

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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AZ wrests school away from polygamous board

The State of Arizona will take over operation of the Colorado City Unified School District, located in the state's largest polygamous community, beginning January 1, 2006, following a settlement last week between the Arizona Attorney General's Office and CCUSD board of trustees. The agreement was ratified Monday by the Arizona State Board of Education.

The settlement was precisely what state lawmakers had in mind when, earlier this year, they crafted a bill allowing the state to seize control of mismanaged school districts. And, it was the CCUSD school system that prompted the debate in the first place.

The troubled school district came under increased scrutiny in the past couple of years after teacher paychecks began bouncing. It was soon learned that school trustees had purchased an airplane for themselves and school administrators, but could not find a way to pay the district's teachers.

A subsequent investigation into alleged corruption at the school found that the school's per pupil expenditures far exceeded the state average, with much of the spending coming in areas outside the classroom.

Compared to surrounding school systems, the spending was considered exorbitant. Fueling the claims was the fact that the school's personnel list included a superintendent, two accountants, a principal and vice principal, a psychologist and a chef.

Compared to Schleicher County ISD which has 600 students and a budget of \$5.15 million, CCUSD has an average daily attendance of 297 students, with

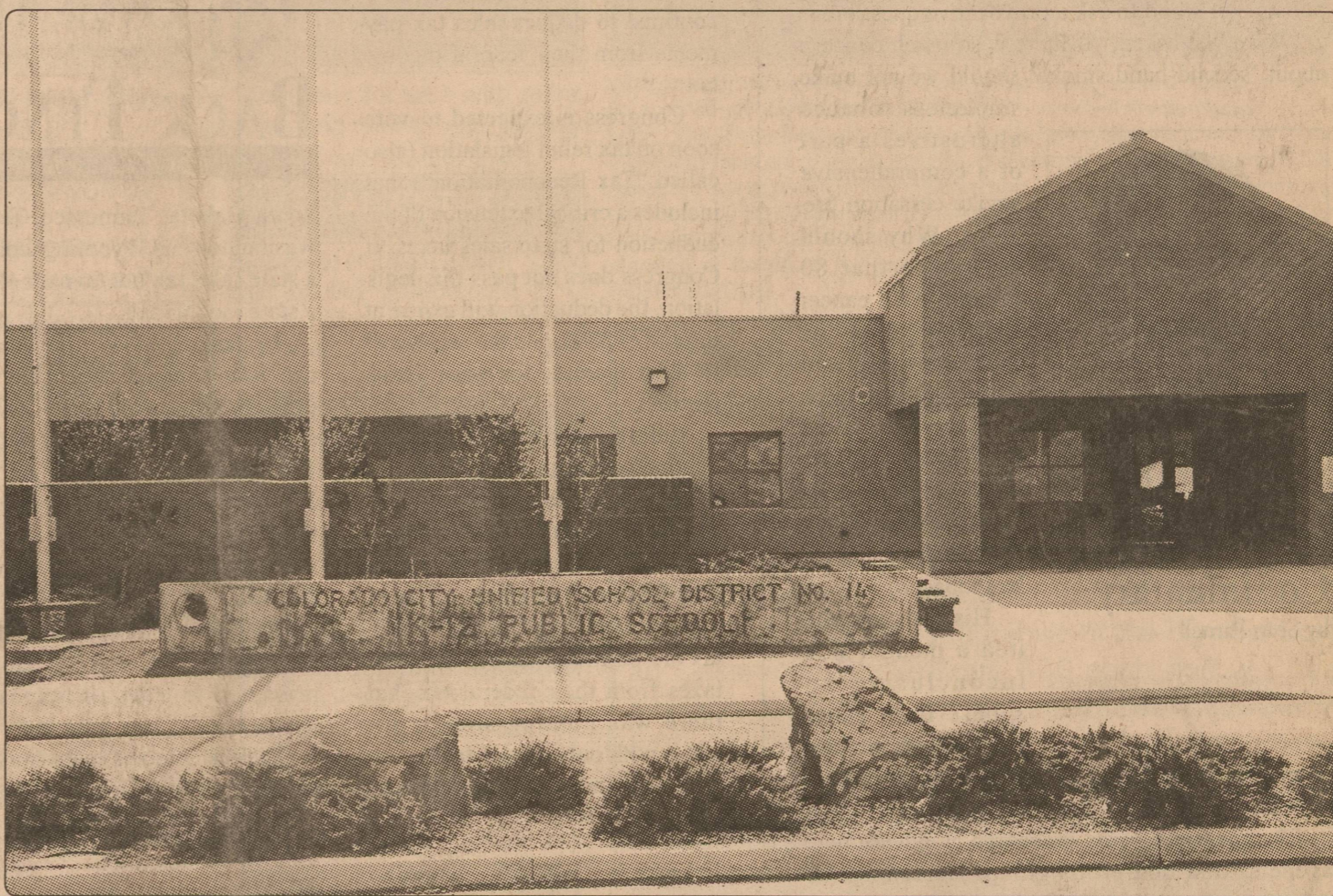
no athletic programs, and a budget of \$5,005,355.00.

The school's critics claimed the district was nothing more than a cash cow, a conduit through which taxpayer dollars could be funneled to the FLDS Church and its prophet Warren Jeffs. The entire school board and all the school's administrators are members of the fundamentalist Mormon sect that still practices polygamy as taught by the church's leaders. While most of the school's teachers are not members of the FLDS church, almost all of the support staff, many of whom earn more than the teachers, do follow the teachings of Warren Jeffs.

Allegations against the school and its administrators became so serious that armed law enforcement agents raided the facility on May 24, 2005. Representatives of the Arizona Attorney General's office seized thousands of documents and a number of school computers.

Shortly after the raid, school officials began fighting back. They took to the courts and opposed Arizona's takeover of the school district. But, when at least one school administrators made it clear he would invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and refuse to testify, the school board had little choice but to capitulate.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction must now appoint a receiver to step in and administer the district. CCUSD Superintendent Alvin Barlow has agreed to retire by the end of the year and CCUSD business manager Jeffery Jessop will be required to resign prior to Jan. 1st.



The district offices of the Colorado City Unified School District #14 in Colorado City, AZ where state officials take over after investigators found the school system to be "grossly mismanaged."

Cable TV rates heading higher in Eldorado

The price of cable TV is going up in Eldorado. That news came last week when Cebridge Connections notified Mayor John Nikolauk that the company will raise its rate for basic cable service by 11.14 percent.

Eldorado customers who subscribe to basic cable will see their bills go up from \$17.95 per month to \$19.95 beginning in January.

The company cited increases in the cost of electricity and gasoline as contributing factors to the price hike, as well as the increasing cost of programming.

Robert Montalvo, who wrote to the mayor on behalf of Cebridge, noted that the company will not be increasing the rate of expanded basic service, which will hold steady at \$22.00 per month.

Cebridge Connections operates in Eldorado under a franchise agreement with the city. However, local officials have little control over the price of cable TV. The city's right to regulate cable services ended several years ago when Congress deregulated the telecommunications industry.

Court grants continuance on YFZ environmental hearing

A state administrative hearing judge granted a continuance on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005, so that representatives of YFZ Land LLC might have more time to prepare for a hearing on environmental violations at the YFZ Ranch near Eldorado.

The company ran afoul of state environmental regulations in 2004, shortly after it was learned that a group of fundamentalist Mormons from the Utah/Arizona border area had purchased the 1,691-acre ranch and were building a polygamous community there.

Violations ranging from collapsed septic tanks, to operating a public water system without a permit and illegal burning of refuse, were filed against the ranch as TCEQ investigators uncovered more than a dozen individual infractions during a multi-month investigation.

Word reached Eldorado last week that YFZ officials were trying to reach

an agreement with state regulators prior to Thursday's scheduled hearing. The judge's continuance would seem to indicate that the two sides are close to an agreement.

The story of environmental problems began at the YFZ Ranch shortly after a man named David Allred purchased property near Eldorado. At the time Allred said he was planning to build a hunting retreat. It took locals a couple of months to figure out that Allred was fronting the purchase for the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a sect of the Mormon church that continues to practice polygamy.

The church's leader, Prophet Warren Jeffs is a fugitive from justice. He is wanted in Arizona on charges of Sexual Conduct with a minor and by federal authorities for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

State gearing up for possible winter wildfire siege

State fire control leaders continue to gear up for what could be a long winter wildfire siege for the state's firefighters.

Additional in-state and out-of-state personnel and equipment resources, including six dozers, six engines and a mechanic truck from Wisconsin, have been ordered and mobilized to strategic areas to bolster the state's firefighting arsenal. Critically dry fuels (vegetation) exist across much of the state, a fact evidenced by several large wildfires that have already occurred. With no significant change in the weather pattern in sight, fire control leaders are planning for the worst but hoping for the best.

Grasses, weeds and other vegetation in much of the state lie dead and dormant from a combination of drought and hard freezes, according to Mike Dunivan, fire behavior analyst with the Texas Forest Service. Areas hit by hard frosts earlier in the year are where the lion's share of the known large fires occurred, but essentially all of the state is now at risk, due to the presence of the dead vegetation, said Dunivan.

"Vegetation is critically dry in much of the state," said Dunivan. "Add winds and low humidity during the afternoon prime burning period, and you have a recipe for fast-spreading, dangerous wildfires. Most of the large wildfires that already occurred statewide resulted from this deadly combination of wildfire ingredients."

The fire analyst noted that the Texas Forest Service sent an advisory to fire departments in Texas warning of the possibility of dangerous fire behavior during periods of dry, windy

weather and the need for diligent use of fire safety practices and protective gear. Already this year, two volunteer firefighters suffered serious burns upon being overrun by wildfires, and another firefighter lost his life in an accident when the fire tanker he was driving rolled over.

"Now that most summer grasses and weeds have gone dormant, any wildfires that arise will have more fuel available to stoke the flames. Also, wherever dead grass, weeds and other fine-textured fuels are present, even short periods of dry, windy weather can cause a rapid escalation in wildfire risk and difficulty of control," Dunivan declared.

Unless the weather cooperates and brings significant moisture statewide and/or the public exercises greater safety with all outdoor fire use, firefighters fear that additional wildfires are likely. Many wildfires result from careless burning of household trash, leaves and brush piles. The following are suggestions from the Texas Forest Service.

- Obey outdoor burning bans.
- Postpone all outdoor fires during periods of dry, windy weather.
- When outdoor fires are permitted, establish wide control lines down to bare soil before igniting your fire, and stay with your fire until it is cold to

SEE WILDFIRE ON PAGE 5



Members of the Hospital Auxiliary met Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005, to decorate the Christmas tree in the lobby of Schleicher County Medical Center. Among the volunteers helping were (L-R) Francis Peters, Dana Owens and Mabel Freitag.

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Who is afraid of harm reduction?

by Sean Parnell, Vice-President
Heartland Institute

At the National Conference on Tobacco or Health, held in Chicago earlier this year and attended by more than 5,000 tobacco control advocates and health education officials, an African American nonsmoker stood to ask a provocative question.

"Why," he asked, "if there is so much concern about 'second-hand smoke' should we not make smokeless tobacco alternatives a part of a comprehensive smoke cessation program? Why should we ignore that 80 percent of all cancer and heart disease is related to tars and ingesting smoke into lungs, when we could save lives and address addiction by encouraging smokers to switch to smokeless tobacco?"



Commentary

by Sean Parnell

His question elicited a meager and inconclusive response from panelists, though several

people in the audience indicated their agreement with him.

The conference was sponsored by government agencies and non-profit groups, including the American Cancer Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health (National Cancer Institute), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and American Medical Association.

Refusal by the anti-smoking establishment to take harm reduction seriously is leading it to oppose new products and marketing efforts that could save lives. Without education on less harmful alternatives, smokers won't get the message and we will continue to see smoking-related deaths rise.

The health data are compelling. Men who smoke increase their risk of death from lung cancer by more than 22 times and from bronchitis and emphysema by nearly 10 times, while women who smoke increase their risk of dying from lung cancer by nearly 12 times and the risk of dying from bronchitis and emphysema by more than 10 times.

Using smokeless tobacco is not "risk free," but research consistently confirms it poses substantially less risk to users than smoking does. Compared to non-smokers, those who smoke lose an average 6-7 years off their lives. Those who use smokeless tobacco lose only 15 days. Using smokeless tobacco does not increase the user's risk of lung cancer or heart disease.

When first confronted with these facts, many people ask about the increased risk of oral cancer that comes from using smokeless tobacco products. But here the research is also clear: Cigarettes pose a higher risk for oral cancer than does smokeless tobacco. It isn't the nicotine in tobacco that causes health problems, but the chemicals in burning tobacco.

According to Dr. Brad Rodu, professor of medicine at the University of Louisville and a member of the university's James Graham Brown Cancer Center, smokeless tobacco is 98 percent safer than smoking.

Dr. Neal Benowitz, a professor of medicine at the University of California at San Francisco and director of its cancer center's Tobacco Control Program, told the Los Angeles Times in a 2004 interview, "If someone can't quit smoking, there is no question that smokeless is much safer. It doesn't cause heart or lung disease, and if it does cause cancer, it does so at a much lower rate."

In a February 2005 statement outlining his "Jobs for Kentucky" plan, Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R) acknowledged that "some in the public health community recognize that tobacco harm reduction should be a complementary strategy to ... public health policy." Fletcher structured the state's tobacco taxes to reflect the differences and to discourage tobacco use of cigarettes, not, smokeless tobacco.

"Taxing tobacco products according to relative risks is a rational tax policy and may well serve the public health goal of reducing smoking-related mortality and morbidity and lowering health care costs associated with tobacco-related disease," Fletcher stated.

The evidence is clear that smokeless tobacco is safer than cigarettes. Although smokeless tobacco isn't risk free, it's the safest alternative to quitting. The federal government's "quit or die" logic doesn't provide a reasonable alternative to people who simply won't or can't quit.

Why shouldn't these people have an opportunity to learn about a less dangerous tobacco product?

Texas sales tax deduction hangs in the balance

The United States House of Representatives will decide in the next two weeks if Texans, and the residents of six other states, may continue to deduct sales tax payments from their federal income tax.

Congress is expected to vote soon on tax relief legislation (also called "Tax Reconciliation") that includes a critical extension of the deduction for state sales taxes. If Congress does not pass this legislation, the deduction will expire at the end of 2005, and the result will be a tax increase for many Texas families.

Before the state sales tax deduction was enacted by Congress in 2004, states like Texas, without a state income tax, were unfairly treated by the federal tax code. That's because residents of states that are funded by a state income tax are permitted to deduct those taxes from their federal tax, but there was nothing similar for states with only a sales tax.

Seven states—Florida, Nevada,



South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming—collect a state sales tax but do not collect a state income tax.

Passage in 2004 of the American Jobs Creation Act fixed the problem by creating an equivalent state sales tax deduction option. The option was available for the 2004 and 2005 tax years and for the first time Texas taxpayers found themselves on a level playing field.

Now the deduction is set to expire unless Congress can be prompted to treat all taxpayers fairly.

The best solution, in my humble opinion, would be to scrap the cur-

rent tax code and replace it with one that is fair, flat, and simple. Until then, however, Congress must resist making taxes any less fair than they already are by failing to extend this measure.

Think about it, if residents of states like New York, Connecticut and New Mexico are allowed to deduct the money they pay to operate their state governments when they calculate their federal income tax, shouldn't Texans have the same opportunity?

I think so, and so do most of the men and women who represent Texas in the U.S. Congress.

Not everyone sees it our way, though, especially the folks from states like New York and Connecticut, many of whom already want to punish Texas and Texans because of the high price of energy.

The vote to extend the sales tax deduction shouldn't be close, but I fear it will be. That's why we need to pay attention now before we find ourselves paying more than our fair share.



John Merrill gets the golden spur

For the last 28 years the Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech has presented The Golden Spur Award to someone who has contributed significantly to the field of ranching. This year it went to John Merrill, who ranches near Crowley, just south of Fort Worth. He was head of TCU's Ranch Management Program for 33 years.

That program is celebrating its 50th year. Students are interviewed for several hours before being accepted into it and must show a high degree of maturity and sincerity about making their living in the ranching industry. The course is limited to 34 students. Once in, it is 6 hours of learning every day for 9 months. Attendance at every session is mandatory. In addition, the students travel close to 9 thousand miles in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas visiting successful ranches and feed lots. They are exposed to total resource management, involving rotation grazing, environmental concerns and varied uses of the land such as leased hunting.

John Merrill is a big believer in education for ranchers. "Ranching



by
Tumbleweed
Smith

requires more different kinds of knowledge than any other enterprise that I'm aware of or have seen," he says. "With that knowledge and working with nature all day every day, I can't imagine a more gratifying and soul-fulfilling experience."

John has been in ranching all his life. His great grandfather came to Texas from Georgia in 1856. During the Civil War his grandfather left the academy he was attending to fight for the south. After the war he came back to Texas and became a trail driver, making six trips up the trail. In 1872 he settled down near Glen Rose and established the XXX ranch. John still uses that brand today.

The first director of the ranching program at TCU died in an auto crash. When John went to the

chancellor's office to urge the continuance of the program, the chancellor asked John to take it over. John said he couldn't do it, that the only thing he had ever taught was a Sunday school class. But the chancellor was an engaging fellow and made John consider taking the position. John said he would take the job if two conditions were met: one, he would continue to ranch and two, if a student missed one class he would be kicked out. The chancellor said, "It's a deal."

John taught honesty, integrity and self-discipline right along with ranch knowledge.

"It has been a joy," says John.

He was presented his Golden Spur award in Lubbock's Civic Center, which was filled with people who respect and appreciate his influence on ranching. A number of his former students were in attendance. I had the privilege of producing a video on Mr. Merrill that was shown at the awards ceremony. In his acceptance speech, he said, "I know of no higher calling than that of providing food and fiber to a hungry world."

Lawmakers focus on tax relief following court's ruling

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Six months are not much compared to the decades state lawmakers, courts and governors have already spent on solving or avoiding solving the riddle of school finance and property tax reform.

Nevertheless, June 1 is the Texas Supreme Court-imposed deadline for the Legislature to retool the tax system, and it isn't that far away.

Thanksgiving week, the high court upheld a lower court ruling that said the way hundreds of school districts are forced to set local property taxes at the cap of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation violates the state constitution by imposing, in effect, a statewide property tax.

Weeks earlier, Gov. Rick Perry named a tax reform commission composed mostly of business people to study taxes, with former state Comptroller John Sharp as chair.

And, after the high court spoke, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst named his own committee of senators to look for a solution.

House Speaker Tom Craddick, on the other hand, said he would not follow suit and appoint a similar committee, indicating that the Perry-Sharp effort will be enough to get the job done.

Perry, in sync with the high court, now says more money for education is not the answer. But to teachers and advocates for schoolchildren, no tax solution will be complete without addressing teacher pay and the need for more and better-equipped classrooms.

Regardless, the focus now shifts away from finding more money for teachers and classroom instruction and zeroes in on property tax relief.

Oddly, during this year's 79th Legislature (January through May) and the two 30-day special sessions that followed, there was general agreement at the Capitol that school finance could not be fixed without also fixing the state tax system.

The governor himself said he wanted a solution that would "give schoolchildren and teachers the resources they deserve and need."

Memo arouses Democrats

On Dec. 2, a U.S. Department of Justice office memorandum surfaced in the Washington Post and stirred up Democrats who opposed the congressional redistricting plan passed by the Texas Legislature in 2003.

The memo reveals that the plan pushed by then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay did not win the universal approval of the staff of the Department of Justice — then run by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

More than a half-dozen staff members said the plan violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by under-representing minorities and rural voters. But the plan was approved anyway, and in 2004, the Republican Party picked up six seats in the U.S. House.

The U.S. Supreme Court may hear arguments on the subject.

Another hat in the ring?

Add former Texas Supreme Court justice Bob Gammage of Llano to the list of possible candidates for governor.

Gammage could join fellow Democrats Chris Bell of Houston and Felix Alvarado of Fort Worth in the quest.

Laredo oil and gas tycoon Tony Sanchez, who ran against Republican Gov. Rick Perry four years ago, also is pondering the idea of running.

Ag-Boosters club formed

Local families and businesses have come together to form an Ag-Boosters club. The purpose of this club is to support the youth of Eldorado who are involved in either 4-H or FFA ag-related activities. Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the high school ag-science classroom. Membership is \$25.00 per family or business. Please join and support the youth of Eldorado as they learn leadership skills as members of their ag clubs.



Mr. and Mrs. John Gabriel Schooley

Biles/Schooley wedding

FORT WORTH — LeAnna Starr Biles of Stephenville and John Gabriel Schooley of Menard were married in a double ring ceremony at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Fort Worth on Saturday, October 22, 2005. The Rev. Sam McClain of St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Stephenville, Texas officiated.

Parents of the couple are Sarah and Jerald Biles of Fort Worth, and Cliff and Donna Schooley of Eldorado.

The bride wore an off-the-shoulder, cap sleeved sheath of white georgette with a beaded

bodice, hem and train. She carried a bouquet of roses in fall colors.

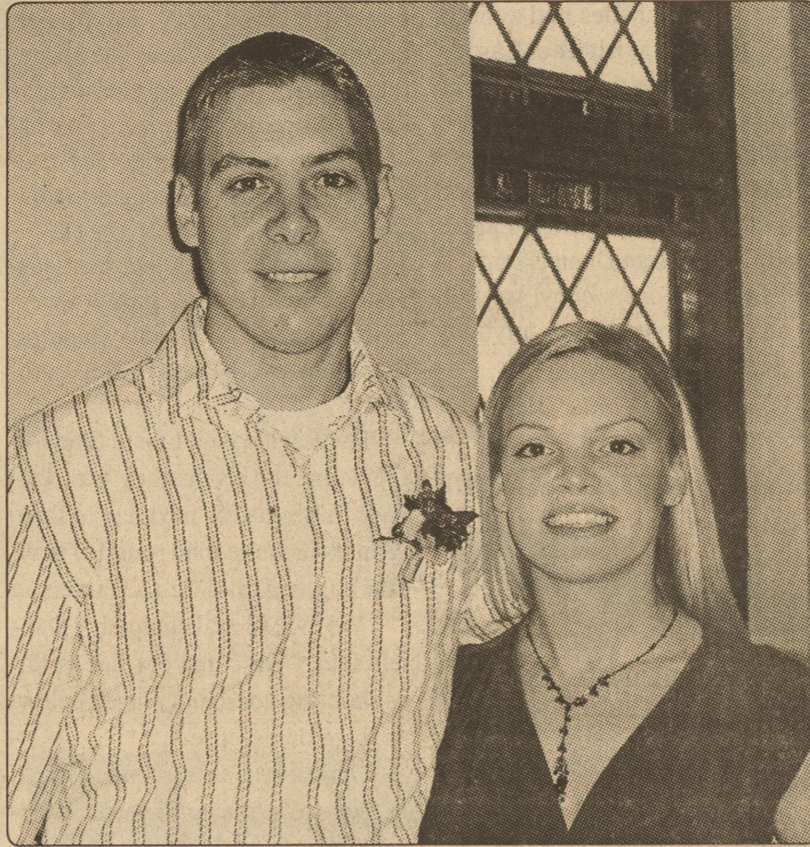
Matron of honor was Mrs. Todd Lipscombe of Waco. Flower girl was Ariana Martinez of Mesquite. Best man was Andy Raff of Eaton, Colo. Iris Noon was the organist. Katie Roberts of Cleburne registered the guests.

Ushers were Todd Lipscombe of Waco, Kurt Kemp of San Angelo and Jered Waits of Fort Worth.

The bride is a graduate of Castleberry High School. She earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from the University of Texas.

The groom is a graduate of Eldorado High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University.

After a trip to Charleston, S.C., the couple will live in Stephenville.



Bryan Thomas Gray and Janet Catherine Mosk

Mosk/Gray to marry

Bryan Thomas Gray and Janet Catherine Mosk are happy to announce their engagement to be married on January 7, 2006. Bryan is the son of Tom and Branda Gray of Eldorado and Elaine and Scott Barton of Alpine. Janet is the daughter of Cathy Mosk of Houston. Bryan is a graduate of Eldorado High School and obtained a Computer Science degree from Texas State University. He is currently working for Amerada Hess in Houston, while Janet is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Texas Women's University. The ceremony will be in Houston, where they will reside.

Meals for Friends Menu



- Monday, December 12**
Beef Stew, Sweet Peas, Crackers, Canned Peaches, Choc. Pudding, Milk
- Tuesday, December 13**
Chicken Fried Steak w/ Cream Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies., Dinner Roll, Fresh Orange, Milk
- Wednesday, December 14**
Meat Loaf w/ Tomato Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Wheat Roll, Fruit Cocktail, Sugar Cookie, Milk
- Thursday, December 15**
Baked Ham, Glazed Carrots, Summer Squash, Wheat Roll, Fresh Fruit Cup, Milk
- Friday, December 16**
Fried Catfish, Corn Tomato Casserole, Seasoned Spinach, Dinner Roll, Fruited Gelatin, Milk

BIRTHDAY LIST

- December**
- 9th** Chelsea Rojas, Rosario Sotio, Shanna Porter, Becky Saldivar, Nora Fuentes, Bobby Andrews, Martha Spinks, Aaron Fuentes, Amy Evans, Cherie Niblett
- 10th** Rikki Bosmans, Travis Lloyd, Vanessa Gonzalez, Stevie Sykes
- 11th** Patrick Porter, Phil Edmiston, Lorenzo Herrera, James Avila, Delbert Taylor, Phil McCormick, Lupe Huichapa, Juanita Huichapa
- 12th** Damon Kelly, James Avila, Adrienne Gamez, Linda Fuentes
- 13th** Karen Holley, Elizabeth Niblett Lloyd, Maggie Middleton
- 14th** Eric McGinnes, Bobby Newton, Matt Lloyd, Becky Lux

ANNIVERSARIES

- December**
- 11th** Heliodoro & Sylvia Sanchez

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7:00 PM- Sat. Dec. 10 or Dec. 17
3:00 PM - Sun. Dec. 11 or Dec.18

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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Lady Eagles continue to improve with each game

The Lady Eagles traveled to Miles Tuesday, November 29, 2005 in what would be their first of five games to be played over the coming week.

The Ladies took the decision in Miles 57-36. Miles had a tough time dealing with the Eagles' defense turning the ball over 26 times.

"This group of girls are right on the verge of being a very good basketball team," Lady Eagles Head Coach Brian Daniels said. "If we can gain consistency, we will be able to contend with anybody we play."

Cassandra Buitron was high point for the night scoring 14 points. Chandra Wanoreck was close behind with 13.

The Lady Eagles then played in the first round of the Bronte Tournament on Thursday, December 1, 2005. The girls faced the home team in the opening round, scorching the Bronte Lady Longhorns 46-17. The Lady Eagles defense was on its game once again causing 21 turnovers.

The Lady Eagles leading scorers for the Bronte game were Taylor Baker with 11, and Chandra Wanoreck and Maxie Holley both with 8.

The Eagles luck took a turn for the worse though as they traveled back to Bronte the next day to face Winters in the second round of play. The Eagles fell 41-32 to Winters.

"We looked real sluggish," Daniels said. "We came out flat as far as shooting goes, and played below average on defense."

The Lady Eagles headed back to Bronte once again on Saturday, December 3, 2005 and faced Eula.

"We just seemed to pick up where we left off against Winters," Daniels said. "We just flat out had a sub-par game."

The Eagles fell 37-32 in the contest. Kirsten Stubbs was high point with 13 points. Taylor Baker had 6.

The Lady Eagles played another game on Saturday. This one found the Eagles edging out Eden in a 53-43 victory.

"I thought we found ourselves out there on defense," Daniels said. "We made some changes and they just fell into place on the court."

Taylor Baker led the scoring for the Eagles with 17 points. Kirsten Stubbs had 12.

Eldorado's girls met the Iraan Lady Braves Tuesday evening, Dec. 6, 2005, and came out on the short end of a lop-sided 68-18 score. Taylor Baker was the Lady Eagles top scorer with 7. Kirsten Stubbs had 4, Haley Higgins 3, Chelsey Hill 2, and Cassandra Buitron and Maxie Holley each scored 1.

The Lady Eagles will travel to Water Valley today, Thursday December 8, 2005 for the Water Valley Tournament. The first game for the Ladies is slated for 3:30 p.m. against Forsan.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2005 the Lady Eagles will open district play in Sonora against the Lady Broncos. Everyone is encouraged to make the short trip down to Sonora and support the Eldorado Lady Eagles!

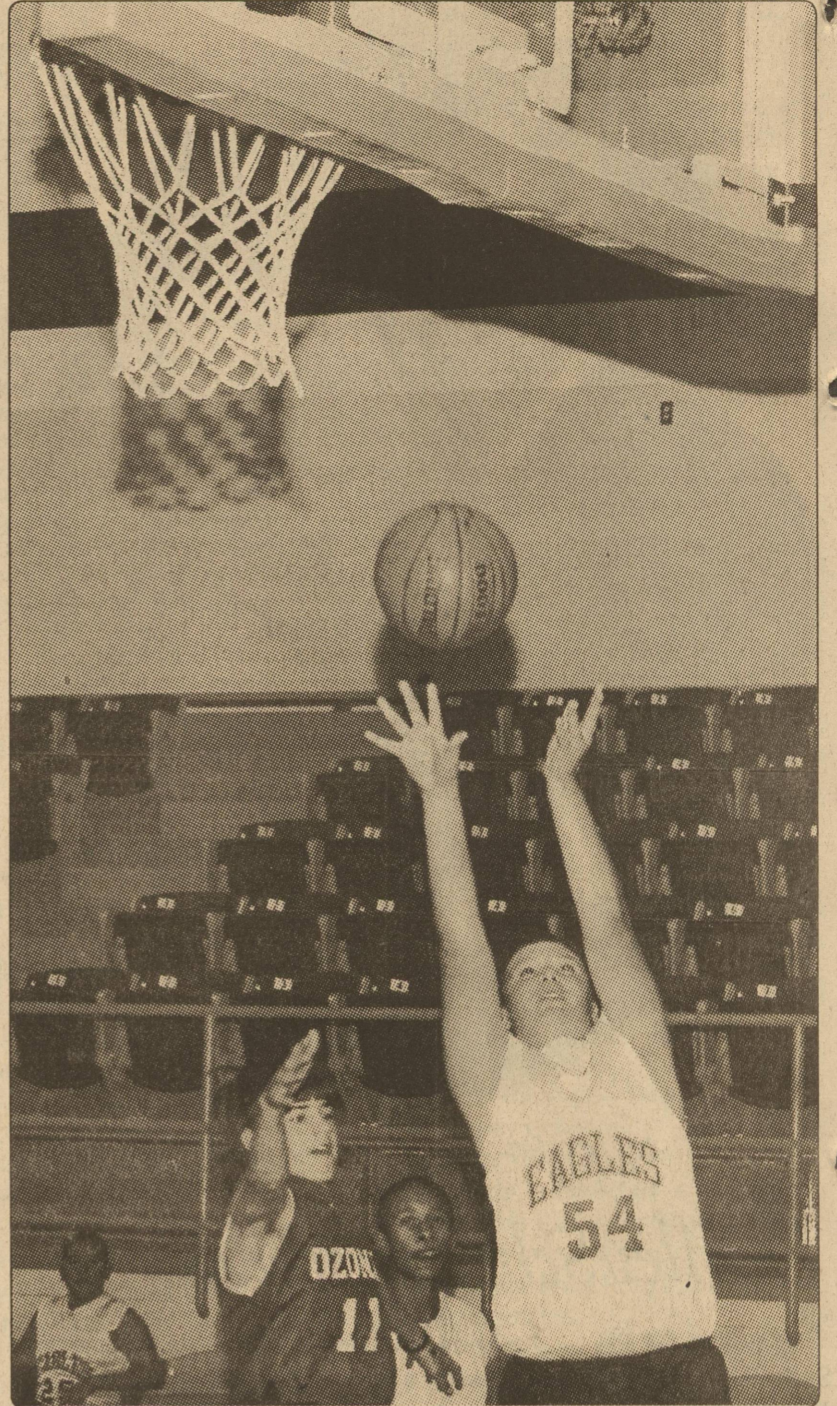


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Briley Ledbetter went up for two against the Ozona Lions Monday, November 28th. The 7th Grade Boys squeezed out a 27-25 victory in the contest.

School Lunch Menu



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

- BREAKFAST MENU**
- Monday, December 12**
Pig-n-a-Blanket, Choice of Juice, Pears, Milk
 - Tuesday, December 13**
Blueberry Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
 - Wednesday, December 14**
Cheese, Toast, Graham Crackers, Choice of Juice, Milk
 - Thursday, December 15**
Waffle Stix/syrup, Peach Halves, Choice of Juice, Milk
 - Friday, December 16**
Buttered Toast/Jelly, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

- BASKET LINE**
- Monday, December 12**
Steak Burger, Potato Wedges, Sandwich, Salad, Cowboy Cookies
 - Tuesday, December 13**
Mc Rib, Potato Chips, Pork-n-Beans, Peaches
 - Wednesday, December 14**
Vegetable Beef Stew, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cornbread, Pineapple Slices
 - Thursday, December 15**
Chef Salad/Crackers, Diced Ham/Cheese Cup, Sliced Peaches, Lemon Pudding/Topping
 - Friday, December 16**
Bar B Que on a Bun, Chips, Pickle Spears, Ice Cream

- CAFETERIA LINE**
- Monday, December 12**
Pork Chops/ Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Early June Peas, Hot Rolls, Cowboy Cookies
 - Tuesday, December 13**
Chicken Burger, Tater Tots, Lettuce, Peaches
 - Wednesday, December 14**
Vegetable Beef Stew, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cornbread, Pineapple Slices
 - Thursday, December 15**
Cowboy Beans/ Cornbread, Potato Salad, Carrot Stix/Dip, Lemon Pudding/ Topping
 - Friday, December 16**
Bar-B-Que on a Bun, Chips, Pickle Spears, Ice Cream

JV GIRLS A

November 29, 2005
JV GIRLS

Eldorado 05-06-08-05=24
Eden 04-07-02-06=19

Playing for the Lady Eagles: Katherine Johnson 9, Corie Williams 4, Kristin Mittle 3, Bridgett Mitchel 2, Tiffany Hernandez 2, Meg Griffin 2. Also playing were Ashley Lozano, Kassie Tyler, Amika Gonzalez, Veronica Belman.

JV GIRLS A

Eldorado JV Tourny
December 1-3

Eldorado 12-04-10-07=33
Christoval 04-03-05-06=18

Playing for the Lady Eagles: Katherine Johnson 3, Kristin Mittle 2, Deyanira Cruz 2, Bridgett Mitchel 1, Ashley Lozano 5, Tiffany Hernandez 4, Meg Griffin 1. Also playing were Amika Gonzalez, Corie Williams, Kassie Tyler, Veronica Belman.

JV GIRLS A

Eldorado JV Tourny
December 1-3

Eldorado 03-02-05-04=14
Miles 05-06-06-02=19

Playing for the Lady Eagles: Amika Gonzalez 2, Corie Williams 2, Kassie Tyler 2, Katherine Johnson 4, Kristin Mittle 2, Deyanira Cruz 2. Also playing were Bridgett Mitchel, Veronica Belman, Ashley Lozano, Tiffany Hernandez, Meg Griffin.

JV GIRLS A

Eldorado JV Tourny
December 1-3

Eldorado 04-00-04-09=17
Junction 08-03-10-02=23

Playing for the Lady Eagles: Katherine Johnson 7, Corie Williams 6, Ashley Lozano 2, Kassie Tyler 2. Also playing were Tiffany Hernandez, Meg Griffin, Amika Gonzalez, Veronica Belman, Kristin Mittle, Bridgett Mitchel.

7th GRADE BOYS

November 28, 2005

Eldorado 04-12-06-05=27
Ozona 03-08-02-12=25

Playing for the Eagles: Miles Mikeska 11, Briley Ledbetter 7, Ben Wipff 6, Joshua Jurecek 2, Jamie O'Harrow 1. Also playing were Aaron Parsley, Bailey Minor, Zack Brame, J.R. Martinez, Eloy Bustos..

7th GRADE BOYS

December 5, 2005

Eldorado 02-02-00-06=10
Wall 10-11-00-08=29

Playing for the Eagles: Miles Mikeska 11, Briley Ledbetter 7, Ben Wipff 6, Joshua Jurecek 2, Eloy Bustos 2, Jamie O'Harrow 1. Also playing were Aaron Parsley, Bailey Minor, Zack Brame, J.R. Martinez..

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◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) (12:00) 3:20 6:50 10:00	◆ JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) (12:25) 2:45 5:20 7:55 10:25
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) (12:40) 4:00 7:20 10:40	◆ IN THE MIX (PG-13) (11:55) 2:20 4:55 7:50 10:25
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) (1:00) 4:20 7:40 10:50	◆ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET (PG-13) OF FIRE (11:50) 3:15 6:55 10:30
◆ SYRIANA (R) 1:10 4:10 7:10 10:10	◆ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET (PG-13) OF FIRE (12:10) 3:30 7:15 10:45
◆ AEON FLUX (PG-13) 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:20	◆ WALK THE LINE (PG-13) (12:35) 3:45 7:05 10:15
◆ YOURS, MINE, AND OURS (PG) (12:20) 2:40 5:00 7:35 9:50	◆ CHICKEN LITTLE (G) (12:15) 2:30 4:50 7:25 9:30
◆ RENT (PG-13) 1:20 4:30 7:30	◆ SAW 2 (R) 10:35
◆ PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) (12:30) 3:40 6:45 9:40	

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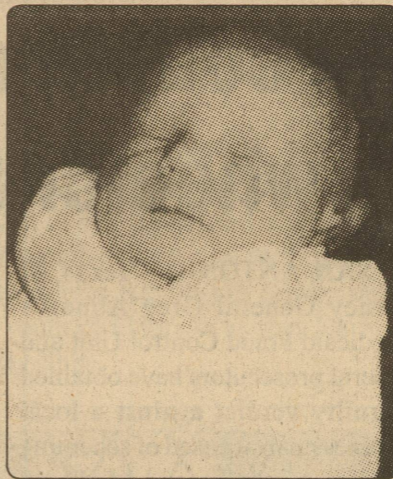
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PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Milo Vallejo reached in for a steal Thursday as the Eldorado JV-B squad took on the Reagan County Owls 9th grade team. The Eagles lost the game 21-45.



COURTESY PHOTO

Takoda Dawn Engdahl

It's a Girl!

Derek and Dawn Engdahl proudly announce the arrival of their new daughter, Takoda Dawn, born December 1st, weighing in at 6 pounds and 18 inches in length.

Welcoming her home is big sister Candace, and big brother C.J. and JoJo, and grandparents Annette and Rooster Jackson, of Eldorado and Sandy and the late Don Finch of Silver Springs, NV.

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JV BOYS A

November 18, 2005
 Eldorado 00-10-10-15=35
 Midland 12-14-09-16=51
 Playing for the Eagles: Roland Gonzalez 8, Rance Cathey 10, Abel Montalvo 12, Clayton Sauer 2, Clark Meyers-2. Scoring 3 Point Goals: Gonzalez (1), Cathey (2).

JV BOYS A

December 5, 2005
 Eldorado 06-06-10-14=36
 Wall 16-14-17-16=63
 Playing for the Eagles: Rolando Gonzalez 4, Jaaron Crawford 6, Rance Cathey 18, Dustin Gauna 4, Leandry Alfaro 2, Clayton Sauer 2. 3 Point Goals: Cathey (1).

JV BOYS A

December 6, 2005
 Eldorado 06-13-10-10=39
 Iraan 12-15-19-10=56
 Playing for the Eagles: Rolando Gonzalez 10, Rance Cathey 16, Abel Montalvo 3, Dustin Gauna 8, Clayton Sauer 2. 3 Point Goals: Cathey (2). Also playing: Jaaron Crawford, Leandry Alfaro.

November 21, 2005
 Eldorado 13-05-08-12=38
 Eden 17-12-09-10=48
 Playing for the Eagles: Abel Montalvo 8, Clayton Sauer 4, Rolando Gonzalez 13, Rance Cathey 9, Dustin Gauna 4. Also playing were Leandry Alfaro, Clark Meyer and Jaaron Crawford.

November 29, 2005
 Eldorado 09-04-06-08=27
 Miles 10-07-15-14=46
 Playing for the Eagles: Rolando Gonzalez 4, Jaaron Crawford 2, Rance Cathey 4, Abel Montalvo 4, Clayton Sauer 2, Dustin Gauna 11. Scoring 3 Point Goals: Gauna (1). Also playing were: Clark Meyers and Leandry Alfaro.

ELDORADO JV TOURNAMENT
 December 1, 2005
 Eldorado 10-06-12-08=26
 Eden 16-10-10-10=36
 Playing for the Eagles: Abel Montalvo 5, Rance Cathey 7, Rolando Gonzalez 13, Jaaron Crawford 5, Dustin Gauna 4. 3 Point Goals: Cathey (1); Gonzalez (2) Montalvo (1). Also playing Clayton Sauer.

ELDORADO JV TOURNAMENT
 December 1-3, 2005
 Eldorado 07-12-09-09=37
 Christoval 07-07-04-02=20
 Playing for the Eagles: Rolando Gonzalez 9, Jaaron Crawford 5, Rance Cathey 15, Dustin Gauna 8. 3 Point Goals: Cathey (1).

Capital Highlights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

On the Republican side, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn will challenge Perry in the GOP primary come March. In the latest spat between incumbent Perry and challenger Strayhorn, their camps are accusing each other of using state office equipment to send out campaign information.

And last but not least, there is Kinky Friedman, the Hill Country singer, writer and dog and cat rescuer who plans to run as an independent after the partisan primaries in March.

Laney to leave Legislature

Cotton-farming State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, announced that he won't run for reelection.

Laney is tied for third on the House seniority list, having begun his service in 1973.

Only Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, and Craddick have served longer. Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, is tied for third.

Laney was Craddick's predecessor as speaker, having served in that high post in the 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 sessions.

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Grand jurors meet, indict 6

The Schleicher County Grand Jury met Monday, December 5, 2005 and handed up 6 indictments.

These indictments will not be made public by authorities until the subjects involved are arrested or are served with papers.

District Court Report

51st District Court, Judge Barbara Walther held District Court, Monday, December 5th, 2005.

Carl Eugene Hart of Eldorado, age 43, pled guilty to the charge Driving While Intoxicated, 3rd or more. He was fined \$1,500.00, plus court costs and was given 7 years probation.

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Wildfire season alert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the touch.

• Dispose of smoking materials properly, either in an ashtray or crushed out in bare dirt.

• Avoid using welding or grinding equipment in or near dry grass and weeds.

• Avoid driving or parking in tall grass and weeds that could be ignited by the pollution control equipment on your vehicle.

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Is Santa bringing you a horse this Christmas?

Planning to put a horse, donkey, mule or other domestic equine animal under the tree this year? Make certain you buy, trade for or are given an animal that has been tested negative for equine infectious anemia (EIA). Texas law requires that equine

animals eight months of age or older have a negative blood test for EIA, an incurable viral disease, within 12 months prior to a change of ownership. (Nursing foals, transferred with their tested dams, are exempt from the test.) The EIA test document, also known as a VS 10-11, is sufficient proof of testing.

EIA can cause equine animals to develop severe anemia. Although some infected animals exhibit no obvious clinical signs, others may become depressed, exhausted, lose weight, or be unable to exercise or work. In acute

cases, the animal will die.

No EIA vaccine is approved in the U.S., so animals must be protected from exposure to the virus. The disease is spread through blood-to-blood contact, an event that can occur when biting flies feed on an infected equine animal, then move to a nearby "clean" horse. Blood transfusions or reusing contaminated needles or veterinary medical instruments also can mechanically carry the virus from infected to clean animals.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's

livestock and poultry health regulatory agency, requires EIA-positive equine animals to be euthanized, provided to a research facility, sold only for slaughter, or maintained under quarantine for life, at least 200 yards from other horses. Increased testing, movement controls for infected equine animals, and greater disease awareness has helped control EIA in Texas.

In 1997, 750 EIA-infected animals were detected in the state; in 2005, as of early December, about 40 EIA infected equine animals had been detected.

SMELL

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LISTEN

An unusual hissing, roaring or blowing sound near gas lines or appliances

LOOK

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The area immediately—do not smoke, use a cell phone, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks

Although natural gas leaks are rare, learn to recognize the signs. If you suspect a natural gas leak, play it safe: call Atmos Energy at 1-800-817-8090 from a safe distance.



If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 1-800-817-8090. For more information on gas safety, visit atmosenergy.com.

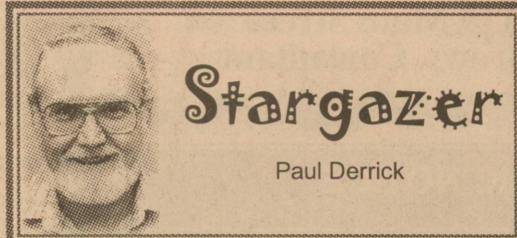
Winter's Long Night Moon

The December full Moon, falling this year on the 15th, is called the Moon Before Yule and the Long Night Moon. Full Moon names derive from different cultures and there is no official list, but the origins of most are easy to understand—like fall's Harvest Moon which comes as crops are being harvested.

The meaning of Moon Before Yule is clear enough—this is the full Moon just before Yule, originally a midwinter pagan festival but now usually referring to Christmas.

The meaning of Long Night Moon is slightly less obvious. At the Dec. 21 winter solstice, days are shortest and nights longest, so the nearest full Moon would fall on one of the year's longest nights. But the name might have meant more to its originators.

The Moon is full (fully illuminated by the Sun) when it is on



Stargazer
Paul Derrick

opposite side of Earth from the Sun. Thus full Moons always rise around sunset, stay up all night and set around sunrise.

Owing to Earth's tilt on its axis, the length of the day—that is, the time the Sun is up—changes throughout the year. The day is longest at summer solstice when, in our part of the world, the Sun is up more than 14 hours, and shortest at winter solstice when it is up only 10 hours. The Moon is just the opposite.

The planets orbit the Sun, and the Moon orbits Earth, on nearly the same plane, so the Sun, Moon and planets all roughly follow the same path across our sky. Called the ecliptic, this path passes through the familiar constellations of the zodiac. Again owing to the Earth's tilt, when the ecliptic is high during the day, it is low during the night, and vice versa.

During the summer the ecliptic is highest during the day, so the summer Sun climbs higher, and stays up longer, than the winter Sun. The full Moon, being at the opposite point on the ecliptic, is just the opposite—it climbs higher, and stays up longer, during the winter. The full Moon nearest

the winter solstice, the year's longest night, is up more than 14 hours, making for a very Long Night Moon.

• Naked-eye Planets. (The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west due to Earth's west-to-east

rotation.) "Evening star" Venus sets nearly 3 hours after sunset and is at its brightest for the year Dec. 12. (Seen through a telescope, and maybe even binoculars, Venus now appears as a tiny crescent Moon.) Mars, high in the southeast, is fading slightly each night, but still brighter than any star. Saturn rises by 10 p.m. and is high in the southwest by morning. Jupiter is up by 5 a.m. Mercury, now rising nearly an hour and a half before sunrise, will be at its best Dec. 12 low in the southeast about 45 minutes before sunrise.

• Astro Milestones: Dec. 14 is the 459th anniversary of the birth of Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546-1601).

• Stargazer Book: A Beginner's Guide to Learning the Night Sky by Paul Derrick would make a great gift for that stargazer in your life. See his Website.

Stargazer appears every other week. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or paulderrickwaco@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at stargazerpaul.com.

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

Keeping Dry

B	A	M	A	A	O	R	T	A	S	A	P	S	
A	M	E	S	B	R	O	I	L	E	L	L	A	
B	A	N	T	H	E	B	O	M	B	A	T	O	M
A	Z	U	R	E	T	E	E	N	O	T	E		
R	E	S	O	R	T	S	D	R	O	B			
	S	O	O	T	H	T	R	E	M	O	R		
A	A	A	R	E	O	S	S	A	U	N	A		
S	E	C	R	E	T	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E
P	R	I	E	D	L	E	I	A	H	A	H		
S	O	D	D	E	N	S	E	V	E	R			
	S	N	O	B	S	E	V	E	R	A	L		
B	U	S	H	I	R	E	A	L	O	N	E		
A	N	T	I	S	U	R	E	E	N	O	U	G	H
S	T	A	R	E	N	T	R	E	A	S	I	A	
H	O	Y	T	S	T	E	A	K	D	E	E	R	

PUBLIC NOTICE INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Schleicher County Medical Center, a Hospital District, provides healthcare services at no cost for persons who do not qualify for Medicaid or any other assistance program, including undocumented aliens (covering undocumented pregnant females up to labor and delivery), men who have no children, and women who are not pregnant and do not have children.

Eligibility

1. A person must be a resident of Schleicher County for six months. If an applicant cannot prove residency of Schleicher County, then his/her six months residency status will start from the date of his/her application as day one.
2. Income below AFDC guidelines and total household resources less than \$2,000.
3. Unborn children are counted in determining eligibility when applicable.
4. A denial letter from Medicaid, Primary Health Care or any other assistance programs is required prior to making application.
5. Applicants/Participants must be registered with Job Services and in an active role of seeking employment.

For more information contact: Patti Castillo-Indigent Health Care Coordinator

Schleicher County Medical Center, 400 Murchinson, Eldorado, TX 76936 325-853-2507

NOTICIA PUBLICA

PROGRAMA INDIGENTE DE CUIDADO MEDICO

Schleicher County Medical Center, distrito del hospital, proporciona servicios medicos para las personas que no califican para Medicaid o algun otro programa de asistencia, incluyendo extranjeros que no estan documentados (cubriendo mujeres embarazadas que no estan documentadas hasta el dia de parto), hombres que no tienen niños y mujeres que no estan embarazada y que no tienen hijos.

Elegibilidad

1. Residente de seis meses del condado de Schleicher. Si el aspirante no puede probar residencia de Schleicher, entonces su estado de seis meses de residencia empieza el dia de su aplicacion como el dia primero.
2. Ingresos bajo AFDC directiva y recursos menos de \$2,000.
3. Niños sin nacer son contados en determinando elegibilidad cuando pertinente.
4. Una carta de negacion de Medicaid, Primary Health Care o algun otro programa de asistencia es necesario antes de aplicar.
5. Aspirantes/participantes deben de ser registrados con servicios de trabajo y buscando empleo.

Para mas infomacion de ponerse en contacto con:

Patti Castillo
Indigent Health Care Coordinator
Coordinadora del Programa Indigente de cuidado Medico
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