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Happy New Year!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2005

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THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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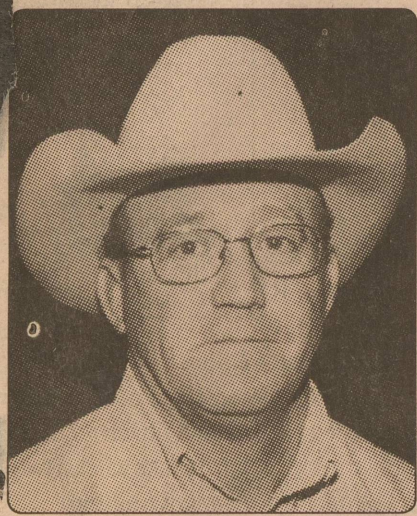


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Matt Brown

Brown seeks re-election in Precinct 4

I would like to announce my intent to run for a second term as County Commissioner Pct. #4. Over the past three years I have been honored to serve Schleicher County. Over this time we have accomplished a great deal for the county which I would like to continue. We have faced challenges but I am confident the county is in better shape than we were three years ago. I will continue to explore ways to improve the counties operations and facilities. I pledge that if re-elected I will continue to work hard to represent the citizens of Precinct #4 on the Commissioners Court. I will look forward to talking with you and listening to your concerns and suggestions as this campaign season begins.

I have lived in Schleicher County for 23 years and have been in the ranching business since 1978 raising Beefmaster Cattle and meat goats. Prior to that I attended Texas Tech University where I received a BS in Animal Business.

I have served as the Chairman of the Farm Service committee in Schleicher County, the American Boer Goat Association for 5 years, the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association meat goat committee and the Junior Meat Goat Show Circuit and I am currently on the board of the Central Texas Beefmaster Association.

I have coached little league baseball and I am an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church. I have been married to Christy Brown for 15 years. We have three children Courtney, Lauren, and Wes.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as County Commissioner Pct. #4. I would like to continue to serve Schleicher County.

Sincerely,
Matt Brown

NOTICE

The City of Eldorado has an ordinance prohibiting the sale and discharge of fireworks within the city limits. Persons violating the ordinance will be subject to a \$100 fine. In view of the extremely dry conditions, Mayor Nikolauk urges everyone to refrain from discharging fireworks this New Year's.

Thank You

Christmas Eve fire destroys Whitten home on FM 915

Fire claimed the home of Steven Whitten on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2005, approximately five miles north of Eldorado on FM 915. There was no one home at the time of the blaze and no injuries were reported as firefighters from Eldorado, Mertzon, Barnhart and Sonora battled the fire. The home was a total loss.

Fire Chief Jerry Jones reports that the home was fully involved in flames when the first firefighters arrived. "It looked like the fire had started in the middle of the house and it had already burned through the roof when we got there," Jones said. "There wasn't much we could do."

A passing motorist reportedly spotted the fire and called it in to the Sheriff's Department's 9-1-1 dispatcher.

Steven Whitten, who works for the Sheriff's Dept. as a jailer dispatcher was out of town at the time of the fire.

High winds experienced throughout the day prompted worries that the fire might spread to nearby ranchland, leading Jones to call for support from the Sonora Fire Department. Meanwhile, firefighters in Mertzon were notified independently responded to the blaze, as did a unit from the Barnhart Fire Department. Niblett's Oilfield Service



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Two brick fireplaces and a pile of charred debris were all that remained of the Steven Whitten home on FM 915 following a Christmas Eve fire. The 3,100 sq. ft. - five-bedroom home was fully involved in flames when firefighters arrived late Saturday afternoon. A passing motorist reportedly spotted the fire and called authorities.

also assisted by hauling two transport loads of water to the fire.

Fire Chief Jones says that the cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

Howard Ledbetter and his two sons

were also living in the home and had reportedly left a few minutes before the fire started. The family also lost all their possessions in the inferno.

A fund to benefit Steven Whitten and

the Howard Ledbetter family has been established at First National Bank of Eldorado. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund may do so by contacting one of the bank tellers.

New Year's Eve brings out extra DPS troopers

During the New Year's weekend, DPS will have all available troopers on Texas roadways. Troopers will be looking for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from New Year's Eve through midnight on January 1.

Last New Year's, DPS troopers arrested 423 people for driving while intoxicated; they also arrested 50 minors for driving under the influence.

"DPS troopers will be looking for people who are driving while intoxicated," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS, "so it's a good idea to designate a driver at the beginning of the evening. That

designated driver should not consume any alcohol. Otherwise, you may find yourself on the side of the road, participating in a field sobriety test."

Last New Year's, troopers also issued 6,244 speeding tickets. In addition, they wrote 797 tickets for seat belt violations and 329 tickets for child safety seat violations.

If you're looking for self-improvement ideas for the new year, look no farther than your own mirror. Driving can be one of the most dangerous activities you engage in during the day, so taking a few moments to think about your driving is a good idea.

Here are some good driving habits to employ:

- Make sure everyone is buckled up.
- Drive sober.
- Use your turn signals.
- Do not tailgate.
- Obey the speed limit.
- Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes.
- Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities at the time the violation occurs.
- Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

Texas employers add 136,400 jobs over the year, unemployment rate holds steady

AUSTIN — Seasonally Adjusted Nonagricultural Employment in Texas grew by 17,300 jobs from October to November as Texas employers continued adding jobs. In the last 12 months, Texas has added 136,400 jobs, while over-the-year growth held steady at 1.4 percent. November marks 15 consecutive months of job growth, while all nine major industry sectors added jobs over

the year. The unemployment rate held steady at 5.3 percent following a slight upward revision of October's data.

"The addition of jobs over the month and over the year bodes well for the Texas labor market," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. "It is encouraging that growth is both steady and broadly based."

Professional & Business Services posted a significant gain of 5,900 jobs in November, following an increase of 5,700 positions in October. Leisure & Hospitality employment improved by 3,900 jobs in November, following a gain of 4,400 positions in October. Employment in the Trade, Transportation & Utilities (TTU) sector expanded by 2,100 positions in November, representing an increase of 19,200 jobs over the year.

"Job growth appears to be gaining momentum in several diverse industries," said TWC

Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. "In addition, the growth rate in Construction, often seen as an indicator of future growth, is expanding at an annual rate of 3.0 percent."

Employment in Construction increased by 1,200 jobs in November, continuing a nine-month streak of positive monthly growth for the sector. Annual growth rose to a rate of 3.0 percent, representing an increase of 16,400 jobs since November 2004.

"Sustained job growth speaks well for the Texas labor market and for Texas job seekers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "The number of employed Texans continues to steadily climb and now stands at a record 10,715,100."

Initial claims for unemployment compensation in November 2005 were 66,595 down 19.2 percent from November 2004.

Locals share their New Year's wishes

I resolve to spend more time with my family, be a better person and "provide higher quality meat for Eldorado."

Rudy Sanchez

I predict 75% of the men and women will be out of Iraq by the end of the year.

Mike Carter

I resolve to stop smoking, be more organized at home and work. Also be a better person, be nice.

Lesa Martinez

Lose some more weight and walk more.

Jimmy Doyle

My resolution is the same as the past five years....and only I know what that is.

Kim-et Nelson

I resolve to not make a resolution because you will just break them.

Lilly Vallejo

My resolution is to retire this year, but I know that I won't get to.

Barbara Behrens

I predict that in 2006 the war in Iraq will stop and we will have peace.

Mary Torres

SEE LOCALS ON PAGE 8

Everything old isn't always new again

by Rev. James L. Snyder

Every year I go kicking and screaming into the New Year. Not because I'm against change. I simply cannot remember to change the year on my checks until May. I not only have to know how much money in my checking account but also remember what year to put on the check I'm writing today.

By the time I remember the year I have forgotten to make deposits into my checking account. I need a reality check, which hopefully will not bounce as high as my checkbook.

That's not the only reason I hesitate going into a new year. The biggest reason has to do with the mistakes I made during the old year. Looking back over the old year, I worry that my blunders were not as bad as they could have been.

For many people the New Year offers the opportunity to make new mistakes curiously similar to the mistakes made during the old year. If I have any resolution for the New Year it would be to perfect the mistakes I've already made. I don't see any sense in making new mistakes when I can easily requisition the old ones for duty during the New Year.

And what's wrong with my old mistakes? The only thing I can think of is that I did not work hard enough to make the most of them. It's one thing to make a mistake, but it's quite another thing to perfect the art of making a mistake so that you don't have to repeat it ever again. Too many amateurs have given mistake-making a bad name.

Most of my mistakes have been so poorly done that in the New Year I have to re-do those mistakes. And, quite frankly, I'm tired of it all. I'm anxious to move on to new areas of mistake making. I'm convinced there are mistakes to make I have not even dreamed of at this point in my life.

My resolution for the New Year is to make sure any and all mistakes I make will be as thorough as possible. I refuse to leave any mistake before its time. But when its time comes, I want to make sure it is accomplished as perfectly as possible.

If I'm any judge of character, the majority of people this coming New Year will not make any new mistakes, they will dust off old ones and redate them for the current year. What a waste of time, in my opinion.

Allow me to offer some help that will guide this pursuit the coming New Year.

1. Look back over the old year and make a list of all of the mistakes you have made. If you are a husband, solicit help from your wife who will be able to remember all of those mistakes you have forgotten. (Not to mention one or two you didn't do.)

2. Go over each mistake on your list and determine if it needs repeated for the New Year. As I say, there is no sense in making new mistakes if you're not finished with the old ones.

3. For every mistake from the previous year that does not need to be repeated, place a nice red star in front of it. That mistake can now go into your Hall of Blame, which will never have to repeat again. Of course, you will have some mistakes that even though they have been well executed are well worth repeating. And you know which ones they are. Don't you?

4. Now look at all of those mistakes needing repeating during the New Year. Prioritized them so you can begin the New Year with a good plan. As you prioritize this list think of ways in which you can improve on your mistakes over the past year. No satisfaction compares with doing something as good as you can.

Everyone generates mistakes, which is healthy. What is unhealthy is thinking you have not made any mistakes, which is a mistake.

A mistake well executed is a mistake never needing repeated. During the New Year, execute as many mistakes as your conscience will allow.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is an award winning author and popular columnist living with his wife, Martha, in Ocala, Florida and can be contacted at jamesnyder2@att.net.

The Christmas spirit is alive and well at the Cowboy Steakhouse in Kerrville

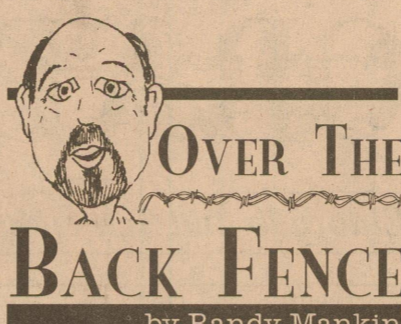
I hope you enjoyed your Christmas as much as I enjoyed mine.

Our daughter Sarah was home from California where she has been attending medical school. It is nice to have the whole family back under one roof and Sarah says it is good to be back in Texas, if only for a few days.

After we got last week's edition on the street, the entire Mankin clan slipped out of town for a few days. We went to Port Aransas to visit my parents.

The weather was beautiful and the beach was terrific. Leaving out on Sunday we drove down the beach one more time. There wasn't a breath of wind and the water was like a mirror. Not a single ripple to be seen. I've never seen the Gulf of Mexico so tranquil. I found it fitting for Christmas day, especially in light of the terrible hurricane season that just ended.

Coming home, we pulled off the Interstate at Kerrville in hopes of finding a place to eat. Almost all of the restaurants were closed, but we did notice one, a place called Cowboy Steakhouse that appeared to be open. We walked in on what at first appeared to be a private



OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Randy Mankin

party. Before we could turn and leave, however, we were greeted and invited to stay.

What we learned is that every Christmas for the past 28 years, Richard and Lorrie Ferris have opened their restaurant free of charge to friends and family, as well as any travelers who walk through the door.

When I protested and offered to pay, Lorrie Ferris patted me on the arm and told me to sit down. She then explained that she and her husband had been richly blessed and this was their way of giving something back.

She then looked me in the eye and said, "Please, we would be honored if you would stay and have Christmas dinner with us."

Well, needless to say, we stayed and we were the ones who received

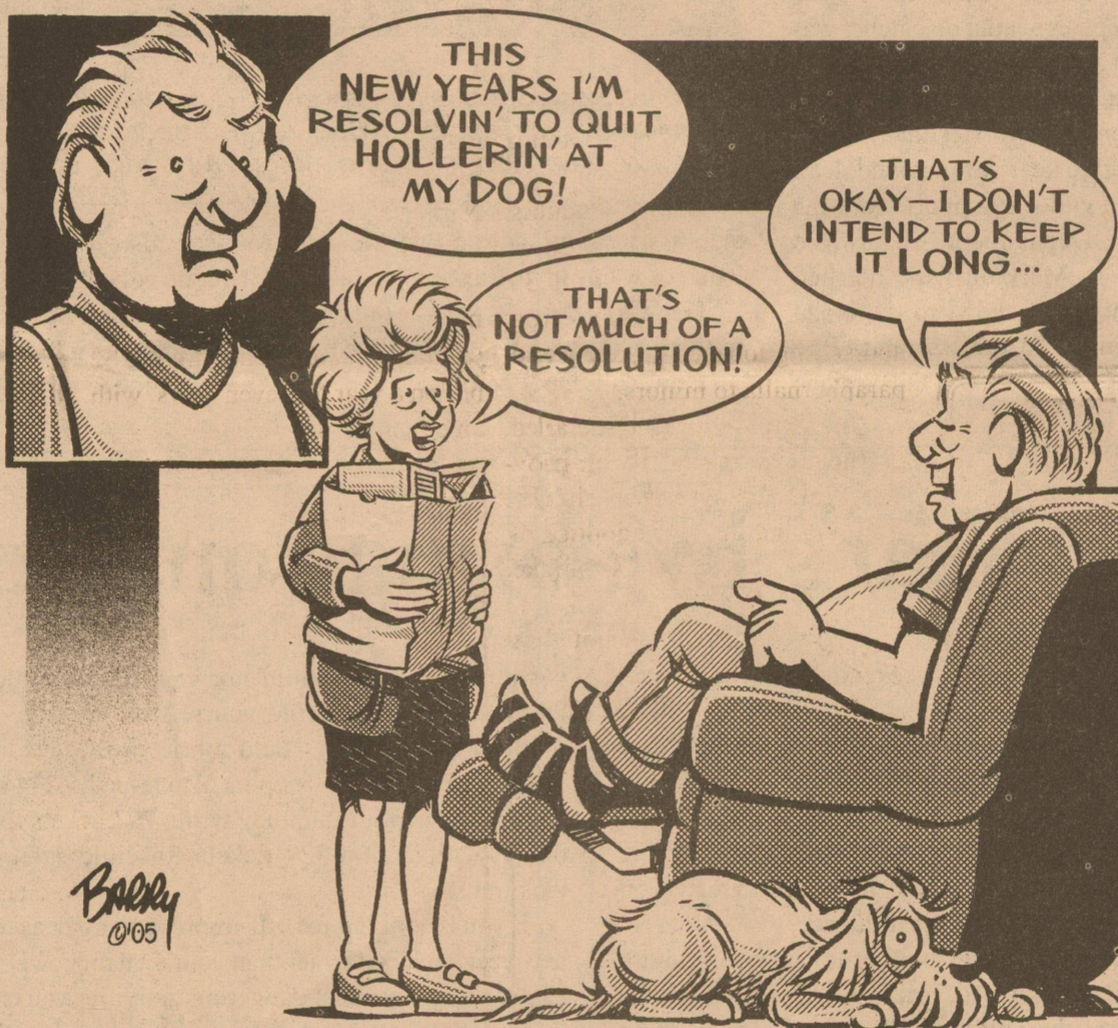
the blessing.

The food was better than good, it was outstanding. Turkey, ham and venison with just about every side dish you can imagine. Then there was the desert table. Suffice it to say that the meal was fit for a king.

Following a prayer where everyone, friends, family and travelers stood and joined hands to offer thanks, we proceeded in a long line through the kitchen where we served our cafeteria-style.

I made sure to stop by our hosts' table on our way out to express our gratitude. Once outside we bumped into a family from Nebraska, travelers like ourselves who were speechless about the experience.

Kerrville is a great town, filled with great restaurants suited to any taste imaginable. But the very next time I pass through I'm stopping at Cowboy Steakhouse and I encourage you to do the same. It's located at 416 Main Street near downtown Kerrville. Tell them the bald-headed newspaper man who ate way too much turkey & dressing told you to stop by. You won't be disappointed.



Riding in the Cherokee Hills

The images of red, orange and gold flashed by as I drove between Rusk and Palestine. It was late afternoon and I was headed into the sun. The trees were backlit and provided dramatic autumn visions. The reds of the sumac and sweet gum stood out as sunbeams focused on their flaming crimson leaves. It's like some unseen force turned spotlights on main characters in a drama. The reds certainly took center stage on this trip.

The black highway, with its yellow stripes and white lines, created a formal pattern as it curved between the borders of the dense, wild forest. The strobe-like effect of sunlight streaming in and out of the trees as I sped by almost made me dizzy.

I saw fall colors I don't think I've ever seen before. One fascinating tree had leaves the color of apricot. The Chinese Tallows were both red and gold. Cypress was orange. Sassafras was red. Hickory was gold. All the bright colors paraded before walls of deep dark green longleaf pine.

The timing of my trip to East Texas was perfect. It was before the first freeze. It was warm and light



by Tumbleweed Smith

winds hadn't bothered the leaves, so they stayed on the trees longer than usual and gave us something to look at and appreciate.

The richness of the East Texas fall was even more in evidence the next morning when I drove from Rusk to Alto. Although I was traveling in the opposite direction from the day before, I was again driving into the sun. I passed dead man's curve and saw more colors, this time on white and red oaks, sugar maple and a few chinaberry trees. In the early morning light, another compelling element was added: the misty, light fog. The wispy clouds of moisture moved slowly through the trees and across cleared land, then evaporated as the sun climbed higher in the sky.

There was little traffic on the small highways I took. I felt lucky to be there at the time, and

a little selfish, because really the highways should have been full of people who appreciate fall scenery. It was spectacular this year. From late October until after Thanksgiving, the east Texas woods are bursting with autumn delights, reaching peak usually in early November. The bright sun brings out the colors, especially when you drive toward the sun while it is making its slow descent to the distant horizon. Fall is invigorating anyway. The cool weather makes you realize summer is gone and football season is here. This year, Texans didn't have to travel north or east to see fall color.

Fall in East Texas also means festival time. At the Pecan Fest in Alto, the streets were lined with vendors selling everything from Elvis t-shirts to homemade root beer. Competition for pecan pies, cakes and candy was fierce. The pecan is an important part of life in Cherokee county, so the city of Alto decided to honor it with a festival. This was the second year for it and it was more than twice as big as last year.

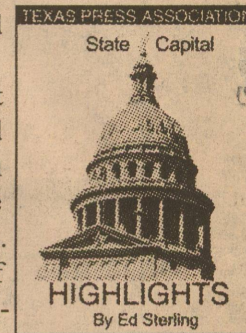
We live in a beautiful, fun state.

Open gov't, Internet posting laws go into effect Jan. 1

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Most of the new laws passed by the Texas Legislature last session went into effect Sept. 1, but a dozen or so will take effect Jan. 1.

Two of those new laws stand out because of their educational and civic nature.



The first — written and carried through the legislative process as S.B. 286 by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio — requires local, regional and statewide elected and appointed office holders, and certain others who handle citizen requests for public information, to take at least two hours of open government training.

Officials in office before Jan. 1 will have one year to complete the required training. Officials who are elected or appointed after Jan. 1 will have only 90 days to complete the required training, according to Attorney General Greg Abbott.

The training consists of a one-hour course on the Texas Open Meetings Act and a one-hour course on the Texas Public Information Act.

Public access to the training videos is available online at www.oag.state.tx.us.

Internet posting requirement

Also effective Jan. 1, a new law will heighten public awareness of and access to the political process via the Internet.

S.B. 1133 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, requires governmental bodies to post notice of open meetings on their official Web sites (if they have one).

The law also requires the posting of a complete meeting agenda, along with the meeting notice.

Governmental bodies that must comply include:

- Economic development corporations;
- Municipalities;
- Counties;
- School districts; and
- Junior colleges or junior college districts.

In 2005 and previous years, governmental bodies were required to post notices of their open meetings in a place convenient to the public, which was interpreted as attaching a sheet of paper to a bulletin board, an office window or a courthouse door. Now the Internet must be considered "a place convenient to the public."

High-speed Internet to spread

Many more Texans will become much more aware of the Legislature's successful effort to deregulate the communications industry in 2005 with the advent of broadband over power lines, or simply, "BPL" in 2006.

Energy company TXU and CURREN Communications announce plans to make "broadband" available to some 2 million residents and businesses in or near the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

For voice, video and high-speed Internet access via existing powerlines, subscribers will use a special adapter that plugs into a standard electrical outlet. Transmission speeds are said to be much faster than through fiber optics cable.

BPL is expected to compete with other industries offering a conduit for communications, news and entertainment.

TXU Electric Delivery and CURREN expect to begin deploying the BPL network in the coming year.

Tobacco pact aimed at kids

Filling station/convenience store operating in Texas under the Conoco

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 3

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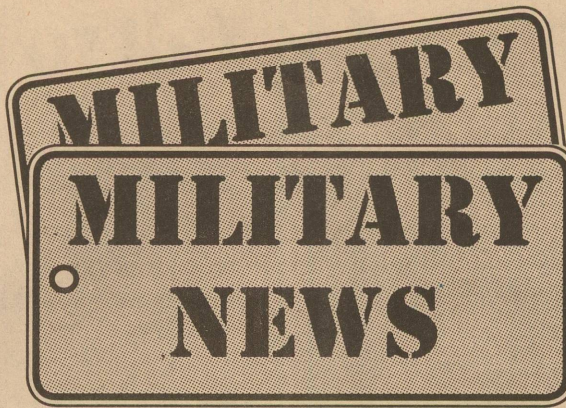
James T. Kerr

James T. Kerr, formerly of Eldorado passed away Dec. 26, 2005 in Coto de Caza, Calif.

He was preceded in death by parents Bud & Pearl Kerr of Eldorado and brother Granville Kerr of San Antonio.

He is survived by loving wife Mary, daughter Sheila, son-in-law Claude Ames, son, Randy Kerr of Calif., granddaughter Lauren Ames and brother Louis of Abilene.

Memorials may be sent to the Alzheimers foundation.



Airman Hannah A. Robledo

Air Force Airman Hannah A. Robledo has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field

training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of David Robledo of Park Lane, and Sandra Robledo of Del Rio St., both of Eldorado, Texas.

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Woman's Club News

Noweita Briggs

The Eldorado Woman's Club met Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in the Memorial Bldg. Club room. Theme for our meeting was "Party Time." President Mary Roden opened our meeting with a warm welcome to members and guests. Myrt Williams next gave a prayer and Lauren McCutcheon lead us in pledges to our flags.

President Roden reminded us of our upcoming Bake Sale which would begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Museum Bldg. on Friday, December 16, 2005. She then welcomed Jean Ann Karn as a new member of our club. Roll call was answered with "What is Your Santa Wish?" Some wishes were for Peace on Earth, prayers for hurricane victims, thankfulness for our many Freedoms, wishes for personal health and happiness, prayers for our troops in harms way, and a safe and happy holidays season.

President Roden next called on Secretary Dorothy Harris for her report and a treasures report was given. Linda Spence told us she had contacted our Angel Tree children and they had received our gifts. We closed the business part of our meeting by reciting our Club Collect. Mary Roden then said we would open the party time for our special December meeting by en-

joying the delicious refreshments that were prepared by our Hospitality Committee and several other members. The refreshment table was decorated with wonderful holiday appointments. Afterwards our program was exchanging Christmas Ornaments. Everyone had a great time. Some of the ornaments some members thought extra special were hard to pass on to the next number holder, who had the choice of either choosing a new package or taking the ornament from someone who had made their choice previously. The F.B.I. would have been proud of how a room full of "sweet ladies" could be so crafty when trying to hold on to the ornaments they chose and didn't want to give up. A great time was had by everyone.

We were glad that Mary Roden is making excellent progress after her stroke and pray she will continue improving.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in the Memorial Bldg. Club Room.

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish all a Happy New Year!

Angelo State University lists fall graduates

Angelo State University conferred degrees upon 308 students during 2005 Fall commencement exercises Saturday, December 17, 2005 in San Angelo, Texas.

Three Eldorado women earned

Bachelor of Science Nursing degrees. Included among those were Beverlee Ann Williams, Lindsay Nicole Beach cum laude, and Tabitha N. Lloyd summa cum laude.

Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Phillips 66 and "76" trademarks must work harder to stop young Texans who try to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products.

ConocoPhillips reached a court agreement with Texas and 39 other states to stop marketing and selling tobacco products and paraphernalia to minors.

Among requirements detailed in the agreement are employee training, compliance checks, warning signs and the adoption of methods to prevent the use of fake identification cards.

Attorney General Abbott has worked Texas into similar agreements with 7-Eleven, Wal-Mart, BP Amoco, Walgreens and Exxon Mobil.

UT loses bid to run Los Alamos

The University of Texas at Austin and Lockheed submitted a bid to take over as operator of the National Nuclear Laboratory in the mountains of New Mexico, but lost Dec. 21 to the University of California and Bechtel National Inc. The contract was worth an estimated \$2 billion a year for seven years, with an option for up to 20 years.

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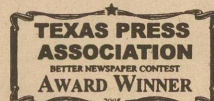
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Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication only if they are signed and are accompanied with a day and night phone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for length or offensive material. Anonymous letters will not be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

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MEMBER 2005 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



BIRTHDAY LIST

December
30th Chandra Wanoreck, Mary Farmer, Briley Ledbetter, Lori Jones, Elmer Garlitz, Holly Ford, Tip Finley,
31st Gabriel Avila, Garrett Bownds, Lance Jones, Christy Robinson, Jack Dean, Larry Hamilton

January
1st John Mack Redish, Rosalio Rocha, Donnie Overstreet, Dexter Jay, Emily Newman, Tico Robles, M.H. Woodward
2nd Nadia L. Santellano, Savannah Reynolds, Samantha Vick
3rd Rebecca Martinez, Kenneth Phillips, John-Michael Parker, Jody Martinez, Maribel Villavicencio, Becky Martinez, Sonia Herrera, Norma Jean Mund, Hyman Sauer, Dianna Goodrum, Joel Martinez
4th Amber Hamilton, Dena Manning
5th Zack Koenig, M'Kenna Gillespie, Matt McCormick, Haley Edmiston, Andrea Robles, Luis Aguilar, Trey Chavez

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It's a New Year's tradition!

Be sure to stop by and pick up a copy of the 2006 FNB calendar!



Get yours while supplies last!

The Directors, Officers and Staff at First National Bank of Eldorado wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2006!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Lady Eagles fall to 0-3 in District 2-2A play

The Lady Eagles headed into Wall on December 16th looking to come out on top against the Hawks in the second district game of the season.

However the Eldorado girls, who had lost their district opener to Sonora 49-47, found it tough going against the Hawks losing 74-20.

Failing to find any points to match the Lady Hawks 22 point fourth quarter the Lady Eagles went to 0-2 in district play.

Taylor Baker led the scoring effort for the Eagles with 7 points, six of which came in the third quarter.

Cassandra Buitron was next in line with 6 points on the night. Chandra Wanoreck finished with 5, and Maxie Holley with 2.

The Lady Eagles then faced Mason in what was scheduled

to be a Tuesday night game. The game was moved to Monday, December 19th.

The Lady Eagles' record fell to 0-3 in district play against the Cowgirls losing 70-25.

Taylor Baker led the scoring once again for the Eagles with 7 points.

Karina Sanchez managed 6 on the night, while Chandra Wanoreck had 4.

Chelsey Hill scored on a three pointer, and both Cassandra Buitron and Haley Higgins scored 2.

Maxie Holley rounded out the scoring for the Lady Eagles with a free throw.

The Lady Eagles will see their next action this week in the Big Lake tournament. They will then travel to Big Lake to take on the Lady Owls in district play next Tuesday at 6:30.

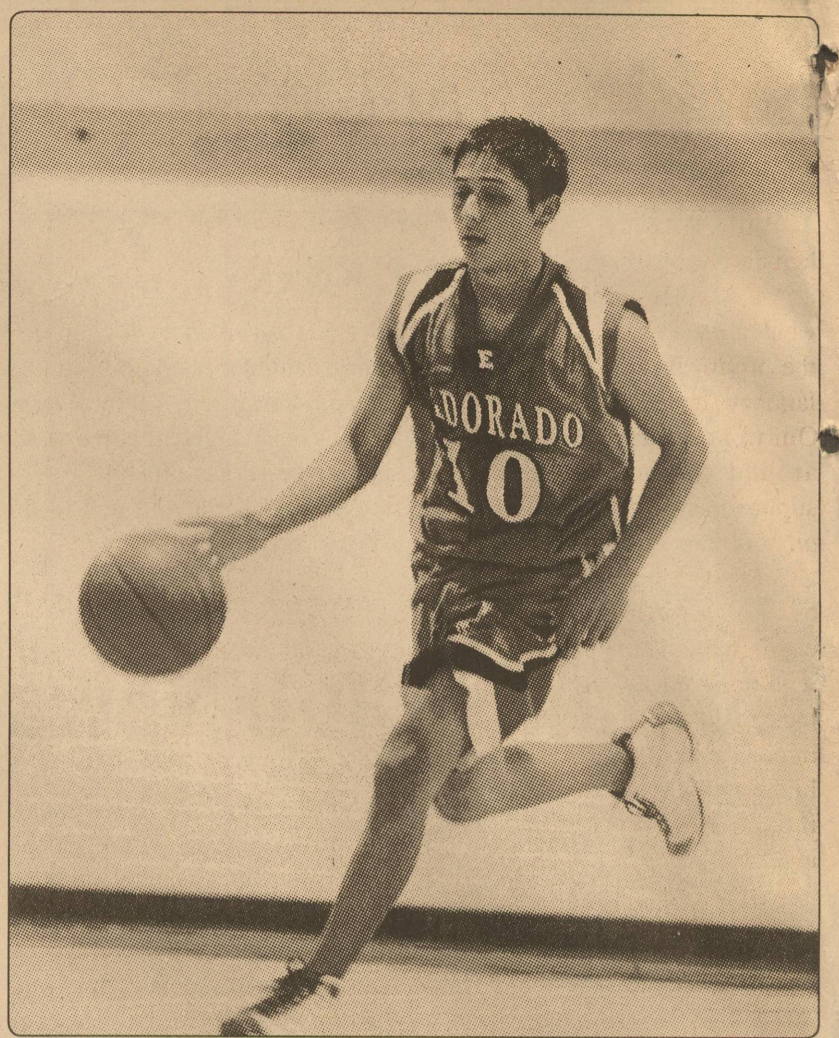


PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Junior Varsity Eagle Manny Gonzalez scored 13 points against Eden during Eldorado's JV Tournament on December 1, 2005. The Eagles fell to the Bulldogs 26-36.

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PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Tiffany Hernandez saw JV action against the Christoval JV squad earlier in the season

Warbirds move into their district schedule

The Eldorado boys fell to Del Rio 65-52 in their last game before their district opener on Friday, December 16.

Drew Bosmans scored a team high of 16 points in the contest. Nine of his 16 came off of three pointers.

Jeremy Ussery followed behind Bosmans with 8, Russell Cathey managed 7, Jorge Bustos, Lalo Sanchez and Jorge Mata all had 5, and Sammy Estrada and Michael Ballew all had 3.

The Warbirds then opened their district campaign against the Mason Punchers, losing 62-49.

Drew Bosmans led the team

with 22 points, 12 of them came off of three pointers.

Mata and Frank Wipff both scored 6. Sanchez had 5, Cathey had 4, and Redish, Estrada, and Ballew with 2 points.

The boys will head to Reagan County this weekend for the Reagan County Tournament.

The Warbirds will then head back to Big Lake the following Tuesday to continue district play against the Owls.

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STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

♦ FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (PG-13) 12:00 2:40 5:20 7:50 10:20	♦ KING KONG (PG-13) 12:50 5:15 9:15
♦ CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) (11:40) 2:15 4:40 7:10 9:40	♦ THE FAMILY STONE (PG-13) (11:20) 2:00 4:35 7:15 9:50
♦ RUMOR HAS IT (PG-13) (11:10) 1:45 4:10 7:00 9:30	♦ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) (11:30) 3:20 6:45 10:00
♦ THE RINGER (PG-13) 12:10 2:30 5:00 7:40 10:15	♦ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 3:50 7:05 10:25
♦ MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG-13) 12:30 4:00 7:20 10:40	♦ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 12:40 4:20 7:35 10:45
♦ WOLF CREEK (R) (11:15) 1:50 4:50 7:30 10:10	♦ SYRIANA (R) 6:55 9:55
♦ KING KONG (PG-13) (10:30) 2:25 6:30 10:30	♦ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) (11:50) 3:30
♦ KING KONG (PG-13) (10:50) 2:50 6:50 10:50	♦ CHICKEN LITTLE 1:00 (G)

Showtimes Valid 12/30 - 1/05/2006

() - Friday through Sunday only.

Day	Date	Place	Opponent	JVG	JVB	VG	VB
Th-Sat	Dec. 28-30	Away	Reagan Co. Tourn.			TBA	TBA
*Tues	Jan. 3	Away	Reagan County	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Fri.	Jan. 6	Here	Junction	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Tues.	Jan. 10	Away	Ozona	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Fri.	Jan. 13	Here	Grape Creek	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Tues	Jan. 17	Here	Sonora	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Fri.	Jan. 20	Here	Wall	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Tues.	Jan. 24	Here	Reagan County	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Fri.	Jan. 27	Away	Mason	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Tues.	Jan. 31	Here	Ozona	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Fri.	Feb. 3	Away	Junction	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Tues.	Feb. 7	Away	Grape Creek	5:00	5:00	6:30	8:00
*Fri.	Feb. 9	Away	Wall	5:00	6:30		
*Tues.	Feb. 14	Away	Sonora	5:00	6:30		

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School Lunch Menu

Milk & Bread Offered
Menus Subject To Change
½ pt. Milk & 4 oz. Juice offered w/each

BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, January 2
School's Out

Tuesday, January 3
Blueberry Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

Wednesday, January 4
Biscuit/Sausage, Peaches, Choice of Juice, Jelly, Milk

Thursday, January 5
French Toast Stix, Syrup, Pears, Choice of Juice, Milk

Friday, January 6
Donuts, Cheese Stix's, Pears, Choice of Juice, Milk

BASKET LINE

Monday, January 2
School's Out

Tuesday, January 3
Pizza, Tossed Salad, Veggie Stix's, Dip, Pineapple Tidbits

Wednesday, January 4
Taco Rolls, Fries, Fresh Broccoli w/Ranch Dip, Cowboy Cookies

Thursday, January 5
Chicken Strips, Half Baked Potato, Pear Halves, Tossed Salad, Rice Krispie Treats

Friday, January 6
Hamburgers, Chips, Burger Salad, Pickles, Apples

CAFETERIA LINE

Monday, January 2
School's Out

Tuesday, January 3
Hamburger Steak, Gravy, Green Beans, Creamed Potatoes, Hot Rolls, Pineapple Tidbits

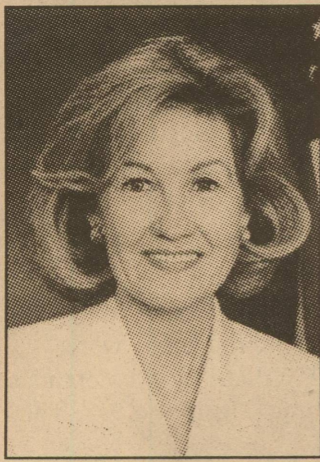
Wednesday, January 4
Corn Dogs, Fritos, Sliced Peaches, Cowboy Cookies

Thursday, January 5
Crispy Tacos, Cheese Cups, Mexican Corn, Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Rice Krispie Treats

Friday, January 6
Hamburgers, Chips, Burger Salad, Pickles, Apples

Looking Back at Congress in 2005

With Congress finishing its legislative business for the year, it is a good time to look back at what has been accomplished since the 109th Congress convened in January. It was a challenging year. Our troops in Iraq and elsewhere around the globe needed our support as they fought the war on terror. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita brought devastation to our Gulf Coast. Our country's economy and finances needed attention. And it was important to look to long-term improvements in our nation's energy policy and highway system, as well as making some overdue reforms to our legal system.



Commentary
by U.S. Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison

Our troops are at the top of our list because we must fully support the men and women who make our freedom and prosperity possible. We appropriated funds to provide our troops with the resources they need and to equip them with advancements in body armor and weaponry, giving them every possible edge in their task of defeating the terrorists' assault on America's freedom.

We also worked to take care of our veterans at home, providing an additional \$1.5 billion to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This extra money was necessary to provide for the health care needs of veterans of past wars and those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Then we turned to recovering from the damage done by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I was so proud of my fellow Texans who responded to Hurricane Katrina with such generosity and compassion, taking in people in need and giving substantial sums of their hard earned money to help others get back on their feet. In Congress, I took the initiative to ensure that our state and local governments will be reimbursed for the expenses they incurred while providing for evacuees' shelter, health care, and education, and to assure that communities affected by Hurricane Rita receive the federal assistance so desperately needed.

As the session concluded, Congress approved funding that will be available to reimburse Texas for its hurricane-related expenditures. Spending was reduced in other federal programs in order to provide this assistance in a fiscally responsible manner.

While taking care of these high priorities, we worked to put the federal budget in order. As a result of the economic growth generated by previous tax cuts, we were fortunate to have brought in record levels of revenue. We used that money to pay for much of the nation's emergency spending and then turned our attention to eliminating wasteful spending and reducing the rate of growth in federal expenditures. At year's end, the House of Representatives and the Senate had passed legislation that would reduce projected spending by almost \$40 billion.

We looked to the future in health care. The biggest improvement in health care will be increasing the number of people covered by health insurance. I support association health care legislation that will help small businesses band together when purchasing health insurance for their employees, giving them the same purchasing power advantage as larger businesses. This will help them provide health care to more employees at an affordable cost. This bill is pending for next year.

Preparing for the future also means developing our transportation system, and Congress passed a landmark transportation bill. This bill will fund construction designed to ease congestion on the roads, create a substantial number of jobs and increase safety on our highways. The bill provides more than \$14 billion dollars for Texas over the next five years.

Last July, we passed the first national energy plan in a generation. As our Texas farmers know, when you plan for the future, you can't just plant one type of crop. The new energy law focuses on applying new technologies to wind energy, solar power, ethanol and hydrogen fuel cells to reduce oil consumption and protect the environment. At the same time, the energy bill will help keep the price of fuel down by promoting domestic development of oil and gas reserves. It also encourages the design and deployment of clean coal technologies, taking advantage of one of our most abundant natural resources.

Congress moved forward with dramatic legal reform. We passed class action reform to help end the culture of frivolous lawsuits which has cost American workers, businesses and families millions of dollars each year. The legal structure for class action previously encouraged lawyers to sue even in cases where the lawsuit had little merit and would bring almost no benefit to their clients. Some lawyers were taking advantage of the system and consumers ultimately paid the price because businesses were forced to include the potential cost of such legal judgments in the price of their goods and services. With class action reform, Congress has restored a measure of sanity to the legal system and helped foster a climate that will encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

Perhaps our most important change to the nation's legal system was placing a great leader at its helm. By confirming Chief Justice John Roberts we have found a brilliant and wise judge who will keep our highest court firmly grounded in the Constitution for decades to come. The new chief justice impressed numerous Senators on both sides of the political aisle, and our nation is fortunate to have him upholding the rule of law for the foreseeable future.

Though much was accomplished in the first half of the 109th Congress, much remains to be done in the session that lies ahead. Immigration reform, tax relief and, of course, continued efforts to strengthen our national security will be top priorities in the New Year.

USDA-NRCS accepting EQIP applications for 2006

Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Eldorado is taking Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications through February 17. The EQIP program is a cost-share incentive program available to landowners and operators for the purpose of carrying out conservation practices on their land.

Each county within the state receives a base allocation of federal dollars starting at \$134,000. This money will be used as cost-share incentives to implement priority practices within the county. Last year the County cost-shared 71 contracts for over \$321,000.

This year's priority concern, as identified by the Program Development Group, is brush management. Cedar, mesquite and pricklypear are the identified high priority target species. Chemical and/or mechanical control methods can

be cost-shared to obtain your brush management goal.

Schleicher County also receives additional funding through EQIP to provide technical and cost-share assistance for Special Resource Concern Areas. Over \$800,000 is available to carry out conservation practices within the South Concho and Spring and Dove Creek Watersheds. Brush control, fencing, livestock pipelines, water storages and wells are just some of the conservation practices that can cost-share within these special project areas.

Cost-share rates are set at 50% of an average cost. The local NRCS employees will review the application and ranking procedure with you and explain the program in more detail.

For more information, you can come by the office at 510 S. Divide in Eldorado or call 325-853-3535 Ext. 3.

Meals for Friends Menu



Monday, January 2

Beef Tips, Rice, Cooked Carrots, Cornbread, Fruit cup w/ Strawberries & Banana, Lemon Meringue Pie, Milk

Tuesday, January 3

Oven Baked Chicken, Lima Beans, Broccoli, Bread, Chunky Mixed Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, January 4

Ground Beef Steak, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn w/ Peppers, Hot Dinner Rolls, Carrot Salad, Applesauce, Milk

Thursday, January 5

Veg. Beef Stew, Green Beans, Cornbread, Pear Half w/ Cottage Cheese, Vanilla Pudding, Milk

Friday, January 6

Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Carrot Raisin Salad, Gelatin w/ Fruit, Milk

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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Sauce with fish sticks
- Like NASDAQ trades
- Strongly opposed
- Court order
- "Uh-uh"
- Relevant example
- Suffix with ethyl
- Nay sayers
- Like some football kicks
- Went for the cuspidor
- Store overhead
- Bad day for Caesar
- The whole shebang
- Rabbits, squirrels, etc., to a hunter
- Israeli spy agency
- Perrier competitor
- Fainted dead away
- Lessens the pressure
- Raw, as a diamond
- Hit the hay
- Audiophile's buy
- Sought office
- Gelato holder
- Clove hitch, e.g.
- Boxer's prize
- Ship's steerer
- Atoll makeup
- Munched on
- One in a book of 20, perhaps
- Stew spheroid
- Go sour
- Win over
- Blow it
- Blinds component
- Feared fly
- Tic (miniature mint)
- Actress Gardner
- Judicata
- Grab the tab
- Z, zebra
- Has a flat
- Duo
- Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- The Flintstones' pet
- Memo abbr.
- Five Nations tribe
- Two-seat cycle
- Burger option
- Indy stops
- Official seal
- Club (retail chain)
- Oxen's burden
- "Not to mention ..."
- Ballpark antic
- Bull tosser
- Emit coherent
- light
- Went bad
- Diarist Frank
- Art (retro style)
- Twilight time
- King's title
- River to the Caspian
- up (confined)
- Like old paperback novels
- Bactine target
- Plug giver
- Make beloved
- Tugboat signal
- Lovers' rendezvous
- Fan part
- Attendance figs., often
- Actor Julia
- Iowa State city
- Lobster Diavolo
- Mummified king
- Document dupes: Abbr.
- Front end of a bray

Tennis, Anyone?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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61						62		63				64	65	66
67														
70														

American Profile HomeTown Content See solution on Page 8

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51st District Court action reported

On Tuesday, December 27, 2005, District Judge Barbara Walter held District Court.

In a speedy trial, Sheryl Mac Denton, female age 42, of Belton, Texas, agreed to enter into an intervention program and was given 1 year probation. Denton was indicted by a Schleicher County Grand Jury on March 30, 2005 for Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine.)

Grand Jury Indictments

On December 5, 2005, the Schleicher County Grand Jury met and handed down 6 indictments. A number of indictments were not made public by authorities and will be withheld until the subjects involved are arrested or are served with papers.

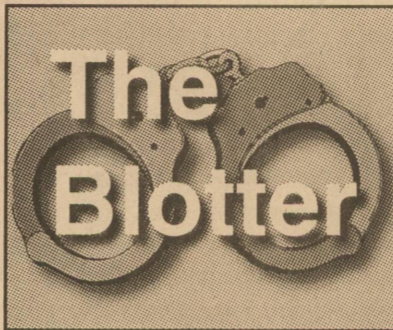
Among the indictments released to the public were:

- William Scott Morehouse of Eldorado, male age 52. Injury To

A Child With Intent Bodily Injury, Third Degree Felony.

- Paulino Ireta Alfaro of Loraine, Texas, male age 53. Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or More. Third Degree. Alfaro has two prior convictions involving operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

- Ramiro Buitron Jr. of Eldorado male age 18. Assault on Family Member/Enhanced. Third Degree Felony. Buitron, Jr. has one prior conviction involving assault causing bodily injury, family violence.



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

ARRESTS

December 21 • Tarbet, Scott Edward, male age 46, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Out of County Warrant. Released on \$1,000.00 cash bond.

- Colling, Evan Douglas, male age 23, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Possession of Marijuana less than 2 oz. Released on \$1,000.00 Surety Bond.

December 22 • Martinez, Jose Alfredo, male age 18, arresting officer SC deputy, offense DWLI.

- Babb, Otis Layne, male age 22, arresting officer SC deputy, offense

fense Felony Possession of Firearm, F-3rd.

December 23 • Abrego, Jesus Arturo, male age 27, arresting officer SC deputy, offense. Released on \$2,000.00 Surety Bond, Concho Bail Bonds.

- Martinez, Jose Cervatez, male age 36, arresting officer SC deputy, offense DWLI. Released on \$1,000.00 Surety Bond.

December 25 • Nava, Jesus Arturo, male age 17, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Disorderly Conduct, Public Intoxication and Minor in Consumption of Alcohol. Released on Time Served.

- Cooke, Michael Bruce, male age 53, arresting officer DPS trooper, offense DWI 1st. Released on \$1,000.00 Surety Bond.

- Diaz, Naomi Ann, female age 27, arresting officer SC deputy, offense DWLI. Released on \$1,000.00 Surety Bond.

December 26 • Robles, Ismael Perez, male age 19, arresting officer SC deputy, offense DW no DL.

INCIDENTS

December 19 • 4:06 p.m. Caller called and advised of a black Toyota pickup. Southbound on Hwy 277 5 miles north of Eldorado. Caller unable to give additional information. Office responded.

- 7:03 p.m. Caller requested an ambulance to E Street in response to an unconscious, unresponsive female subject possibly due to diabetic episode. Officer responded and dispatched EMS.

- 8:27 p.m. Caller advised of panic alarm was alarming Duckwall's. Officer notified was in route contacted management. Officer was advised that the alarm was activated by her on accident.

- 8:39 p.m. Complainant advised that her child was injured by an older child. This is one of many incidents that have occurred by same subject. Complainant spoke with officer and filed a complaint.

- 10:46 p.m. Complainant called and reported domestic dispute that

occurred at a relatives residence. Suspect vehicle is a white Ford pickup, complainant drove back to residence and is awaiting for the deputy to arrive. Office responded.

December 21 • 8:32 p.m. Deputy made a security check at Pave Paws and advised of additional damages made to the northwest side of property.

- 10:59 p.m. Complainant reported a male subject broke into her home on Dixie Drive. Officers responded.

December 22 • 8:07 a.m. Complainant reported a possible vehicle accident. Officer responded. Contacted owner and she advised she had hit a deer.

- 2:30 p.m. Complainant reported a lost cellphone. Estimated value \$200.00.

- 6:37 p.m. Complainant reported a large dog at front porch. Officer responded and animal control responded.

- 11:14 p.m. Complainant reported prowlers. Officer responded.

- 11:29 p.m. Complainant reported having domestic problems with son at the Eldorado Place Apt. Officer responded.

December 23 • 9:39 a.m. Complainant requested her house be put on house watch.

- 2:08 a.m. Complainant reported a suspicious person at her neighbors house on Cottonwood. Officer responded.

- 4:02 p.m. Sutton County advised a white pickup headed to San Angelo to the ER. All units clear on traffic.

December 24 • 3:00 a.m. Complainant reported a robbery in progress. When asked to give additional information, caller hung up. Repeatedly tried to call back there was not an answer. Called residence of where the possible robbery was occurring and reported everything was OK.

- 5:21 a.m. Complainant reported a couple arguing and fighting in the middle of the street on Main Street. Officer responded.

- 5:56 a.m. Complainant reported 2-3 male subjects holding a girl against her will and taking photographs of her. Officer responded.

- 8:06 a.m. Complainant requested his house be put on house watch.

- 1:54 p.m. Complainant requested some assistance from an officer with her lifeline. Officer responded.

- 4:03 p.m. Complainant advised that traffic light was malfunctioning. Contacted TxDOT and also notified office to respond post traffic stop assist. TxDOT advised that traffic light was operating.

- 4:29 p.m. Caller advised along with numerous other callers that a structure fire had been located. Officers were primarily notified along with EVFD and counties of Sutton and Irion to assist with structure and grass fire. Fire whistle was activated to notify additional firemen needed.

December 25 • 2:15 a.m. Complainant reported her aunt was having an attack of some kind and requested an ambulance.

- 2:16 a.m. Complainants reported that her aunt and uncle were having problems with her cousin and would like to speak to an officer. Officer responded.

- 3:33 p.m. Caller advised that traffic light was malfunctioning and not changing normally. TxDOT notified an employee looked at box to try and discover malfunction.

December 26 • 10:05 a.m. Reported a possible theft of a horse trailer. Office responded.

- 2:56 p.m. Complainant reported that he was to have custody of his son for one week prior to the New Year. Mother of his son stated that the child was out of the state in Oklahoma with a friend. Complainant was unable to have visitation with son.

- 3:13 p.m. Complainant requested to speak to an officer because one of her employees was being harassed. Officer responded.

December 27 • 9:23 a.m. Reported a possible break-in. Officer responded to burglary of building item taken TV/VCR combo and cash.

Attention Public-Emergency Care Attendant Course

Schleicher County Volunteer EMS will be having an Emergency Care Attendant Class beginning January 5, 2006 and Ending February 2, 2006, 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! 50-53b

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