

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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Documents offer glimpse into Jeffs' life as most wanted fugitive Prophet wanted to establish new Texas Trust at YFZ Ranch

Warren Jeffs learned that he had been named to the FBI's Most Wanted List in 2005 after Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran notified YFZ Ranch manager Merrill Jessop of the fact in a face-to-face visit.

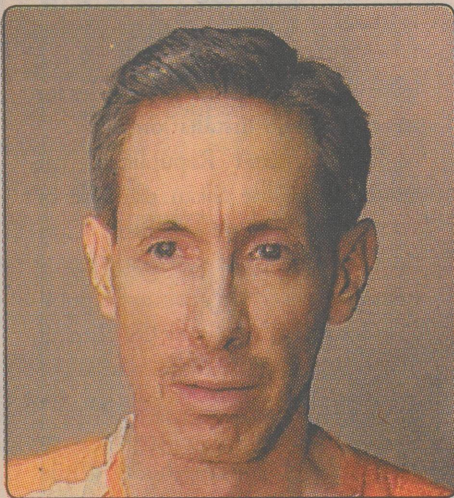
That tidbit and hundreds of others came to light this week when a small portion of the evidence seized during the April 3, 2008 raid on the YFZ Ranch was made public. The evidence was included with other material filed with the court in the custody case of 17-year-old Teresa Jeffs. The material was released to the public when Judge Walther refused to seal the evidence following the dismissal of Ms. Jeffs' case.

In an August 16, 2005 transcript of Warren Jeffs' recitations, the FLDS prophet says that Merrill Jessop told him of a meeting with Sheriff Doran.

During the meeting Doran reportedly observes that Warren Jeffs has ordered other men to surrender to authorities and asks why Jeffs won't surrender himself. The Sheriff continues to say that Jeffs was recently named to the FBI's Most Wanted List.

Jeffs goes on to claim that law enforcement officials are more interested in killing than capturing him, which is the reason he says he will not surrender.

Sifting through the documents hasn't been easy. With over 600 pages of material it may take days for some details to come to light.



Warren Steed Jeffs

One interesting detail that was uncovered refers to a trust fund Jeffs wanted to create in Texas. The trust would have functioned much like the United Effort Plan Trust that controls nearly all the property in Hildale, Utah and Colorado City, Arizona, collectively known as Short Creek. That fund was wrested away from Jeffs' control by state courts in Utah and a Special Fiduciary named Bruce Wisan was appointed as manager.

The documents for the proposed Texas Trust were never signed but they provide a blueprint for how Jeffs wanted to structure the community at the YFZ Ranch. It would have been a non-profit corporation with Jeffs as the sole beneficiary. The

trust would have owned all the property at the YFZ Ranch with Jeffs and seven of his lieutenants serving as the trust's board of directors.

Another interesting item involved Jeffs ordering Willie Jessop to travel to Florida as a diversion. Jessop now serves as spokesman for the YFZ Ranch. Jeffs said his Florida trip, ostensibly to purchase land, would attract attention away from Short Creek long enough for the prophet to make a quick visit there.

Then there were the more personal concerns Jeffs had for his followers. He explained that one of the young women at the ranch had been in labor for three days but the family was reluctant to go to a hospital because the mother was underage and the husband, whom Jeffs identified as Raymond Jessop, would be in jeopardy of prosecution.

Jeffs says the Lord revealed to him that the couple would have a girl, but that he would also give them "an experience."

Raymond Merrill Jessop was eventually indicted in 2008, following the YFZ raid. He is presently awaiting trial on felony charges including Sexual Assault of a Child and Bigamy.

At yet another point in the transcript, Jeffs was critical of Wendell Nielsen, one of his most trusted advisers. Jeffs explained that Nielsen was too jovial or

SEE JEFFS ON PAGE 6



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Gaines County farmer Connie Menix (center) met Monday with Schleicher County Commissioners to discuss the possibility of leasing Schleicher County school land the commissioners administer in his county. Commissioner Johnny Mayo (foreground) and the rest of the commissioners court authorized County Judge Charlie Bradley to make a deal with Menix to plow the fields until the land can be lease. County Attorney Clint Griffin (background) has put together a proposed lease for the commissioners to consider at a later meeting.

County adopts plan for prescribed burns, maintains overall Burn Ban

A Burn Ban remains in effect inside Schleicher County despite the fact that county commissioners met Monday and voted to allow the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burn Association to continue conducting prescribed burns. They also added a provision to allow for burns to take place under the direction of a certified Prescribed Burn Manager as allowed under Section 153.047 of the Texas Natural Resource Code.

The move came even as the Texas Forest Service issued a Wildfire Alert for all of West Texas.

Fire Chief Jerry Jones met briefly with the commissioners Monday and advised them of his concerns that several suspicious grass fires may have been intentionally set recently along County Road 412 or Rabbit Road.

Chief Jones said he will be asking the Sheriff's Department for assistance in the matter.

Road superintendent Clay Burleson then asked the commissioners to call for bids on Diesel Fuel, which they did. The commissioners next approved bonds for newly elected officials. The men also approved a \$2,375 budget amendment for the Election Administrator Brenda Mayfield's office to pay for maintenance of voting machines. The amendment was requested by Mayfield during the commissioners January 26th meeting.

Sheriff David Doran then appeared before the court to request the purchase of four commercial grade laptop computers at \$1,111 each.

Doran told the men that his department last purchased new laptops five years ago. The commissioners took the request under advisement and plan to act on it at their next meeting.

Gaines County resident Connie Menix next met with the commissioners concerning his desire to lease Schleicher County school land in that county recently released by Jerry D. Harris. Menix further expressed an interest in drilling several water wells on the property.

At that, the commissioners voted to authorize Judge Charlie Bradley to negotiate with Mr. Menix for plowing of the land until such time as it can be leased.

Judge Bradley advised Menix, that County Attorney Clint Griffin recently finished an outline of a new lease and the commissioners are in the process of looking it over. No other action was taken on the matter.

The court then approved Phillips Irrigation Solutions bid for installation of a new sprinkler system on one-third of the courthouse lawn. The cost came to \$5,995. The commissioners plan to complete the entire lawn in sections.

Judge Bradley then distributed a draft the county's 2006 audit as prepared by Jones, Hay, Marschall and McKinney for consideration by the commissioners.

County Treasurer Karen Henderson then presented a transfer in the amount of \$12,000 paid to the City of

SEE COUNTY ON PAGE 6

City Council holds regular monthly meeting

The Eldorado City Council met Monday, February 9, 2009 with all members present.

The meeting began with Utility Superintendent Floyd Fay requesting 50 cent pay raises for two new employees. The council granted the request and Fay moved on to report on work in the various utility departments.

Fay explained that an inspector from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reported some minor

violations in the city's sewer department which are being addressed.

Fay went on to explain that city workers are running the pothole patcher again and that an employee was injured after tripping over a pipe at the landfill and was airlifted to Shannon Hospital because one of the ambulances was out of service. City Secretary Carolyn Mayo added that the employee was released that same day.

Fay went on to explain that the city is

still operating a rented front-end loader at the landfill.

Responding to questions about compliance problems at the landfill, Mayor Nikolauk noted that he was aware that TCEQ inspectors had found several small infractions like a sign that wasn't sized properly and blowing trash.

TCEQ recently assigned the city with a poor compliance rating after repeat violations of rules including the state's daily cover and intermediate cover rules. The city's compliance rating has slipped from Good to Average to Poor in recent months. On January 6, 2009 TCEQ turned the city's case over to its Enforcement Division for compliance monitoring.

Mayor Nikolauk noted that he was aware of the poor rating but wasn't concerned.

In other business, City Secretary Carolyn Mayo reported a \$20,000 shortfall in budgeted revenue, mostly due to income lost when the YFZ Ranch stopped hauling their wastewater to the city's sewer plant. The city had been receiving approximately \$3,500 per month until the ranch put its own sewer plant into operation.

That prompted a discussion of an agreement between the city and the YFZ Ranch under which the city would oversee operation of the ranch's sewer plant.

Mayor Nikolauk explained that, at TCEQ's urging, the city agreed to participate in a plan to supervise the plant. As part of the plan a "dummy corporation" was created by the YFZ Ranch with Utility Superintendent Floyd Fay listed as one of its officers, the mayor said.

Now, TCEQ is questioning whether the city is eligible to take part in the agreement since the agency's rules only

SEE CITY ON PAGE 6



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Carol and Harold Romero scanned Schleicher County documents Monday into a computer for storage. The couple are LDS missionaries working for Family Search a Utah-based genealogy research company.

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It's Time to Make Texas Smoke-Free

by State Rep. Myra Crownover and State Sen. Rodney Ellis

Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Every year, secondhand smoke kills 53,000 Americans, more than three times as many people as drunk drivers.

In Our Opinion



by State Rep. Myra Crownover



and State Sen. Rodney Ellis

COMMENTARY

No longer is there a debate regarding the dangers of secondhand smoke, and Texans are catching on. More than two-thirds of Texans — 68 percent — support a comprehensive ban on smoking in public facilities and indoor workplaces, according to a recent poll by Smoke-Free Texas. This includes eliminating secondhand smoke in bars and restaurants, where workers are 50 percent more likely to die from lung cancer than the general public.

This year, just as we did in 2007, we have filed bills to make public facilities and indoor workplaces smoke-free. This legislation will save thousands of lives, improve public health, reduce state spending, boost business and support tourism. It is no wonder that 24 other states already have passed similar legislation.

We are proud to author House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 544 that give all Texans strong, comprehensive protection from hazardous secondhand smoke in the workplace. When this legislation becomes law, Texas workers no longer will have to choose between their health and their paycheck.

We have spent the last three years working on this issue and so have our opponents. Big Tobacco would like everyone to believe two things. First, the overwhelming body of scientific evidence linking secondhand smoke to heart attack and cancer deaths is "junk science." Second, the right to smoke is an individual liberty second to none.

The science is not in doubt. Big Tobacco would have you believe it is, but consider the source. In 1994, tobacco executives testified under oath before Congress and stated that "nicotine is not addictive." Fool me once...

Now consider this. There have been nine comprehensive studies on the effects of secondhand smoke and the positive effects of comprehensive smoke-free laws. Every study conclusively linked these laws to significant reductions in heart attack deaths. These studies were conducted by well-respected institutions such as the Harvard School of Public Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Surgeon General, and they were published in peer-reviewed medical journals such as the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Some opponents invoke the cause of liberty. They are correct to do so, but wrong in to whom the liberty belongs. All Texans deserve to breathe smoke-free air, and no one should have to choose between their job and their health.

Texas government requires businesses to spend billions to clean the air outside. Texas government also requires businesses to expend thousands of dollars to comply with a litany of health and safety code regulations. Legislators make decisions all the time that limit the liberty of individuals and business owners so that the health and safety of the patrons and workers are protected.

This legislation does not take away anyone's right to smoke. All we are asking is that smokers respect the rights and health of Texas workers. In Texas, it is not illegal to drink alcohol, but we all understand the dangers involved with drunk driving. However, it is a shock for most people to realize that secondhand smoke kills more than three times the number of people as drunk drivers. How do we rationalize that?

The debate is truly over. Secondhand smoke kills. As Lance Armstrong recently stated, in 10 years we will look back at this debate and wonder, "What were we debating, and why did it take Texas so long?"

State Rep. Myra Crownover, R-Denton, and State Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, are the authors of smoke-free bills House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 544 in the 81st Texas Legislature.

The Lunatics Are Running the Asylum

In My Opinion



COMMENTARY

by John W. Whitehead

Our so-called representatives in Congress clearly have no idea what to do to get the economy moving again. Just consider some of the line items they've included in the proposed \$900 billion stimulus plan—a plan that is supposed to create jobs and stimulate the economy. The list, compiled by Congressional Republicans and published by CNN.com, bears reprinting in its entirety:

- \$2 billion to re-start a near-zero emissions coal power plant in Illinois that the Department of Energy defunded last year because it said the project was inefficient.
- \$1 billion for the 2010 Census, which has a projected cost overrun of \$3 billion.
- \$1.4 billion for rural waste disposal programs.
- \$6 billion to turn federal buildings into "green" buildings.
- \$1.2 billion for "youth activities," including youth summer job programs.
- A \$246 million tax break for Hollywood movie producers to buy motion picture film.
- \$650 million for the digital television converter box coupon program.
- \$88 million for the Coast Guard to design a new polar icebreaker (arctic ship).
- \$448 million for constructing the Department of Homeland Security headquarters.
- \$248 million for furniture at the new Homeland Security headquarters.
- \$600 million to buy hybrid vehicles for federal employees.
- \$400 million for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to screen and prevent sexually transmitted diseases.
- \$412 million for CDC buildings and property.
- \$125 million for the Washington sewer system.
- \$150 million for Smithsonian museum facilities.
- \$75 million for "smoking cessation activities."
- \$200 million for public computer centers at community colleges.
- \$75 million for salaries of employees at the FBI.
- \$25 million for tribal alcohol and substance abuse reduction.
- \$500 million for flood reduction projects on the Mississippi River.
- \$10 million to inspect canals in urban areas.
- \$500 million for state and local fire stations.
- \$650 million for wildland fire management on forest service lands.
- \$88 million for renovating the

headquarters of the Public Health Service.

• \$500 million for building and repairing National Institutes of Health facilities in Bethesda, Maryland.

• \$160 million for "paid volunteers" at the Corporation for National and Community Service.

• \$5.5 million for "energy efficiency initiatives" at the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration.

• \$850 million for Amtrak.

• \$100 million for reducing the hazard of lead-based paint.

• \$75 million to construct a "security training" facility for State Department Security officers when they can be trained at existing facilities of other agencies.

• \$110 million to the Farm Service Agency to upgrade computer systems.

• \$200 million in funding for the lease of alternative energy vehicles for use on military installations.

Congressional Republicans categorized the list as an example of "wasteful" stimulus spending. Considering the amount of pork barrel spending those very same Republicans have approved over the years, it may be hypocritical of them to adopt such an outraged tone. But, in this regard, they are right—the new stimulus package is a crapshoot. While many of these projects may be worthy programs, it's doubtful that they're going to create the kinds

SEE LUNATICS ON PAGE 7

Lawmakers receive Gov.'s emergency list

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry on Feb. 3 declared emergency items for lawmakers to focus on in the first 30 days of the legislative session, which began Jan. 13.

Perry's emergency items call for legislation that would:

- Provide supplemental appropriations to state agencies and institutions related to hurricane response and recovery associated with the hurricanes of 2008;
- Assist public and private entities with recovery from the hurricanes of 2008;
- Reform the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and fund the related Catastrophe Reserve Trust Fund;
- Improve state schools and centers operated by the state of Texas; and
- Appropriate funds to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for screening and detection devices for contraband and personnel, and security equipment.

FEMA extends deadline for help

The Federal Emergency Management Agency extended to Feb. 20 the deadline for Texas homeowners, renters and business owners to apply for federal and state disaster assistance for damages and losses caused by Hurricane Ike.

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management requested the extension, citing a continued flow of new applications from Texans for disaster assistance.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners who choose to register may be eligible for:

- Grants to help pay for temporary housing needs;
- Essential home repairs;
- Serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other sources; and
- Low interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to repair or replace real or personal property.

"If you've delayed registering for FEMA assistance, please do it now," said federal coordinating officer Stephen M. De Blasio Sr. "FEMA wants to help Texans who need and qualify for assistance, but we can't help you if you don't register."

Reps request broader access

One hundred and two Texas House members on Feb. 2 sent a letter to Texas cable and satellite providers asking them to televise legislative sessions across the state.

"This is the logical next step in making state government more transparent and accountable," said Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, who led the effort to collect lawmakers' signatures.

Lawmakers file tax-capping bills

Already this session, many lawmakers have filed bills to limit property taxes and appraisal increases.

Most of these bills specify appraisal caps of 103 percent, 105 percent or 110 percent.

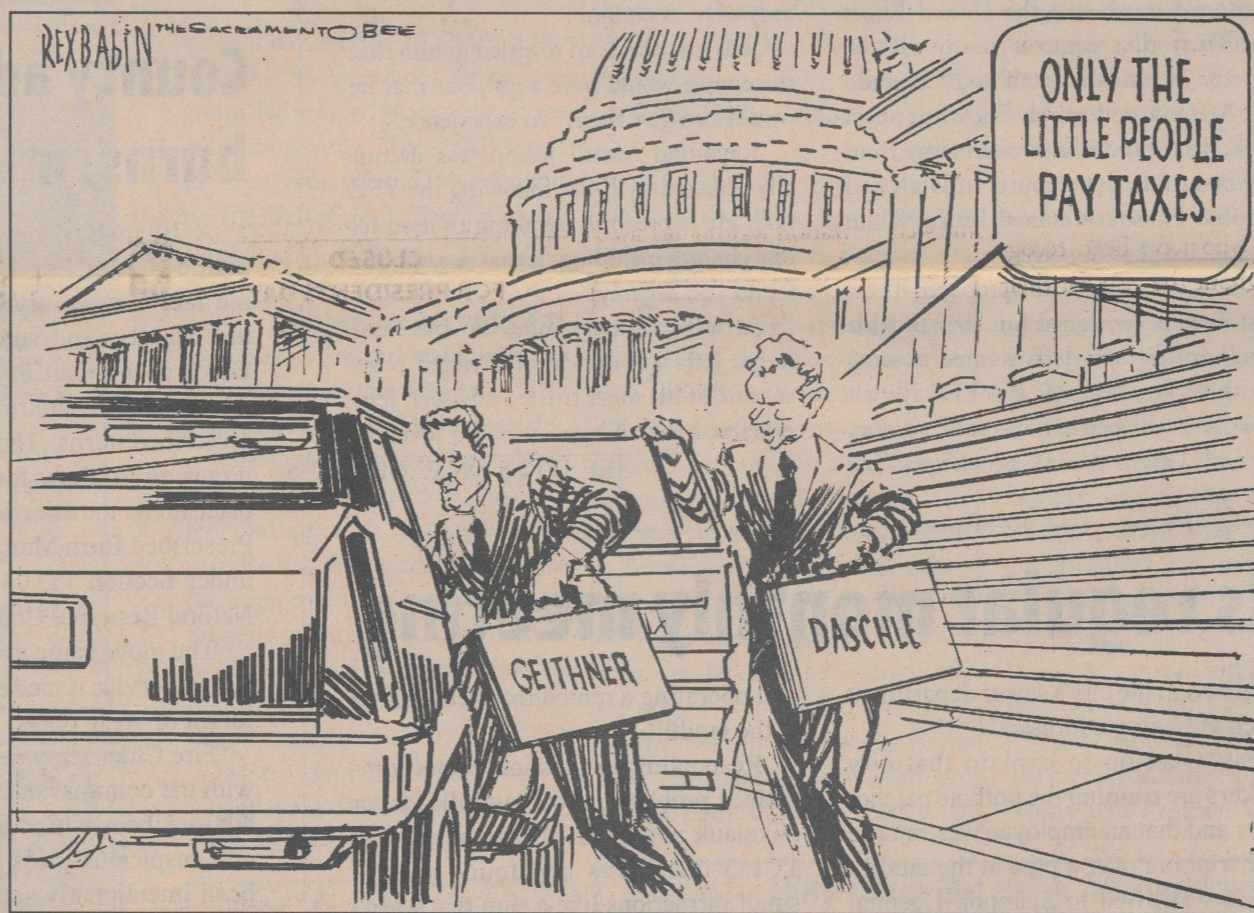
Some of the bills would amend state law and some would be in the form of proposed constitutional amendments that could end up on the Nov. 3 election ballot.

House members that have filed such legislation include Republicans Debbie Riddle of Houston, Bill Callegari of Katy, John Zerwas of Houston, Betty Brown of Terrell, and Jim Nichols of Carrollton, and Democrats Patrick Rose of Dripping Springs and David Leibowitz of San Antonio.

Callegari's HB 979 and HJR 49, a proposed constitutional amendment, would limit annual appraisal increases for commercial properties to 10 percent.

Unlike residential homestead ap-

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 7



Taking the Polar Express to the North Pole

The excitement grew as the big steam engine approached the depot in Palestine ringing its bell, sounding its whistle and creating clouds of steam. Families dressed in pajamas were full of anticipation. They would soon be boarding the Polar Express for a trip to the North Pole.

Last year eighteen thousand people rode the Polar Express out of Palestine. This year the number increased to thirty thousand.

My wife and I were among the group. Yes, I did have on my PJ's. Our five-year-old grandson Caleb was with us. He is a train fanatic first class. I asked him how many times he had seen the Polar Express movie and he said thousands of times. He has been fascinated with trains since he was a year old. He has half a dozen different train sets in his room.

The Polar Express runs along the tracks of the Texas State Railroad in November and December. It has two or three runs every evening. The steam engine pulls nine cars, each one carrying around a hundred passengers. The train leaves Palestine and travels a few



by Tumbleweed Smith

miles up the track toward Rusk and stops at Santa's house at the North Pole. It's actually a spot along the railroad with thousands of lights. Santa's house sits at the entrance to the North Pole and he waves at passengers as the train comes to a stop.

While the children and adults plaster their noses against the train windows to see the lights, Santa boards the train with some elves who start handing out large reindeer bells to passengers. Santa and his elves ride back to the depot in Palestine.

The hour-long trip has lots to offer. Soon after the train starts moving, those on board are treated to cups of hot chocolate while the hot chocolate song (Hot, Hot, Hot!) from the movie plays over the train's sound system.

The servers of the hot chocolate

are acrobats who turn flips at the depot while people board the train. On board, they dance with passengers and lead the crowd in Christmas songs. On the return trip, they pass out copies of the Polar Express book. The pajama-clad passengers follow along while the story is read over loud speakers.

The American Heritage Railway, which owns the Silverton-Durango train and the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, bought the Texas State Railroad a year ago and has brought some unique trains to operate between Rusk and Palestine. Huge crowds showed up to view Thomas the Tank Engine. The two newest ones are THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD and THE LONE RANGER. The latter, to run on Thursdays, will feature a train robbery that is interrupted by the Lone Ranger.

A Lone Ranger movie with Johnny Depp as Tonto will be filmed on the railroad in coming months. The LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD will run pretty much all year on Thursdays. On the drawing board is a train featuring Snoopy and Charlie Brown.

Why does the early bird always get the worm? Because he reads about it in

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS CLASSIFIED ADS

Tornado warning drill planned for February 26th

February 23 through 27 is Texas Severe Weather Awareness Week. Severe weather may strike with only a few minutes of advance warning. Do you have more than one way to receive a warning?

At approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 26th, the National Weather Service in San Angelo will transmit a practice tornado warning. We will transmit this warning through NOAA All Hazards Radio (formerly NOAA Weather Radio). Some of your local Radio and TV stations, and Emergency Management offices may also relay this warning in your area. The practice tornado warning will be cancelled at 9:45 am.

We will issue the warning for the following counties: Throckmorton, Haskell, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan,

Sterling, Coke, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, San Saba, Crockett, Schleicher, Menard, Sutton, Kimble, and Mason counties.

For more information, please contact Hector Guerrero at hector.guerrero@noaa.gov or Buddy McIntyre at buddy.mcintyre@noaa.gov or you can call us at 325-944-9445.

In 2004, a practice tornado warning drill was conducted on March 3rd. Then on the following day, March 4th, a severe line of thunderstorms with tornadoes struck west central Texas and even hit a school and produced substantial damage. This test proved extremely valuable and prepared many schools for this extreme severe weather event.



COURTESY PHOTO
Caught Being Good - Front (L-R) Tyson Snelson, Kreek James, Isaiah Ortiz. Center (L-R): Madison Arispe, Alexis Villanueva, Star Foley. Back: Mrs. Kathy Newman.

Elementary students get to be Royalty for a Day

Several elementary students were treated to special treats last week as part of the campus Caught Being Good Program. Students are recognized, on a regular basis, for going beyond and performing deeds of kindness for each other.

Elementary counselor, Mrs. Kathy Newman, drew a total of

six students, and they enjoyed eating lunch with their parents. In addition, they were treated to afternoon dessert of ice cream with Mrs. Newman.

Congratulations to these and all students who have been recognized throughout the year for their acts of generosity.

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

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MEMBER 2009
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



Early release planned Friday

Elementary students will be dismissed at 12:30 Friday in order to allow district wide staff and faculty to attend an inservice. Buses will run at 1:00 P.M., and classes will resume Monday, February 16 at the regular time.

Are you burdened with high home heating and cooling bills?

If you are facing high heating and cooling bills, you may be eligible for help. The C.E.A.P. Program and the W.A.P. Program are designed to make funds available in response to the needs affecting low-income households.

To be eligible for the programs the households must meet 125% of the Federal poverty income guidelines. Priority is given to households that are elderly (60 years and above); Disabled (individuals who are unable to engage in substantial employment by reason of a medically determined physical or mental condition which is determined to last); households with children under 6 years; households with the lowest income that pay the highest portion of their income for home energy; and households that have been on the weatherization waiting list for 2

or more years. The Concho Valley Community Action Agency administers these programs in the Concho Valley. For more information you can go online at www.cvcaa.org.

TCVCAA Outreach Workers will be in Eldorado on March 16 from 11 am to 3 pm. For more information call 325-653-1680 (or) 1-877-41-CVCAA during our business hours 8:00 to 12:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Meals for Friends Menu



MONDAY February 16, 2009

CLOSED

FOR PRESIDENTS DAY

TUESDAY February 17th

Chicken Fried Steak, Oven Fried Potatoes, Carrots, Hot Rolls, Vanilla Pudding w/Fruit, Milk.

WEDNESDAY February 18th

Chicken Enchiladas, Pinto Beans, Mexican Corn, Tossed Salad, Lemon Pudding, Milk.

THURSDAY February 19th

Meat w/Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Zucchini Squash, Garlic Bread, White cake w/Caramel Icing, Juice, Milk.

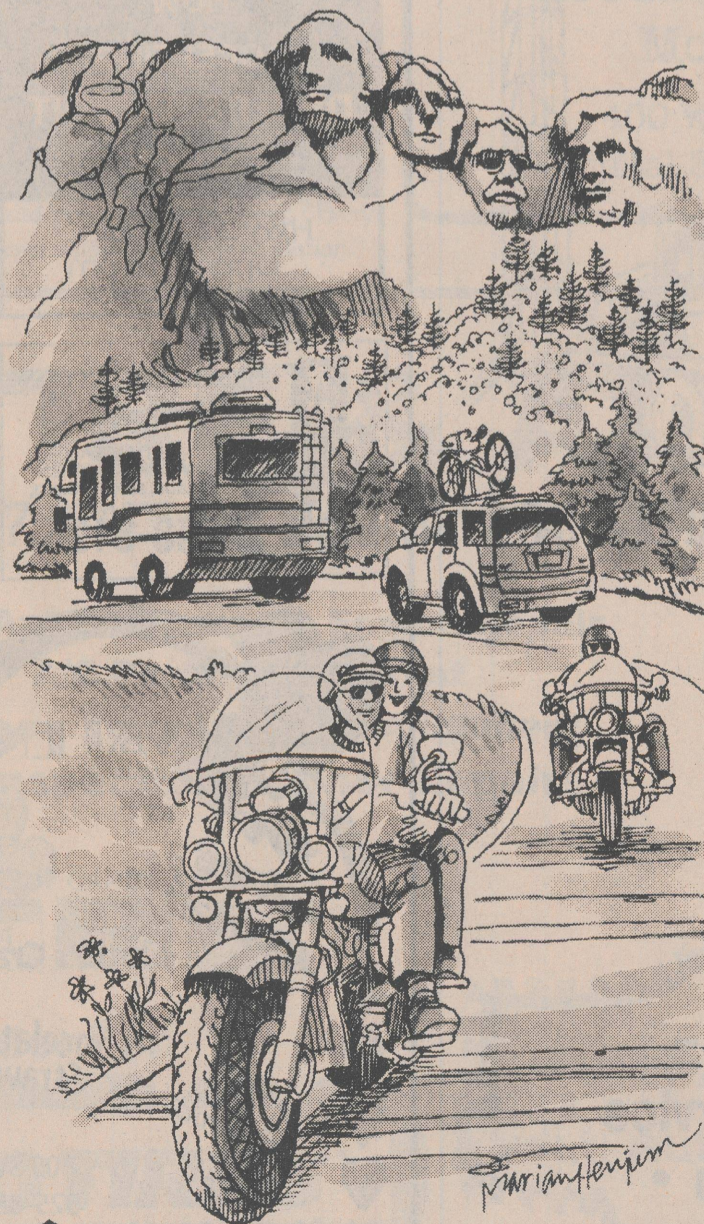
FRIDAY February 20th

Smothered Steak w/Onions, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Apple Crisp, Orange Juice, Milk.

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HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY

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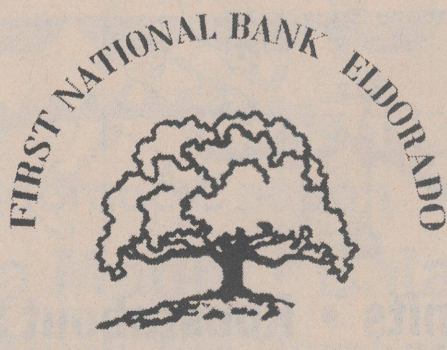
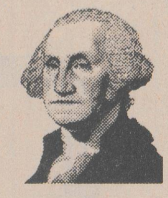
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A Special Tribute To America's Presidents

In 1927, Sculptor Gutzon Borglum began carving the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt out of a mountain of granite in South Dakota.

In 1941, Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed. Each February, on Presidents Day, we honor all who have served as President of the United States.

NOTICE: FNB WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY



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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle

by Linda Theiste

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:
* Moderate ** Challenging *** Hoo Boy!
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, and 3x3 sub-grid contains all the numbers from one to nine.
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See Solution on Page 8

D L Automotive

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Timothy Maskill named to 2009 FCA All Star Squad



Timothy Maskill

Timothy Maskill, son of Rosa & Lynn Lozano of Eldorado, has been chosen to participate in the 10th annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Myrle Great-house All-Star classic, to be held Saturday, June 13, 2009 in Abilene's Shortwell Stadium.

Representing Eldorado High School, Timothy was one of the 133 student/athletes selected for the game, which benefits the Big Country area Office of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Representing 50 + area schools, the rosters for the North and South squads were announced at a Press Conference on Saturday, Feb. 7th, 2009 at Beltway Park Baptist Church in Abilene, TX.

The young All-Stars were nominated by their head coaches for the game, which features schools from an approximate 100-mile radius of Abilene, TX.

The young All-Stars were nominated by their head coaches for the game, which features schools from an

approximate 100-mile radius of Abilene covering 36 counties.

Representatives from Class A-5A make up the squads. They will report for two-a-day workouts on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. There will be lots of activities that they will be involved in during that time and will be honored at a Victory Banquet in April, at the Abilene Civic Center.

Commenting on Maskill's outstanding 2008 season, Eldorado High School head football coach Johnny Burleson said, "Timmy was an offensive and defensive lineman, which makes his stats a little harder to come by. Timmy had 48 assisted tackles, 5 unassisted tackles and 2 tackles behind the line of scrimmage. On offense he always graded out high and for the year he was our most consistent lineman." Burleson went on to note that Maskill finished the year with 10 pancake blocks and 7 cut blocks.

SCISD School Lunch Menu

BREAKFAST LINE
Monday February 16, 2009
Blueberry Muffin, Choice of Cereal,
Choice of Juice, Milk
Tuesday February 17
Biscuits/Sausage, Jelly, Choice of
Juice, Milk
Wednesday February 18
Cinnamon Toast, Choice of Cereal,
Choice of Juice, Milk
Thursday February 19
French Toast/Syrup, Graham crack-
ers, Choice of Juice, Milk
Friday February 20
Buttered Toast/Jelly, Choice of Cereals,
Choice of Juice, Milk

CAFETERIA LINE
Monday February 16, 2009
Pork Chops/Gravy, Green Beans/
Hot Rolls, Creamed Potatoes, Pine-
apple Slices
Tuesday February 17
Chili Dogs/Cheese Cup, Fritos, Pork-
n-Beans, Mixed Fruit
Wednesday February 18
Chicken Burgers, Burger Salad,
Pickles/Chips, Sugar Cookies
Thursday February 19
Taco Rolls, Spanish Rice, Sliced
Cucumbers, Pear Halves
Friday February 20
BBQ- on-a-Bun, Baked Chips, Pickle
Slices, Orange Halves

BASKET LINE
Monday February 16, 2009
Mc Rib Sandwich, Baked Chips,
Cucumber Salad, Pineapple Slices
Tuesday February 17
Chili Dogs/Cheese Cup, Fritos, Pork-
n-Beans, Mixed Fruit
Wednesday February 18
Crisptos/Cheese sauce, Ranch
Style Beans, Carrot Stix/Dip, Sugar
Cookies
Thursday February 19
Chef Salad/Dressing, Diced Ham/
Cheese Cup, Crackers(8), Pear
Halves
Friday February 20
BBQ-on-a-Bun, Sliced Pickles, Baked
Chips, Orange Halves

ALL MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Warbirds in playoffs, shift aim to District crown

by J.L. Mankin

The Eldorado Boy's Basketball team has positioned itself for a district title with wins over Mason and Irion County Friday and Tuesday nights.

The Warbirds are ensured a play-off spot, but could bring home the crown by winning their final two games.

Eldorado traveled to Mason Friday and returned home with a 39-35 win.

Dustin Ramos led the team in scoring with 13 points.

Mason Baker was the only other Eagle to break into double digits with 11.

Russel Cathey ended the night with seven points while Johnathan Belman tallied four.

Paul Martinez and Juan Medrano each accounted for two points.

The Warbirds followed up their victory in Mason with a convincing 73-51 win over Irion County.

Cathey had a career game with 30 points. Eighteen of which came off of three-pointers.

Ramos had a standout performance as well with 21 points on the evening.

Miles Mikeska accounted for eight points while Baker had five.

Josh Jurecek finished the game out with four points, and Ryan Castillo tallied three points in the contest.

The win pushes the Eagles district record to 6-2.

They will face Miles (6-2) and Menard (7-1) Friday and Tuesday to decide which team will claim the district title.



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Mason Baker looks for room to drive the ball inside during the Eldorado Eagles 73-51 victory over the Irion County Hornets Tuesday night. The win clinched a playoff berth for the Warbirds who now set their sights on a district championship.

Lady Eagles b-ball season ends with pair of losses

by J.L. Mankin

The Eldorado Lady Eagles needed to win their last two games of district play to secure an outright spot in the playoffs.

The Lady Eagles playoff hopes suffered a set back Friday night as they dropped a 32-21 game in Mason.

The loss meant that for Eldorado to make it to the playoffs they would have to beat Irion County at home Tuesday night and get some help from Menard in their contest with Mason. Neither of which happened.

Irion County traveled back to Mertzon with a 49-21 victory and a bid in the playoffs, while Menard dropped its game with Mason 44-34.

In the Lady Eagles' contest in Mason only three Eldorado players scored.

Halley Higgins accounted for the bulk of the points with 13 on the night.

Kadie Niblett finished the

evening with six points and Briannah Creek tallied two.

Mason received points from seven of its players, though none broke into double digits.

The Lady Eagles' shooting woes continued Tuesday as they mustered 21 points for the second game in a row.

Higgins led the team again with 10 points while Brittany Luce accounted for three.

Corrie Williams, Allison Jarrett and Creek each had two while Niblett and Amy Alvizo both had one.

The Lady Eagles finished their district campaign with a 4-6 district record. That placed them 4th in district, just one win game shy of qualifying for the playoffs.

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Pasillas takes 1st Place in U.I.L. Accounting

Claudia Pasillas placed 1st in Accounting to pace the Eldorado High School U.I.L. team at Sonora High School's 63rd annual Speech & Academic Tournament held Friday, February 6th.

Individual and team placings appear below.

Accounting: 1st Place Team - Claudia Pasillas (Individual) 1st Place Medalist, Isidro Granados - 3rd Place Medalist and Adriana Hernandez.

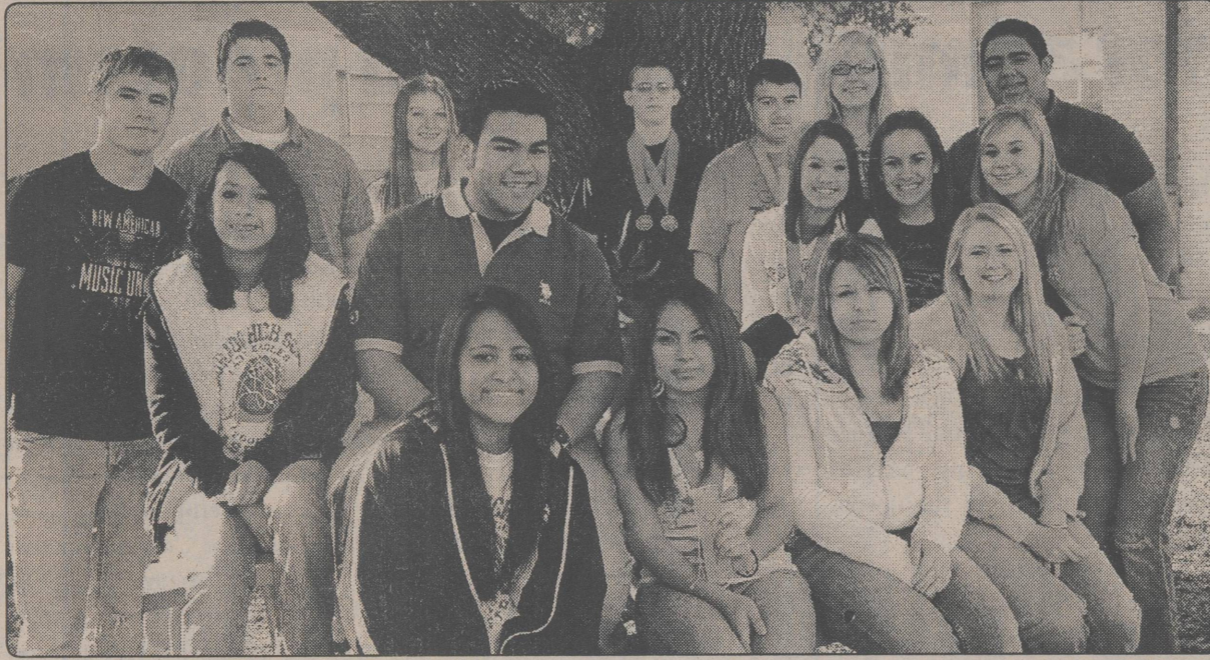
Computer Applications: Claudia Pasillas placed 5th;

Feature Writing: Kairos McCollum - 2nd Place Medalist, Kaitlyn Bluford, 5th Place Ribbon

Current Events: Miles Mikeska - 8th place

Prose: Ben Wipff - 6th Place Ribbon

Science: Hunter Alvizo - 3rd Place Medalist - Top Physics



COURTESY PHOTO

Eldorado High School U.I.L. Academic Medalists and participants Dylan Dombroski, Brittney Gauna, Timothy Cuevas, Kadie Niblett, Corie Williams, Kaitlyn Bluford, Abby Fuentes, Amy Alvizo, Hunter Alvizo, Miles Mikeska, Brianah Creek, Amanda Garcia, Kairos McCollum, Emily Espinosa, Adriana Hernandez, Ashley Paulson, Bridgett Mitchell, Ryan Fortenberry, Mason Baker, Brittany Luce, Rance Cathey, Lauren Rubio Yadira Zambrano, Marissa Gonzalez, Laura Garcia, Juan Medrano and Isidro Granados.

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Gotta Love Those Eagles!

Elementary PTO treated to special performance



The elementary PTO members and guests had a special treat as some of Mrs. Darlene Edmiston's students performed a Reader's Theater. As part of a unit of study, students performed "K.C.'s Dream", a story of a young girl who learns how to overcome obstacles such as prejudice. Students did an outstanding job as they recited their memorized parts for the audience.

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Readers Theater - Front (L-R) Kaylee Swindoll, Keanu Hernandez, Kade Creek; Center (L-R) : Noah Sorrells, McKayla Rodriguez, Zelenia Vasquez, Alex Alvarez; Back (L-R) Raymond Parsons and Mrs. Darlene Edmiston.

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 February 20--February 22; February 27--March 1.
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SCISD trustees approve contract extensions for administrators and program directors

The Schleicher County ISD board of trustees met Monday, February 9, 2009 and voted to extend the contracts of EHS Principal Scotty Carman, Middle School Principal Kara Garlitz and Elementary Principal Houston Hendryx. Technology Director J.D. Doyle, Band Director Jerry Barker and Finance Director Ray Ballew also received extended contracts for the upcoming year.

The board paused early in the meeting to watch a skit, titled "K.C.'s Dream", performed by members of Mrs. Darlene Edmiston's 4th Grade class. Zelenia Vasquez, Makayla Trevino, Kade Creek, Alex Alvarez, Noah Sorrells, Raymond Parsons, Keanu Hernandez and Chase Mertz made up the cast. The youngsters focused on the achievements of numerous African-American citizens as part of the school's curriculum for Black History Month.

In other business the trustees learned that the school's enrollment is hovering at about 600 students. A closer breakdown of the enrollment numbers reveal that the Elementary has 258 "eligible" students with an additional 25 students being ineligible for free or reduced-price breakfast or lunch.

The Middle School reported a total of 170 students effective January 31st while Eldorado High School turned in 168 students with one of them being ineligible for free or reduced-price meals. That makes the totals 621 with 595 being considered "eligible."

The board then learned that two tentative school calendars have been put together for the upcoming school year. Faculty and staff will work with the calendars to bring a final proposed calendar to the board at a future meeting.

Ray Ballew then reviewed the district's financial records and noted that the school has received almost all of its tax revenue for the year. That contrasts with other districts in West Texas where property tax collection has fallen behind.

"We have great taxpayers," Ballew noted. "We have very few collection problems and always collect virtually 100 percent of our taxes."

Ballew went on to review the rest of the district's financial reports and noted that he did not need to ask for a budget amendment at this time.

Moving on, the board approved

the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting. They then called for an election so that voters can decide how to return approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 to the state.

Superintendent Billy Collins explained that SCISD was recently designated as a Chapter 41 or wealthy school district and as such must return part of its revenue to the state as determined by a complicated formula. Collins said that SCISD is one of the few "Gap Districts" that still receive money from the state while returning a portion of it.

Collins further noted that voters must pick a plan by which money will be recaptured. He recommended "Option 3" of five options, involving the purchase of attendance credits from the state.

The item will be placed on the ballot for May 9th.

In other business, the trustees authorized the purchase of a small passenger bus through TASB's buy board. They also called for bids for a new Chevrolet Suburban type vehicle.

The board then approved a

special called meeting for next Monday, February 16, 2009, at which time they will meet with architect Larry Harvey and review plans he has prepared for the renovation of the Middle School gymnasium.

The trustees also reviewed and approve campus improvement plans as presented by the three campus principals before entering into an executive session for the discussion of personnel matters.

When the trustees returned to open session, they did so by approving the contract extensions for the aforementioned program directors.

Monday night's meeting was the second regular session of the year for the board. It was called to order by board president Kurtis Homer with trustees Berta Nicholson, Lupe Sanchez, Kirk Jones and Robert Jay in attendance. Trustees Leanne Higgins and Jan Wanoreck were absent. Also in attendance were principals Scotty Carman, Kara Garlitz, Houston Hendryx, finance director Ray Ballew, maintenance supervisor Oscar Martinez and administration secretary Sandra Robledo.

Jeffs' fugitive days detailed in documents . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"light minded."

Another episode describes Jeffs visit to a St. Louis, Missouri tanning salon with his wife Naomi while another describes how Jeffs directed one of his followers to obtain fake identification papers from a "black man" in Denver. However, the man was arrested on a traffic violation before he could obtain the IDs for Jeffs. The man was later released and indicated that he was still ready to carry out the job.

In another instance, Jeffs directs that a midwife be used to deliver babies at the YFZ Ranch, not Dr. Lloyd Barlow.

Jeffs also expresses surprise that he was named to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List.

Then there were the motorcycles.

The transcript describes how Jeffs directed the purchase of motorcycles so he could travel without being detected. He studied books in order to learn how to ride, but still fell on the ground on his first attempt. Jeffs scheduled four days in Colorado specifically to learn to ride a motorcycle.

Jeffs also tells of traveling from one state capital to another in order to proclaim God's judgement on the various states and to literally "shake the dust from his feet" in each capital.

Jeffs also predicted that a massive

hurricane would wipe New Orleans off the face of the map even as Hurricane Katrina was bearing down on the Crescent City. He even prayed for the city's destruction before purchasing a TV so that he could watch news coverage of the storm's aftermath.

The transcripts continue even after Jeffs capture and reveal that he was ordering the reassignment of his followers' wives and the excommunication of their former husbands as he exercised amazing control over his flock even from behind bars.

County Commissioners . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Eldorado the county's match for an upcoming sewer line project. The court also approved the bills and authorized their payment.

Before adjourning, Judge Bradley offered several information items for the commissioners to consider.

The next meeting of the Schleicher County Commissioners Court is slated for Monday, February 23 at 9 a.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the county courthouse.

City Council Meeting . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mayo explained that the city has allow for private company's to provide contract services to a licensed entity like the YFZ Ranch.

The mayor added that no one at TCEQ is trying to interfere, only that the state's rules didn't anticipate such an unusual case. He said the agency has its lawyers reviewing the agreement and that he expects to hear back from TCEQ officials in the near future.

In other business, Carolyn

signed with PS Workers Comp Alliance Network to provide worker's compensation insurance. She said that Schleicher County Medical Center is not listed on the network and that she has asked to have it added but has not received an answer.

The next meeting of the Eldorado City Council is slated for 6 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2009 in the council chambers at City Hall.

Capital Highlights . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

praisals, which are capped at 10 percent, appraisal increases for commercial property taxes are not limited by law, Callegari explained.

In the absence of any limitation, the property tax appraisal values for Texas' businesses can increase substantially from year to year.

Callegari said, for example, one business in his district reported a 67 percent tax increase over one year.

"Any business that receives a higher property tax bill is faced with two options: either pass the costs onto the consumer or absorb

a loss to their investment."

Ex-speaker's information deleted
 The Texas Legislative Council, the state agency with duties that include information technology management at the Capitol, purged former House Speaker Tom Craddick's computer hard drive, according to an Associated Press story.

Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said he would file legislation to prevent such destruction in the future to "preserve the public's right to know about legislative information when a legislator leaves office."

56th Annual Meeting

DATE: Thursday, February 12

TIME: Registration - 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Meeting - 7:00 pm

PLACE: The Venue (4611 S. Jackson)

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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Moundsman's flub
5. ___ buco
9. "One Note ___"
14. HOMES part
15. Item in a diner basket
16. Do roadwork, say
17. Keister
18. Drano target
19. Slipped up
20. Met mural painter
23. E-file org.
24. Slightest of margins
25. Word after "Ye"
27. Marzipan nut
30. Alley feline
34. Tire cord material
35. Coal-rich German region
36. "Natch!"
37. Factory-reject tag abbr.
38. Finger pointer
41. Big bird of fable
42. Bug-eyed
44. He surpassed Babe
45. Dickensian Heep
47. Short Beethoven work
49. Villainous looks
50. Tartan-clad group
51. "The check's in the ___"
52. Prefix with friendly

DOWN

1. Soil embankment
2. Word with Bay or gray
3. Fact-fudger
4. Sneeze sound

MCs

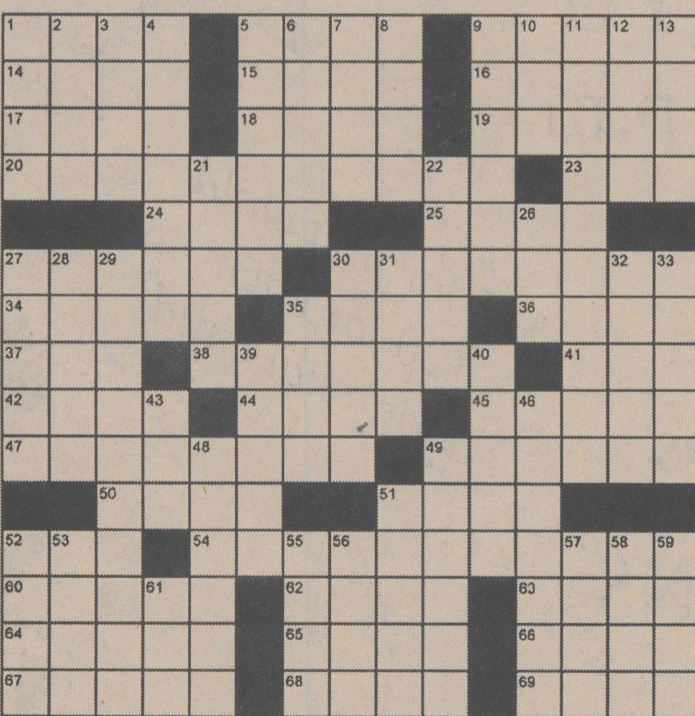
54. "Love Takes Time" singer
60. Conductor Zubin
62. Ocean predator
63. Easy to manage
64. Rubik's Cube maker
65. Othello, notably
66. Sermon subject
67. Needing a mas-

5. Corsage flower

68. Wintour of fashion
69. PC name
7. Go with difficulty
8. Gymnast Korbut
9. "A Streetcar Named Desire" woman
10. ETA part: Abbr.
11. Radioactivity pio-

near

12. Stand at a wake
13. Extra details
21. Showy flower
22. Mr. Moto player
26. Prefix with lexic
27. Diva's deliveries
28. Slowly, on a score
29. Jokester who was an Ed
30. Gym amenity
31. To-do list item
32. Loud, like the surf
33. Users' helpers
35. Read the UPC of
39. Good dishes
40. Like some ancient alphabets
43. Hoedown partner
46. In the family
48. Tex-Mex treat
49. Much of North Africa
51. City nicknamed "Heart of Georgia"
52. Give off
53. Hand over
55. "Arrivederci" city
56. Fe, to chemists
57. Go bonkers
58. Disney's boy detective
59. Join a pep rally
61. Prof's helpers



See solution on Page 8

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:
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Annual vaccinations can help prevent the flu in the long run

HOUSTON – (Feb. 04, 2009) – Being consistent about getting the influenza vaccine year after year can provide consistent protection against the virus and its complications, said an expert at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

“It’s important to remember that it’s never too late to get the flu shot,” said Dr. Shital Patel, assistant professor of medicine-infectious diseases at BCM. Since the influenza virus peaks around January and can last through February or even March, getting the vaccine can also provide protection during these last

few weeks.

Each year, the influenza vaccine covers the strains of the virus that experts predict will circulate that year. However, there is a possibility that a strain not covered in the vaccine will circulate. Although the vaccine is not a guarantee of protection from the virus, it does help reduce the risk of serious complications, hospitalization and death from the flu.

It’s still important to avoid contact with someone who has the flu and to maintain good hygiene to keep from getting the flu, said Patel.

The flu vaccine is recommended for the following groups:

- Children ages 6 months to 18 years
- Pregnant women
- Those with chronic health conditions such as asthma, COPD and heart disease
- Those 50 years of age or older
- Health care workers
- Those living in long term care facilities and nursing homes

Patel emphasizes that it’s just as important for housemates or those that care for any of the recommended groups above to get vaccinated.

This helps stem the spread of the virus in the household and throughout the community.

Anyone who wants to reduce their risk of getting the flu is encouraged to get vaccinated.

Texas Forest Service warns of high wildfire danger alert for West Texas

COLLEGE STATION — The Texas Forest Service (TFS) is urging citizens in the Southern Plains and the Hill Country to be aware of heightened wildfire danger due to a front that will drop humidity levels and produce high winds.

The areas of highest concern are the Abilene, Midland/Odessa, Fort Stockton, Del Rio and San Angelo areas.

“These critical conditions could lead to wildfires that spread very rapidly and are extremely difficult

to contain in this area,” said Brad Smith, a fire behavior analysis for TFS. “The potential for damage to improved property, such as homes, becomes much higher.”

These wildfires can also quickly endanger public safety.

Though parts of the state saw some precipitation on Sunday and Monday, prolonged drought conditions have not improved.

TFS Predictive Services Department forecasts that through the month of February fuels, such as

grasses and trees, are expected to remain critically dry.

Over the past seven days, TFS has responded to 65 wildfires for 4,743 acres. According to an online database managed by TFS, fire departments have reported 205 wildfires for 3,424 since last Monday.

For more information on fire advisories and area conditions, go to <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu> and click on Fire Danger/Advisories.

The lunatics are running the asylum. . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of jobs necessary to stimulate the economy.

If members of Congress have lost sight of what this economic crisis is all about and whom the stimulus plan is supposed to be helping, perhaps the following sobering statistics will help to remind them what’s really at stake here:

According to ABC Action News, more than 3.1 million Americans received foreclosure notices last year—that translates to one out of every 54 households. And 861,664 families lost their homes last year alone.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that approximately nine million Americans were unemployed in 2008. That does not include the 540,000 employees who lost their jobs in January 2009. As a result, unemployment claims have now reached a 26-year high, with more than four million Americans collecting unemployment benefits. And still the numbers keep growing, as more and more companies attempt to tighten their belts and stave off financial ruin.

The national debt (the total amount of money owed by the government) passed the \$10 trillion mark in the fall of 2008 and, according to

some predictions, could grow another \$3.4 trillion by 2018. As it currently stands, each citizen’s share of the national debt (not including personal debt) amounts to roughly \$37,000. The Treasury Department has projected that interest payments on the federal debt will be roughly \$450 billion this year, not including what we end up shelling out on the proposed stimulus plan. And approximately one-third of our national debt is owned by foreign governments, with the largest chunks held by China, Japan and the United Kingdom, and oil exporters such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and, incredibly enough, Iran.

And this year’s federal deficit (the yearly amount by which spending exceeds revenue) will reach a record \$1.2 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Again, this figure does not reflect the proposed \$900 billion stimulus plan.

To those such as John Whitehead, former chairman of Goldman Sachs, who lived through the Depression, the writing’s on the wall. Whitehead believes that the growing deficit threatens the credit of the United States, which could push the economy into a slump deeper than the Great Depression. Whitehead

warned that the country’s financial strength is at risk due to the sweeping demand for tax relief and a long list of major government spending plans. “I see nothing but large increases in the deficit, all of which are serving to decrease the credit standing of America,” said Whitehead. “We’re talking about reducing the credit of the United States of America, which is the backbone of the economic system.”

The bottom line is this: People are losing their jobs and their homes, and Congress is spending money we don’t have on programs that we can’t afford and which will not provide immediate relief to the average taxpayer or stimulate the economy in any significant fashion.

If Congress continues in this vein, it won’t be long before the nation goes bankrupt. Indeed, we’re hanging by a thread as it is.

The problem, in a nutshell, is that we no longer have a government “of the people, by the people and for the people.” If our representatives in Congress no longer represent us, then maybe it’s time that we throw the scoundrels out of office.

As Thomas Jefferson, our nation’s third president, pointed out: “Every generation needs a new revolution.”

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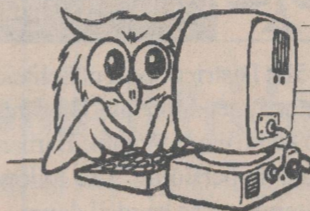
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POSITION: Maintenance Director/Van Driver

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EXPERIENCE:
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 Ask for an application at or bring resume' to:
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Applications will be accepted until position is filled.
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ELDORADO - Garage Sale: Friday February 13. 607 Calendar. Bedding, towels, microwave, TVs rugs, & more. 8 am to ?? If weather permits. If not Saturday.

ELDORADO - MULTI-Family-Indoor Garage Sale-Friday, February 13 and Saturday February 14. 9 6 Furniture, dishes, kitchen ware, home decor, clothing & more. 602 SW Main. Next to Car Wash. p

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Schleicher County Medical Center
 Contact: Vicki Farmer, BSN, DON
 Fax 325-853-3523
 Phone 325-853-2507 ext.109
 EEO

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ELDORADO-CEMETERY PLOTS
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, addressed to the Schleicher County Commissioners' Court will be received by the County Clerk, until 10:00 a.m. February 23, 2009 when such bids will be opened and possibly awarded in the Commissioner's Courtroom for:

One (1) transport Load of Diesel Fuel (Include all applicable taxes)

The Commissioner's Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Peggy Williams
 County & District Clerk
 P. O. Drawer 580
 Eldorado, Texas 76936
 Phone - (325) 853-2833 ext 72
 Fax - (325) 853-2768

Lynn Meador Real Estate

5 N. Divide ~ Eldorado, Texas 76936
 Lynn Meador, Broker 325-650-6324
 Jo Ward, Agent/ 325-853-2339

206 N. Divide. One and a half story frame with 2BR -2 Bath. Two additional rooms for possible bedrooms, living room, kitchen/dining and utility. Central heat/air conditioning, new interior paint and carpet. **\$54,000**

105 N. Street: 3 BR 2 Bath, Brick home on large lot. Living Room with fireplace. Large master bedroom with bath. Utility room. Central Heat/AC. Carport. Needs interior repair and upgrading. Great access to school. **\$69,900**

212 N Divide: 3 BR 1 Bath on corner lot. Needs repair. Hardwood floors, new double pane windows, kitchen and bath tile. Good investment property. **\$27,500**

800 N. Divide: Excellent commercial property with good exposure on US 277 (Divide St) formerly known as The Hitch'in Post. Metal building with drive-thru and doors has been upgraded and remodeled. Refrigeration units, attic storage. Other equipment available. A lot of commercial potential with this property. **\$150,000**

FM 2596 10 acre tract with 3 BR 2 B home in excellent condition. Lots of improvements including metal barns, pens, shop and storage, fenced yard, 1 mile SE of Eldorado. **\$139,000**

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Eldorado Spotlight



The Spotlight camera captured artist and Pre-K Teacher Claudia Doll painting the windows at the Ratliff Theater in preparation of the Way Off Broadway Players' upcoming performance of "Smoke On The Mountain Homecoming."

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USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding,

or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and supporting

documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

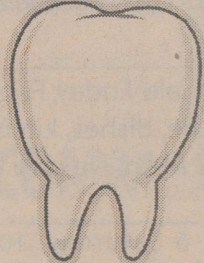
USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter. Notice of the referendum will be published in the Dec. 16, 2008, Federal Register. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms.

Big Buck!

Jaime Chancellor (11 yrs old) shot this buck in Sutton County. He entered it in Family Power Sports Big Buck Contest-Youth Division. The winners were announced Saturday January 31st. Jaime's deer was a 12 point scoring 140 that placed him 2nd in the contest. He won a Howa .243 caliber rifle with changeable stock and scope that was donated by Field & Stream. He is the son of Tracy Sauer and Jeff Chancellor.



COURTESY PHOTO




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Woman Writes Historic Letter to Her Congressman

BEXAR COUNTY—After applying Thera-Gesic® to her arthritic hands, Mary Ann W. hand wrote a forty-seven page letter to her Congressman explaining the true meaning of life. When asked where she had gathered all the wisdom for writing such a masterpiece and why she sent it to a government official, she painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"

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Noninsured Assitance Program News

Monday, March 16, 2009 is the deadline to purchase forage sorghum-haygrazer NAP coverage for 2009 crop year. The NAP fee is \$250 per crop up to \$750 per county. The final planting date for forage sorghum hay is May 31, 2009.

Interested producers may also submit previous year production evidence at time of application for their actual production records to determine each individual producer yield and coverage level. NAP forage sorghum provides coverage for grazing and mechanical harvest. Recall, producers interested in the Supplemental Revenue Disaster Program must have all mechanically harvested crops of economic significance covered by NAP and/or crop insurance.

More information may be obtained at the Schleicher-Sutton/Val Verde Office at (325) 853-3535.

Texas Independence Day celebration begins Feb. 28 at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

WASHINGTON, Texas — The 173rd anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence will be commemorated Feb. 28 and March 1 at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. The free, two-day celebration, held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, brings to life the early 1800s Republic of Texas era.

The two-day celebration at the 293-acre park along the Brazos River transports visitors back to the time when Texas was a sovereign nation. Costumed re-enactors and members of the Texas Army, along with skilled craftsmen and talented musicians, fill the park as Texas commemorates its inception. Re-enactors portraying statesmen of the era, such as Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and Anson Jones, will be on hand to explain the importance of Texas independence. On both days, vendors will be selling a variety of festival foods and drinks.

The Washington-on-the-Brazos Park Association's new Web project, the Spirit of Independence, will

be previewed at the park's Visitors Center. The interactive Web site is being constructed to allow teachers and students access to the historic site's wealth of information and primary sources. The Spirit of Independence project is designed to increase awareness of the unique place Washington-on-the-Brazos holds in Texas history.

Also on Independence Day weekend, the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos will open a new exhibit titled "Texas Transformed: Early Maps of Texas." On display will be the largest map of Texas, measuring roughly eight feet square, on loan from the Texas General Land Office. Charles W. Pressler, who worked for GLO for 50 years, drafted the map in 1879. The Pressler map will be exhibited through March 22. Other rare maps, including the first to identify "Tejas" as a place, will be on display through Aug. 31.

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, the park association and the Ron Stone Foundation will dedicate a marker and

rose garden to the late Ron Stone, an ardent supporter of Washington-on-the-Brazos. The Antique Rose Emporium will unveil Ron's Vision, its newest yellow rose.

Dr. Stephen L. Hardin, professor of history at Victoria College, author, and widely acclaimed expert on the Texas Revolution will be the guest speaker at 2 p.m. Sunday in the park amphitheater. Following will be a performance by the Tanner Family Minstrel Show. In keeping with the celebration's tradition, a Texas-sized birthday cake will be served to concert-goers with the help of the Washington County Historical Society Heritage Belles.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site features three attractions that are open year round: Independence Hall, the Star of the Republic Museum and the Barrington Living History Farm. Admission fees to all attractions will be waived during the celebration weekend thanks to support from the WOB State Park Association, Exxon/Mobil Corporation and Bluebonnet Electric Co-op.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site is located between Brenham and Navasota off State Hwy. 105 and FM 1155, approximately one hour northwest of Houston.

For directions or more information, call (936) 878-2214.

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