

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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FLDS company cited for violating child labor laws

The U.S. Department of Labor obtained a permanent injunction recently against Paragon Contractors of Hildale, Utah, after repeated violations of federal child labor laws. The injunction, issued by U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell prohibits the company from employing any underage workers.

Hildale is home to thousands of members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a polygamous sect that broke away from the mainstream Mormon church decades ago.

Many of the group are relocating to Schleicher County, Texas where followers loyal to jailed FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs have built a small town, complete with massive white limestone temple on the YFZ Ranch, some four miles north-northeast of Eldorado.

Paragon Contractors is owned by James and Brian Jessop. The men are said to be loyal followers of Warren Jeffs. They are also nephews of Merrill Jessop, the man who oversees day-to-day operations at the YFZ Ranch.

Calls to Paragon's office in Hildale drew no comments on the story.

Paragon was recently fined \$5,280.00 after a 16-year-old was discovered working for the company on a roofing job. In 2006 the company paid a \$10,395.00 fine and was ordered to pay \$3,296.00 in back wages for minimum wage violations. That case involved children as

young as 12 and 13 who were found to be working on another roofing job.

The Labor Department's youth employment regulations identify 17 hazardous occupations prohibited for workers under the age of 18, including roofing and operating dangerous equipment such as power-driven circular saws, band saws and guillotine shears.

Judge Campbell ruled that Paragon be permanently prohibited from violating provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act that include prohibiting the hiring of children under age 14 to perform any type of work or hiring children and teenagers under 16 to work on construction sites.

The use of child labor by FLDS companies has long been cited by anti-polygamy activists as a reason why state and federal authorities should closely monitor activities within FLDS communities such as the YFZ Ranch.

In 2004, R&W Excavating, another FLDS controlled company, was fined \$6,000.00 for violating Utah's child labor laws.

And, there has been evidence of child labor being used at the YFZ Ranch, specifically, aerial photographs showing young children working on various projects, even roofing. (see photo at right)

Authorities say they will continue to investigate alleged abuse of state and federal child labor laws, whether they occur in Utah, South Dakota or Texas.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

A close look at this photo taken in April, 2007 above the YFZ Ranch reveals a young child standing on a platform of the forks of a Sky Trak telescoping forklift, more than 20 feet above the ground. The child appears to be operating the hoist mechanism from the platform. There is no other operator visible in this, or other photos taken at the time. It also appears that there are roof repairs being carried out on the 3-story home.

Wildfires, high winds combine to char 2,500+ acres southeast of Eldorado

Firefighters from across the area converged on southeast Schleicher County on Monday, less than a week after Texas Governor Rick Perry issued a disaster declaration for 152 counties, including Schleicher, Sutton, Menard and Kimble, in response to the threat posed by wildfires.

The culprit was a blaze, sparked by power line on the Griffin Ranch. Units of the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department responded but found themselves out matched as high winds drove the fire north and east onto the Mertz Ranch.

Fire Chief Jerry Jones soon called for assistance from area fire departments and units responded from Sonora, Menard, Ft. McKavett, Ozona and Wall. Tanker trucks from Niblett's Oilfield Service and JMC Transports hauled water to the scene. An aircraft was also dispatched by the Texas Forest Service.

"It looks like it started early Monday morning," Sheriff David Doran said of the fire. He noted that foggy weather likely contributed to a fire on an electrical power pole which smoldered until a cross arm burned into.

"That's when the electricity went off here in town," Doran said.

By that time, the first fire units had been dispatched from Eldorado. Firefighters battled the blaze into the early evening hours when the fire finally came under control.

Firefighters were called back out Tuesday afternoon as northerly winds whipped fires on the Old Ft. McKavett Road on the Nicholas Ranch and near the intersection of FM 864 and McIntosh Road in Sutton County. Local units were dispatched into Sutton county to assist the Sonora VFD with that blaze.

For his part, Fire Chief Jerry Jones expressed his appreciation to those departments who came to assist with the fire on Monday. He also asked that local citizens be mindful of the dry conditions and to remember that a burn ban remains in place in Schleicher County.



NOTICE
County-wide Burn Ban
remains in effect!



COURTESY PHOTO

Firefighters battled a blaze Monday on the Mertz Ranch south, southeast of Eldorado. High winds and dry conditions combined to feed the flames which charred some 2,000 acres before volunteers managed to surround the blaze. More fires were reported Tuesday afternoon, putting a strain on already exhausted firefighters.

Gov. Perry reappoints Edmiston to Texas Animal Health Commission

Ernie Morales named as TAHC presiding officer

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry reappointed Dr. William Edmiston, Jr. of Eldorado to the board of directors of the Texas Animal Health Commission. The new term will expire in 2013.

Edmiston is a rancher and veterinarian and owner of Eldorado Animal Clinic. Edmiston is president of the Texas scrapie Certification Board. He is also a member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and past president of the Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board. He was named Outstanding Conservationist of 1999 by the Eldorado Soil and Water Conservation District. He earned a bachelor's degree at Texas A&M University and a doctorate of veterinary medicine at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine.

Ernie Morales of Devine was named presiding officer of the Texas Animal Health Commission for a term to expire at the pleasure of the governor. Morales is co-owner of Morales Feed Lots Inc. He is currently on the board of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and past chairman of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. Additionally, he is a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and past member of the Cattlemen's Beef Board. He received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. He replaces Richard C. Traylor of Carrizo Springs.

Others named to the board include Randy Chris Brown of Lubbock. He is a vice president of City Bank Texas, past board member of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, serving on its Arbitration Committee and past board member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Additionally, Brown

is past vice chairman and past director of the Hansford County Appraisal District, and past president of the Gruver Independent School District. He received a bachelor's degree in Animal Business from Texas State Technical College. He replaces Rogelio Martinez of McAllen.

Ken Jordan of San Saba is owner and operator of Jordan Cattle Auctions. He is past president of the Texas Livestock Marketing Association and vice president of the San Saba Businessmen's League. He is also a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Livestock Marketing Council. Jordan received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. He replaces Richard C. Traylor of Carrizo Spring.

Mark A. Wheelis of Victoria is general ranch manager of D.H. Braman Jr. Ranches where he oversees marketing, public affairs and business management. He is a director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and a director of National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He is also a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, Texas Wildlife Association and Texas Cattle Feeders Association. Additionally, he operates a personal cow-calf business. Wheelis received a bachelor's degree from Sul Ross State University. He replaces Jerry P. Windham of College Station.

R. W. (Dick) Winters Jr. of Brady is a general partner and manager of Winters Livestock and Land. He is a board member of the Exotic Wildlife Association and Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers. He is also a committee member

SEE TAHC ON PAGE 8

Money For Nothing, Rings For Free

How Texas' USF Gives Big-Telecom Access To Your Wallet

by Michael Quinn Sullivan

Texas taxpayers are a generous lot. Just ask the good folks at Windstream Communications, who state bureaucrats say improperly received more than \$6 million from Texans over the last seven years. Operating then under the name Valor Telecommunications, the company is accused by regulators of taking advantage of the outdated, unaccountable Texas Universal Service Fund — one of the dizzying array of fees and charges on your monthly phone bill.



Commentary

by Michael Quinn Sullivan

Windstream strenuously maintains that they have done nothing wrong.

The Texas Public Utilities Commission is investigating the Windstream case, with state commissioners looking at charging the company more than \$12 million for the alleged overpayments plus interest and penalties.

The problem isn't with this particular company, but the USF in general. Originally designed decades ago, when land-line telephones were cutting edge technology, to ensure that even folks in the most remote portions of the state have telephone access. Phone customers are required to pay the fee, which is theoretically used to provide service in hard-to-reach areas and for customers with other challenging situations.

In reality, the USF has become little more than a cash-cow for telephone companies needing to shore up their bottom-line. The funds are disbursed with almost no accountability, and the telephone companies need only turn in a one-page form that contains no background information and no proof of having actually rendered service. Not a bad day: fill out a form, and get millions in taxpayer cash without so much as a pesky question.

The telecommunications business is vastly different today than it was just a decade ago — and almost unrecognizable from the sector as recently as the 1970s. Increasing numbers of families don't even have a land-line, preferring the ease of cell phones, while others use voice-over-internet services, satellite phones, and cable-lines to make the home phone ring.

It's abundantly clear that the telecom business has changed, but the USF remains stuck in telephony's dark ages.

In the Windstream case, it is alleged that the company was "double-dipping" by getting monies from both the federal and state USF pots — never mind that the money all comes from the phone customers pocket. When government gives corporations unfettered access to the taxpayers' wallets, in the form of mandated fees, without any true oversight or accountability, we're just asking for fraud and abuse.

Obviously cases of overt mis-payment and fraud must be pursued, but for the health of the state's economy, and the good of Texas' taxpayers, lawmakers should seek to reform the USF. Heck, it might even be time just to hang-up on it.

Michael Quinn Sullivan is president of Texans for Fiscal Responsibility (www.EmpowerTexans.com).

Fried Rice Adventure

Laura on Life

by Laura Snyder



My husband is a good man. In fact, I'd say he's the best man, but at our wedding that title was given to someone else. Shouldn't the bride be marrying the "best" man? Is the groom the sorry second-best? That isn't right.

Well, no matter what my husband was called at our wedding, I still consider him to be pretty darn good.

We have the usual arguments over balled-up socks under the sofa and who should have control of the remote, but all-in-all, life is pretty decent with him around.

Sometimes when he gets creative, he likes to make dinner. Usually, it's something he's had at a restaurant that he'll try to recreate.

I used to do that, but it turned out wrong so many times that I consider it a waste of time now. I can barely turn out the meals that I know how to cook much less new ones. Cooking is just something I'm not good at.

My husband, though, is intrepid. Last week, we went to a Thai restaurant and he tasted their fried rice. From then on, he was unreasonably obsessed with it. Maybe it was the MSG or something, but he kept saying "We could make this, couldn't we?" When he says "we" he means me. At first, he had no intention of attempting Thai fried rice by himself, so he tried to instill a sufficient amount of enthusiasm in me for Thai fried rice so that I would give it a try.

After being married to the man for almost 27 years, I'm wise to his

ways. My answer was always "I'd rather just go to the Thai restaurant and order it." After all, I'm not from Thailand. What would I know about cooking Thai fried rice? I don't even own a wok. My experience in cooking is so limited, I'm not even sure if I'd need a wok.

My husband's enthusiasm-instilling techniques included downloading recipes off the internet for Thai fried rice. He brought me a dozen different recipes under the guise of asking my opinion. "Which is the best one?" he asked.

I acted dumb (something I am good at). "They all list fish sauce in the ingredients. Fried rice doesn't taste like fish does it?"

"No, but they all have it, so it must be necessary," he said logically.

"Well, I'd rather go to the Thai restaurant and order it."

The next day he asked, "Where do you think we can get fish sauce?"

I acted dumb. "I don't know... Thailand?"

He ran off to the store to find some fish sauce. I could've told him he wouldn't find it at the first store he tried, or the second, but if I gave any indication of intelligence on the matter, he'd have "volunteered" me to go get it.

Coming home with the prized fish sauce, he proceeded to make his fried rice. Apparently, you have to make the rice a day or two in advance. He made a double batch, because he was assuming — and, if you ask me, it was a huge assumption — that it was going to be delicious. My otherwise brilliant husband didn't think about the fact that we didn't have a wok and our frying pan wouldn't hold six cups of rice much less the added fish sauce and such.

I was laboring over a crossword puzzle when I caught the overwhelming smell of dead fish. You know that unmistakable stench that put me in mind of walking along a beach after a storm when the sea birds had had a chance to pull the innards out of the beached sea life...only this smell was coming from my kitchen.

My husband came in the room looking like he does after he'd just puked and said, "So, where do you want to go to dinner?"

I smiled and said, "How about the Thai restaurant?"

He turned a little green, "I may never eat Thai food again!"

After we'd cleaned up the mess that resulted from frying six cups of rice in a one quart frying pan, we went to McDonald's for dinner.

He is a good man. Maybe not the "best" man, but I love him just the same.

You can reach Laura at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more columns and info about her books.

Education agency to initiate TAKS anti-cheating measures

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — The Texas Education Agency announced Jan. 25 its plans to add security measures in administering the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.



RANDOM test monitoring, seating charts and scrambling the order of field test items on exams are among more than a dozen steps to be taken this school year, said Education Commissioner Robert Scott.

Some steps are supposed to make TAKS tests more resistant to cheating.

Other steps are designed to provide more information that can be used in investigations if allegations of testing irregularities arise.

One measure, for example, is to ask students in grades 9, 10 and 11, prior to taking tests, to sign a statement promising not to cheat.

TAKS measures reading at grades 3 through 9; writing at grades 4 and 7; English language arts at grades 10 and 11; mathematics at grades 3 through 11; science at grades 5, 10 and 11; and social studies at grades 8, 10 and 11.

Satisfactory performance on TAKS at grade 11 is a prerequisite to a high school diploma.

Panel to focus on accountability
Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick jointly appointed members to the Select Committee on Public School Accountability.

SB 1031, passed last year during the 80th session of the Texas Legislature, required the creation of the select committee.

SB 1031 also changed the state's method of assessing high school student performance by moving from high-stakes exit-level tests to end-of-course examinations.

Committee appointees, who will study the issues and work on ways to achieve the goal of SB 1031, are:

Math teacher Susan Lewis, Northside Independent School District, San Antonio; Principal Dalia Benavides, South Elementary School, Midland Independent School District; Superintendent David Splitak, Lackland Independent School District, San Antonio; Superintendent Thomas Randle, Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, Rosenberg; and Deputy Superintendent Beto Gonzalez, Brownsville Independent School District.

Also, Ron Steinhart, former CEO, Bank One Commercial Banking Group; Salem Abraham, president and owner, Abraham Trading Co.; Sandy Kress, Commission for College Ready Texas; and Larry Kellner, chairman and CEO, Continental Airlines.

And, Rep. Rob Eissler, co-chair; Sen. Florence Shapiro, co-chair; Education Commissioner Robert Scott; Higher Education Commissioner Raymond A. Paredes; Rep. Diane Patrick; and Sen. Tommy Williams.

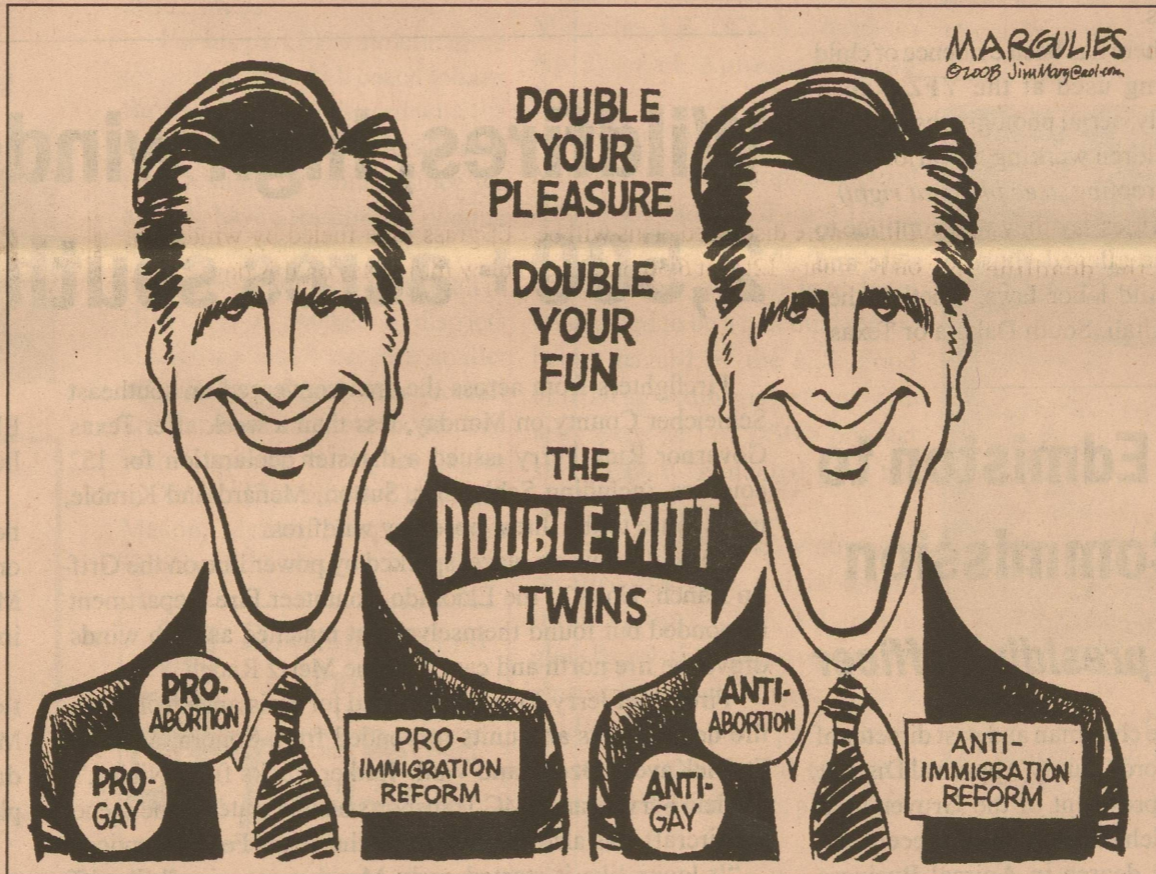
Census ballparks no. of voters

The U.S. Census Bureau on Jan. 31 released its annual estimates of the voting-age population in each state, so the Federal Election Commission gets a clearer picture.

Figures do not reflect citizenship status or voting eligibility.

Estimates for Texas are:
• Total number of residents, 23,904,380;
• Total population age 18 and older, 17,281,014;

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 3



Touring Jack London's Neighborhood

"The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. Across Sonoma Mountain wisps of sea fog are stealing. The afternoon sun smolders in the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive. I am filled with dreams and mysteries. I am all sun and air and sparkle. I am vitalized, organic."

Those words were written by Jack London, an adventurer and author who wrote 50 books (Call of the Wild, White Fang) from his ranch north of Sonoma, California in the early 1900's. He died in 1916 at the age of 40. His place is now a state park.

We toured the area around Santa Rosa and Glen Ellen with some friends who live there. It is an extremely compact area. It seems we didn't go but a few miles and there would be something new to explore. In a one-block area we toured an olive oil manufacturing facility, a cheese company, a chocolate factory and a winery.

Those California folks know how to do it. The olive oil place (Figue's Olive Oil Co.) was something I'd never experienced before. It had acres of olive trees



by Tumbleweed Smith

and huge (dumpster-size) boxes of olives leading to the entrance. Visitors could sample the various varieties of olive oil. The John Raymond Cheese Company had cheeses from all over the country including some made in California. We must have sampled a dozen different types of cheese. Same for the Eric Ross winery across the street: types of wines that were totally new to me. At Wine Country Chocolates we watched wine-infused (cabernet-sauvignon) truffles being made by hand. Such tasty delights, and all just a few yards apart.

Besides visiting our friends in Sonoma, we were in California primarily to visit our son BZ and his family, who live in the hills of Oakland. We were there nine days. We did take a detour to Gilroy, California where I made a speech. Gilroy is the garlic capital of the

USA. Yes, we did get some samples. We even sampled garlic ice cream. Gilroy is a city of 50,000. The annual Garlic Festival, held in the summer, attracts 150,000 visitors.

Just before we left to go to California, my 4-year old grandson Max asked me over the phone if I knew any jokes. I told him one off the top of my head, but then scoured the Internet for kid jokes and carried a good supply of them with me. I fired one off every few hours. Max told his friends that I knew lots of jokes. Max even repeated some of them and told them well. His little brother Aiden didn't get them, but since everybody was laughing, he laughed, too.

Max is learning how to cook. His class at school wrote a cookbook and Max's recipe for spaghetti was included in it. "Put noodles in oven for like one minute, two minutes, three minutes, four minutes, five minutes and make it cold with water. Add sauce, the sauce I like but not the sauce I don't like. All sauces are red, different kinds of red. Add a clock, maybe a pointy rock or a cowbell."

Sounds delicious.

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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OBITUARIES

Reyes Robledo

ELDORADO - Reyes Robledo, 69, of Smithville died Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008, in Smithville. Service was Friday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with burial in Eldorado Cemetery. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife,

Anna Robledo of Smithville; sons Conrad Robledo and John Robledo, both of Eldorado, and Tommy Robledo of New Braunfels; daughters Anna Fuentes and Andra Fuentes, both of Smithville; and sisters Angie Moreno of Fort Worth and Manuela Bosman of Center Point.

Chinese New Year celebration at SA Museum of Fine Arts

A celebration of the Chinese New Year, open to the public, will take place at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts Education Studio from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, February 9, 2008.

Ben Sum, Assistant Professor in the Art Department at Angelo State University, and Cyris Ho and Ke Emily Niu will lead a fun

workshop where traditional arts and crafts from the East will be taught. Activities include the art of origami, lantern making, and Chinese calligraphy.

This is a family friendly activity and the cost is \$2 per person. The event is sponsored by the Museum's Education Program.

AARP sponsors free income tax preparation

Free income tax preparation February 23, 2008, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the 1st Community Credit Union located at South Divide (Hwy 277) in Eldorado. Sponsored by AARP (American Association of Retired People). This service is free for people in Eldorado, Ozona,

and Sonora. Call Patsy at 853-2564 before February 19th to make an appointment. This service is free to taxpayers. Anyone is welcome. An appointment is necessary. Call today. It is free. All returns will be filed electronically that day.

Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Percentage of population age 18 and older, 72.3.

In 2004 in Texas, 687,615 voters, or 4.27 percent of the voting age population, voted in the March Republican primary; 839,231 or 5.22 percent of the voting age population turned out for the March Democratic primary.

Voter status available online

The Texas Secretary of State's new "Online Voter Central" allows voters to check their registration status from their computers.

Texans who registered to vote using their driver license can check their status by supplying their driver license number and date of birth, or they can enter their Voter Unique Identifier, a code on their voter registration card, to check voting status and find polling locations.

Feb. 4 was the deadline to register to vote in the March 4 primary elections.

Gov issues disaster proclamation

Gov. Rick Perry issued a state disaster proclamation for 152 counties in response to wildfires.

The Jan. 30 proclamation allows affected counties to be eligible for state assistance.

Perry urged Texans to be extra cautious as conditions across the state remain favorable for wildfires to develop.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Retiring Librarian Jeri Whitten received a hug from EHS student Megan Bradley, who came to give Mrs. Whitten her best wishes. Whitten was honored with a retirement reception hosted by the Schleicher County Library Board Wednesday, January 30. Jeri served the Schleicher County Library for 22 years.

Beta Sigma Phi Report

by Barbara Jackson

A white satin table cloth with the sorority emblem was draped on a candle lighted table as Dorothy Dacy read the beautiful ceremonies inducting two new members into Kappa Delta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She was assisted by our president, Glenda Harris as Belinda Faulk received her pledge pin and Linda Dellavechia received her Ritual of the Jewels. Other members there to welcome these into the sorority were; Barbara Jackson, Maggie Lloyd and Mary Leigh Dunagan.

During the business meeting secretary Dorothy Dacy read the minutes from the previous meeting and they were approved as read. Plans for the upcoming Valentine's Day Salad Supper to be held at the First Community Federal Credit Union were discussed. This will be on February 12th, at 6:30 pm. Mrs. Dacy reported that the chapter had given \$25 to West Texas Rehab during the TV telethon held on

January 19th.

The group who attended this month's social of a movie and dinner out reported a wonderful evening. Attending were: Maggie Lloyd, Flora Hubble, Dorothy Dacy and Glenda Harris. Those of us who did not get to attend were sorry we missed the fun evening.

Ms. Dunagan was the hostess for the evening and served refreshments of Pimento cheese sandwiches, chips, dips and soft drinks. Maggie Lloyd won the sunshine gift.

Following the closing ritual the meeting was adjourned and the group exited into the cool evening air which followed a windy day that filled the air with brown dirt. Wind gust had been in the 40's on this January 29, 2008. On the evening news there were numerous reports of grass fires fueled by winds that blew into Texas on this day.

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Meals for Friends Menu

Monday, February 11
 Beef Stew, Stew Vegetables, Sweet Peas, Cornbread, Citrus Fruit Cup, Milk

Tuesday, February 12
 Barbecue Chicken, Blackeyed Peas, Beets, Hot Rolls, Pears w/Pineapples, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Milk

Wednesday, February 13
 Fried Fish w/Tarter Sauce, Hominy, Broccoli, Corn Muffins, Bread Pudding w/Raisins

Thursday, February 14
 Salisbury Steak w/Onions, Baked Beans, Mustard Green, Bread, Peaches, Milk

Friday, February 15
 Roast Beef, w/Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Coleslaw, Carrot Cake and Milk.

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Mom wants us to tell Dad
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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle
 by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **
 * Moderate ** Challenging *** Hoo Boy!

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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 See Solution on Page 8

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Eagles cruise as district foes continue to fall

The Eldorado Eagles varsity boy's team rolled past Miles last Tuesday in a decisive 65-32 victory and appear poised to make a run into the State 1A Playoffs.

Lalo Sanchez drained seven baskets from the field and four past the arc for his 26 point total in the game against Miles.

Rance Cathey finished the evening with 12, while Michael Redish hit for 11.

Tyler Dombroski accounted for eight points from the floor, and Jorge Mata range up six.

Dustin Ramos rounded out the scoring with two points.

The win brought Eldorado's district record up to 4-1 before heading into Christoval on Friday evening.

Jorge Mata led the scoring for the Warbirds with 15 points in the team's 56-36 win.

Rance Cathey and Lalo Sanchez were close behind with 12

and 11 points respectively.

Michael Redish managed eight points on the night while Tyler Dombroski found the basket three times for six points.

Dustin Gauna and Dustin Ramos rounded out the scoring with two points apiece.

The Eagles kept the winning streak alive last Friday night, downing the Christoval Cougars 56-36.

Jorge Mata led the Eagles scoring with 15. Rance Cathey added 12 while Lalo Sanchez hit for 11. Michael Redish counted for 8 points, Tyler Dombroski added 6 and Dustin Ramos hit for 2 as the Warbirds pulled into the District lead with a 5-1 record heading into Tuesday night's showdown with Irion County in Mertzon where the Eagles hope to avenge their only district loss...a 60-55 squeaker at the hands of the Hornets, three weeks ago in Eagle Gym.



Michael brought the ball across court during the Eagles 56-36 win over Christoval last Friday night. Redish hit for eight points in the contest as the Warbirds improved their season record to 5-1.

Eldorado Lady Eagles basketball report

The Eldorado Lady Eagles traveled to Miles on Tuesday, January 29th, 2008 to take on the Miles Lady Bulldogs.

The contest knotted up at 11 points each after the first quarter. Both teams kept pace with each other during the second quarter. Miles hit three free throws at the end of the half to take a 29-27 lead into the locker room.

Miles out-scored Eldorado 13 to 11 in the third quarter to maintain a four point lead heading into the final period.

In the fourth quarter Eldorado's half-court pressure defense forced Miles into numerous turnovers. Eldorado converted the turnovers into 18 points, and defensively held Miles to only eight points in the fourth quarter.

Eldorado's come-from-behind victory gave the team their second district win of the season by final score of 56 - 50.

Scoring for the Lady Eagles were as follows: Aubrey Martinez 23 points, Haley Higgins 14 points, Kirsten Stubbs 12 points, Bridget Mitchell 4 points, Cassandra Buitron 2 points, and Rhapsody Swyter connected on one free throw respectively. Playing in the contest but not scoring was Deyanira Cruz, Meg Griffin, Corie Williams, and Kadie Niblett.

Miles was lead by Haley Longe with 14 points.

The Lady Eagles did a better job in the second half on the boards and are to be commended for their efforts in the contest.

Friday, February 1st, 2008 the Eldorado Lady Eagles played host to the #11 ranked Lady Cougars of Christoval.

The Lady Cougars pressure defense forced Eldorado to commit early turnovers that Christoval converted into 24 points. Eldorado managed only 6.

The second quarter would keep pace with the first and Christoval would tally 17 additional points to Eldorado's 9.

The second half continued in the same fashion with Eldorado scoring 17 points to Christoval's 29. Christoval easily cruised to victory by final count of 70 - 32. The win for Christoval assured them of the district championship and eliminated the Lady Eagles from playoff contention.

The Lady Eagles fought hard but fell to a very talented Christoval squad who is very deserving of their state ranking.

Scoring for the Lady Eagles was as follows: Kirsten Stubbs 9, Cassandra Buitron 6, Haley Higgins 5, Aubrey Martinez 4, Bridget Mitchell 4, Corie Williams 2, and Rhapsody Swyter 2. Playing but not scoring in the contest was Kadie Niblett, Meg Griffin, Deyanira Cruz, and Ashley Lozano.

Christoval would be lead by Lauren Holt's 22. Christoval connected on 5 three pointers and 24 field goals in the contest.

The Lady Eagles will have competed on Tuesday, February 5th in Mertzon with results to be reported next week.



Lalo Sanchez drove to the bucket last Friday night against Christoval as the Eagles cruised to a 56-36 win over the Cougars. Sanchez scored 11 points on the night as the Warbirds extended their district record to 5-1

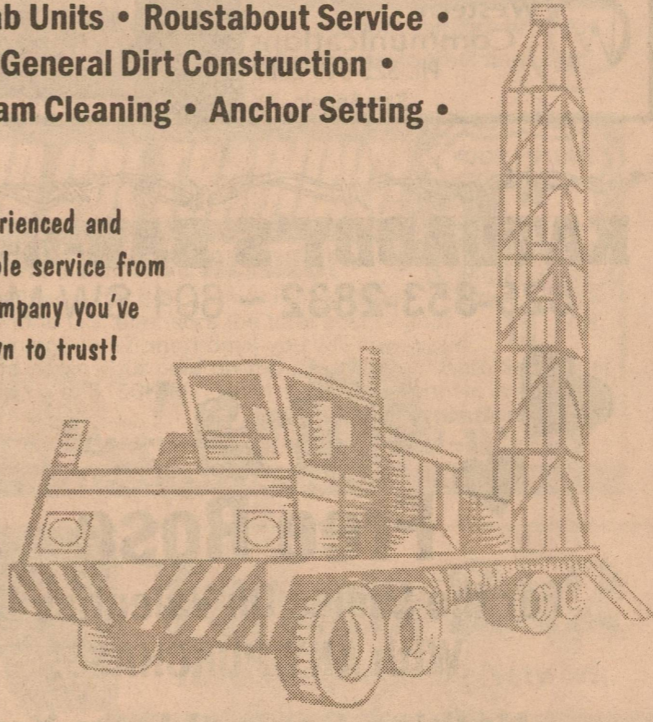
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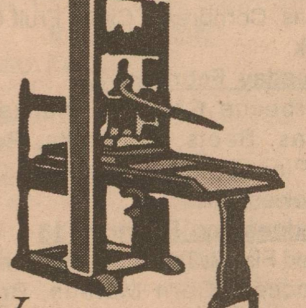
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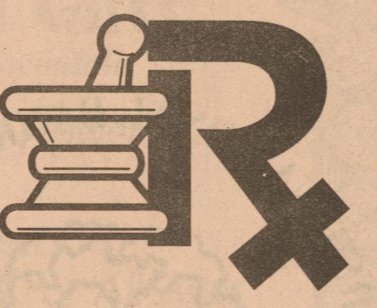
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Davis Hutto of Eldorado had the Champion Medium Weight Wether Goat and the Reserve Champion Hair Sheep Lamb at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth on Saturday, January 26, 2008.

Davis Hutto wins big at Fort Worth Stock Show

FORT WORTH—Davis Hutto, a 4-H member from Eldorado, exhibited the Medium Weight Champion Wether Goat in the Junior Wether Goat Show at the 2008 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show on January 26, 2008.

Hutto also exhibited the Reserve Champion Hair Sheep Lamb in the Junior Wether Lamb Show. Junior show entries totaled 9,815 at this year's show which ends February 3.

"The junior livestock show pro-

gram provides youth with valuable lessons in life and business and builds a foundation that serves them long after their show years have passed," said W.R. Watt, Jr., president and manager of the show. "Our commitment to this program is a top priority."

Winning exhibitors are awarded cash "premiums" — this year to exceed \$92,005 — in addition to monies generated from the sale of animals in the show's sale of champion steers, lambs, barrows

and wether goats. Besides record junior entries the show set an overall entry record of over 23,000 cattle, sheep, swine, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas, goats, poultry, pigeons and rabbits.

The Stock Show showcases the nation's dynamic livestock industry to over 950,000 visitors mostly from the Metroplex and surrounding areas. Approximately 20 percent attend from other parts of the nation and 70 countries. Besides livestock, the show includes

educational exhibits designed to educate visitors on the livestock industry and provides 4 acres of shopping to suit most any taste.

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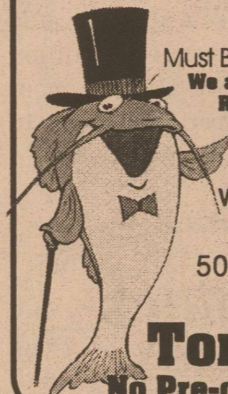
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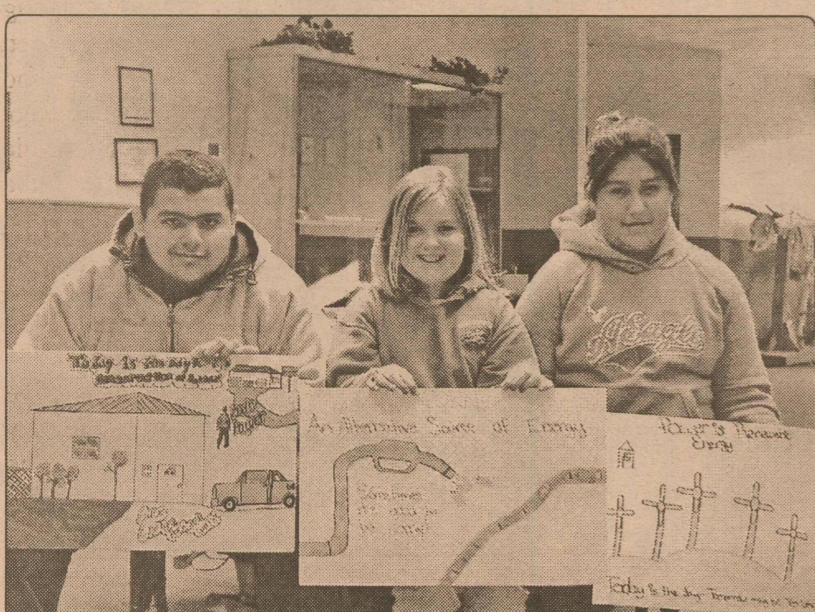
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5th Grade winners of the Water Conservation Poster Contest were (L-R) Arden Mertz - 3rd Place; Esmerelda Reuzga - 2nd Place and Kate Mynatt - 1st Place. The theme for this year's 5th graders was "Water is Life."



COURTESY PHOTO

Winners of the 6th grade Water Conservation Contest were (L-R) Beto Nava - 3rd Place; Morgan Bridges - 1st Place; and Kimberly Sanchez - 2nd Place. The theme for the 6th grade contest was "Today is the day to be part of conservation's power."

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Texas achieves Cattle Brucellosis-Free status

Texas beef and dairy cattle producers, cattle feeders and markets operators achieved a long-sought victory Friday, Feb. 1, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that Texas has achieved cattle brucellosis-free status.

For nearly 50 years, Texas cattle producers battled brucellosis, or "Bangs Disease," the bacterial disease that is caused by *Brucella abortus*. The disease can cause cows to abort, deliver weak calves or produce less milk. Cattle brucellosis is a zoonotic disease (can be spread from animals to man) that caused significant hu-

man disease incidence until the eradication program reduced the incidence of the disease in cattle, and, sanitary practices and pasteurization procedures for milk were implemented to reduce transmission to humans. All other states in the United States are classified brucellosis-free, some for more than 25 years.

"Texas was the last state to achieve the 'free' status. We have more herds and more cattle than any other state 14 million at last count. We also had more brucellosis infection to fight. In 1959, when Texas officially joined

the national eradication program, we had more than 20,000 of the country's 100,000 infected herds," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

"This victory for the cattle industry did not come easily or without hardship," said Dr. Hillman. "For many cattle producers in the early days of the program, it meant losing a herd with only salvage value payment, or having the herd under quarantine and being unable to sell animals for long periods of time. Some producers' herds became re-infected. In recent years, infected herds were purchased from owners and depopulated whenever possible, to quickly wipe out infection."

Dr. Hillman credited the 2006 Brucellosis Eradication Working Group with re-evaluating all

aspects of the Texas brucellosis program, in preparation for the USDA review, which was conducted in summer 2007. The group was comprised of about 25 cattle industry members. "I also want to thank TAHC and USDA staff for their long days of testing cattle, consulting with producers, keeping detailed test records, and handling tense situations when herds had to be quarantined. The efforts by the industry, the TAHC and USDA have brought us to a great place---disease eradication."

"Now we must ensure that the disease is not reintroduced, or if it is lingering undetected, we must find the infection and eradicate it quickly. If two infected herds are detected within the next two years, we could lose this hard-earned, well-deserved status, so we must do everything to protect the health of our herds," said Dr. Hillman.

"To this end, we must continue testing our cattle at the first-point of concentration and change of ownership for the next couple of years," said Dr. Hillman. "This procedure is part of the national brucellosis program standard and was included in the program as a means of assuring that states that have just acquired free-status could identify infected herds should the disease have been left undetected in a herd or is re-introduced into a state. Additionally, brucellosis slaughter surveillance will continue for many years to come to assure that the disease is completely eradicated from cattle herds in Texas and other states of the United States."

"Decades of hard work are now paying off with this incredible accomplishment. I commend the cattle industry of the state and the Texas Animal Health Commission for working together to establish Texas as cattle brucellosis-free," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said.

"Texas ranks first in the nation in the number of cattle and calves and the industry is a \$16 billion business for the Texas economy. This new status will positively improve the industry and help our

dedicated cattle producers," Commissioner Staples said.

"Hearing the words 'cattle brucellosis-free' is music to the industry's ears," said Mr. Ernie Morales, Chairman of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). "While in the short term we will have to continue testing our cattle, there is a tremendous benefit for cattle producers to be able to market their cattle as cattle from a Brucellosis-free state. This status designation will provide cattle producers and trading partners additional assurance that Texas cattle do not pose a disease risk."

"This tremendous achievement could not have been accomplished without the combined efforts of state and federal agencies and in-

dustry," said Bruce Knight, Under Secretary for USDA's marketing and regulatory programs mission area. The interim rule declaring Texas as brucellosis free was published in the Feb. 1 Federal Register and became effective upon publication.

"We must now focus our efforts on eradicating brucellosis from the free-ranging elk and bison populations in the Greater Yellowstone Area in order to protect our national cattle herd against future outbreaks of this disease," said Under Secretary Knight. He said the presence of brucellosis in free-ranging bison and elk in Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park still threatens cattle health in surrounding states.

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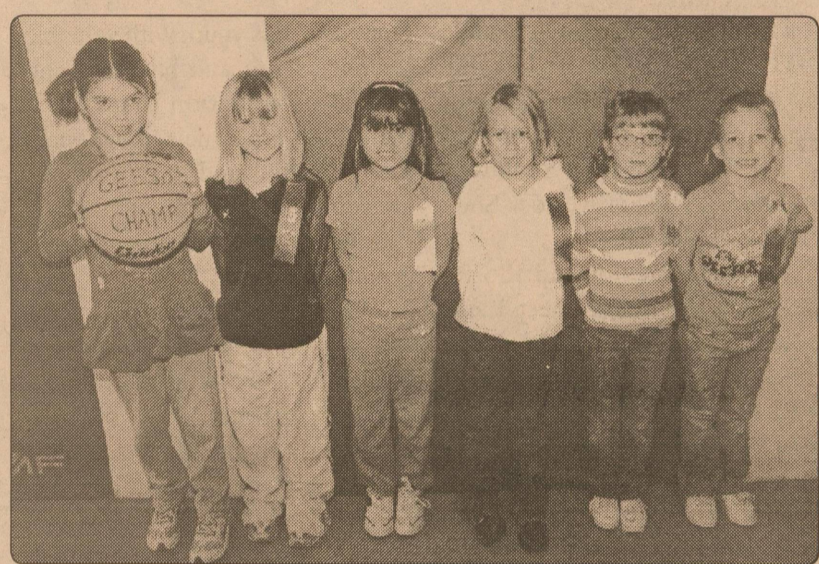
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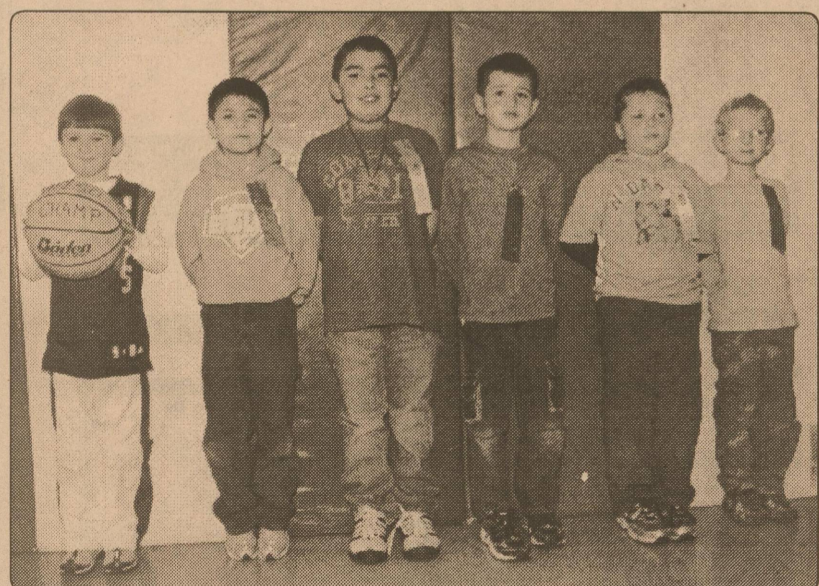
2008 Kindergarten Girls Winners of the Great Eldorado Elementary Shoot Out (GEESO): L-R: 1. Codee Meador, 2. Jessi Taylor, 3. Mikayla Rodriguez, 4. Emmie Mynatt, 5. Kayla Kotsch, 6. Kami Lux.



2008 Kindergarten Boys Winners of the Great Eldorado Elementary Shoot Out (GEESO) L-R: 1. Emiliano Hernandez, 2. Michael Mata, 3. Jose Trevino, 4. Kevin Gutierrez, 5. Phillip Edmonson, 6. Wyatt Lloyd/Kaden Key.



2008 First Grade Girls Winners of the Great Eldorado Elementary Shoot Out (GEESO) L-R: 1. Zariah Armendarez, 2. Marisol DeLuna, 3. Eddykah Rodriguez, 4. Hope Barajas, 5. Myra Sierra, 6. Christine Lindsey.



2008 First Grade Boys Winners of the Great Eldorado Elementary Shoot Out (GEESO) L-R: 1. Wyatt Mertz, 2. Ram Barajas, 3. Gregory Martinez, 4. Jack Griffin, 5. Trent Collins and 6. Riley Jones.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- Eva of "Green Acres"
 - Aspen gear
 - Salty spot
 - Kate's sitcom pal
 - Ox-drawn vehicle
 - Bus. school course
 - Minnesota Fats, e.g.
 - "Nautilus" skipper
 - Leave port
 - House style of New England
 - In order
 - In need
 - Office honchos
 - Brand for Fido
 - Fall back
 - Some iPhone messages
 - Martian or Venesian
 - "All the Things You ___"
 - Test the weight of
 - Really steamed
 - Related by blood
 - Get grayer
 - Escorted to one's seat
 - Dutch artist Jan
 - Slangy denial
 - Pindaric pieces
 - Like clear night skies
 - Molecule builder
 - Pueblo tribe
 - ___ status (ques-

- tionnaire item)
- Where nautical cable is wound
 - River of Hamburg
 - Classroom prankster's missile
 - Air Wick target
 - A sister of Bart Simpson
 - Vehicles for VIPs
- DOWN**
- Boer and Crimean
 - The Emerald Isle, to poets
 - Idyllic settings
 - Classroom
 - Breaks in continuity
 - Natural soother
 - Rorschach image

- Hotel Amenities**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | 21 | | 22 | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | 24 | | 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | 30 | 31 | | 32 | 33 | 34 | | |
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| 62 | | | | | | | | 63 | | | | | | | |
| 64 | | | | | | | | 65 | | | | | | | |
| 66 | | | | | | | | 67 | | | | | | | |

- Some paintings
- Spruce up the walls, maybe
- La ___ (opera house)
- Mary ___ cosmetics
- Ticks off
- Short on cash
- Slowly, on a score
- Party warmer-upper
- Early TV crooner Perry
- The "K" of James K. Polk
- Fish tales
- Bird on Canada's dollar
- Around 6', say
- "Borstal Boy" author Brendan
- Last Greek letter
- Place of refuge
- Remain unused
- Claim on property
- Prickly plant
- Jack, the tightwad
- White House worker
- Rhode Island's state tree
- "Now ___ theater near you!"
- Rioter's take
- Paint with dots
- Rigging support
- Org chart levels
- Huge expanse
- ___ Mix (cat food brand)
- Pierce player
- Beast's abode
- Lost traction
- Easy to manage
- Unnamed auth.
- Legendary loch
- Air pump letters

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10th Syllas Politte, Jacob Politte, Carolyn Mittel, Shannon Wideman, Guillermo Zuniga, Nancy McCray, Tammy Spinks
11th Phil McCormick, Laurie Almazan, Patrick Ruiz, Reuben Minor, Darlene Shields, Alexis Villanueva
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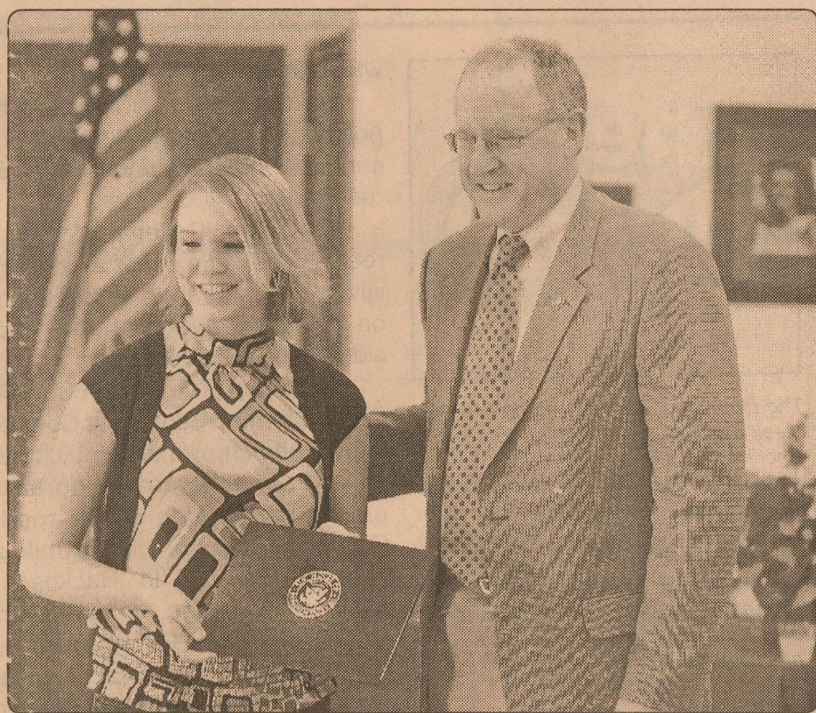


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

EHS senior Blake Chatham posed Monday, February 4, 2008, with Congressman Mike Conaway during his visit to Eldorado. Conaway recently nominated Chatham to the U.S. Naval Academy. While in Eldorado, the congressman met with several local citizens who gathered in the community room at 1st Community Federal Credit Union. Among the topics discussed was the war in Iraq, immigration concerns and Conaway's endorsement of Mitt Romney for President.

Top 10 vehicles stolen in Texas during 2007

ARLINGTON — Pickups are not only popular among Texas drivers, they are also top targets for Texas vehicle thieves. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has released its final MVT19 report on the top vehicles reported stolen in Texas during 2007. The MVT19 report is compiled monthly by DPS and represents vehicle theft data entered into the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) by all Texas law enforcement agencies. An error margin of + or - 5% is assumed for incorrect entries by agencies.

Based on the reports, as has been the case for many years, pickup trucks top the list of thieves' most common targets for the year. Com-

ing in at No. 1 was the Ford Pickup followed closely by the Chevrolet Pickup at No. 2. In the No. 3 position, the Dodge Pickup also remains a popular target for Texas thieves. The Honda Accord and the Honda Civic round out the top five stolen vehicles. Please note that if motorcycle theft totals were included, the Honda and Yamaha motorcycles would rank No. 9 and No. 10 respectively in the overall list.

The complete top ten list of most stolen passenger vehicles includes:

1. Ford Pickup
2. Chevrolet Pickup
3. Dodge Pickup
4. Honda Accord
5. Honda Civic
6. Chevrolet Tahoe
7. GMC Pickup
8. Ford Taurus
9. Toyota Camry
10. Ford Mustang

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, and contrary to popular

belief, the most stolen vehicles are several years old. Some are stolen and stripped for parts. Others are stolen and resold by thieves to unsuspecting buyers. Many vehicles are stolen for joyriding, for use in committing other crimes, to perpetrate insurance fraud, or for other illegitimate purposes. And vehicle theft costs Texans more money than any other crime—over \$900 million in 2006.

Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) personnel strongly encourage Texas drivers to practice vehicle crimes prevention. According to ABTPA Director Susan Sampson, "Auto thieves are looking for 'the easy take.' So it is more important than ever that drivers practice common sense and utilize practical prevention methods such as locking doors, taking keys, and hiding all items that may be desirable to a thief."

The Texas ABTPA, an of-

fice of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), has funded law enforcement programs specializing in vehicle crimes investigation, recovery, prevention and prosecution since 1991. Since then, Texas has realized a 42% reduction in the vehicle theft total and a 59% reduction in the vehicle theft rate based on the number of registered vehicles in the state. Throughout the years, ABTPA has worked closely with local, state, and national agencies to reduce auto theft and burglary. Currently, ABTPA funds 30 grant programs, allowing over 150 law enforcement officers throughout Texas to focus exclusively on the resolution of vehicle crimes cases.

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Touch of History

by Rene Calcote

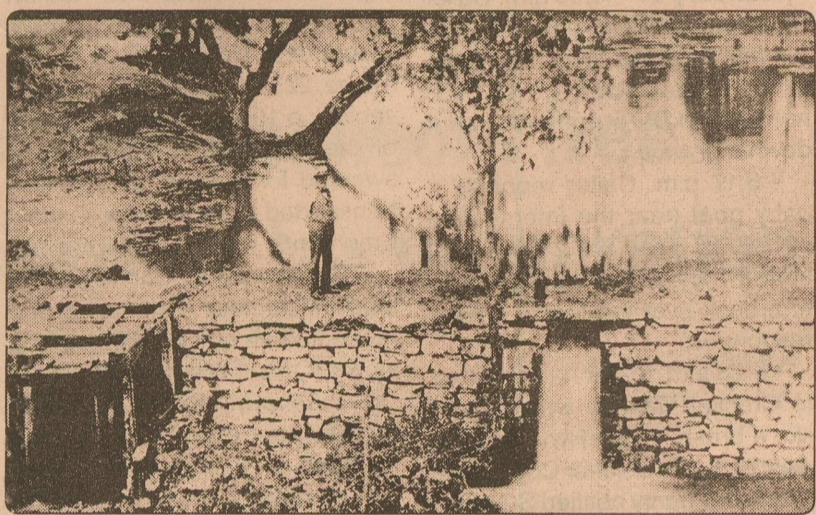


PHOTO COURTESY SCHLEICHER CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Col. William L. Black

Fisher and Miller Land Grant

Settlement actually began for what is now Schleicher County in 1842, before Texas became a state. February 8, 1842, Henry Fisher, Durward Miller and Joseph Baker applied to President Sam Houston of the Republic of Texas for a grant of land lying between the Llano and Colorado Rivers, extending far into West Texas. The land was for the purpose of settling 1,000 families of German, Dutch, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish emigrants. President Sam Houston endorsed their application with the notation, "Let the contract be made". The date was June 7, 1842.

The Fisher and Miller Land Grant included 3,000,000 acres of uninhabited land. What is now Schleicher County lay squarely in the center of the land grant, however most of the area past the Llano River was not

colonized at this time. The reasons the land was not settled were due to error in the boundary of the grant, and the country was barren with little water supply. Hostile Indians were also a factor.

It was not until the 1870's that permanent ranches began to establish in the Edwards Plateau area.

One of the first ranches established in the area was the William L. Black Ranch near Fort McKavett. Black built a dam on the San Saba River to utilize the water supply for his business of canning goat meat and ranching.

Other permanent ranch owners settling in the eastern part of what is now Schleicher County were D.C. Ogden, Sol Mayer, Joe Moss, Tom Howard, the Lehne Family, Tom Ball, H. Flutsch, J. A. Ruff and J.Q. and C.F. Adams.

Website offers water well info

It's a little known fact: Nearly half of Americans rely on ground water for all or part of their water supply through privately owned household wells or ground-water supplied community systems.

With all those wells come lots of questions about proper well construction, maintenance, water quality and ground water protection. Answers to many of these questions can be found at the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Web site, Wellowner.org (www.wellowner.org).

Wellowner.org includes practical information on:

- Well basics
- Well maintenance
- Water quality
- How to find a water well contractor
- Ground water

"Every day, Americans use 3.5 billion gallons of ground water from household wells," said

Kevin McCray, executive director of the NGWA. "Yet, many well owners know very little about well basics. Wellowner.org provides a place where well owners can learn more about the importance of well maintenance, water testing and ground water protection."

The web site provides practical information on what's involved in a proper well checkup by a contractor, causes and solutions to water pressure issues, well protection, contamination and more.

NGWA, a nonprofit organization comprised of more than 14,500 U.S. and international ground water professionals—contractors, equipment manufacturers, suppliers, scientists, and engineers—is dedicated to advancing the expertise of all ground water professionals and to furthering ground water awareness and protection through education and outreach.

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4. Is the number of providers we have on staff to take care of you and your family: Dr Gordy Day, Dr Jacqueline Jeffery, Rebecca Sullivan, FNP & Bobby Romatowski, PA-C

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Four indicted for voter fraud in 2006 primary

Duval County residents charged with possessing ballots belonging to others

FALFURRIAS – Four Duval County residents today were indicted by a Brooks County grand jury and charged with illegally handling ballot applications and mail-in ballots that belonged to other voters during the 2006 primary election.

The charge of possessing and handling the ballot of another person is a Class B misdemeanor, a violation of the Texas Election

Code. The four San Diego residents indicted in Brooks County today were Lydia Molina, 70; Maria "Kena" Soriano, 71; Elva Lazo, 62; and Maria Trigo, 55. They were taken into custody today in Duval County.

The defendants allegedly delivered mail-in ballot applications to numerous residents in Duval County, many of whom were ineligible to vote by mail. Only

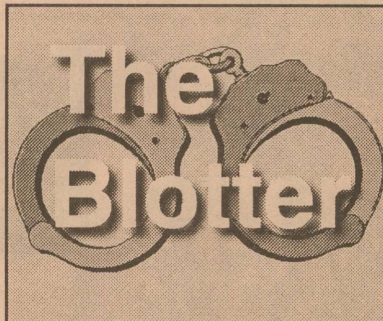
those who are disabled, age 65 and above, or expect to be out of the county during an election are eligible to vote by mail. The completed ballot applications mailed to the voter registrar by the defendants typically included a box check-marked to indicate many of the voters were "disabled" when they were not.

The voter registrar's office then mailed the actual ballots to the residents. Once the ballots were completed by the residents, the defendants allegedly retrieved these and mailed them to the registrar to be counted without identifying themselves on the carrier envelope.

To protect voters who rely on others to help them during elections, Texas law requires that

those who provide assistance properly identify themselves on carrier envelopes used to transmit mail-in ballots. The defendants did not provide their names, addresses and signatures on these envelopes as required. A Class B misdemeanor violation of the Election Code can result in up to 180 days jail, a maximum \$2,000 fine, or both.

Last June, several Starr and Hidalgo County residents were also indicted in Brooks County on various charges of voter fraud for their conduct during the 2006 election cycle. A grand jury returned felony indictments against the defendants in an investigation that began with a complaint filed by Starr County Elections Administrator. That case is ongoing.



The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Schleicher County Sheriff's Dept. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the Sheriff's office, nor does it include routine security checks, minor traffic stops or routine patrols. Accidents of major impact will be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ARRESTS

February 3 • Cruz, Mark Antonio, age 36, Theft by Check, Ward Co. Release 2 warrants.

INCIDENTS

January 29 • 8:44 p.m. Hospital Requested ambulance for ACLS transfer to Shannon and has nurse to go. Officer notified.

January 30 • 8:52 a.m. Hospital requested EMS for basic transfer.

• 8:47 p.m. Complainant requested to speak to an officer about some issues. A criminal trespass was issued and served.

January 31 • 11:35 a.m. Caller reported electrical pole down in the middle of the Hwy. 190 West. Officers responded. Co-op AEP notified. TxDOT notified - shut down highway.

• 5:17 p.m. Caller reported a baby goat near the intersection of Hwy 277 and FM 2179. Caller stated they would put the creature back over the fence. Officer responded.

• 5:28 p.m. Caller had reported to Crockett County what looked like a brush fire on Hwy. 190 just west of the Schleicher County line. Crockett County notified SO of the situation and provided a contact number to speak to the person

who had called it in.

• 6:25 p.m. Caller reported a potentially violent situation was occurring at their residence. Officers responded.

• 7:40 p.m. Caller reported a reckless driver in either a white or silver pickup headed southbound on 277 about even with the road side park. Units notified.

• 11:25 p.m. Tom Green Sheriff Office informed Schleicher County that a reddish or maroon pickup was headed towards Eldorado on the wrong side of the road. Officers found vehicle 15 miles north on Hwy. 277 in Hackberry Draw under bridge. Vehicle hit a tree. Driver was Rebecca Lynn Stewart, 48, of Christoval. Vehicle was a red 2001 Ford F150. Driver transported by Schleicher County EMS to San Angelo.

February 1 • 7:25 a.m. Caller advised he will be doing a controlled burn the next day on 3260 CR 119.

February 2 • 5:49 p.m. Caller reported a control burn about 1 mile out FM 2596. Officers notified.

• 8:10 p.m. Complainant reported a barking dog all night. Officer notified

February 3 • 4:21 a.m. Caller reported a vehicle had run off the road six miles north. Officers responded. Driver was Francisco Arispe, 22, of San Angelo. Arispe's vehicle, a 1998 white Dodge went off the road hitting a fence. Driver swerved for a deer. Arispe was transported to Schleicher County Emergency room by ambulance.

• 5:00 a.m. Caller reported loud music near their home and requested an officer to come and stop it. Officer responded.

• 5:08 a.m. Caller reported a missing person. Officer responded.

February 4 • 9:16 a.m. Ambulance was requested to a residence. Officer and EMS2 responded.

• 11:15 a.m. A large grass fire was reported on McIntosh Road.

• 6:08 p.m. Caller reported several head of black cattle on the road. Officer responded.

Truck Wrecks

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Edmiston reappointed to TAHC board of directors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the U.S. Animal Health Association. Winters formerly served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, and received a bachelor's degree from Sul Ross State University and graduated from Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program. He replaces Jill Bryar Wood of Wimberley.

Chuck Real of Marion is the owner and operator of Real Hog Farms. He is being reappointed to the board. He is the director of both the Texas Pork Producers Association and the Producers Coop in New Braunfels. Additionally,

Real serves as a member of Seguin Swine Breeders Association, and as a member of Yorkshire, Duroc, Hampshire and Berkshire Breed Associations. He is also a board member of the Guadalupe County Youth Livestock Show, coaches the Guadalupe County livestock judging team, and serves as an assistant superintendent of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition. Real received a bachelor's and a master's degree from Texas A&M University.

Card of Thanks

To all the folks who helped with the grass fire January 27, 2008, on the Double T Ranch pasture adjacent to State Highway 137, eight miles NW of Ozona, a Big THANK YOU!!! Your prompt response, unselfish teamwork, and determination while dealing with unfavorable conditions contained the blaze to a relatively small area with minimal damage. Thanks especially for using the gates and not the fence cutters. Sincerely, Art Roane Double T Ranch

We would like to take an opportunity to express our gratitude from the Mitchell family to all the individuals who came to our aid during the recent fire at the Lazy 2 Ranch. During the fire things were very hectic and I am afraid that we may have overlooked someone's efforts to come along side of us to protect the ranch.

A very special thank you to the men and women of the Sonora, Eldorado, and Ozona Volunteer Fire Departments for their efforts in containing the fire. We would also like to thank the Sutton County, Crockett County Sheriff's offices, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Transportation for their efforts to keep everyone safe on the roads.

Thank you to these companies for sending their equipment and employees to our aid; High Mount Oil Gas Co., Smith Brothers, Texas Energy, John E. Meador Construction, Location Builders and the Glover Co. It was very humbling to have so many friends and neighbors who came to help Wylie and Austin during and the days following the fire. We are very blessed to have each of you in our lives.

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School Lunch Menu

BREAKFAST MENU

- Monday, February 11**
Pan Cake on Stix/Syrup, Fresh Banana, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Tuesday, February 12**
Banana Nut Muffin, Choice Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Wednesday, February 13**
Cereal Bar, Peanut Butter/Jelly Crackers, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Thursday, February 14**
Buttered Toast/Jelly, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
- Friday, February 15**
Breakfast Roll, Choice of Juice, Milk

CAFETERIA LINE

- Monday, February 11**
Chicken Nuggets/Gravy, Broccoli/Cheese, Green Salad, Sliced Peaches
- Tuesday, February 12**
Corn Chip Pie/Cheese Cup, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Pear Halves
- Wednesday, February 13**
Corn Dogs, Corn on the Cob, Carrot Stix/Dip, Pineapple Slices
- Thursday, February 14**
Beef Taco's/Cheese Cup, Pinto Beans, Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Sugar Cookies
- Friday, February 15**
Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad, Orange Halves, Bread Stix 5th -12th

BASKET LINE

- Monday, February 11**
Grilled Chicken Sand on Wheat, Sandwich Salad, Carrot Stix /Dip, Sliced Peaches
- Tuesday, February 12**
Corn Chip Pie/Cheese Cup, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Pear Halves
- Wednesday, February 13**
Sausage Wraps, Carrot Stix/ Dip, Tator Wedges, Pineapple Slices
- Thursday, February 14**
Hamburgers, Baked Chips, Burger Salad, Sugar Cookies
- Friday, February 15**
Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad, Orange Halves, Bread Stix 5th -12th

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Valentine Day 4:00 PM-8:00 PM

Steak & Shrimp Plate Special w/Drink & Dessert

Reservations Preferred But Not Required.

325-396-3100

Answer to Sudoku on Page 3

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

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

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

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Public Notice-Bids

Sealed bids addressed to the Schleicher County Commissioner's Court will be received by the County Clerk until 10:00 a.m. February 11, 2008 when such bids will be opened for the purchase of:

- 1 - 2008 Extended Cab Shortbed pickup
- Minimum 7200 GVW
- 5.3L -5.8 L V8 Engine
- 6 Speed Automatic Transmission
- Exterior Color - White
- Vinyl Interior Seats w/Rubber Floors
- 40/20/40 seat w/console (or equivalent)
- Full size spare tire w/wheel
- Rear Bumper
- Cruise Control
- Power Windows & Locks
- ir Conditioning / Heat
- AM/FM Stereo/CD Player
- Heavy Duty Headache Rack
- Heavy Duty Grill Guard
- Tool Box

Delivery Date must be on or before 60 days after bid is awarded. Payment made upon delivery

All bids must be clearly marked: BID ENCLOSED
The Commissioner's Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids received.

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS ELDORADO AIRPORT TxDOT CSJ # 0807ELDOR

A "Notice to Bidders" is issued for the construction of airport improvements at the Eldorado Airport for: pavement and electrical airfield improvements. Sealed proposals need to be addressed and delivered to The Honorable Johnny Griffin, Schleicher County Judge, Schleicher County Courthouse, 101 Main Street, Eldorado TX 76936. **Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM, Thursday March 6, 2008, then publicly opened and read.**

You may view and obtain plan sets, free of charge, at our website, http://www.dot.state.tx.us/services/general_services/plan_info.htm. Or you may buy plan sets from the Reproduction companies that are listed on the Aviation website.

Please call Amy Slaughter at 512-416-4519 for questions concerning the bid document or further information. Technical questions concerning the specifications and plans should be directed to Larry Caldwell, PE with Klotz Associates at 512-328-5771.

ATTENTION PUBLIC EMERGENCY CARE ATTENDANT COURSE

Schleicher County Volunteer EMS will be having an Emergency Care Attendant Class beginning February 12, 2008 and ending February 28, 2008. If you are interested in taking this class please contact the Schleicher County Volunteer EMS business office at 853-3456.

The ECA Course provides classroom and skills instruction in CPR, (cardiopulmonary resuscitation, choking) bleeding and shock, bandaging, splinting, child birth, injury and illness care for infants, children and various other emergency subjects.

Spaces are limited-Please call soon!

Eldorado Spotlight



Varsity Lady Eagle Deyanira Cruz fought hard for the ball under the goal last Friday against Christoval. Eldorado lost to the Lady Cougars.

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WAREHOUSEMAN

Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative in Eldorado, Texas, is accepting applications for a warehouseman. Successful applicant must have a High School education or equivalent, a valid Texas driver's license and good driving record. Applications may be picked up at our office in Eldorado. Deadline for submitting applications is February 15, 2008. Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity employer.

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Lynn Meador, Broker 325-650-6324

Jo Ward, Agent/ 325-853-2339

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320 +/- Acres - Schleicher County, Texas: \$1495 / acre - Approximately 100 acres of cultivation, with the remainder as range land. 2 BR/1 BA home, numerous pecan trees, barn and set of pens. Approximately 4 miles west of Eldorado on Hwy. 190 West.

1553 +/- Acres - Schleicher County, Texas: \$1395 / acre - Quality ranch located on FM 2596 in Schleicher County, approximately 13 miles SE of Eldorado. Many improvements.

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TexSCAN Week of

February 3, 2008

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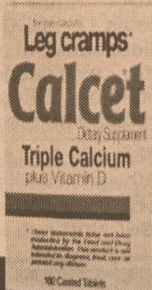
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Realignment moves Eagles to new district for 2008

The Eldorado Eagles will be playing in a new district when football begins this fall. Eldorado has been shifted into District 29-A, along with Irion County, Christoval and Menard from current District 16-A. Joining the four teams will be Rocksprings, Mason and Junction.

The teams should be very familiar with one another. Eldorado played Mason and Junction in non-district games for the past several seasons. The Eagles took on the Rocksprings Angoras a few seasons ago, also in non-district play.

The Junction Eagles are moving down from Conference 2A. They represent the largest school in the new district with 196 students in high school. Eldorado is the second largest with 186 followed by Mason at 175, Irion County at 139, Christoval at 123, Rocksprings at 122 and Menard at 109.

The biennial realignment was announced on Friday, February 1, 2008, by the University Interscholastic League, the governing body that oversees all Texas high school sports, academic and band competitions.

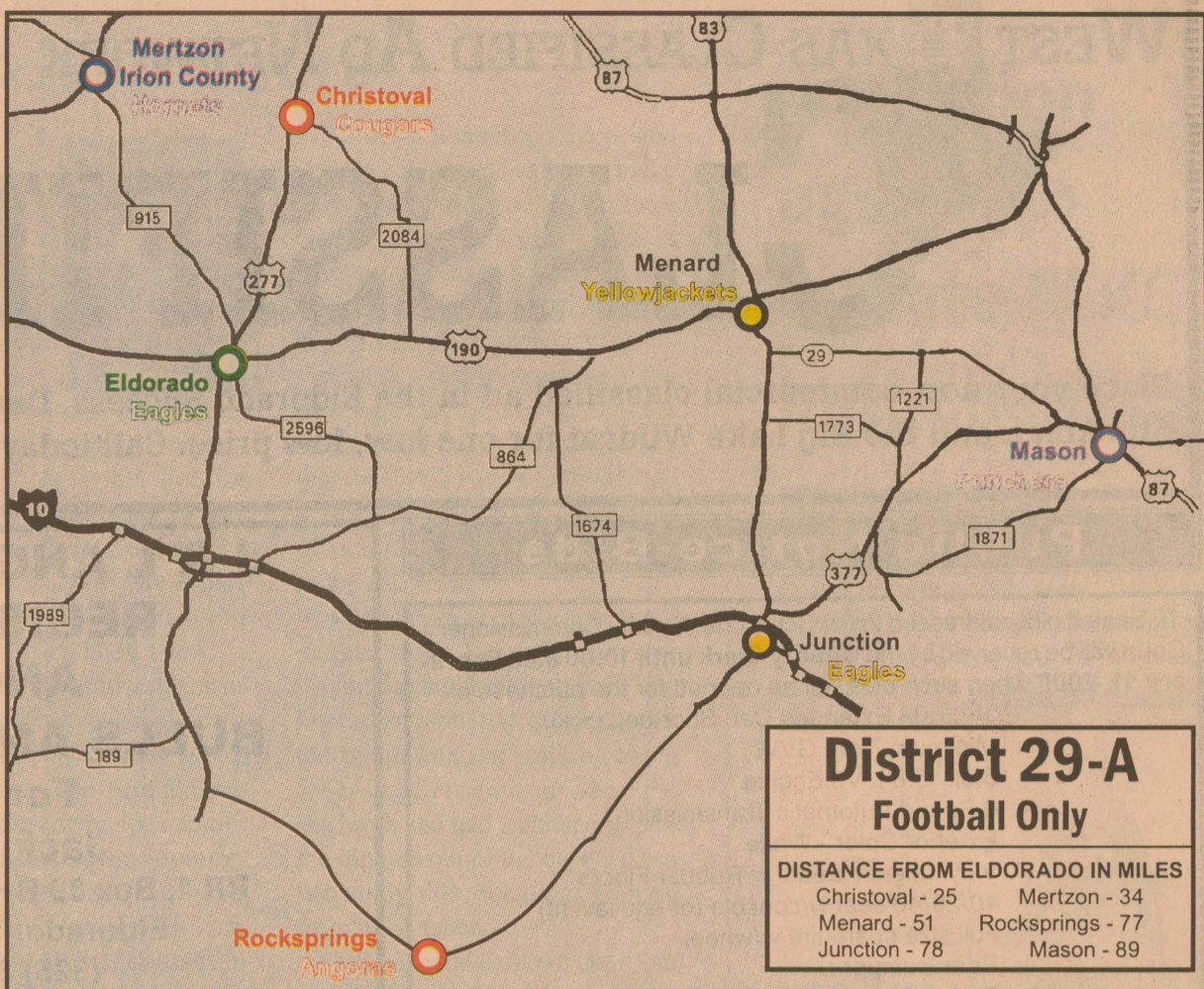
SCISD Superintendent Billy Collins notes that the new district is slightly more compact than the old one with the trip to Mason being the longest at 89 miles.

Irion County and Mason share the longest road trip in the district at 122 miles.

For his part EHS athletic director and head football coach Johnny Burleson seemed pleased with the new district. He said Eldorado may have a slight advantage since we already have a tradition of playing Junction and Mason.

Eldorado will play basketball in District 13-A. Basketball districts change in Class A because smaller schools that play 6-man football are put back in the mix for basketball season. Joining the Eagles in District 13-A will be Christoval, Mason, Menard, Mertzon Irion County and Miles.

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Third brand of Mexican candy recalled

A San Antonio company is voluntarily recalling a third candy imported from Mexico after testing by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) found elevated lead levels that could cause health problems.

Villa-Mex Imports, Inc., is recalling Miguelito Azucar Salada Enchilada Acidulada. The candy is a reddish powder in a clear cellophane packet with blue lettering. The net weight is marked as 1.7 ounces. The label also reads: Elaborado Por: Fabrica de Dulces Miguelito, S.A. DE C.V. Totonacas No 293 Col. Ajusco Coyoacan, Mexico.

Recent laboratory tests of Miguelito candy samples showed lead levels ranging from 0.161 to 0.291 parts per million, above the 0.1 parts per million lead level considered to be a potential public health hazard by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The tests were part of DSHS product surveillance conducted over the last several months.

Villa-Mex also has voluntarily recalled Barrilito, a dark brown thick syrup sold in 3.3 ounce glass barrel-shaped jars with white plastic lids; and Tarritos, a dark reddish brown paste packaged in 3.3 ounce mug-shaped glass jars with a handle and white plastic lids.

Both labels read: Productos Avila, S.A. de C.V. Puerto Malaque 1379 Col. Sta. Maria Guadalajara, Jal. Mexico. DSHS officials said the problem is with these products, not with the distributor, Villa-Mex Imports.

Eating products containing lead can be especially harmful to infants, young children and pregnant women. Too much lead intake can result in delayed mental and physical development and learning deficiencies. Children who have high blood lead levels may be tired or cranky, not have much appetite,

not be able to pay attention, have headaches, vomit, be constipated, be clumsy or weak or not be able to sleep. Some children who have lead poisoning may not look or act sick.

DSHS officials say consumers who have the recalled products should not eat them and should return them or throw them away. The only way to know if a child has a high blood lead level is to have a blood lead test. People concerned about blood lead levels should call their doctor or health clinic about testing.



Brushy Top Cowboy Church has a new location at 205 S. Oaks, just across from First Baptist Church. Music begins at 6:15 p.m. and services begin at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday evening under the direction of worship leader Bud Arendt.

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