

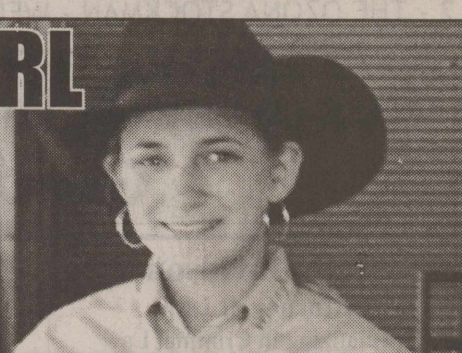
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## FIREWORKS TAKE CASH

Donations needed  
for annual event  
PAGE 5

## ALL-AROUND COWGIRL

Allie Black takes top honors in  
Texas Junior High Rodeo  
PAGE 6



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008

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10 PAGES IN ONE SECTION

VOLUME 96

NUMBER 21

50 CENTS

# TOBAR NOT GUILTY

## Pecos County jury acquits local commissioner

By **MELISSA PERNER**  
Editor and Publisher

FORT STOCKTON - Tears of joy, hugs of relief and a feeling of happiness hit the Tobar family as District Judge Dick Alcalá read the verdicts of not guilty.

After deliberating for two hours, a Pecos County Jury of 11 men and one woman returned the three not guilty verdicts for Crockett County Commissioner Alfredo Tobar, after a week-long trial in Fort Stockton.

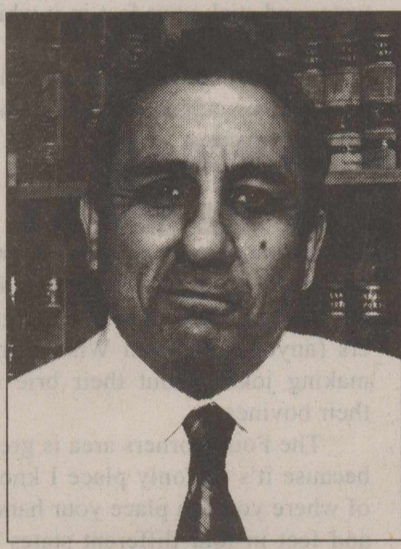
Tobar was charged with two counts of obstruction and one count of unlawful restraint.

"We are just happy it's over," Tobar said on the steps of the district court with building with his family surrounding him.

As the members of the jury left, Tobar and his family thank all of them and spoke to some of them about the case.

"They didn't believe he (Tobar) did it," said J.W. Johnson, Tobar's attorney about the jury. "This was the first time in two years we were able to tell our side of the story."

District Attorney Laurie English said she appreciates the earnest efforts and cooperation of the victims and their families in the prosecution of these cases. She also said the law enforcement did a great job investigating and assisting during the trial.



ALFREDO TOBAR

"The jury indicated to me and Mr. Johnson, after the trial, that they had a reasonable doubt," English said. "Their verdict means that our jury system is working as it was designed to do."

On June 12, the jury began deliberating the case around 3 p.m.

At 4:20 p.m., a written note was sent to Alcalá with a question from the jury. The question stemmed from clarification needed on the obstruction charge and the definition of a witness.

Alcalá said the only message he could give the jury was that they should read the charge given to them and that all required definitions were given in the charge. If a

definition is not in the charge, the jury should use the common definition of the word, Alcalá said.

At 4:32 p.m. the jury went back in to deliberate and then at 5 p.m. they gave the verdict.

The charges against Tobar stem from the night of July 28, 2006 and the early morning of July 29, 2006.

During the trial, several witnesses testified for both sides on the events that took place.

On that night, a birthday party was held at the Tobar residence for Alfredo Tobar Jr. who was turning 17.

Witnesses on both sides testified that there was alcohol at the birthday party. Those attending the party were Alfredo Tobar Jr., Lyndsie Crawford, Nick Perez and Rocky Munoz. Crawford and Perez were both 17 at the time and Munoz was 16.

At 11:30 p.m. that night, Tobar said he met Perez and Crawford at his front door and Crawford had a beer in her hand.

Tobar said he did not know

there had been a party going on at his house that night and that no beer is allowed at his residence. Tobar also said that his wife, Lisa, and he never drink alcohol.

Alfredo Tobar Jr. was passed out drunk in his bed upstairs. Beer had been poured on him in bed by those at the party.

Lisa Tobar testified that she knew there would be alcohol at the party, but that if her son was to be drinking she wanted him at home where he would be safe.

Lisa Tobar also said she watched the teenagers in the backyard from her bedroom window. She also said that her husband collects wine and that she keeps a bottle of vodka in her bedroom.

Around midnight, Tobar said he received a call from his other son T.J. Tobar stating that he had been in an accident and he needed to be picked up.

On the way out to the accident scene, Alfredo Tobar and his son Kenny Tobar were stopped by DPS Trooper Rito Renteria. Kenny Tobar

was driving and the trooper issued him a speeding ticket, Tobar said.

When the trooper asked where the men were going, Tobar said he told the trooper they were going to the Circle Bar Truck Stop for some hamburgers.

"I really didn't know my son had been in a major accident and the trooper didn't need to know where we were going," he said.

The men found T.J. Tobar, Perez and Crawford walking in the middle of the road toward the truck stop, Tobar said.

Tobar said T.J. Tobar told him the car was on fire and didn't his dad want to see it. Tobar said no he didn't and that they needed to go to the hospital.

T.J. Tobar told his dad that Munoz took off running after the accident because Munoz didn't want to get in trouble. On the way back to Interstate-10, Alfredo Tobar said they saw Munoz and picked him up.

Tobar said at the truck stop he called Perez's mother Sandra Perez and told her about the accident and

that they were taking the teenagers to the hospital.

When they arrived in Ozona, Tobar said he told the teenagers they needed to go to the hospital. Tobar said that Lyndsie said to take all of them back to the Tobar residence so she could pick up her vehicle, get Perez's mom and have her take them to the hospital.

"I'm in the middle of this. I don't know how hurt they are. I didn't know the other kids were there when my son called," Tobar said. "I didn't know what to do."

When Tobar showed up at the accident scene, Crawford said she asked him to take them to the emergency room.

Instead of taking them to the emergency room, Crawford said Tobar took them to his house to get "cleaned up first."

Crawford said that while Tobar did not physically restrain them, he refused to take them to the hospital until an hour after the accident happened.

Please see **TOBAR** page 5

## HEAT + GREASE = FIRE



Photo by Joe Hernandez

OZONA FIRE FIGHTERS ROLAND DE HOYOS and RYLEE RAMOS work to extinguish a fire at the 300 block of Avenue H on June 13. The fire was started when hot grease was poured in the backyard. Damage was to a fence and back porch and some damage to the outside back corner of house. Of note: this is a double wide home that replaced Mozelle Houston's home that burned at the same site 10 years ago in March 1998.

## School board to approve fencing bids for Lion Stadium

The Crockett County CCSD Board of Trustees will look at approving bids for a new fence at Lion Stadium, during tonight's, June 18, regular meeting.

The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building on 797 Avenue D.

During the May 21 meeting, the board approved a motion to seek bids for a limestone rock and rot iron fence at Lion Stadium.

The fence will be built at the north end zone of the stadium. It will consist of 6-foot limestone pillars with rot iron poles in between the pillars. Cost is estimated around \$40,000.

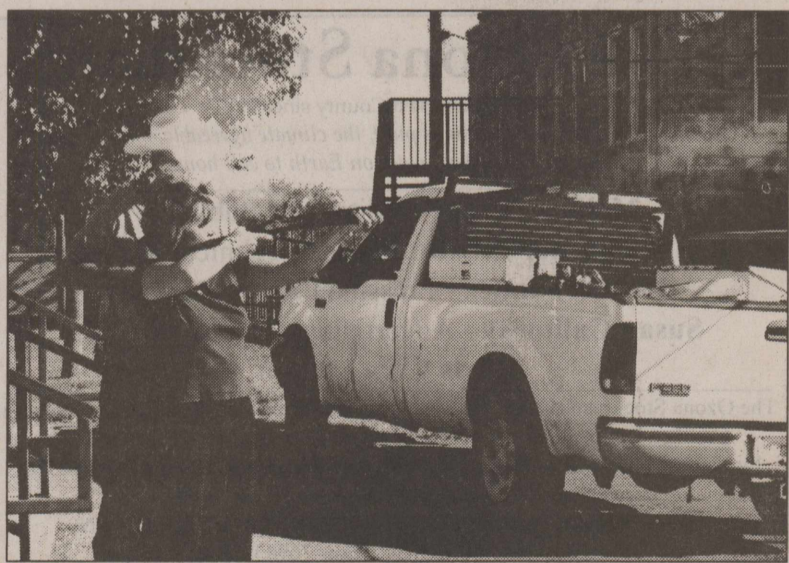
"We do not want a fence to block people's view. We just want a nice fence on the north end zone of the stadium," said Superintendent Abe Gott.

Also on the agenda:

- Proposals/bid approvals for gasoline products and athletic supplies.
- Approve bids to move two current portable buildings.
- Official delegate and alternate designation for the 2008 Texas Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly at the annual convention in Dallas.

- TASB Board Policy Update 83.
- Superintendent's report with personnel, enrollment and technology.
- Reports from maintenance and transportation, principals, directors, financial and technology.

## HISTORY HONORED WITH A BANG



Photos by Melissa Perner

TOP: **ABBIE HUBBARD**, with the help of Lynn Holland, fires "Old Betsy" a replica of David Crockett's rifle. BELOW: **HOLLAND** (center) was honored by the Crockett County Commissioners' Court during a special meeting Monday for his work to the rifle and for the original period powder horn and flintlock loading equipment to go with the rifle.

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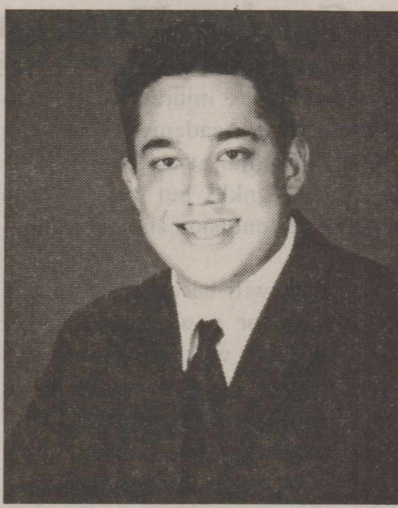
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Photo by Susan Calloway

**GINGER PERNER** (center) was the lucky bidder at the June 7 auction on the building that once housed Brown Furniture Company on Avenue E. Pictured with Ginger are (left to right) Ben Ross, long-time employee of Brown Furniture Company, and daughters of the late J.D. Brown Judy Hutcherson and Anita Salomonsky. The building is on the site of the former Kirkpatrick Hotel, which was owned by Mrs. John Kirkpatrick, also known as "Mammy Kirk." The hotel burned down in 1919. Ginger is the great-great granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick who owned the Kirkpatrick Hotel.



### Galvan named to Texas A&M Dean's List

Jason Elliott Galvan was recently recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement and named to The Dwight Look College of Engineering Dean's List for Spring 2008.

Jason is a senior at Texas A&M and is majoring in chemical engineering. He is currently interning with Celanese Acetate in Narrows, Va.

Jason is the son of John and Joyce Galvan of Richardson. He is the grandson of Coy and Edna Tambunga and Joe and Hilda Galvan of Ozona. Elena R. Tambunga of Ozona is Jason's great-grandmother.

### Carson families celebrate reunion

The Ira Carson and B. Carson families hosted the Carson Reunion on June 14 at the home of Bob and Vivian Childress.

There were 52 in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carson traveled the farthest from Kentucky.

The Carson Family originated on a farm near Burnet, Texas.



### Larry and Sue Arledge celebrate 60th wedding anniversary

Larry and Sue (Harvey) Arledge celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 7, 2008 in Granbury, Texas.

The event was also the annual Colburn Cousins Reunion. The highlight of the evening was a trip to the Starlight Music Theater featuring the music of Marty Robbins, Etta James, The Temptations, Patsy Cline and a special performance by Elvis.

Larry and Sue were married on June 7, 1948 in Del Rio, Texas. Sue is the daughter of Phil and Winnie (Flowers) Harvey. Larry is the son of W.A. and Eva (Sessom) Arledge.

Larry and Sue have lived in Pandale and Ozona where Larry ranches and Sue is a homemaker.

The couple have three daughters: Debra and husband Joe Brown and Lara Sue and husband Penn Bagget, both of Ozona and Leanne and husband Bill Higgins of Eldorado. They also have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Community Calendar

### Wednesday, June 18

- Exercise Classes, 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- CCCCS Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building.

### Thursday, June 19

- Summer Reading Program, 10-11 a.m. children 6-12; 11 a.m.-noon children 3-5 at the Crockett County Public Library.
- Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting, 11 a.m. at the Visitor Center.
- Ladies bridge, 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Ozona All-Stars baseball tournament at the baseball fields.

### Friday, June 20

- First day of Summer
- Exercise Classes, 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Ozona All-Stars baseball tournament at the baseball fields.

### Saturday, June 21

- Ozona All-Stars baseball tournament at the baseball fields.

### Monday, June 23

- Exercise Classes, 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Summer Reading Program, 10-11 a.m. children 6-12; 11 a.m.-noon children 3-5 at the Crockett County Public Library.
- Ladies bridge, 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

### Wednesday, June 25

- Exercise Classes, 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

## Happy Birthday

**June 18** - Nancy Ayala, Jon De la Maness, Jean Conner and Andrew Galindo

**June 19** - Stan Najjar, Isaura Lopez, Geniece Childress, Chase Clark, Elaine Castro and Lanell Garcia

**June 20** - Stanton Najjar, Sylvia L. Unate, Joe Ybarra, Rick Bachman, Emily Stuart and Carla Barrera

**June 21** - Ray Chadwick, Mahly Elizondo, Karin Childress, Steven Dorrough

**June 22** - Megan Vasquez, Pau-

**Ozona Lodge #747**  
A.F. & A.M.  
Regular meeting on 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**June 23** - Riley Kirsten Wilson, Louise Taliaferro

**June 24** - E. Jason Vitela, Tiffany Villarreal, Ryan Cooper, Monica Fernandez, Alexandra Lozano and Miguel Vergara

To add a name to the birthday list, call 392-2551

Marie Pierce  
bride-elect of Joel Barrett

Kari Purvis  
bride-elect of Clay Hale

has made selections at  
**Petals & Pearls**  
701 1st St.  
392-3978

**Got News?**  
E-mail The Stockman  
publisher@ozonastockman.com

**OUTZKIRTS** By: David & Doreen Dotson





# Allie Black named All-Around Junior High Rodeo Champion

Resistol Hats of Garland and the National High School Rodeo Association Wrangler Division is proud to announce that Allie Claire Black was recently named the girl's All-Around Champion for the year by the Texas Junior High Rodeo Association.

To earn this honor, Black, a seventh grade student at Ozona Middle School, accumulated more points in two or more events than any other female Texas Junior High Rodeo members for the 2007-2008 rodeo season, which ended with the recent Texas Junior High Rodeo finals held in Gonzales, Texas.

For being named the All-Around Champion, Black was awarded numerous prizes as well as a new Resistol felt hat.

Black was named State Champion Barrel Racer. She also won five go around and average buckles in the breakaway roping, goat tying and barrels. She was sixth in state in goat tying and eighth in state in breakaway roping.

Along with being named All-Around Champion, Black, has earned a position on the Texas Wrangler Junior High rodeo team and will be traveling with fellow teammates to Gallup, N.M. from June 30 - July 5 to compete at the 4th annual Wrangler Junior High Finals Rodeo national event (WJHR).

Featuring more than 1,000 contestants from 47 states, Canadian provinces and Australia the Wrangler Junior High Finals is the world's largest junior high rodeo.

In addition, to competing for more than \$75,000 in prizes,



Submitted photo

**ALLIE BLACK** was named the girl's All-Around Champion for the year by the Texas Junior High Rodeo Association. She was also the State Champion Barrel Racer at the Texas Junior High Rodeo finals held in Gonzales, Texas. Black has qualified for the Texas Wrangler Junior High rodeo team and will compete in the 4th annual Wrangler Junior High Finals Rodeo national event June 30-July 5 in Gallup, N.M.

WJHR contestants will also be vying for more than \$50,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named the Wrangler Junior High Finals Rodeo National Champion.

To earn this title, contestants must finish in the top 15 after

two go-rounds of intense competition before advancing on to Saturday's final championship performance.

Again, this year, the Saturday championship performance will be televised nationally as a part of the "20x Rodeo High" tele-

cast series.

The WJHR is scheduled to air RFD TV. To check the broadcast schedule, visit <http://nhsrawranglerdivision.com>.

For more information, call 1-800-590-1302 or visit [www.nhsra.org](http://www.nhsra.org).

## OIS TAKS Commended Performance

**FIFTH GRADE** - Justice Adkins, reading, math-perfect score and science; Angel Aguilar, math; Alexis Aguilar, math; Wade Allen, math-perfect score and science; Justin Badillo, math and science; Harrison Gott, reading, math-perfect score and science; Victoria Grannis, reading, math and science; Aliyah Guerra, reading-perfect score and math; Bryce Gutierrez, reading, math-perfect score and science; Kirslynn Harris, math; Marissa Held, math; Michael Hill, reading, math and science; Brianna Lozano, reading; Meissa Lozano, math; Jadie Marshall, reading and science; Janna Munsell, reading; Ben Nelms, reading; Lazaro Olivares, math; Cole Parker, science-perfect score;

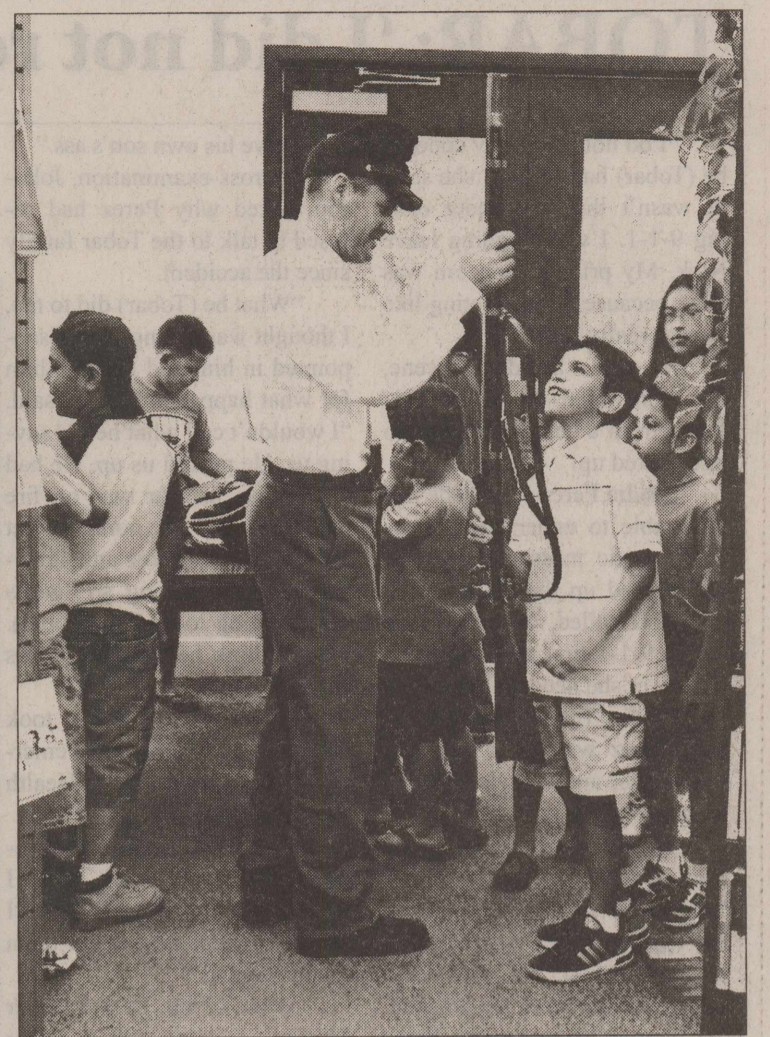
Jon-Luke Rodriguez, math; Leonel Rodriguez, math; Yeni Rodriguez, math and science; Alan Salazar, reading, math and science; Nathaniel Valdes, math; Dalan Wilson, math and science-perfect score and Dylan Wynns, reading and math.

**FOURTH GRADE** - Anne Adames, writing; Narda Aguilar, reading, math and writing; Ben Badillo, math; Phillip Benson, math; Kimberly Borrego, math and writing; Madison Childress, reading and writing; Mitchel Cox, math-perfect score and writing; Ricardo Damian, math and writing; John Garza, math; Christina Hernandez, reading; Alex Hopper, reading, math-perfect score and writing-perfect score; Dakota Lee, math

and writing; Gina Marquez, math; Bryce Martin, writing-perfect score; Maria Mejia, reading-perfect score; math-perfect score and writing; Lauren Miles, reading and writing; Jeremy Munoz, writing-perfect score; Alyssa Newlin, math and writing; Jose Ojeda, reading and math; Kalen Perez, writing; April Ramos, writing; Belinda Rodriguez, writing; Caitlin Rodriguez, writing-perfect score; Dulce Rodriguez, math and writing; Reno Thomas, reading, math and writing-perfect score; Estefania Torralba, reading-perfect score and writing; Duston Vargas, reading, math and writing; Nereyda Vega, math; Juan Venegas, writing; Kevin Villarreal, writing-perfect score and

Dalton Weddle, math.

**THIRD GRADE** - Victor Aviles, reading; Jahnvi Bhakta, reading-perfect score; Kristen Fleming, reading; Madison Galindo, reading-perfect; Abby Gott, reading and math; Garry Held, reading; Maiah Jurado, reading; Trace Justiss, reading; Asia Lara, reading-perfect score and math; Jennifer Lewis, reading; Kamryn Lozano, reading-perfect score; Caleb Martinez, reading; Jose Martinez, reading-perfect score and math; Jadon Perez, reading; Jonathan Posas, reading and math; Azaylea Tovar, reading; Autumn Villarreal, reading-perfect score; Thomas Cruz, math; Julie Marshall, reading and math and Elizabeth Rodriguez, math.



Submitted photo by Louise Ledoux

**FORT LANCASTER CURATOR KINLEY COYAN** shows off his rifle to some of the student readers during the June 12 reading program at the Crockett County Public Library. Coyan presented a program on fort life, history and ongoing activities at the site.

## Intermediate Honor Roll

**A HONOR ROLL**

**Third Grade** - Jahnvi Bhakta, Abby Gott, Garry Held, Asia Lara, Kamryn Lozano, Julie Marshall, Rachel Mendoza and Jonathan Posas

**Fourth Grade** - Narda Aguilar, Kimberly Borrego, Mitchel Cox, Ricardo Damian, Alex Hopper, Dakota Lee, Gina Marquez, Jeremy Munoz, Jose Ojeda, Kalen Perez, Estefania Torralba, Duston Vargas and Kevin Villarreal

**Fifth Grade** - Justice Adkins, Wade Allen, Harrison Gott, Bryce Gutierrez, Jadie Marshall, Jon-Luke Rodriguez, Yeni Rodriguez, Alan Salazar, Nathaniel Valdes and Dalan Wilson

**A-B HONOR ROLL**

**Third Grade** - Thomas Cruz, Henry Fay, Madison Galindo, Cora Harrison, Madyson Hubbard, Maiah Juado, Jennifer Lewis, Timothy Maldonado, Caleb Martinez, Jose Martinez, Anthony Perez, Jadon Perez, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Kelly

Sewell, Kabir Shah, Jasmine Talamantez and Azaylea Tovar.

**Fourth Grade** - Adison Aaron, Joseph Absher, Annie Adames, Benito Badillo, Rikki Chavez, Madison Childress, Michael Fay, Kristen Fierro, John Garza, John Gomez, Maria Guerrero, Cristina Hernandez, Felipe Irlas, Alan Landa, William Martin, Lauren Miles, Alyssa Newlin, April Ramoz, Alondra Rodriguez, Belinda Rodriguez, Dulce Rodriguez, Jimmy Sellers, Reno Thomas, Ashley Vargas, Megan Vasquez, Nereyda Vega, Juan Venegas and William Whitten

**Fifth Grade** - Angel Aguilar, Justin Badillo, Megan Bullard, Meagan Espinosa, Victoria Grannis, Aliyah Guerra, Marissa Held, Melissa Lozano, Alexis Perez, Ricardo Porras, Ryan Porras, Tanya Reed, Juan Rodriguez, Leonel Rodriguez, Maira Rodriguez, Nydia Valdes, Tammy Weddle and Dylan Wynns

### Youth Center Calendar of Events June 23 - OHS Food Night 7-10 p.m. Effective Aug. 1 - • Graduated Seniors, or persons 18 years of age or older, memberships have expired • 6th Graders entering the 7th Grade may attend the Youth Center during Middle School times • 8th Graders entering the 9th Grade may attend the Youth Center with the High School

**Middle School Hours:**  
7-10 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday  
2-7 p.m. Wednesday

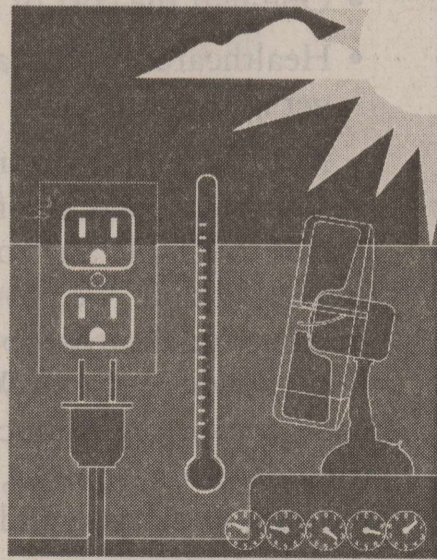
**High School Hours:**  
7-10 p.m. Monday and Wednesday  
2-7 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday  
2-10 p.m. Thursday  
2-midnight Friday

## Connect to Energy Savings

AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for over 90 years, **AEP Texas** knows a thing or two about energy conservation. While we no longer sell electricity or send out monthly electric bills, we recognize hot weather is just around the corner.

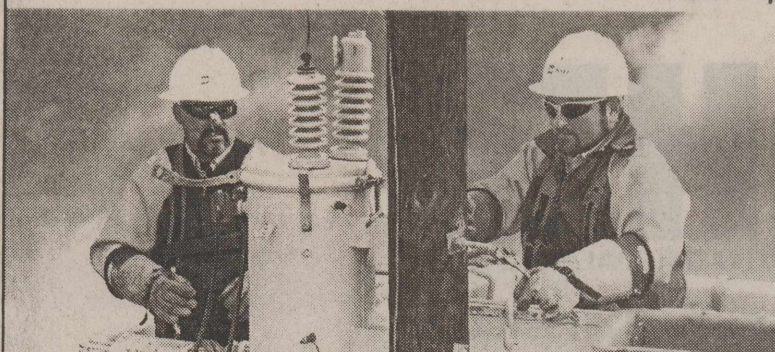
Since **AEP Texas** and its 1,700 employees are directly connected to the many communities we live in and serve, we'd like to share some low or no cost tips with you on how to keep cooler while saving energy and money.

- Set air-conditioning thermostats to the highest possible comfortable setting and dress accordingly.
- Turn off every appliance you are not using including lights, televisions and radios. Use the "sleep" feature on your computer equipment.
- Only cool rooms that you use. Close vents and doors in unused rooms. Be sure to close closet doors.
- Check your air-conditioning filter every month and replace as needed.
- Keep windows that let the sun in covered when the sun is shining on them.
- Weather strip and caulk around windows and doors to prevent drafts.
- Close your fireplace damper when the fireplace is not being used.
- Use fans to help circulate the air in your house.
- Air-dry dishes in the dishwasher.
- Lower the temperature on your hot water heater to warm during the summer, take short showers and wash only full loads of clothes in the laundry.

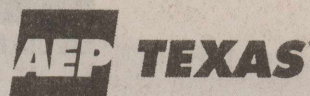


It's important to remember that if you're having trouble paying your electric bill, call your retail energy provider (REP) at the number listed on your current electric bill to avoid disconnection.

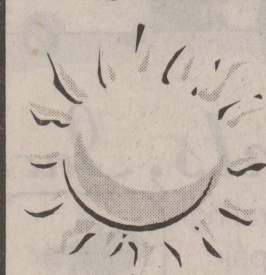
[www.aeptexas.com](http://www.aeptexas.com)



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## IT'S TIME TO SUMMERIZE!



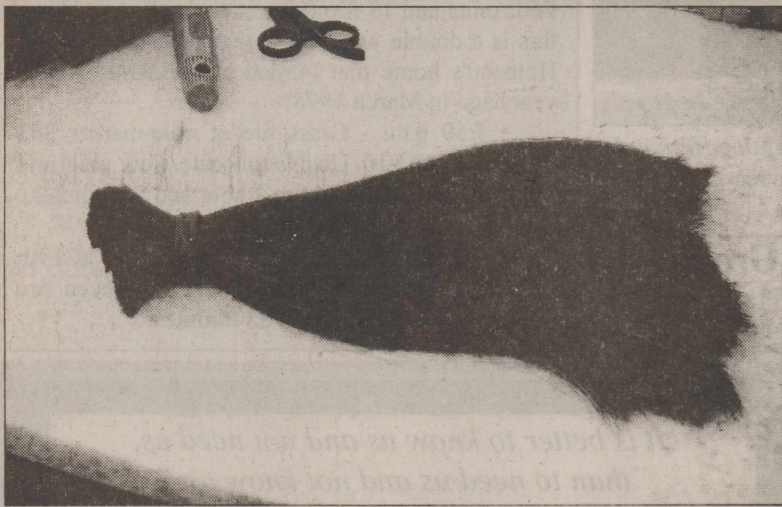
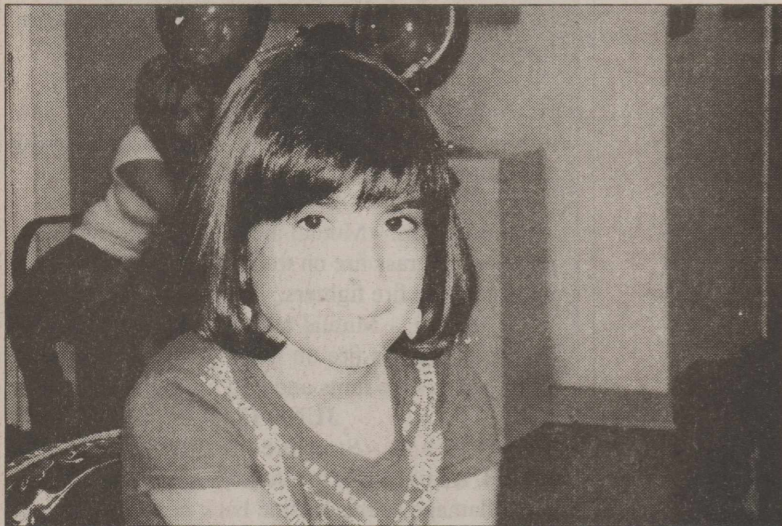
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For all you HVAC and Electrical needs.  
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Whatever it takes.

# LOCKS OF LOVE



Submitted photos

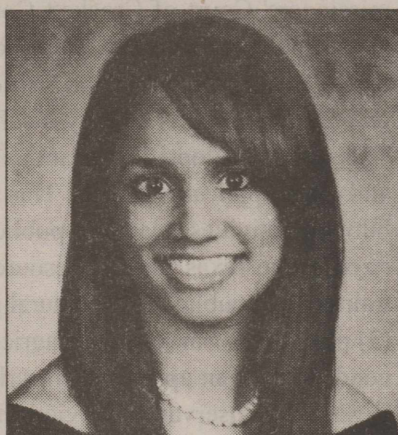
**AUDREY GANDAR** gets her haircut at Regis in San Angelo and donated her hair to Locks of Love, a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Eight-year-old Audrey has been growing her hair for two years and plans on donating again in another two years.

## Bhakta recipient of Robert C. Byrd Honor Scholarship Program

The Texas Higher Education Board is pleased to announce that one of the recipients for the Robert C. Byrd Honor Scholarship Program is Ozona High School Senior, Puja Bhakta.

The United State Congress created the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program for the purpose of promoting student excellence and achievement and to recognize exceptionally able students who show promise of continued excellence. The program is highly competitive; the Coordination Board received over 2,000 applications while only 505 awards were made. This scholarship may be awarded for a total period of up to four consecutive years.

Puja, the daughter of Mr. and



Mrs. J.R. Bhakta, will be attending St. Mary's University in San Antonio this fall. She has been accepted into the Honors Program where she will pursue a pre-med degree.

## USDA celebrates National Home Ownership Month

Submitted by Randy Verner  
USDA-Rural Development

Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr today highlighted June 2008 as National Homeownership Month.

Owning a home gives families security, a sense of pride, and is an important part of the American way of life.

Patrick and Cynthia Hariman know the problems with finding a home to fit their needs in Eldorado.

They had been looking for three years to find a place for their family of nine.

With the help of First Mortgage and the USDA Rural Development Guaranteed Loan Program, the process was suddenly so easy they couldn't believe how quickly they were given the keys to their new home.

"Helping rural citizens acquire a home is a key part of our mission," Dorr said. "Homeownership is an important investment for individuals and families and serves as a catalyst for strong, stable communities. USDA is proud to offer programs that increase homeownership opportunities in our rural communities."

"USDA Rural Development and its lending partners help guarantee home loans in rural communities across Texas. We work closely not only with lending institutions, but with prospective borrowers who are

## 'My Favorite Thing About West Texas', letters being sought for CBS Early Show

Submitted by the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Midland Convention and Visitors Bureau, Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce, and Texas Mountain Trail Region has created a 15-second commercial airing on Neutron Media's CBS "Super Screen" in the heart of Times Square in New York City right across from the nation's busiest bus terminal.

This commercial promotes West Texas as a tourism destination and began airing May 3, and will run through August 4.

It is estimated that 1.2 million people pass this location daily and approximately 20 percent of the 1.2 million are international visitors.

The commercial will be aired a minimum of 3,312 times within the 92-day time period.

In connection with this ad, the Midland CVB is encouraging all citizens of West Texas (as well as people who like to travel to West Texas) to write letters to the CBS Early Show producer, Mr. Rick Kaplan, telling him their favorite thing about West Texas.

For example, this could be your favorite hiking spot, your favorite museum, your favorite place to get a margarita, your favorite place to watch the sunset, your favorite

taking steps to purchase homes," said Scooter Brockette, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director.

This year's Homeownership Month highlights the close partnership of USDA Rural Development with partner organizations through financial and technical assistance by direct and guaranteed loan programs.

Mortgage brokers, real estate professionals, and approved lenders participating in the guaranteed loan program are recognized for the tremendous job they have done in assisting 1,398 families become homeowners across Texas this year.

Their efforts have contributed over \$134 million to the housing market.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

Rural Development has invested more than \$98 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.

For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, call the Ozona office at (325) 392-2301 ext. 4 or visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

event...the possibilities are endless.

To add extra impact to the letter, the Midland CVB suggests that the writer include a photo of his or herself holding a sign that reads "My Favorite Thing About West Texas" while in front of or doing his or her favorite thing.

The sign can be downloaded from [www.WestTexasTrip.com](http://www.WestTexasTrip.com) under the "local favorites" tab.

Please mail letters to: Mr. Rick Kaplan, The Early Show, 524 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019, or e-mail to: [earlyshow@pbs.com](mailto:earlyshow@pbs.com).

Letters must be postmarked by June 30, 2008.

A copy of each letter and photo should also be sent to: West Texas Trip, c/o Midland CVB, 109 N Main, Midland, TX 79701 or e-mail [Brenda@visitmidlandtx.com](mailto:Brenda@visitmidlandtx.com) for possible posting on [WestTexasTrip.com](http://WestTexasTrip.com).

Instructions and examples of letters can be found at <http://www.westtexasrip.com/localfav.html>.

For more information, please contact Brenda Kissko at (432) 686-3567.

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**Dates: June 23-27**  
**Time:**  
**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Place:**  
**Crockett Co. Pool**



**Ages: 7 & Older**  
**Price: \$30**  
for the week per child  
**Dates:**  
**June 30 - July 4**  
**Time:**  
**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Place:**  
**Crockett Co. Pool**

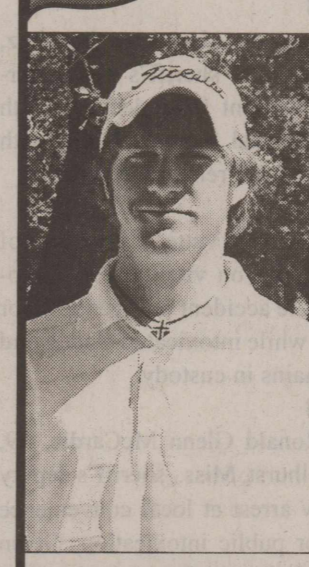
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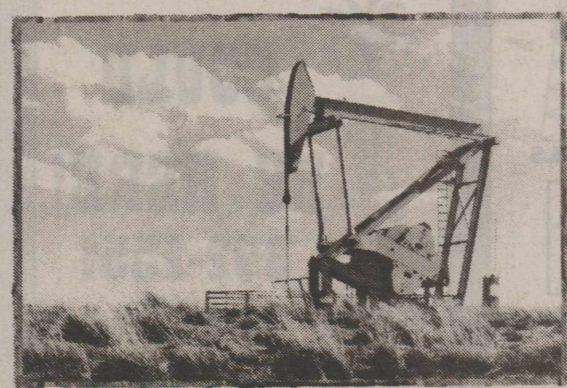
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