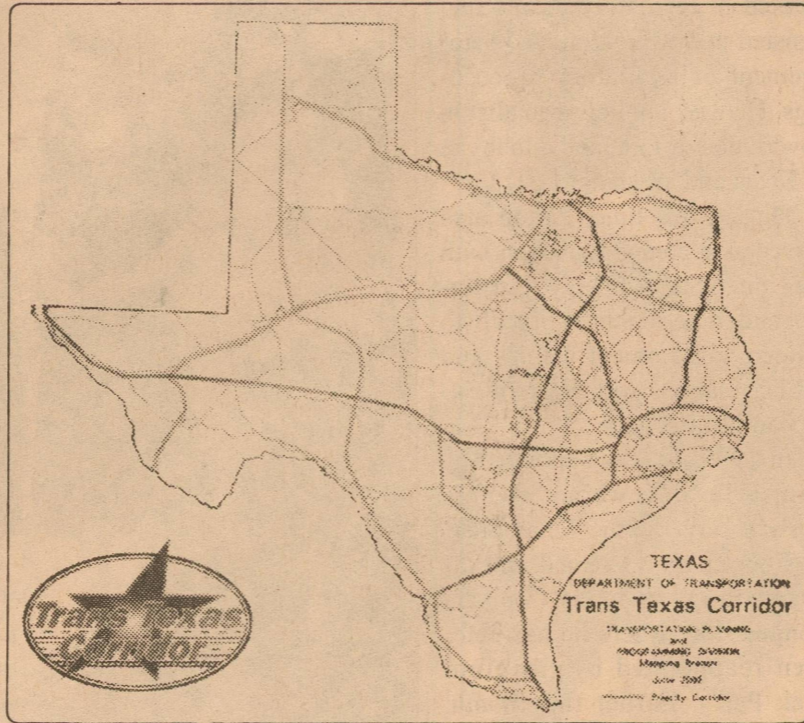
The proposed Trans-Texas Corridor, a network of roads, rail, and a dedicated utility zone, will be able to move people, goods, utilities, and even ideas through

the state safely and faster than ever before. Eventual features could include separate lanes for cars and trucks as well as passenger, commuter, and freight rail lines.

While Texas continues to grow, the state's population growth adds additional strain on aging roadways. However, last year Governor Rick Perry signed into law House Bill 3588, the most significant transportation legislation in state history. This law allows more control and new funding tools for local transportation planners. As a result, bonds and toll roads will allow new roads to be built at a faster rate than former pay-as-you-go method of financing construction.

Potential routes and these new funding tools will be presented during the public hearings.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Patsy Rainwater-Maddux at 325-947-9205.



**Trans Texas Corridor** — Citizens are urged to attend a public hearing and offer comments on the proposed Trans Texas Corridor, a network of proposed roads and railways, as outlined in the concept map above, designed to meet Texas needs in the coming decades. The hearing is slated for 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, 2004, in the Schleicher County Courthouse.

## Eldorado Woman's Club News

by Noweita Briggs

The Eldorado Woman's Club met at 2:30 p.m., February 10, 2004 in the Meeting Room of Amigos Dream Restaurant. Twelve members and four guests were present. President Myrt Williams welcomed everyone to our special meeting on landscape beautification. Jo Callison gave a prayer and Zee Hickman led us in Pledges to our flags. Jerre Holley, Program Leader next introduced our guest speaker Ken Newman. Many of us first knew Ken when he was counselor and Principal at Eldorado High School. He was a super person then and his still a super person. He was a credit to our school system and has carried forward these traits since his retirement. His second undertaking after retirement has evolved into where he is now classified as a Master Gardener. His love of gardening led him early in his retirement to being associated with Jerry Swift Nurseries, then over to Wall where he operated three huge green houses where lots and lots of tomato, watermelon and pepper plants were grown for the Wall area truck farmers. Besides seeking to be a Master Gardener Ken was over at Mertzson as a school counselor for awhile and at present he's a Secondary Counselor at Brackett High, Brackettville, Texas. Ken brought us a very informative program with main topics of discussion being beautification,

tree trimming, lawn care, rose bushes, container gardening, new gardening trends for new plants, Irises, vegetables with special ideas for the current ideal plants for our area, the pro's and con's of perennial vs. annual flowers, plants grown from planting seeds, herbs and mints, and weather watch records in relationship to gardening.

He told us Farmer's Almanac was a great source of information and their on-line contact at [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com) and gardening at [yankeepub.com](http://yankeepub.com) were great places to get answers for your gardening questions. He gave us some great information about tree-trimming, taking care of your lawn and he also told us there are new grasses to consider, rose bush care, tips on container gardening and their advantage locally where water is so precious and rain so undependable, some new gardening trends is the current trend towards red flowers and carrots the come in different colors and trailing petunias and herbs are popular. There are new ivies like "Dutch Fort" that is worth consideration. He said be sure to compare the price of seed packages as the prices range from very high to reasonable and last but not least a yearly record of local weather conditions is important.

He also told us about trips to Texas A&M Research Center where he saw gardening practices that were remarkable. If anyone has gardening questions Ken would be glad to help in finding a solution. Part of being a Master Gardener is the requirement to offer free time and information about gardening. Ken told us many interesting things and we thank him for bringing us a delightful program and for taking time from his busy schedule to be our guest speaker.

After Ken's speech hostesses' Myrt Williams - chairman, Dorothy Harris, and Nelva Martin

treated us to a delightful refreshment time that featured cherry pie. The tables were so festive with red table cloths and greenery and valentine theme candle holders. The room mantle was also decorated with gold candle holders, red candles and a reclining cupid.

After refreshment time President Williams continued our meeting by opening our New Business with announcing the state of officers that would head our new four year term beginning September, 2004. These officers are Mary Roden as President, Jerre Holley as Vice President, Laura McCutcheon as Second Vice-President, Myrt Williams as Historian, and Shine Spigarelli as Parliamentarian. These officers received a unanimous vote of approval. Secretary Dorothy Harris and Treasurer Nelva Martin next gave their reports. Roll call was answered with naming a favorite plant. Some plants mentioned were gardenia, geraniums, bougainvillea, Iris, Rose, sunflowers, pansies, violets, ferns, orchids, and hibiscus. Our meeting closed with reciting our club collect.

Tuesday, March 9, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. will be our next meeting and it will be held at Amigos Dream.

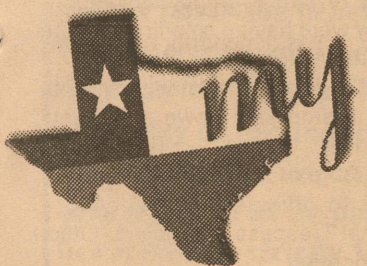
## Early voting starts Monday

Early voting by personal appearance in the Democratic and Republican party primaries begins Monday, Feb. 23, 2004 in the Schleicher County Clerk's office in the Schleicher County Courthouse. Early voting will continue through Friday, March 5, 2004. Primary election day will be Tuesday, March 9 2004.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Got Photos?

We have lots of photos available for purchase at:



Eldorado.net  
[www.myeldorado.net](http://www.myeldorado.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

## School Lunch Menu



**Milk & Bread Offered**  
**Menus Subject To Change**

**Breakfast**

½ pt. Milk & 4 oz.

Juice offered w/each breakfast

**Monday, February 23**

Banana Nut Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Peaches, Orange Juice, Milk

**Tuesday, February 24**

Cream of Wheat, Buttered Toast, Jelly, Pineapple Tidbits, Choice of Juice, Milk

**Wednesday, February 25**

French Toast Stix / Syrup, Peaches, Choice of Juice, Milk

**Thursday, February 26**

Cinnamon Rolls, Apple Juice, Milk

**Friday, February 27**

Buttered Toast, Jelly, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

**Cafeteria Line**

**Monday, February 23**

Pork Choppets / Gravy, Black-eyed pea, Creamed Potato, Hot Rolls, Peach Halves

**Tuesday, February 24**

Spaghetti / Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Rosy Apple Sauce

**Wednesday, February 25**

Ash Wednesday  
Chalupas / Cheese Cups, Spanish Rice, Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Rice Krispie Treats

**Thursday, February 26**

Chili Dogs, Fritos, Pork-N-Beans, Pear Halves, Cookies

**Friday, February 27**

Cheeseburger, French Fries, Hamburger Salad / Pickles, Apple Halves

**Fast Food Line**

**Monday, February 23**

Taco Roll, Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Spicy Fries, Peach Halves

**Tuesday, February 24**

Bar-Q-Que on Bun, French Fries, Pickle Spears, Rice Krispie Treats

**Wednesday, February 25**

Grilled Cheese Sandwich, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Carrot Stix / Dip, Rosy Apple Sauce

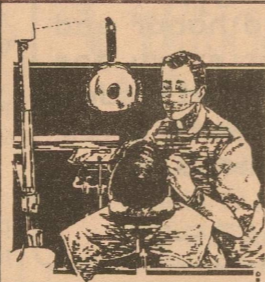
**Thursday, February 26**

Crispitos / Cheese Sauce, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Cookies

**Friday, February 27**

Cheeseburgers, French Fries, Hamburger Salad / Pickles, Apple Halves

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## People of Schleicher County

Since 1981 I have been a part of the County Tax Office. For more than fifteen years I was deputy, and, am now in my eighth year as Tax Assessor-Collector. These years have been a great experience for me. I would like to take this means of thanking the citizens of Schleicher County for all their support and encouragement. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this office, but am now looking forward to my retirement at the end of this year.

As we approach the upcoming Primary Election, I hope that voters will strongly consider the importance of electing those who are qualified for the office being sought. The past years have shown me how very vital this is.

For more than seven years Betty Robles has been my deputy, and, has proven how capable she is. We have worked together on the various duties and responsibilities this office entails. She would bring a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience as County Tax Assessor-Collector. I strongly support her as a candidate for this important position.

In closing, I would urge every registered voter to exercise the privilege and opportunity to vote in this Primary Election. Early voting begins in the County Clerk's office February 23, and, continues through March 5, with the Primary being on March 9.

Thank you again and PLEASE VOTE!  
Sincerely,  
Lou Ann Turner

Political advertisement paid for by Lou Ann Turner

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Downtown Sonora 387-2733

## MEN'S WINTER GATHERING

Friday Night, February 20, 2004

6:30 PM

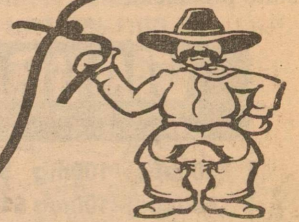
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Company Teams earn up to 53¢ per mile  
Owner Operators earn up to 98¢ per mile

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## Patton named AEP's Texas state president

AUSTIN — Charles Patton, vice president of governmental affairs for American Electric Power (AEP), has been named Texas state president for American Electric Power, effective immediately.

Patton will fill a vacancy left by Texas State President Julio Reyes who has been named AEP's Oklahoma state president. Reyes will fill the position previously held by Pete Churchwell, who recently announced his retirement.

"Charles Patton has done an incredible job of directing state governmental affairs activities for AEP in Texas," said Dale Heydlauff, AEP senior vice president — governmental and environmental affairs. "His understanding of the policy processes, as well as his strong background in the electric utility industry, has made him a vital information source for policymakers and other stakeholders throughout Texas. These skills are just a few of the reasons that he will make an extremely effective state president."



COURTESY PHOTO  
Charles Patton  
AEP Texas State President

Patton has been responsible for Texas governmental affairs functions since 1996 when he joined Central and South West Inc. CSW merged with AEP in June 2000. Prior to joining CSW, Patton spent nearly 11 years in the energy and telecommunications business with Houston Industries/Houston Lighting & Power. While there, he

worked in regulatory affairs and assisted in the litigation and management of regulatory proceedings. He was a policy specialist in government affairs and a lobbyist in Texas and Washington, D.C.

During this time, Patton also served as a company liaison with the United States Energy Association and traveled internationally to discuss government affairs and public relations with Eastern European utilities.

In 1999, he was appointed by former Texas Governor George Bush to serve on the Texas Energy Coordination Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, where he has since been reappointed by Governor Rick Perry. Earlier this month, Governor Perry appointed Patton to the Texas Energy Planning Council, which was established to advise the governor on a balanced plan for providing the energy needed to fuel the state's future economic growth.

Patton received a bachelor's degree (cum laude) from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas in Austin. He completed, with honors, special undergraduate programs relating to urban planning and government at Boston University, Harvard and American University.

American Electric Power owns and operates more than 42,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States and select international markets and is the largest electricity generator in the U.S. AEP is also one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, with almost 5 million customers linked to AEP's 11-state electricity transmission and distribution grid. The company is based in Columbus, Ohio.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

**April Fish** — This year's EHS One Act Play, "April Fish" by Ted Pezzulo, offers a comedy set in an Italian tenement. In the scene above, Anna Troy (center) holds the "key to heaven" as other members of the troupe look on. They include (L-R) Jorge Bustos, Lacy Ragsdale, Anna Troy, Diego Barrera, Brence Minor, Kristen Mittel and Rachel Joiner. Peeking from behind is Travis Joiner.

## DPS concerned as cellular phone and road rage wrecks increase across Texas

The number of cell phone-related and road rage-related collisions both increased in the latest statistical data compiled by DPS.

Cell phone-related traffic crashes increased from 716 to 1,032 from 2000 to 2001—a 44 percent increase. In cases where cell phone use was listed as a contributing factor, there were 7 fatalities in 2000 compared to 8 in 2001.

Road rage-related accidents jumped from 90 to 219—a 143 percent increase. There was one fatality in both 2000 and 2001 that was attributed to road rage.

It is important to note that new accident reporting forms listing cell phones and road rage as contributing factors were not available until April 2000, so comparing the two years may not present an accurate picture.

"It is difficult to draw conclusions at this point, but the data probably understates the problem," said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. "There is no doubt that cell phone misuse and road rage create major problems on Texas roadways."

The DPS urges drivers to minimize cell phone usage in their vehicle and refuse to be drawn into the road rage cycle.

## SKYWARN storm spotters training now

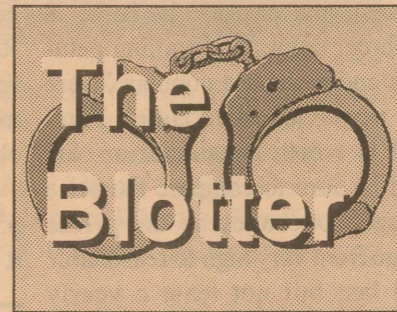
The National Weather Service in San Angelo has many highly trained SKYWARN storm spotters who volunteer their time and radio communication skills to provide timely and accurate information about the storms seen on radar. These individuals help save lives. No matter how advanced radar technology becomes, the National Weather Service will always be highly dependent on trained volunteer SKYWARN spotters.

Persons interested in becoming a SKYWARN spotter should attend a SKYWARN training session administered by the National Weather Service. These training sessions are performed in late winter, into the spring months. Direct any questions to Hector Guerrero, Warning and Coordination Meteorologist at NWS San Angelo, by

telephone at (325) 944-9445, or by email [hector.guerrero@noaa.gov](mailto:hector.guerrero@noaa.gov).

SKYWARN spotters must have a reliable method of communication with a SKYWARN net controller. This is accomplished through amateur radio, and sometimes General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) frequencies operated by Radio Emergency Commu-

nications Teams (REACT). Amateur radio and GMRS operators are licensed with the FCC. Many local amateur radio clubs administer license classes and examinations, as well as communications and spotter logistics training. For further information, contact your local amateur radio club or your local REACT organization.



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**  
February 13 • Ramos, Rodolfo Alvarado, male age 45, offense DPS Warrants. Released Time Served.  
February 13 • Romo, Marelo Iglesias, male age 17, offense Driving While License Suspended.  
**INCIDENTS**  
February 10 • 7:43 p.m. Complainant called and requested an officer to a residence.

• 8:00 p.m. Complainant requested an ambulance. Two officers and EMS2 responded.  
February 11 • 7:35 p.m. Complainant reported someone stuck in mud on County Road 100. Officer responded and was unable to locate.  
• 9:45 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a basic transfer to a hospital. EMS 1 responded.  
February 13 • 5:24 a.m. Complainant reported that they had wrecked their car at the red light. Vincent May of El Paso was driving a tan 2000 Toyota Camry traveling North on US 277 when he attempted to turn right on HWY 190 East. Frost on a drainage grate caused the driver to lose control and crossover the westbound side and over a sidewalk colliding with a shrub and a tree on the court house square. Officer and wrecker responded.  
• 10:30 p.m. Complainant reported an intoxicated driver in a green Pontiac Grand AM. Officer responded and was unable to locate.  
February 14 • 8:48 a.m. Subject reported a fire on Dixie Street. Officer and Volunteer Fire Department responded to small fire started by a heat lamp in an animal pen. Resident put fire out before fire department arrived.  
• 2:32 p.m. Complainant requested to be transferred to Poison Control. Dispatch transferred caller. Officer found everything OK.  
• 11:20 p.m. Complainant reported a strong order of propane gas at propane business on US 277. Officer responded and contacted owners.  
February 15 • Hospital requested a ACLS transfer. EMS responded.  
• 4:14 p.m. Complainant reported they were having a controlled burn in northern Schleicher County.  
• 4:35 p.m. Complainant called to report a stop sign down on County Road 109.  
• 7:30 p.m. Complainant wanted to talk to officers about serving a Criminal Trespass on subject. Officer responded.  
• 7:30 p.m. Complainant came in to speak with an officer about a report of family violence.  
February 16 • Complainant called 911 and reported their home had been burglarized. Officer responded.

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**Public Notice**  
**Cebridge Connections**  
Formerly Classic Cable  
Effective Week of March 22, 2004

Cebridge Connections is changing the lineup for the Eldorado, Texas cable system. EWTN #99 will be added to Expanded Basic. Toon Disney, Independent Film Channel, and Sundance Channel will be added to the Digital Cable lineup. Turner Classic Movies will only be available on Expanded Basic. WB Network moves to # 7, C-Span moves to #12, National Geographic moves to #30, Cartoon Network moves to #34, and C-Span 2 moves to #98. Health Network, Inspirational Life, Goodlife, Ovation, Urban Xtra, Sci-Fi Channel, and Lifetime Movie Network will no longer be available on Digital Cable. You may contact Cebridge Connections at 877-423-2743 if you have questions.

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Consignments  
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## Notice Of Election

Schleicher County ISD Board of Trustee Election  
TWO (2) Single Member Districts  
(Districts #3, & #4)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Election Day: May 15, 2004

### Memorial Building

\*\*\*\*\*

**Candidate Filing Dates**  
February 16 through March 15, 2004

Application for a place on the ballot may be picked up  
between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday

\*\*\*\*\*

Early Voting in SCISD Administration Office, 205 W. Fields  
April 28, 2004 through May 11, 2004

\*\*\*\*\*

Call Rachael Nixon at 853-2514 ext. 226 for more information.  
**PLEASE VOTE**

## Cerebral Palsy

NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT

Cerebral palsy may be caused by professional neglect during prenatal care or childbirth. Its causes may include premature birth, birth trauma, and neonatal asphyxia (lack of oxygen). Call us for professional insight.

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Richard A. Dodd, L.C.  
Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C.  
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License  
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303 Brooks-Eldorado, TX

**Miscellaneous**  
**Wednesday Night Pizza Night**  
**Texas Pizza Wagon**  
**325-456-8106**  
Hunting Lease Available: 480 Acres, South of Eldorado with Thick Mesquite. FMI Call: 325-853-2408 of 325-657-4114. 06-09b  
For Sale: '95 Eclipse as is. FMI Call: 650-1052.07-08p

**Real Estate**  
**ELDORADO-103 West Redwood;** Brick Home-2 Living/Dining Areas; 3 Bedrooms/3 Full Baths; Large Master Suite; Many Built-ins & Walk-in Closets. Great Screened In Porch. Numerous Trees-Sprinkler System. Call 325-853-2608. 08-11p

**GARAGE SALES, YARD SALES & BAKE SALES**  
**ELDORADO-GARAGE SALE-209 Bluebonnet;** Saturday, February 21; 7:00 a.m. - ???; Furniture, Glassware, Toys, Clothes and More. 08b  
Red print loveseat, dishwasher, twin mattress set, clarinet with case, end tables, lamps, oil paintings, corner computer unit, color TV's, nurses uniforms, prom dresses, great selection men's sport coats/suits, Queen hide a bed (\$169), white antique iron bed, etc. **CONSIGNORS MUST CALL AHEAD BEFORE BRINGING IN CLOTHING AND/OR FURNITURE all must be in good condition.** Second Hand Rose, Eldorado 853-3736.

**Free Tax Help Available**  
Mark your calendar for help with filing your 2003 Income Tax February 21, 2004 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Memorial Building, Eldorado  
To make an appointment for Eldorado, call Patsy Kellogg at 853-2514.

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**Card of Thanks**  
*Thank you to everyone who remembered our family during our recent loss and to everyone who called, sent flowers or cactus, and all the prayers during by recent hospital stay. Eldorado is great!*  
Thank you, Glenda Harris

**Lynn Meador Real Estate**  
5 N. Divide Lynn Meador, Broker • Jo Ward, Agent/ 915-853-2339 HOMES/LOTS  
★ **703 HIGHLAND AVE.** 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Frame Home, Central Heat/Evap. A/C, Carport, Fenced Back Yard, Vinyl Siding. PRICE TO SELL \$39,500.  
**106 ELDORADO DRIVE** 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath frame house. Needs some repair. Good location. \$24,000.  
**201 BLUEBONNET DR.** 3 or 2 Bedroom-1 Bath Home with utility room, carport, hardwood floor, energy efficient, fenced yard with attractive wood deck, storage building. Glendale Addition.  
**201 EAST HILL** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath manufacture home on corner lot. Completely fenced, double carport, central heat and air, outside storage, covered patio. Must see to appreciate. Only \$44,900.  
**COTTONWOOD ST.** - Attractive 3/BR, 2/BA manufactured home on large corner lot. Rock underpinning, metal carport, large metal shop, sprinkler system, shade trees. Call for details & prices.  
145.66 Acres about 17 miles WEST of Eldorado. 3 BR-2BA home approx. 1800 sq. ft., 2 water wells. Approx. 109 acres of cultivated fields, 37 acres of pasture, pens and grain storage. \$120,000.  
**PRICED REDUCED -1 - 2 acre tracts in Edgfield Addition.** City water available. Perfect for double wide locations. The 2 acre tract is priced at **\$2,800** Call for details.  
**COMMERCIAL:** Intersection of Hwy 277 & 190 (Formerly Hayloft Liquor Store) Good location and visibility on 2 major highways. Improvements in good condition with large walk-in cooler. **\$57,500.00.**  
Eldorado, Texas Call 325-853-2808

**Texas Department of Transportation**  
**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS**  
Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.  
**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)**  
Dist/Div: San Angelo  
Contract 0140-14-009 for RESTORATION OF EXISTING ROAD in CROCKETT County, etc will be opened on March 09, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.  
NPO: 12195  
State Office  
Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540  
Dist/Div Office(s)  
San Angelo District  
District Engineer  
4502 Knickerbocker Rd  
San Angelo, Texas 76904  
Phone: 325-944-1501  
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

**For Sale: '95 Chevrolet Shortbed** as is. FMI Call: 650-1052.07-08p  
**LOST-BLACK CAT**-With White Chest and White Paws. Call Topliffe's; Eldorado; 853-2870. 08p  
**For Sale: Refrigerator Side by Side;** Water & Ice Dispenser; White w/black trim. 5 Years Old. Good Condition. FMI Call 853-1273. 08p  
**1995 4X4 Sub.** -Loaded-New Leather Interior, Asking only \$7800.00. Call: 450-4620. 08-09p  
**Hay For Sale:** Near Eldorado; Big round bales \$35.00 each. FMI Call Martin Valis: Day 949-65411 or Nights after 7:00 p.m. 325-835-2199. 08-11p  
**Leather Sofa (Rose) and Leather Recliner (Burgandy)** for sale. Call 853-2707. 08b

**Gun Show - Ozona Fair Park Convention Civic Center.** 1301 Ave. AA, Ozona, Texas. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Buy - Sell - Trade. FMI Call: 361-364-3637, 361-548-2325 or 830-444-9673. 08b

**Employment**  
**Texaco Star Stop #5 Help Wanted:**  
Hours 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
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## Escalating natural gas prices lead to rate increase petition

HOUSTON — Due to nine percent increase in natural gas prices since February 2003, WTU Retail Energy L.P. filed a request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas late yesterday to raise the fuel factors included in its Price to Beat rate for customers. If approved, the changes will increase residential customers' bills approximately \$5.71 per month for usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours.

"Natural gas is the main source of fuel for the electricity we provide to our customers," said Don Whaley, president of WTU Retail

Energy. "Because of this, the price of natural gas greatly impacts the cost of electricity and the rate we must charge customers. The decision to apply for a fuel factor increase was not made lightly because we understand that a rate change impacts the lives of our customers. Any sustained change to natural gas prices, however, forces us to reevaluate our rates and occasionally adjust them in line with the natural gas market."

The Commission will rule on WTU Retail Energy's filing within 45 days.

**Keep your eye on the ball —** Middle School Tennis Coach Teresa Shirley demonstrates proper form for a group of new players and shows them how to move to the ball while keeping an eye on it. The young netters were on the courts Monday getting their first taste of tennis this year in preparation for the upcoming season.

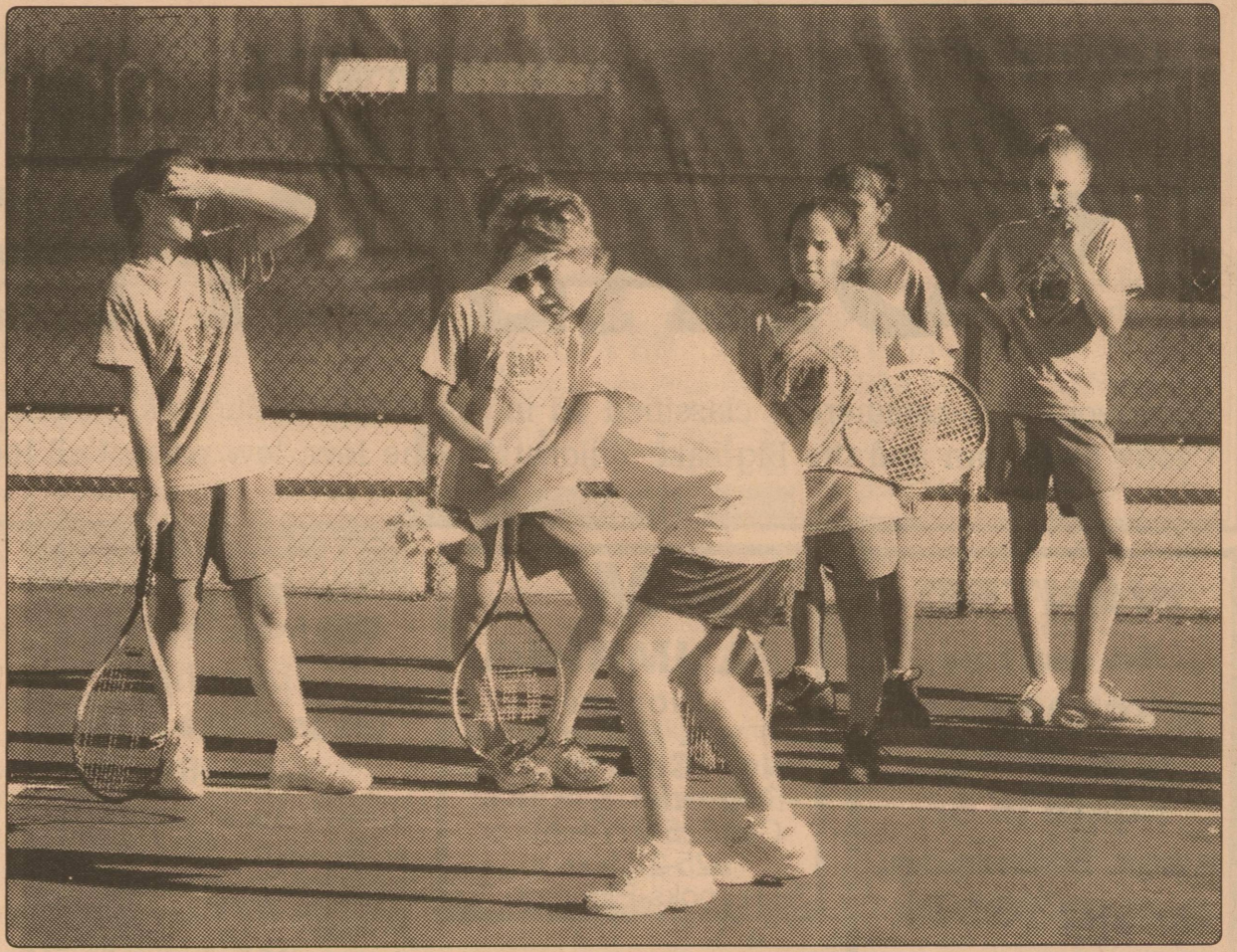


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## New 'Texas State Parks Pass' provides free entry, many extras

AUSTIN, Texas— Visitors heading to Texas state parks this spring will be greeted upon arrival with posters and park employees sporting lapel buttons that read: "All the Parks. Extra Perks" designed to call attention to a new annual parks pass.

The new Texas State Parks Pass provides free entry to all 120 state parks and historic sites for members and their guests, camping discounts and other benefits for a year.

The new parks pass, which sells for \$60, went on sale at state parks and historic sites Jan. 1. TPWD reports that more than 3,304 park passes were sold in January, generating more than \$200,000 for state parks' coffers. Annual sales of the new parks pass are projected to contribute a minimum of \$3 million to state park

operations.

"The per-person, per-day cost of coming into parks varies from \$2 to \$5 a person, so it doesn't take you very long or very many trips to pay for the pass," said Walt Dabney, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department state parks director. "All of the money from sales goes to help operate the state parks and further conservation in Texas. It also helps us maintain our parks so that the safe, quality experience visitors have come to expect when they visit state parks is perpetuated."

Similar in appearance to a credit card, the new annual pass retails for \$60 for one wallet-sized pass card. Families who often visit state parks and arrive at different times or in more than one vehicle may opt to make a same-day purchase of a two-card pass package for \$75.

The new annual pass was designed to be easier to use and to provide greater value to park users than the previous annual parks pass. Some of the Texas State Parks Pass' "extra perks" include:

- Discounts for camping, state park store merchandise, recreational equipment rentals and more.
- The Getaway Planner, a quarterly e-newsletter customized to the cardholder's areas of interest, such as mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding.
- 25 percent discount off the regular subscription price for *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine; (current subscribers received \$10 off the new parks pass).
- Free copy of the Texas State Park Guide.
- An "I Belong in State Parks" decorative decal for pass members.

The new parks pass replaces the gold Texas Conservation Passport, the sales of which were discontinued on Dec. 31. TCPs will still be honored a year from purchase through Dec. 31, 2004. Current TCP holders retain all prior benefits, with the exception of the printed Texas Passport Journal, which has been discontinued. The approximately 48,000 TCP holders will receive a \$10 discount off their first Texas State Parks Pass purchase and are eligible to register to receive the customized, e-newsletter.

Parks director Dabney says the new parks pass not only represents a great value for the money, but also addresses concerns expressed by TCP-holders, supports parks directly and builds customer loyalty. He noted that the new pass,

unlike the TCP, allows pass members and their guests not only to get into historic sites for free, but also allows them to tour the sites' featured attractions at no cost.

"The new Texas State Parks Pass is more user-friendly and a better all-around value for state park users."

The Texas State Parks Pass can be purchased at all 120 Texas state parks and historic sites and through TPWD's Customer Contact Center at (512) 389-8900.

Pass purchasers initially will receive a temporary wallet card that will be replaced within 30-45 days by a plastic card bearing the purchaser's name. Customized cards will be mailed in a special package that includes six discount coupons for camping, a Texas State Park Guide, a decorative decal and information on how to sign up for the "Getaway Planner" e-newsletter.

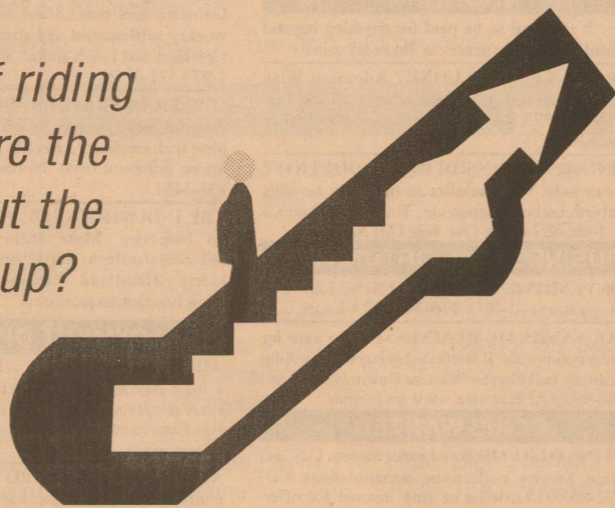
The new state parks pass is the result of more than a year of planning and development by working teams composed of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff and members of the private sector representing business, tourism and outdoor recreation interests. Seven Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners, including Chairman Joseph Fitzsimons, were among the early purchasers of the new annual pass.

For more information, visit the TPWD Web site: (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/parkpass/>) or call (800) 792-1112.

## Guess What?

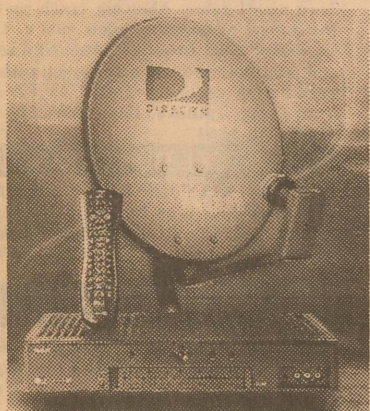
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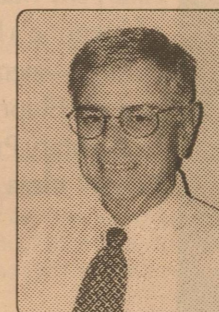
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## RRC to plug 223 oilwells

AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission Tuesday allotted \$386,100 from the Oil Field Cleanup Fund to plug 223 wells across three Texas counties.

In a unanimous decision, commissioners set aside the funds for five wells in Harris and Brazoria Counties and 218 wells in Bexar County.

"Our plugging of more than 200 shallow wells in Bexar County and others in Harris and Brazoria Counties is a continued focus on protecting our valuable natural resources," said Chairman Victor Carrillo. "In 2004, we continue the commitment of years passed to plug abandoned wells using the Oil Field Cleanup Fund."

The Harris and Brazoria County wells, ranging in depth from 5,280 feet to 5,567 feet, were under the operation of Brute Energy Corp. and W.R. Godsey with each well plugged at a cost between \$13,800 and \$23,800. All 218 wells in Bexar County were located in the Monksfield Field with an average depth of 421.25 feet and operated by Root Drilling Company and R.D. Oil Company.