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One dead, one hospitalized following rollover on FM 864



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Local lawmen and emergency personnel responded Sunday morning to the scene of this one-vehicle rollover near Ft. McKavett on FM 864. The wreck claimed the life of a 18-year-old Mexican national and sent another to the hospital in Sonora. The rescue mission soon turned into a manhunt and another ten illegal aliens were rounded within a few miles of the accident. The driver of the wrecked Ford Explorer, Agustin Anorga, 20, managed to elude authorities but was apprehended Sunday evening at his home in Cleburne. A second Cleburne man, Jorge Luis Castro, was arrested near the Schleicher/Menard County line with five undocumented aliens in his Chevy Suburban.

Twelve jailed in connection with alien smuggling operation

Juan Manuel Renaja, 18, of Mexico, was killed Sunday morning, March 19, 2006, in a one-vehicle rollover on F.M. 864, less than two miles from Ft. McKavett.

Renaja and six other Mexican nationals, were riding as passengers in a 1999 Ford Explorer when it overturned. The driver, Agustin Anorga, 20, of Cleburne, TX fled the scene, along with six of his passengers. The remaining passenger who was too injured to leave, stayed with the vehicle. He was taken to Hudspeth Hospital in Sonora by Menard County EMS ambulance.

Schleicher County Sheriff's Department officers were joined by Menard County lawmen as well as volunteers from Eldorado and Ft. McKavett Fire Departments and several passersby in searching for the missing men. The six passengers were soon spotted by volunteer firefighter Oscar Martinez of Eldorado. The men were promptly taken into custody.

The Ford's driver, Agustin Anorga, was able to elude local lawmen, but his luck ran out Sunday night when he was arrested at his home by officers from the Cleburne Police Department. They were acting on information provided them by local lawmen who got Anorga's address from his vehicle registration.

As investigators worked toward wrapping up their investigation Sunday morning at the wreck scene, a sharp-eyed motorist spotted a second group of men being loaded in a White Suburban a mile or two northeast of Ft. McKavett

on FM 864. Lawmen were notified and Sheriff David Doran intercepted the vehicle on U.S. 190 near the Schleicher/Menard County line. There he arrested the driver, Jorge Luis Castro, 38, also of Cleburne, and took into custody five more Mexican nationals who were hiding in the back of the Suburban.

DPS Trooper Danny Nunez investigated the accident on FM 864. He says that the wreck was caused by a blowout on the right rear tire of the Ford Explorer. The blowout caused the vehicle to swerve, before leaving the road way and overturning several times.

Nunez estimates the time of the accident at 8:40 a.m.

Menard officials were the first to reach the scene. The remote stretch of FM 864 crosses the extreme southeast corner of Schleicher County. In order to reach the accident, local lawmen and emergency personnel went down FM 2596 (McIntosh Rd) and crossed into Sutton County before turning onto FM 864 and making their way north and east back into Schleicher County.

A number of criminal charges face the two Cleburne men while most of the surviving Mexican nationals will likely be handed over to the US Immigration officials for deportation.

Juan Manuel Renaja was pronounced dead at the scene by Schleicher County Justice of the Peace James C. Doyle. His body was taken by Schleicher County EMS ambulance to Kerbow Funeral Home in Eldorado where services are pending.

UCRA troubled by YFZ dairy

Stephen Brown, management consultant with the Upper Colorado River Authority told *The Success* this week that the news that a dairy is being installed at the YFZ Ranch near Eldorado is troubling. He said the UCRA would be monitoring the situation closely and would work closely with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to ensure that the groundwater beneath the YFZ is protected.

Brown noted that the thin layer of soil that covers most of the YFZ Ranch offers little protection to the groundwater below. "That's fractured limestone they have out there and I'm

very concerned about the potential for contaminating the groundwater," Brown said.

The UCRA's interest in the YFZ Ranch stems from the fact that it sits across Milligan Draw, a tributary of the South Concho River, which ultimately flows through San Angelo and before turning eastward and dumping into the Colorado River. The agency is chartered by the State of Texas in 1935 to protect the watersheds of the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Last year the UCRA was joined by the City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, the Plateau Underground Water District and a number of local property owners in opposing a proposed

permit for a wastewater treatment plant at the YFZ Ranch.

"We had our lawyer looking over the shoulder of the TCEQ," Brown said. "We managed to get them to pull their application and they are supposed to amend it so that no effluent will be discharged from the ranch."

Brown went on to say that he has yet to see an amended permit application from the ranch. "I think it's going to be a long process," he added.

Likewise, Brown said that the UCRA will remain vigilant concerning the new dairy at the YFZ. "I can assure you that we're going to stay on top of this," Brown concluded. "We're not going to lose interest and go away."

Two years later and the YFZ story continues

It was two years ago this week that Eldoradoans first learned that a fundamentalist Mormon sect from the Arizona/Utah borderland had purchased 1,691 acres near Eldorado and was constructing large dormitory-style buildings on the property. Since that time the cluster of three buildings that ranch officials first claimed were intended as for a hunting retreat, has grown to include dozens of residential and shop-style buildings and a massive white limestone temple.

The hunting retreat cover story quickly fell through as news stories linked the YFZ to the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and its embattled leader, Prophet Warren Jeffs.

Jeffs' legal problems stem from the fact that his church espouses the illegal practice of polygamy, or as church leaders prefer to call it, plural marriage. The practice was a bedrock belief of the early Mormon church, but was dropped in 1890 as a condition of statehood for Utah. Since that time, polygamy has been against the law in all 50 states.

Warren Jeffs and his followers refuse to compromise on the issue, however, and cling stubbornly to the practice as one of the primary tenets of their faith. But that's not the only reason the FLDS prophet has found himself on the wrong side of the law. It was the marrying of underage girls to older men within the church that made Jeffs a wanted man.

In 2005 Warren Steed Jeffs was indicted by an Arizona grand jury on charges of Sexual Conduct with a Child and Conspiracy to Commit Sexual Conduct with a Child for his part in arranging and performing weddings between under aged girls and older men. Soon thereafter he was charged in federal court with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution. Before long, Jeffs was named to the FBI Most Wanted List with a \$60,000 reward being offered for his capture and conviction.

Prior to Jeffs' own legal problems, several of his followers, including a Colorado City, AZ police officer named Rodney Holm, found themselves facing criminal charges relating to their own polygamous and underage marriages. Many long-time FLDS observers believe that Holm's 2003 conviction by a Utah jury sent shock waves through the FLDS hierarchy. It was, after all, Warren Jeffs who arranged Holm's marriage to an underage girl and it was he who performed the wedding ceremony.

Soon, one of Jeffs' most trusted aides, David Steed Allred, was buying up property, including a 1,691 acre parcel here in Schleicher County that later became known as the YFZ Ranch. YFZ is believed to stand for Yearning for Zion, a song Jeffs once recorded and distributed to church faithful.

SEE YFZ ON PAGE 10

SCISD trustees hire Collins as Superintendent of Schools

After an hour of deliberation Monday night in executive session where SCISD trustees reviewed employee contracts and other personnel matters, the board returned to open session and voted unanimously to hire Billy Collins as the district's new superintendent of schools. Collins, who was on hand to accept the post, will start his new job on June 1st. He is currently employed as the superintendent at Grandfalls-Royalty ISD.

The trustees had previously named Collins as the lone finalist for the post but couldn't hire him until the state-mandated 21-day waiting period expired.

Collins is a 1992 graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He received a Master of Education degree with mid-management certification from Sul Ross State University in 1996. He earned his superintendent certification at Sul Ross in 2000.

Collins took over as superintendent at Grandfalls-Royalty in February of 2005. Prior to that was employed for seven years as an elementary principal at McCamey. Before that he had been the Pre-K through 12th grade principal at Grandfalls-Royalty from 1996-98.

Collins told the Success recently that he is excited about the opportunity he has here in Eldorado and says he is happy that the SCISD board would allow him to finish up "a couple of things I have going on at Grandfalls-Royalty" before starting his new job.

Collins and his wife Christi have two children, a son, Trent, who is in Pre-K, and a daughter, Cassie, who is 1-year-old.

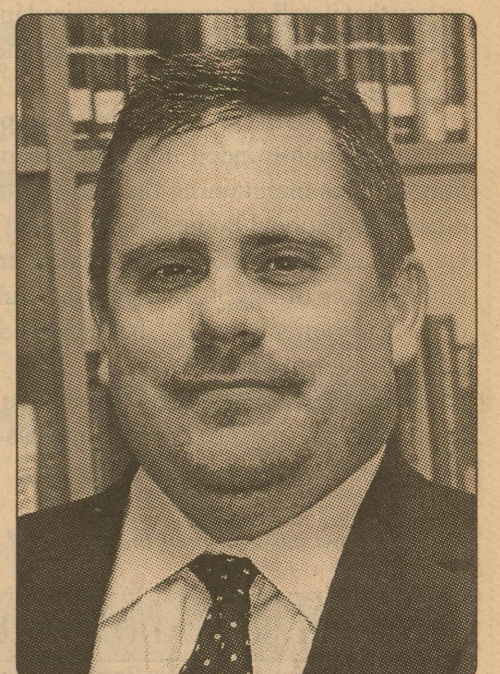


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Billy Collins was hired Monday night as the new SCISD Superintendent of Schools. He will assume his new post on June 1st.

Among other personnel action, the SCISD trustees voted to approve all campuses professional employee contracts, program directors and counselors and para-professionals, administrative staff, maintenance, cafeteria and bus drivers contracts for the 2006-2007 school year.

The board then voted to accept the resignations of High School teacher Sarah Ryan and Librarian Debbie Griffin.

The board took no action on a separate executive session item concerning the purchase of property.

The meeting was the board's regular SEE SCHOOL BOARD ON PAGE 8

The United Nations' Shame, Cont.

Wherever she is right now, the late Eleanor Roosevelt is probably having a kind thought about U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton. The ambassador is the liberal bugaboo who was filibustered by Senate Democrats before heading to Turtle Bay, where last month he fought a valiant, losing fight to reform the U.N. Human Rights Commission.



The Rich Lowry column

Roosevelt was the commission's first chairman back in 1947, and thought it would play an important international role

by shaming human-rights abusers. Over time, the commission's mandate evolved into passing over human-rights abuses in silence and, instead, shaming itself. Bolton had hoped to change the commission and infuse it with some of its old idealism. Nothing doing. He's finding that at the U.N. Augean Stables, the cattle always prevail.

The human-rights commission's abiding flaw is that it has no standards for membership. So, bloodthirsty tyrannies sit on it together with liberal democracies.

Given the let's-all-get-along bonhomie of the United Nations, they all operate based on a vaporous consensus that strips the commission of any purpose. China, Cuba, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Zimbabwe are all current members, ensuring ample representation of governments interested in preserving their ability to jail their dissidents, repress their women and despoil their countryside.

Human-rights abusers are particularly drawn to the commission so they can eliminate any diplomatic or moral threat it might pose to their misrule. They can vote as a bloc to oppose any strenuous language directed at themselves or fellow abusers. On the inside, they subtly influence the process in their favor.

John Bolton and the U.S. proposed reducing the commission's membership from 53 countries to 30, thus making it harder to get on, and requiring a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly to approve members in an attempt to keep the worst abusers off. These reforms were effectively trashed.

The counterproposal passed last month by a 170-4 vote pegs the membership at 47, approved by a mere majority of the General Assembly. The biggest change is literally nominal: No longer will it be the United Nations Human Rights Commission, but the Human Rights Council. The moral stink will remain, whatever they call it.

Debates over the U.N. feature an odd dynamic. It is skeptics like Bolton who favor making it a more effective and worthy institution. It is the U.N. worshippers who have standards for the world body so low that it will always remain mired in disrepute. So it was that Jimmy Carter favored the evisceration of the reforms.

For such U.N. supporters, it appears that genuinely high-minded multilateralism is not as important as maintaining the United Nations and other international bodies as an irritant to American power. Carter made a personal promise to the ambassadors of Egypt, Pakistan and Cuba -- not a democracy among them -- that he would side with them on commission reform.

Eleanor Roosevelt would no doubt be surprised at how low her treasured world body has sunk, and who is working to make it better.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Asterisks in the record books, a slippery slope that should be avoided

A baseball purist is a person who believes the Designated Hitter Rule is the worst thing to happen to the game since stadium lighting and synthetic turf. He likewise believes that any record set since 1980 should be preceded by an asterisk, with an explanation in the footnotes describing how much harder the former record holder(s) had it.

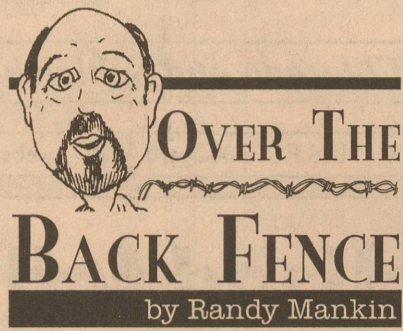
It's true, the ready availability of performance enhancing drugs casts a shadow over almost every current record holder, with the obvious exception of Hank Aaron.

Until such time as the suits in the front office of major league baseball get serious about cleaning up the game, there will always be athletes, hungry for money and glory, who will find a way to cheat the system.

So it is now, and so it has always been.

Still, before we get too angry with Barry Bonds or Rafael Palmeiro for their alleged steroid use, we should stop and ask ourselves how many of Babe Ruth's home runs were hit while he was in a chemically altered state.

A few of the old timers who played with Ruth have said that the was a better hitter drunk than he was sober. If that's true, and who's to say it's not, then perhaps we should we put an asterisk beside Babe's 714 home run total.



OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Randy Mankin

No, I don't seriously believe that alcohol made the Bambino a better ball player. I'm just asking who is going to decide which records are tainted and on what basis will they make their decision?

Remember, many of the old timers played on fields that no longer exist. How would Mark McGwire or Sammy Sosa have fared playing at the Polo Grounds? We will never know.

Similarly, how would Joe DiMaggio or Mickey Mantle have fared facing 104 mph fastballs like those served up by Nolan Ryan?

Again, we will never know, and that's what makes this record book thing so difficult. There is no consistent yard stick by which to compare players from different eras. The equipment was different, the fields were different, even the umpiring was different.

Take three of the game's greatest living catchers, Yogi Berra, Johnny Bench, and Pudge Rodriguez, and ask them to describe

the strike zone as it is defined in the rule book. You will find that they will all give you the same description. That being the width of home plate ranging from the mid-level point between the top of the batter's shoulders and his belt down to the hollow just beneath the knee cap. No controversy here since the rule hasn't changed in many decades.

Now, ask the same three men to describe the strike zone as it was actually called during their career and you will get three vastly different answers.

Up until the Astrodome was completed in the 1964, baseball was an outdoor sport, subject to the vagaries of sun, wind and rain. More indoor stadiums followed, even stadiums with retractable roofs, all of which limited the impact of weather on the game of baseball.

Then there was the aforementioned Designated Hitter Rule instituted by the American League in 1973. To confuse matters even more, the National League chose not to adopt the rule, meaning that the game played in AL and NL became less and less similar.

I sympathize with the purists, especially when it comes to the DH rule. But, putting asterisks in the record books? Where do we start...and where will it end?

Anvil music in the woods

John Frederick has a blacksmith shop just outside his house between New Summerfield and Jacksonville.

"We're forty and plumb," says John, who wears a bowler hat and an old western shirt and vest. "We're forty miles from nowhere, plumb in the middle of nothing and that's just really good."

John and his wife Polly live on land that's been in Polly's family for generations. There used to be a community nearby called Lone Star.

"It was a town called Skintight and in the 1860's or 70's they applied for a federal post office. The post office department said they couldn't use Skintight, so they named it Lone Star."

John has made a living as a blacksmith for more than forty years, creating everything from ornate staircase railings to jewelry.

"The secret to this is don't tell anybody what you're making before you get done, because if you tell them it's a widget and it



by Tumbleweed Smith

comes out a widget then you've got a problem."

John is now teaching others how to do blacksmith work. In his classes, he tells students if they don't see color in the steel, quit hitting on it. "It's too cold. It goes red, orange, yellow and white. It kinda gives you a range so you'll know how hot it is. Cherry red is 1450 degrees and white heat is 25 or 26 hundred."

Students pay \$350 for a two-day class on either Mondays and Tuesdays or Thursdays and Fridays. He shuts down his school after April because he says it's just too hot to work in a blacksmith shop during warm months. "May thru August you don't want to be in a blacksmith shop." He starts his classes in September.

His students come from as far away as California and from all walks of life.

"We've had college professors, doctors, lawyers, police officers and a dentist. They build a fireplace poker, a heart trivet, a single tine barbeque fork with a twisted handle, a double tine fork, a railroad spike knife and a pair of blacksmith tongs. You're gonna work these two days. You're not going to lollygag around. The class is limited to four people. You take the projects home with you. Everybody gets a 32-ounce cross peen hammer that I set up for you in the shop. You take that home with you, too. It's a pretty good deal. If you don't like the blacksmithing, that's OK because you're gonna get two good home-cooked meals by my wife Polly."

John and Polly recently moved to the country from Hico, where they had a store and blacksmith shop. You can contact Frederick's Blacksmith School at 903 721-7962. The mailing address is RR5 Box 2088, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

Perry to call April 17 special session

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry gave lawmakers a month's notice in calling the third 30-day special session of the 79th Texas Legislature, to begin April 17.

The governor said the main job for lawmakers will be to fix the state's property tax system.

In this case, fix means to find alternate sources of revenue so that local taxing authorities will be able to set local property taxes at something below the \$1.50 per \$100 valuation cap.

The Legislature is under a directive from the Texas Supreme Court to have the matter resolved by June 1.

Former Comptroller John Sharp, chair of the governor's 24-member Texas Tax Reform Commission, suggested lowering property taxes by one third and paying for the tax cut by raising the cigarette tax by \$1 and implementing a new business activity tax that businesses, including most law firms, would have to pay.

Sharp also suggested using \$1 billion from the state's \$4 billion-plus budget surplus in the current biennium to help make property tax relief possible.

Perry's office formed the Texas Tax Reform Commission last fall to gather input at citizen forums staged across Texas and then make recommendations to the Legislature.

Already, there is resistance to Sharp's business activity tax idea. A coalition of law firms expressed aversion to a flat, across-the-board tax on limited licensed partnerships.

Also, there is pressure on the governor to expand the call to school finance reform because of its inextricable bond with property taxes.

Perry has not yet issued a proclamation specifying other issues for the special session, but Sharp has said the two issues should be considered separately with tax reform up first. His reasoning: if tax reform is accomplished, there will be a platform from which to operate on school finance. If taken together, strong and disparate feelings in the Legislature regarding school finance likely would doom any progress on tax reform.

Fires char northern expanses

Prairie fires that erupted in the Panhandle and south of Childress killed at least 11 people and more than 10,000 head of cattle and horses.

Total acreage of the fires has been estimated at more than 880,000 acres, or more than 1,375 square miles.

The Texas Forest Service is coordinating firefighting efforts, and volunteers have answered the call from counties across the state. The agency also has received help from other states in the form of personnel and equipment.

Perry, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn and other officials have asked for increased federal aid to the fire-ravaged areas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture reports that more than 10,000 fires have burned about 4 million acres across the state since Dec. 26.

Illegal fires, such as trash-burning, in the drought-stricken areas have been cited as possible causes of the conflagrations.

Campaigners sting each other

Tony Sanchez of Laredo, the Democratic party's candidate for governor in 2002, announced that he would support Carole Keeton Strayhorn's independent candidacy for governor, this time around.

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 3

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Vestal Camp Askew

SONORA — Vestal Camp Askew went home to eternally green pastures on Sunday, March 19, 2006. He was born April 17, 1917, in Del Rio, Texas, to V and Ethel Askew, pioneer ranchers in Val Verde County. He was an outstanding rancher and community servant.

Service was held Wednesday, March 22, at the First United Methodist Church of Sonora with graveside service held in the Sonora Cemetery.

Vestal graduated from Del Rio High School and then went on to Texas Technological College. While at Tech, he was proud to be one of the originators of the Saddle Tramp spirit organization. After his graduation, he went on to Texas A&M, where he received his MS degree. He wanted to study sheep and wool in graduate school, and A&M designed a program for him, which was the beginning of the sheep program there. He was employed by Colorado State University to teach and set up a sheep and wool science program. Later, he became a lamb buyer for Armour and Co., and he was a renowned lamb judge for shows all over Texas.

Vestal served as executive secretary of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association and later as president of that organization; vice-president of Sonora Wool & Mohair; director of the Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District; director of Sonora Stock Pens; director of the National Wool Growers Association; and was a member of numerous civic organizations. He ranched in Val Verde, Edwards and Sutton counties for more than 50 years. He was awarded the Fred Earwood Award from the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers, their most prestigious award, and received the Conservation Rancher of the Year Award from the Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District.

Vestal married Allie Halbert McBride on Jan. 19, 1959, and they celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary before her death in 2004.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, Gwen Wyatt Askew and Allie Halbert Askew; and two sisters, Catherine Askew and Ruth Askew Palmer.

OBITUARIES

He is survived by a son, Guy Wyatt Askew of Von Ormy, Texas; stepsons Robert McBride and wife Frances of Stephenville, Texas, and Patrick McBride of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; stepdaughter Linda Fisher and husband Glen of Sonora, Texas; grandchildren Clifford McBride, Tammy Fisher, David Fisher and Melissa Hennigan; great-granddaughter Madalyn Fisher; and nieces Pat Grey, Mike Molder and Randee Fawcett.

Pallbearers were Lee Bloodworth, Burt Bloodworth, Buck Bloodworth, Billy Martin, Tom Lock, Eddie Sawyer and Seco Mayfield. Honorary pallbearers will be Stanley Mayfield, Bobby Doran, Bill Vanderheider, Bob Byrd, Doug Ray and Marvin Ralston.

Janece Lacy Finley

ELDORADO — Janece Lacy Finley, 57 of Eldorado, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 12, 2006.

Janece was born July 8, 1948, in Houston, Texas, to Jim and Louise Lacy. She was first and foremost a wonderful mother and wife. She was a renaissance woman with skills ranging from painting and writing, to traveling the world and speaking different languages. She was a proud member of the First United Methodist Church and the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, and a graduate of Eldorado High School. Janece was an exceptional baker, gardener and dog whisperer. She also had a love for politics and was the Democratic County Chair in the 1980s. She had traveled to England and Central America - even living in Mexico for a period

of time. She had sung at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and learned how to fish from her grandson and future son-in-law. She loved to dance, and did so often with her husband Tip. Janece had many interests, and pursued them all with passion.

Janece was a loving wife, special mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. She was a mother to many more than her three children. There was not a single person in the world she did not open her home to. She will be greatly missed by her family, extended family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and many loved aunts and uncles.

Janece is survived by her loving husband of 29 years, Tip Finley; three daughters, Lacy Jemmott and her husband, Wayne, of Austin, Texas, Summer Finley and her fiancé, Dominic Cancelli, of Elgin, Texas, and Ashley Finley of Austin, Texas; one grandson, Adam Jemmott of Austin, Texas; three brothers, Charles Lacy and his wife, Mary, of Kerrville, Texas, Jim Lacy Jr. of San Angelo, Texas, and Garvin Lacy of Kerrville, Texas; and one sister, Andrea Lea Stark of Katy, Texas. Janece also had numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

Pallbearers for the funeral were Jimmy Belk, Luis Martinez, Homer Minor, Gary Ramirez, Smokey Taylor and Ben Wright. Honorary pallbearers were Danny Halbert, Jim Holley, Wayne McGinnes, Gene Nixon, Richard "Tree" Preston, Jim Runge and Jacky Willis.

The family received visitors at the Kerbow Funeral Home in

Eldorado Thursday, March 16. Funeral services were held 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, at the First United Methodist Church in Eldorado. Burial followed in the Eldorado Cemetery under the direction of Kerbow Funeral Home.

The family wishes memorials to be made to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center, Hospice of San Angelo, or a charity of your choice in lieu of flowers.

Helen I. Bradley

Helen I. Bradley, age 81, entered into rest March 12, 2006 in Del Rio, Texas. She was born December 28, 1924 in Vale, Oregon.

She is preceded in death by her son, Charles Blackley, parents, Myron and Hattie Groat.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Thomas D. Bradley, sons, Tom Bradley of Fernley, Nevada, Torrie McCullough of Carson City, Nevada, granddaughter, Ashley Bradley of Fernley, Nevada, brother, Vernon Groat of Newton, Massachusetts, sisters, Jean Niles of Yuma, Arizona, Donna Martin of Reno, Nevada, Afton Rush of Tampa, Florida, numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held at a later date.

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Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The campaign of Democratic candidate Chris Bell expressed "mild disappointment" at Sanchez' decision.

Bell is considered incumbent Republican Gov. Perry's top challenger. Strayhorn and author-entertainer Richard S. "Kinky" Friedman are rapidly gathering signatures for their petitions to be on the ballot in November.

They have until May 11 to collect 45,540 signatures each. The number of signatures is equivalent to 1 percent of the total vote in the 2002 Texas governor's race.

Friedman made headlines for appearing to accept a beer and drink it while riding in a car at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dallas. After being caught but not arrested, Friedman quipped that he drank but did not swallow.

Our Sincerest Thanks

Thank you to all of our family, friends, and community for your love and support during our time of bereavement. Our hearts are overjoyed with the outpouring of memorials, flowers, food, phone calls, visits, hugs and well wishes we have received.

We would like to especially thank the Methodist and Baptist Churches and congregations for hosting our mother's service and luncheon. All of you made a difference in our lives, and we are grateful.

Sincerely,
Family of Janece Lacy Finley
Tip, Lacy, Summer & Ashley

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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

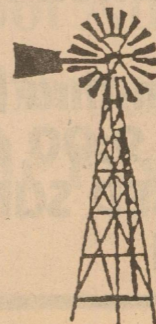
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ Hoo Boy!

See Solution on Page 8

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March

- 23rd Robert Jay, Garrison Dean, Mari E. Martinez, Darcie Bullard, Annette Santellano
- 24th Fidel Herrera Sr., Kay Creek
- 25th GERALYN Beach, Ronnie Middleton, Kathryn Shipman, Dick Williams
- 26th Mindy Haynes, Brenda Weaver, Jessie Weaver, Dylan Wilson, John Lozano, Jr.
- 27th Juan Garcia Sanchez, Stuart Howell, Ross Howell, Drew Howell, Kirk Jones, Julie Chancellor, John Chancellor, Fayla Cheatham, Mason Hutto
- 28th Jeff Blaylock, J.L. Mankin, Sam Caldwell
- 29th Megan Griffin, Mike Neubert
- 30th Claire Wideman, Dorothy Harris, Mitzi Kelley, B.J. Reynolds, Santos Pina, Sherry Belk, Sergio Garcia, Rachel Joiner, Buster Harris, Toby Harris
- 31st Joey Bullard, Lois Etheredge, Justina Rodriguez

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March

- 24th Steve & Kim-et Nelson, John & Mari Martinez
- 30th Allen & Sharon Lemons

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STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS	
<p>◆ STAY ALIVE (PG-13) 12:10 2:30 5:00 7:20 9:40</p> <p>◆ INSIDE MAN (R) 12:50 3:50 7:00 10:05</p> <p>◆ LARRY THE CABLE GUY (11:45) 2:15 4:50 7:10 9:30</p> <p>◆ SHE'S THE MAN (12:00) 2:45 5:15 7:55 10:30</p> <p>◆ V FOR VENDETTA (11:50) 1:00 2:50 4:00 6:45 7:15 9:50 10:15</p> <p>◆ THE SHAGGY DOG (12:00) 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:10</p> <p>◆ THE HILLS HAVE EYES 1:50 5:05 7:50 10:35</p>	<p>◆ FAILURE TO LAUNCH (PG-13) 1:40 4:10 6:55 9:20</p> <p>◆ 16 BLOCKS (PG-13) 1:45 4:20 7:50 10:25</p> <p>◆ MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG-13) 2:00 4:45 7:45 10:20</p> <p>◆ THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA (R) 1:10 7:05</p> <p>◆ EIGHT BELOW (PG) 1:05 3:55 6:50 9:45</p> <p>◆ DATE MOVIE (PG-13) 4:30 10:00</p> <p>◆ THE PINK PANTHER (PG) (11:55) 2:35 5:05 7:30 9:55</p>

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Reagan Co. Jr. High Track Meet

March 11, 2006
8th Grade Girls

100 Meter: 11. Krystal Hamilton, 15.98;
400 Meter Run: K. Hamilton, 1:16.58.

7th Grade Girls

Discus: 4. Rosa Hernandez, 52'6";
Long Jump: 7. Allyson Jarrett, 11'11";
High Jump: 6. Ashley Paulson, 4'0";
Shot Put: 2. Abigail Ussery, 24'0";
400 Relay: 3. Allyson Jarrett, Rosa Iglesias, Laura Garcia, Abigail Ussery; 59.96;

800 Run: 5. Marci Minor, 1:40; 21.08;
100 Hurdles: 4. Ashley Paulson, 21.08;
1600 M. Relay: 3. Abigail Ussery, 15.11; 4. Allyson Jarrett, 15.40; 7. Rosy Iglesias, 15.98;
800 Relay: 4. Ashley Paulson, Marci Minor, Rosa Iglesias, Laura Garcia, 2:13.33;
400 Run: 2. Marci Minor, 1:15.4; 5. Abigail Ussery, 1:19.14;
200 Dash: Allyson Jarrett, 31.64; 4. L. Garcia, 32.61; 11. Ashley Paulson, 35.38.

Results listed from Jr. High Hill Country Relays in Mason

The Eldorado Junior High School 7th Grade Girls won 2nd place team over all at the Hill County Relays in Mason on Friday, March 17, 2006. The team had a total score of 138 points.

7th Grade Girls Results:

Discus: 4. Rosa Hernandez, 53'11.0; 7. Abigail Ussery, 47'11.50;
Shot Put: 1. Abigail Ussery, 26'09.00; 2. Brittaney Gauna, 23'09.50; 6. Rosa Hernandez, 22'07.00;
High Jump: 4. Ashley Paulson, 4'00.00;
Long Jump: 5. Deisy Aranda, 12'07.00; 7. Amy Alvizo, 12'06.00; 9. Allyson Jarrett, 11'09.00
Triple Jump: 5. Deisy Aranda, 23'04.50;
400 M. Relay: 2. Eldorado (Brittaney Gauna, Ashley Paulson, Abigail Ussery, Amy Alvizo), 1:00.53;
800 M. Run: 1. Marci Minor, 3:02.43; 5. Rosa Iglesias, 3:15.46; 7. Deisy Aranda, 3:20.54;
100 M. Hurdles: 4. Deisy Aranda, 21.12; 6. Ashley Paulson, 22.58;
100 M. Dash: 3. Amy Alvizo, 15.13; 7. Ashley Paulson, 22.58;
800 M. Relay: 1. Eldorado (Allyson Jarrett, Rosa Iglesias, Deisy Aranda, Laura Garcia, 2:10.77;
400 M. Dash: 2. Marci Minor, 1:15.10; 3. Abigail Ussery, 1:15.93; 5. Rosa Hernandez, 1:20.38;
300 M. Hurdles: 5. Ashley Paulson, 1:09.53;

7th Grade Boys

Shot Put: 4. Briley Ledbetter, 30'04.25; 6. Miles Mikeska, 29'06.75;
High Jump: 5. Zack Brame, 4'04.00;
Long Jump: 2. Miles Mikeska, 14'11.00; 3. Eloy Bustos, 14'07.50;
400 M. Relay: 3. Eldorado (), 57.26;
100 M. Dash: 5. Aaron Parsley, 14.53; 12. Zack Brame, 15.79; 13. Briley Ledbetter, 16.80.
400 M. Dash: 1. Miles Mikeska, 1:01.38;
200 M. Dash: 5. Eloy Bustos, 28.79; 6. Zack Brame, 30.14;
1600 M. Run: 3. Eldorado (), 4:48.69.

8th Grade Boys

Discus: 6. Hugo Rios, 97'06.50;
Shot Put: 3. Juan Medrano, 38'01.50;
Long Jump: 1. Wes Brown, 17'04.00; 2. Ivany Sanchez, 16'06.50;
3200 M. Run: 2. Mason Baker, 9:02.27;
400 M. Relay: 1. Eldorado (), 49.01;
110 M. Hurdles: 4. Tony McCord, 20.92; 6. Garrett Lux, 21.95;
100 M. Dash: 1. Wes Brown, 12.36;
800 M. Relay: 1. Eldorado (), 2:31.90.
300 Intern. Hurdles: 3. Garrett Lux, 51.67; 4. Tony McCord, 51.79;
200 M. Dash: 1. Ryan Castillo, 25.59;
1600 M. Run: 2. Mason Baker, 5:57.08
1600 M. Relay: 2. Eldorado (), 4:11.34.

Lane 3rd at McCamey Invitational Tournament

The Eldorado Eagles golf team placed 6th in the McCamey Invitational Golf Tournament last week.

Cash Lane shot a 74, one stroke back from the leader to take 3rd place overall. Chance Meyer holed an 82, Adam Dominguez scored a 91, Tyler Doan finished at 99, and Richmond Adame scored a 112.

Chase O'Brien of Garden City Bearcats scored a 73 giving him the gold.

The McCamey Badgers Team won the tournament with a team score of 311.



7th Grader Abigail Ussery placed 1st in Shot Put, with a throw of 23'10.50, March 3, 2006 during Eldorado Middle School Plateau Relays. On March 17 at Mason Hill County Relays Ussery placed 1st with a throw of 26'09.00.

Iran HS Cactus Relays Results

March 18, 2006

Varsity Girls

High Jump: 1. Rachel Joiner, 5'4";
800 M. Run: 4. Cassandra Buitron, 2:42.34;
100 M. Dash: 5. Bridgett Mitchell, 13.41;
400 M. Relay: 5. Eldorado (Mariana Guzman, Haley Higgins, Bridgett Mitchell, Micaela Gonzalez)
800 M. Relay: 5. Eldorado (Micaela Gonzalez, Haley Higgins, Rachel Joiner, Allison Reynolds.

Varsity Boys

High Jump: 1. Jeremy Ussery, 5'10";
800 M Run: 4. Jeremy Ussery, 2:12.27;

Junior Varsity Boys

Eldorado Junior Varsity Boys placed 3rd overall with a score of 114, 1 point out of second.

Shot Put: 1. Timothy Maskill, 37'4"; 3. Uriel Barrientos, 34'0";
Discus: 2. Timothy Maskill, 103'25"; 5. Steven Trevino, 94'5";
3200 M. Run: 1. Louie Buitron, 12:06.24; 3. Josh Has, 5:56.38.
1600 M. Run: 1. Louie Buitron, 5:33.17; 4. Logan Jones, 5:55.65; 6. Josh Hash, 5:56.38.
1600 M. Relay: 3. Eldorado (David Ramirez, Luis Huichapa, Johnny Mejia, Dustin Ramirez), 3:52
100 M. Dash: 5. Epolo Herrera, 12.64; 6. Manny Gonzalez 12.69;

School Lunch Menu

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

BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, March 27
Pig-n-a-Blanket, Choice of Juice, Sliced Peaches, Milk

Tuesday, March 28
Blueberry Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

Wednesday, March 29
Donut, Graham Crackers, Choice of Juice, Mixed Fruit, Milk

Thursday, March 30
Waffle Sticks, Syrup, Applesauce Cups, Choice of Juice, Milk

Friday, March 31
Buttered Toast, Jelly, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

BASKET LINE

Monday, March 27
Chicken Burger, Potato Wedges, Sandwich Salad, Strawberry Fluff

Tuesday, March 28
Hot Pockets, Carrot Sticks's, Dip, Tossed Salad, Peaches

Wednesday, March 29
Vegetable Beef Stew, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cornbread, Pineapple Slices

Thursday, March 30
Chef Salad, Crackers, Diced Ham/ Cheese Cup, Sliced Peaches, Lemon Pudding/Topping

Friday, March 31
Cheese Pizza, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad, Orange Halves

CAFETERIA LINE

Monday, March 27
Chicken Nuggets, Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Black Eyed Peas, Hot Rolls, Strawberry Fluff

Tuesday, March 28
Taco Rolls, Tossed Salad, Carrot Sticks's, Dip, Peaches

Wednesday, March 29
Vegetable Beef Stew, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cornbread, Pineapple Slices

Thursday, March 30
Lasagna, Broccoli & Cheese, Hot Rolls, Tossed Salad, Lemon Pudding/Topping

Friday, March 31
Cheese Pizza, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad, Orange Halves

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West Texas Heritage Days slated at Fort McKavett

Fort McKavett State Historical Park will come alive on March 25, 2006, as Living Historians and Reenactors from around the state gather to portray life at the fort in the 1800s. Park gates will open at 8:00 a.m. followed at 10:00 a.m. with a flag raising ceremony.

Throughout the day, activities will include cavalry, artillery and infantry drills, exhibits in lye soapmaking, blacksmithing, and rope-making to name a few. Ice House Brass Band

will perform during a bar-b-que lunch offered to the public for a donation to Friends of Fort McKavett. An 1800s baseball game will be played in the afternoon along with many other activities.

The day will conclude with the lowering of the flag scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

Fort McKavett State Historical Park consists of 15 restored buildings and several ruins. The restored buildings include the Post

Hospital, Post Headquarters, Barracks and several Officers' Quarters. There is a historic trail that winds down to a lime kiln exhibit, rock quarry and the Government springs.

Fort McKavett State Historical Park is located 23 miles west of Menard, 41 miles northeast of Sonora, 34 miles east of Eldorado and 15 miles west, then 26 miles north of Junction. For further information, please call (325) 396-2358.



Eldorado.net
www.myeldorado.net
Eldorado's Internet Homepage

Billy Gene Edmiston Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament

by Gene Edmiston

On March 25, 2006, the 1st Annual Billy Gene Edmiston Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament will take place at the Eldorado Golf Course. The tournament is a 2-person select shot format with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. A bar-b-que lunch will be served to the players at 11:30 a.m. along with a putting contest starting at noon.

"The Billy Gene Edmiston Scholarship Foundation has been established to assist graduating high school students with college financial support," says tourna-

ment host Gene Edmiston, son of the late Billy Gene Edmiston. "The golf tournament is being used as a means to publicize the scholarship foundation and allow area golfers the opportunity to enjoy a friendly, competitive game of golf."

The tournament is somewhat fitting considering that the elder Edmiston was managing the Eldorado Golf Course at the time of his death.

Players will receive a giddy bag containing several golfing accessories along with other useful items. After the completion

of play, prizes and trophies will be awarded as well as several items will be given away in a drawing. There are still positions available to play in the tournament for the first 27 teams to register.


If you would like to donate to the scholarship foundation, play in the golf tournament, or volunteer as a host assistant, please contact Gene Edmiston at 713-502-3367 or gene_edmiston@hotmail.com. Also, Phil McCormick may be contacted at 325-853-2511 or 325-853-3206 for tournament registration.

Nominations now open for Chamber awards

The Eldorado Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2005 Vawards. Persons wishing to nominate for Man of the Year, Woman of the Year and Business of the Year should send their choices to the Eldorado Chamber of Commerce at P. O. Box 1155, or call 325-650-9553. The awards will be presented during the Eldorado Elgoatarod.



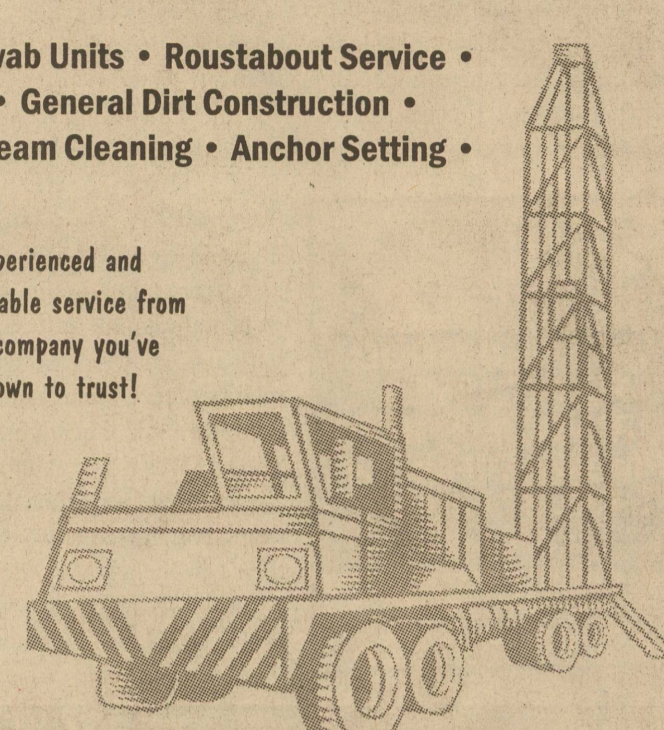
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April Fools Day Parade details outlined

Since there are no other April Fools Day Parades in Texas, the EOBOC has designated next week's Eldorado parade as the official Texas April Fools Day Parade. Four hundred dollars in prize money will be given away during the Eldorado Elgoatarod, thanks to several local sponsors. The Eldorado Super S Food store will give \$100 to the best overall entry that most succinctly demonstrates the April Fools theme. Rosa's Casita Restaurant is giving \$75 to the most humorous entry, \$75 to the largest group with an April Fools flair and \$50 to the best individual entry. The EOBOC will award \$75 to the most creative entry and \$25 to the best children's entry.

The parade will begin Saturday, April 1 at 2 PM and appropriately, will begin forming at the town's now famous Hysterical District in south Eldorado at the intersection of Highways 277 and 190 West. Entrants will be judged as they pass in front of the town's library on Main Street, then they will parade around the Elgoatarod festivities on the town square and disband there to join in. The awards will be announced from the stage at the end of the parade.

There is no entry fee and entrants may show up as late as 1:30 PM on parade day. They will be given a registration form at that time and they will give it to the judges before they perform in front of that distinguished panel. Entries will be judged on costuming, skits or other activities, and any aspect they deem suitable for April Fools Day. Anything goes within common decency, since the Elgoatarod is a family event.

This will be the fourth annual Elgoatarod, a spoof of Alaska's Iditarod, and continues to increase in stature, crowds and vendors. The grassy, shaded courthouse grounds are normally covered with food booths, arts, crafts, washer tossing, clogging, inflatable rides and attractions, plus a musical stage. Two different style bands are expected to entertain during the day on Saturday. The event runs from 10 AM until 5 PM on Saturday and from 12 noon until 5 PM on Sunday. Arts and crafts vendors may enter as late as March 29th.

Of course, the normal Elgoatarod activities will transpire throughout the weekend, which includes goat races, goat pill flip-

ping contest, ugly goat contest, goat kissing contest and other "goat events." Persons with pet goats are invited to bring them and hook up to provided "conveyances," as fresh goats are always in demand. Owners may lead their goats during the race, which are not required to pull the carts unattended. In honor of April Fools, other events have been added such

as gnat races, chigger catching, blindfolded washer tossing, 4 x 4 skiing competition and other such nonsense. Everyone is invited to enter and may do so at a moment's notice.

For further information, inquiries may be directed to Jim Runge at eoboc@hotmail.com or to the Eldorado Chamber of Commerce at 325-650-9553.

Billy Gene Edmiston Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament

Sat. March 25, 2006
Eldorado Golf Course
Shotgun at 1:00 p.m.

GOLF 2-Person Select Shot Lunch @ 11:30 a.m.

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Lady Eagles softball squad streaking through District 2-2A schedule

by Syllas Politte

The Eldorado Lady Eagle Softball team entered district play on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 with a disappointing loss to rival Sonora. The Lady Eagles have since recovered from that loss knocking off Junction, Reagan County and Big Lake in route to a three game win streak in District 2-2A.

In their first district contest on March 7th, the Lady Eagles were coming off a 3rd place finish in the San Angelo Tournament. Heading into what appeared to be a promising district campaign the Lady

Eagles started out the way they have in years past with a loss. The errors and inconsistent hitting that plagued the Lady Eagles early on came back to haunt them against the Lady Broncos. The Lady Broncos handed Eldorado their first shut out of the season. Many of the upperclassman was on Spring Break trips and Sonora took advantage of a freshman loaded Lady Eagle squad. This put the Lady Eagles in a small hole early in district play with a 0-1 record.

The Lady Eagles would seek some redemption on Friday, March 10th against the Junction Lady Eagles. Eldorado's Ladies have done an excellent job of coming back from a loss with a win. They went to Junction and came home with a 6-3 district road win. Freshman Bridget Mitchell said, "It was a sloppy game, but a win is a win." The win was important to the Lady Eagles in two ways: one they stay in the playoff hunt and two they regain their confidence after their district home loss. This win brought the Lady Eagles to .500 in district play

with a record of 1-1.

The next opponent on the schedule would be the Reagan County Lady Owls on Friday, March 17th in Eldorado. The Lady Eagles were riding the confidence from the previous win and looking to capitalize on some needed rest. This would be the Lady Eagles first game action in a week, but there didn't appear to be any signs of rust. The Lady Eagles's dominated Reagan County like they had many teams in non-district. The game ended in the 2 1/2 inning after the mercy rule was enforced and the Lady Eagles had scored 30 runs. That offensive output was the most runs scored in a game this season. The final score was 30-1 and the Lady Eagles again relied on great pitching and powerful hitting. The Lady Eagles were in a good spot with a 2-1 record heading into Ozona.

The Ozona Lady Lions would host the Lady Eagles on Tuesday, March 21. This is the Lady Lions second season to have a softball team. The Lady Eagles's experience and determination would be

too much for the Lady Lions on this day. Eldorado would jump out to an early lead and never look back. This game would also end in 3 innings, and the Lady Eagles would tally their 3rd straight district win with a score of 15-0.

When asked about the recent win streak freshman infielder Cassandra Buitron attributed the success to the team's cohesion. She said, "We all get together and pump each other up, we get behind each other and want to win." Hopefully that will prove to

be a successful recipe as the Lady Eagles head into a vital contest against Grape Creek. This game has huge playoff implications and could decide one of the 3 playoff spots in the district race. "We need to win this game to stay in front for a playoff spot," emphasized freshman catcher Haley Higgins. This is a huge game for the Lady Eagles and the more support they get the sweeter it will be to beat Grape Creek. Coach Brian Daniels knows that the next two games are important against Grape Creek and

Wall. Both teams make the playoffs they will have to beat those teams as well as Sonora.

This year's Lady Eagle softball team is poised to make a legitimate run for the playoffs. Hopefully this community can support them and get behind them as they move toward reaching that goal. Lady Eagles's will play Friday, March 24th against the Grape Creek Lady Eagles in Eldorado at 4 p.m.. Everyone needs to grab a lawn chair and head out to the field to cheer the Lady Eagles.

AG Abbott praises officials during Sunshine Week

Reponse from officials taking open government training called impressive

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today kicked off national "Sunshine Week" by praising the thousands of local and state government officials who have completed the open government training required by Sen. Jeff Wentworth's Senate Bill 286. The law became effective Jan. 1, and the training is being offered and approved by the Attorney General.

"I am pleased that public servants across the spectrum in Texas have taken the spirit of open government to heart and enrolled in essential open government training through my Open Records Division," said Attorney General Abbott.

"The City of Colleyville in North Texas is a prime example of this spirit. I applaud its public officials for engaging in a comprehen-

sive forum on open government and showing our training videos recently with legislators, locally elected officials, news media, our open records staff and, of course, the citizens whom they serve. That's the way democracy is supposed to work."

The Attorney General's Office has, to date, issued approximately 5,000 certificates documenting that individuals in government have successfully completed either the open records or open meetings components of the training, or both. The office has also shipped about 2,000 DVDs to requestors wishing to take the training.

The training of government officials established by the new law is a counterpunch to the explosion of requests the Attorney General has received over several years for open records rulings. In 2005,

the Attorney General received approximately 12,000 requests for rulings, an almost 50 percent increase since 2003.

The Attorney General's Open Government Hotline at 1-877-OPEN-TEX fields more than 10,000 calls per year from citizens wishing to file complaints or seeking general information about how the law works.

"We have all the pieces in place now to keep Texas in the forefront among 'sunshine' states, and our goal is to drive these requests for ruling drastically downward," Attorney General Abbott concluded. "Public officials no longer have any excuse for claiming ignorance of the law. Instead, we are seeing the dawning of the day when government officials and their agencies are models of democracy in action."

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Spanish ambassador joins Texas officials in unveiling painting

AUSTIN — A replica of one of the oldest Texas historical paintings in existence, "The Destruction of the Mission San Saba," was unveiled today on the steps of the Texas State Capitol by a Spanish ambassador who is a descendant of one of the priests depicted murdered in the painting. Archeologists who discovered the subject of the painting, the Mission Santa Cruz de San Saba near present-day Menard, were also on hand along with state officials.

The painting depicts a 1758 Indian massacre at the San Saba mission and is one of the earliest Texas historic events to be captured on canvas. Two thousand Comanches and their allies attacked the mission. The conflict marked the beginning of Comanche warfare against pioneers in Texas.

March 16th marks the 248th anniversary of the massacre, and Spanish Ambassador Juan Manuel Romero de Terreros Castilla with the Organization of American States, whose ancestor is prominently figured in the painting's foreground, was proud to be present for the unveiling.

"My family and I have followed

the San Saba mission story for many years," said Ambassador Terreros. "I am very proud of this celebration, commemorating the anniversary of the event itself, and especially because there are so many good friends gathered with us here today."

Also in attendance was San Antonio architect and amateur genealogist Mark Wolf, who discovered his ancestor Juan Leal was a servant to Father Terreros, the priest in the painting related to the Spanish ambassador. Leal defended the mission during the attack. Wolf made that discovery while researching his family's history.

"It was quite humbling, and a bit overwhelming to find out my ancestor played a key role in this major historical event," said Wolf.

Wolf was part of a 1993 team, including lead archeologist Dr. Grant Hall of Texas Tech University, also present at the unveiling, and Texas Historical Commission (THC) archeologists Curtis Tunnell and Bob Malouf, that first discovered the ruined mission site in San Saba County. Wolf and the ambassador became friends after meeting

at the site a few years later.

Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, who chairs the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism, said the mission story is an important part of Texas history.

"The story of Mission San Saba and its rediscovery offers us invaluable lessons of how historical events are viewed," said Hilderbran. "Future excavations at the presidio are sure to reveal even more of this area's remarkable past, and help make the region a focal point for both Texas history and tourism."

The San Saba mission is one of many interesting historical sites along the Texas Forts Trail Region in West Central Texas. THC Executive Director Larry Oaks pointed out the nearby Presidio de San Saba and mission are popular tourism destinations.

"Traveling the Texas Forts Trail Region is like traveling through time," said Oaks. "Some of the best-preserved Western forts in the United States, as well as sites with fascinating stories such as the San Saba mission, can be visited in this region."

Coupralux of Dallas, a fine-art printmaking studio, produced

the replica of the original painting, which is in Mexico City. The replica unveiled at the Capitol will be displayed at Frontier Texas! in Abilene, in the heart of the Forts Trail Region. Funding for the replica was provided by the Presidio de San Saba Restoration Corporation, which hopes to restore the remains of the nearby presidio.

Democrats who voted in the Primary & are interested in attending the state Democrat Convention please attend County Convention Saturday, March 25, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the Democrat Headquarters. (Germania Office, 5 W. Gillis, Eldorado, Texas)

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

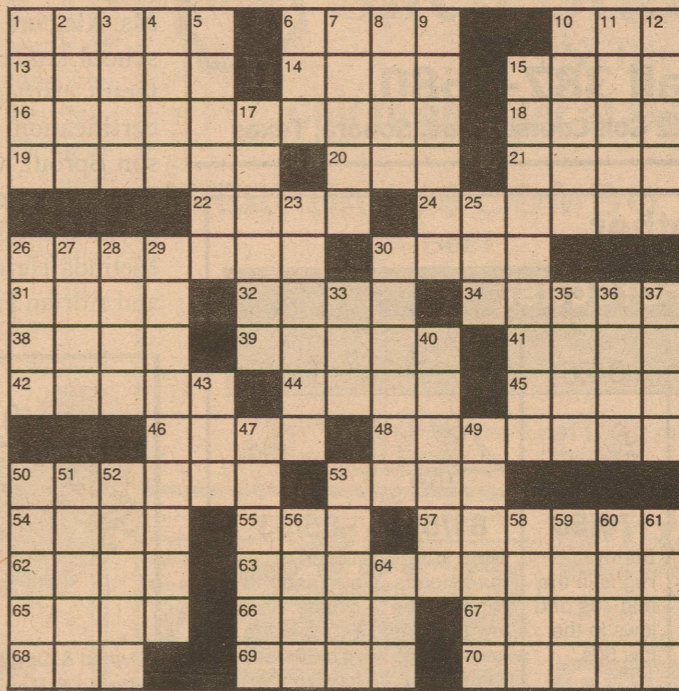
ACROSS

1. Reads quickly
6. Battery fluid
10. Condo ad abbr.
13. Lecturers' spots
14. Go ballistic
15. Part of a fight card
16. Bart's grandfather at Mount Rushmore?
18. Old science mag
19. Big name in chocolate
20. Half of hexa-
21. Knitter's buy
22. Years ago
24. Yule quaff
26. New York's Park
30. Falco of "The Sopranos"
31. Mayberry lad
32. Muffin choice
34. "I pass"
38. Remain unsettled
39. Give the slip to
41. Artful dodge
42. Run-down
44. Blissful setting
45. Got taller
46. Orbital period
48. Asserts without proof
50. Place to get oysters or clams
53. Con _____ (vigorously)
54. Suffix with million
55. Rhoda's TV mom
57. Rock layers

DOWN

1. Reach across
2. Hoopster Bryant
3. March 15, e.g.
4. Aerosol output
5. Popeye, for one
6. Dadaist Jean
7. Hindu social class
8. Inventor Sikorsky
9. Said no to
10. Toga sporter
11. H. H. _____ (Saki's real name)

At Mount Rushmore



American Profile Hometown Content

See solution on Page 8

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by: **Kerbow Funeral Home**

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PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

New Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) These young ladies and gentlemen just received their certification to be a nursing attendant. They are Health Occupation students who's instructor is school nurse and teacher Susie Richters. They are L-R: Alison Sproul, Chandra Wanoreck, Maxie Holley, Lauren Brown, Myra Robles, Karina Sanchez, Melinda Hernandez, Andy Mejia and Adrian Figueroa. Each are considering a career in health care.

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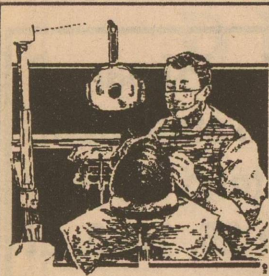


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Wednesday, March 29, 2006
8:00 A.M. - Noon
Del Rio
Thursday, March 30, 2006
8:00 A.M. - Noon

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(325) 853-2534 (325) 392-2575

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The Sonora Golf Club
will be waiving the initiation fee
of \$100.00 for the month of April.
Dues are \$40 a month.
Cart Shed is extra.

FMI call 387-3680.

Sonora Golf Club, 1612 Golf Course Road, Sonora, Texas

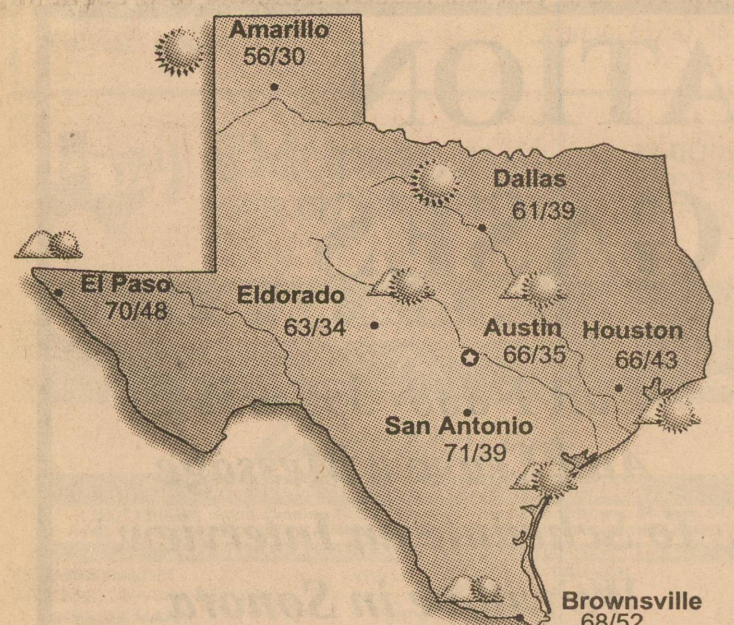
Eldorado Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 3/24	Sat 3/25	Sun 3/26	Mon 3/27	Tue 3/28
63/34 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	70/41 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	74/50 Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s.	81/51 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	85/53 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 6:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:40 AM Sunset: 6:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:39 AM Sunset: 6:58 PM	Sunrise: 6:37 AM Sunset: 6:58 PM	Sunrise: 6:36 AM Sunset: 6:59 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	60	36	sunny	Kingsville	71	47	pt sunny
Amarillo	56	30	sunny	Livingston	63	35	sunny
Austin	66	35	mst sunny	Longview	59	35	sunny
Beaumont	62	40	sunny	Lubbock	60	32	sunny
Brownsville	68	52	pt sunny	Lufkin	62	35	sunny
Brownwood	65	36	sunny	Midland	63	36	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	67	49	pt sunny	Raymondville	71	49	pt sunny
Corsicana	61	37	sunny	Rosenberg	66	42	mst sunny
Dallas	61	39	sunny	San Antonio	71	39	mst sunny
Del Rio	71	43	pt sunny	San Marcos	67	34	mst sunny
El Paso	70	48	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	57	35	sunny
Fort Stockton	67	41	pt sunny	Sweetwater	60	34	mst sunny
Gainesville	57	34	sunny	Tyler	59	35	sunny
Greenville	58	35	sunny	Weatherford	59	34	sunny
Houston	66	43	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	61	35	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	50	35	pt sunny	Minneapolis	33	22	sn shower
Boston	42	34	cloudy	New York	47	39	pt sunny
Chicago	36	30	sn shower	Phoenix	85	59	mst sunny
Dallas	61	39	sunny	San Francisco	60	50	rain
Denver	56	32	mst sunny	Seattle	55	44	rain
Houston	66	43	mst sunny	St. Louis	44	28	cloudy
Los Angeles	72	53	mst sunny	Washington, DC	51	39	cloudy
Miami	72	58	rain				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 3/24	Sat 3/25	Sun 3/26	Mon 3/27	Tue 3/28
9	9	9	9	9
Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

School board hires Billy Collins as superintendent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

monthly session and was called to order by board vice-president Eddie Albin. Present for the meeting were trustees Kurtis Homer, Lupe Sanchez, Leanne Higgins, Jan Wanoreck and Berta Nicholson. Board president Jo Helen Kotsch was absent.

Also in attendance were Superintendent George Blanch, finance director Ray Ballew, high school librarian Debbie Griffin, maintenance director John Kotsch and campus principals Maela Edmonson, Bob Wanoreck and Kara Garlitz.

During the public portion of the meeting school nurse Susie Richters and her new class of certified nursing attendants spoke to the board about the Nursing Attendant program at Eldorado High School. Ms. Richters noted that nine high school students recently earned their Certified Nursing Attendant certification. They included Alison Sproul, Chandra Wanoreck, Maxie Holley, Lauren Brown, Myra Robles, Karina Sanchez, Melinda Hernandez, Andy Mejia and Adrian Figueroa.

Next, elementary principal Maela Edmonson updated the board on the district's wellness plan while high school principal Bob Wanoreck addressed the need for a crisis management plan. He showed the trustees the county's plan and spoke briefly about recent bomb threats received recently at Sonora High School. He went on to say that one of the main concerns in developing a plan was dealing with parental interference once a plan is activated and students are being evacuated.

It is noted that in the Sonora case, 2 suspects have been apprehended.

John Kotsch then advised the board of two bids for heating and air-conditioning units for the high school and football dressing rooms. The board voted to accept the bid from Air Dynamics, Inc. in the amount of \$82,179.00. The project will be carried out this summer. The other bid, in the amount of \$100,271 was submitted by Duncan Mechanical Services, Inc.

The board also voted to accept a bid on a 2006 Chevy Suburban from Toliver Brothers in the

amount of \$29,719.66. The bid was the lowest of five bids submitted.

The trustees then took several minutes to cast ballots for ESC region XV Board members to fill places 1, 4, and 7.

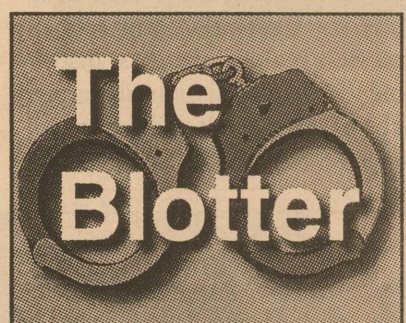
Next, the trustees voted for minor changes in seven Local Policy Updates. Discussion turned to employee resignations and Supt. Blanch advised that the current policy allows the superintendent to receive all employee resignations. Blanch recommended the board receive all resignations and the trustees agreed.

Finance director Ray Ballew then reviewed the district's financial reports which the board promptly approved. Ballew noted that, as of Feb. 28, 2006, SCISD had \$4,021,421.89 in a municipal money market account and 27,772.94 in 90-day certificate of

deposit. The total fund balance was \$1,550,237.

Elementary Principal Maela Edmonson gave a report on the development of the 2006-2007 school calendar. She told the board three calendar had been developed. First calendar reflected the first day of school beginning on August 14, the second reflected the first day of school beginning September 5, and the last reflected first day of school beginning August 21st. The calendar's committee recommendation was to seek a waiver from the state to begin school on August 14, 2006. The board voted to accept this recommendation and noted the state might reject the waiver.

Before adjourning, George Blanch advised the board that the school's current enrollment stands at 574.



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

- March 15 • Buitron, Ramiro, male age 18, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Warrant. Released on \$500.00 Surety Bond.
- Hernandez, Manuel Jr., male age 40, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Out of County Warrant / Theft. Released on \$10,000.00 Surety Bond.
- March 19 • Cano, Jesse, male age 23, arresting officer USBP, offense Alien Smuggling. Released to USBP.
- Castro, Jorge Luis, male age 38, arresting officer USBP, offense Alien

Smuggling. Released to USBP.

INCIDENTS

- March 14 • 7:01 p.m. Caller reported being harassed by a green vehicle driving around town. This incident dates back to prior issues between calling party and party in green vehicle. Officers attempted to locate suspects vehicle. Officers spoke with complainants family and family was aware of that incident was the result of a family member seeing a married man whose spouse and friends were friends of the suspect. Officers were unable to locate suspect.
- March 15 • 12:26 a.m. Reported very loud neighbors. Officer responded.
- 11:48 a.m. Complainant reported finding a black long hair dog highway.
- 6:55 p.m. Complainant reported a light gray Sedan traveling at a high speed northbound into Eldorado on 190 from Sonora. Officer responded.
- March 16 • 5:54 p.m. Complainant reported a loose black cow on the highway. Officer responded.
- 8:14 p.m. Complainant requested information on a custody matter.
- March 17 • 12:13 a.m. Reported a domestic disturbance at location Rudd Road. Officers responded.
- 1:00 p.m. Subject reported a blue mountain bike being stolen from home on San Antonio Street. Officer responded.
- 4:05 p.m. Complainant reported that her aunt's water had broke. Officer and EMS 2 responded.
- 8:20 p.m. Complainant reported receiving a call from spouse in another town giving hints to the event of suicide. Authorities were notified.
- March 18 • 7:08 p.m. Caller advised via radio of request of Southwest Texas Co-op to respond to CR. 102 at a ranch to repair an electrical pole that had caught fire and needed repair. SWTC contacted. Officer notified.
- March 19 • 4:19 a.m. Complainant reported his ex-girlfriend was following him around town on his way home.
- 10:05 a.m. Crockett County SO called and informed there was an accident involving 8 passengers one fatality and one injured and six fled the scene. Officers, DPS, EMS1, EMS2, and EVFD service responded.
- 10:10 a.m. Reported a suspicious vehicle. Office responded.
- 5:05 p.m. Caller notified office by 911 of a possible breaking and entering at residence. Unknown if any entry to residence was made. Office responded.
- 10:42 p.m. Caller advised of possible prowler at the residence. Officers responded.

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10:42 p.m. Caller advised of possible prowler at the residence. Officers responded.

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

At Mount Rushmore

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

Answer to Sudoku on Page 3

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Eldorado is accepting sealed, written bids for three (3) lots located at 508, 510 and 512 SW Main St. (Lots 2A, 2B, 2C in Block 18, Original Townsite). Each lot is 50' wide X 100' deep. Bid opening shall be held at 6:00 PM on Monday April 10, 2006, at the City Hall.

All bids should be submitted to the City Secretary, P. O. Box 713, Eldorado, TX 76936 or delivered to the City Hall at 6 S. Cottonwood St. by 5:00 PM, April 10, 2006. For any additional information please contact Carolyn Mayo at 325/853-2691.

The City Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

REAL ESTATE

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ELDORADO - UNDER CONTRACT - 609 Nance St. - Very Nice 3BR/2BA on 5 city lots. Large shops, pool, huge yard, too many amenities to list. Lots of love and hard work has gone into this property. A little piece of paradise right in Eldorado! Bring all offers! \$143,000 Call Toni @ JVL Real Estate (325)-656-0019 cell; (325)486-1100 office.

Lynn Meador Real Estate

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

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN ELDORADO, TX - NO RENTAL LISTING AVAILABLE

NEW LISTING - FM 2129: 17.897 acres with attractive 4BR, 3 BA home. Large living area, utility, screen porch, covered patio and carport. \$143,000.

111 Eldorado Drive: 3 BR - 2 Bath, Native Stone home, Den with Fireplace, carport. \$44,000.00.

508 E. Warner: Very nice 3BR-2BA Mfg. Home; Great Condition; Good Floor Plan; Central H/A; Fenced Yard, Carport/RV Cover. This is a good property ready to be moved into and priced right at \$63,000.

603 North Street: 3BR - 2 Bath, Large corner lot, covered front porch, fireplace, 28'x37' metal shop, fenced yard, large storage unit. \$78,000.

307 Depot Street: 3BR - 2 Bath frame home on approx. 1.65 acres. City utilities, 1998 sq. ft. CH/CA, water well, carport, various out-buildings and other improvements, large trees, privacy. \$105,000.

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Eldorado, Texas Call 325-853-2808

Eldorado Spotlight



The Spotlight camera this week caught Jim Runge and his Leprechaun helper as they made their way down Main Street on St. Patrick's Day.

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or come by our office at 119 SW Main Street ~ Eldorado

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Shell Star Stop is now accepting applications for all shifts. Apply in person. fm b

"Customer Service Evaluators needed immediately! No fees required. Apply at www.checkmarkinc.com."

Home Health Care attendant needed, Excellent Salary Approx. 30 hours a week. Contact Jack Harris at 853-2009 after 2:00 p.m.

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Basic maintenance skills required

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or fax resume to 325.853.3166
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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Petroleum Engineering Service Company has immediate openings for Wireline and Production Testing Personnel in the Ozona area.

REQUIREMENTS: minimum of high school education required. Must be neat in appearance, responsible, dependable and have strong desire to excel. Good work history with excellent references a must. BENEFITS: Retirement plan, group insurance, life insurance, liberal vacation policy. SALARY: Open (commensurate with experience).
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Brisket Plate and Bake Sale, Sunday, March 26, 2006 on the Courthouse Square at Lunch.

Garage & Yard Sales

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2006 Year Book goes on sale!

The Talon yearbook will be on sale from March 20 - March 31. Yearbooks are \$20. Contact a Talon staff member or Mrs. Chancellor at the high school to order your book.

You may either pay the \$20 in full or pay a non-refundable \$10 deposit to reserve your yearbook. The remaining \$10 will be due on or before May 1, 2006. After you have paid the full \$20, you will receive a receipt to present in May in order to pick up your yearbook. Don't miss out. Order your book today.

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YFZ Ranch story enters its third year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schleicher County, Texas wouldn't be the only place where David Allred would act as front man for the purchase of property on the behalf of Jeffs and his followers. Around about the same time he was making the deal to buy the YFZ Ranch, Allred was also buying 120 acres of land near Mancos, CO and another 100 acres in the Black Hills of South Dakota. In both instances, Allred told his new neighbors that he wanted the land for a corporate hunting retreat, the same story he used here in Eldorado.

Looking back, it's remarkable that Allred's real mission remained secret as long as it did.

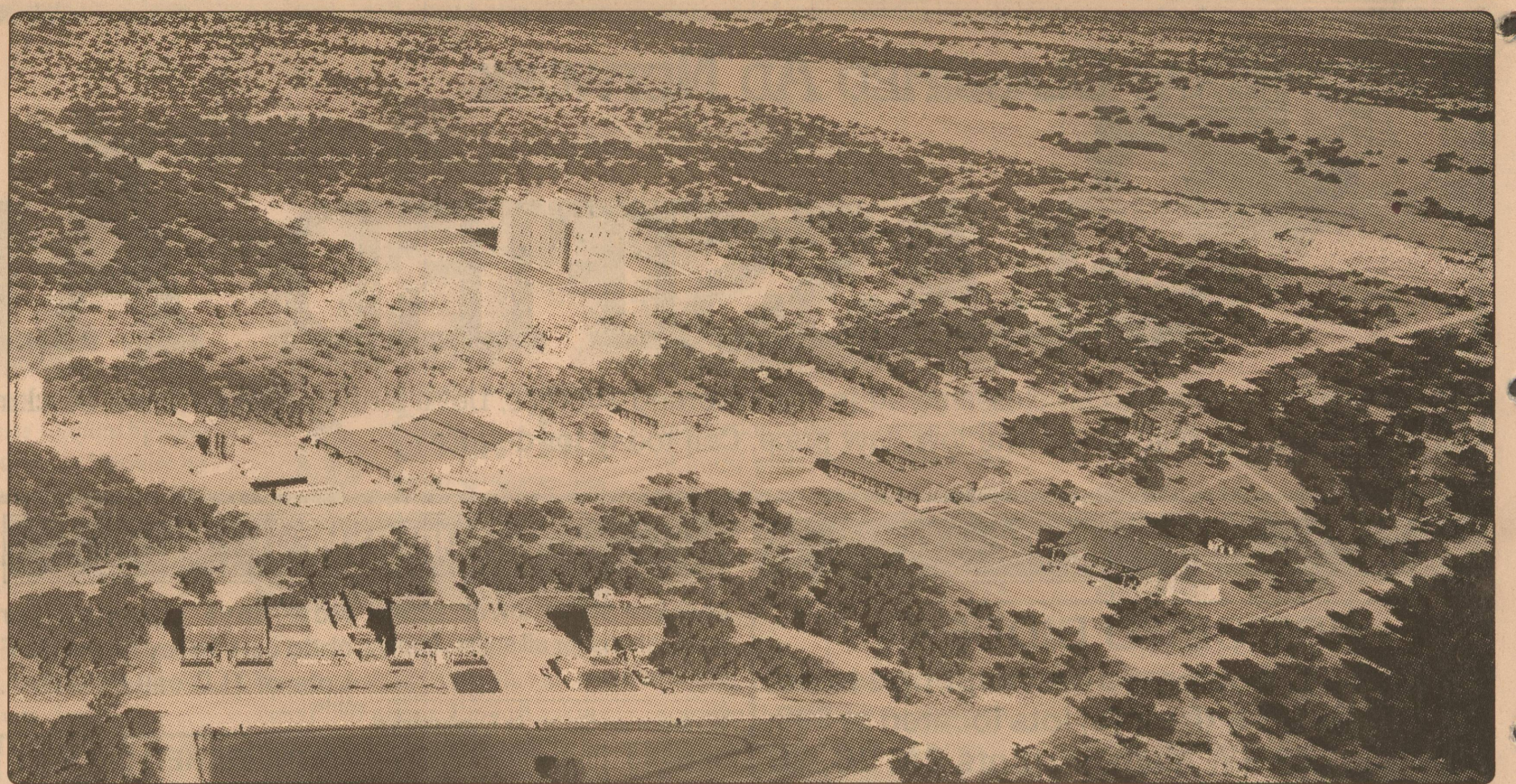
Word first reached Eldorado about the YFZ Ranch's connection to Warren Jeffs and the FLDS church when anti-polygamy activist Flora Jessop telephoned *Success* editor Randy Mankin on March 15, 2004. A week later Mankin pushed the publication date of *The Success* up from Thursday to Wednesday in order to notify local citizens about the YFZ story before Jessop came to town with the national media it tow.

Allred's corporate retreat story

didn't stand up long under the glare of the national spotlight. A few weeks later, he and three other church leaders, Leroy Steed, Alan Steed and Ernie Jessop, came forward to admit to Sheriff David Doran and Justice of the Peace Jimmy Doyle that the corporate retreat story had been a sham. *The Success* camera was there when the men arrived for the meeting and caught one of the few known photos of David Allred.

Ernie Jessop and Alan Steed were both excommunicated from the church shortly after the meeting. Sources in Colorado City, AZ say that when Warren Jeffs kicked the men out of the church, he took their wives away and reassigned them to other men.

Excommunication, or as FLDS insiders call it, repenting from a distance, is yet another bizarre aspect of the YFZ story. To the average outsider looking in, it is inconceivable that a man would turn his back on his family and all his possessions simply because a church leader ordered it. Inside the FLDS, however, such stories are commonplace and have served to fuel the curiosity of print and broadcast journalists who have



Two years and counting — The original three buildings at the YFZ Ranch (left foreground) are dwarfed by the huge white temple of the FLDS Church in the background. When the YFZ story broke here two years ago this week, the first three buildings were under construction. Now a town has sprung up around them. And...there are even more buildings and facilities that this wide angle shot could not capture.

flocked to Eldorado to try their hand at reporting one of the biggest stories in the country.

"This story has everything," one Canadian broadcaster said as he stopped by *The Success* office for a courtesy call. "It has religion, greed, power and sex...all the things necessary to hold public interest for years."

Still, despite the interest of

the national media, it fell to *The Eldorado Success*, one of the smallest newspapers in Texas, to uncover the FLDS properties near Mancos, Colorado and Pringle, South Dakota. The newspaper was assisted on both stories by Sam Brower, a private investigator from Cedar City, Utah, and Jon Krakauer, noted adventurer and author of *Under the Banner of*

Heaven, a Story of Violent Faith. The men were instrumental in tacking down leads, taking photos and supplying specific information about the two properties.

Brower and Krakauer have been frequent visitors to Eldorado since the connection between the YFZ Ranch and Warren Jeffs was discovered.

Brower works for attorneys representing a group of young men known as the Lost Boys. They allege that they were kicked out of the FLDS church and forced to leave their homes in order to reduce the competition for young brides, who are usually given by Warren Jeffs to his older male followers.

And, it was Krakauer who on Jan. 1, 2005, took the now-famous photo of a temple dedication ceremony at the YFZ Ranch.

Where this amazing story goes from here is anybody's guess. It has already had more twists and turns than a Hollywood whodunit.

One of the strangest twists, and perhaps one of the most significant, came when Warren Jeffs' brother Seth was arrested in Pueblo, CO following a traffic stop. The younger Jeffs was found to be transporting hundreds of thousands of dollars, supposedly to the YFZ Ranch here in Texas. Investigators also found a jar filled with coins. Taped to the outside was a photo of Warren Jeffs, the same one in fact that appears on his FBI wanted poster. Also taped to the outside of the jar was a sign saying, "Pennies for the Prophet."

Nathaniel Steed was also arrested in that traffic stop. The Colorado City, AZ man told authorities he had been paid \$5,000 in cash to accompany Seth Jeffs and provide him with sexual favors...just another weird twist in an already unbelievable story.

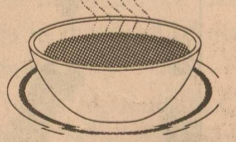
Back here in Eldorado, there remains a lingering question. Is Warren Jeffs hiding out at the YFZ Ranch? Who knows?

Sheriff David Doran says it's a possibility, but he has no evidence to support a warrant to go in and look around.

Does Jeffs have other, thus far undiscovered properties where he might be hiding? Probably. Where are they? Again, who knows?

One thing is certain, though. The more publicity that Warren Jeffs and the FLDS Church gets, the less likely it is that he will be able to hide anywhere for very long. Unless he's at the YFZ Ranch where no one, not the FBI, not the U.S. Marshals, nor the Texas Rangers, seem to be willing to go in and look for him. And all the while, the construction at the YFZ Ranch continues unabated.

Meals for Friends Menu



- Monday, March 27**
Beef Tips, rice, Cooked Carrots, Cornbread, Fruit Cup w/ Strawberries & Banana, Lemon Meringue Pie, Milk
- Tuesday, March 28**
Oven Baked Chicken, Lima Beans, Broccoli, Bread, Chunky Mixed Fruit, Milk
- Wednesday, March 29**
Grd. Beef Steak, Mac & Cheese, Corn w/ Peppers, Hot Dinner Rolls, Carrot Salad, Applesauce, Milk
- Thursday, March 30**
Veg. Beef Stew, Green Beans, Cornbread, Pear Half w/ Cottage Cheese, Vanilla Pudding, Milk
- Friday, March 31**
Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Carrot Raisin Salad, Gelatin w/ Fruit, Milk

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SPRING
Delight

This light and delicious Easter feast stars a roast ham with a citrus-rosemary glaze, featuring Heinz White Vinegar, Heinz Red Wine Vinegar, and an extra layer of flavor in asparagus with a shallot-tomato vinaigrette, white Heinz Apple Cider Vinegar, dried apricots, cherries and almonds.

Brighten up your Easter with light and simple recipes that show the versatility of vinegar.

FAMILY FEATURES
As the days lengthen and the promise of warmer weather beckons, our palates begin to favor lighter, simpler fare. Imagine tender asparagus, dressed with a mouth-watering, shallot-tomato vinaigrette; a melt-in-your-mouth roasted ham with an orange-rosemary glaze; and a wild rice salad jazzed up with dried fruit and the crunch of toasted almonds.

Whether you're a cooking veteran or novice, anyone can be a natural in the kitchen this Easter with an easy, yet sophisticated, holiday menu that uses all-natural ingredients. If you're wondering about the secret to the dishes featured here, look no farther than your own pantry.

Vinegar. That's right, the old Easter standby for egg dyeing deserves its own spot, front and center, in your holiday lineup. In fact, since its discovery 10,000 years ago, vinegar has been valued as a key ingredient for cooking, cleaning, dressing and dyeing delicious foods.

While the recipes here use three different kinds of vinegar — white, apple cider and red wine — you've no

doubt heard of more: balsamic, rice, white wine and meat vinegar just to name a few. Most recipes will specify which vinegar to use, but occasionally it's left to you to decide. If you prefer a subtle fruit flavor, you may substitute apple cider vinegar. Just remember, it can darken light fruits and vegetables. As for the flavored vinegars, they are good for adding subtlety, variety, aroma and intrigue — without adding calories. No matter which vinegar you choose, be sure you select a brand that is all-natural, such as Heinz. This will also allow you to score points for both health and taste.

In the Easter menu showcased here, vinegar plays an important role by adding complexity to dressings and sauces, as well as brightening and balancing the flavors in each recipe.

By allowing vinegar to play a starring role in your holiday feast, you're well on your way to an easy and delicious meal. With a traditional ham featuring an innovative glaze, plus two tasty sides, simply ask your guests to bring a couple of additional side dishes and a dessert, and your meal will be complete. So much for holiday stress!

Orange-Glazed Ham With Rosemary
1 (6- to 8-pound) ham
Glaze
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup Heinz White Vinegar
2 cups freshly squeezed orange juice
2 tablespoons dried rosemary
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 tablespoons unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place ham, fat side up, in roasting pan. Pour 1 inch of water into pan. Roast ham 1 1/2 hours.

For glaze, mix in a saucepan over medium heat, boil sugar and vinegar together 5 minutes. Add orange juice and simmer mixture until reduced by a third. (It should appear slightly syrupy.)

Remove mixture from heat; add rosemary, lime juice and salt and pepper to taste. Mix well, then add butter and stir gently until melted and well-incorporated. Remove roasting pan from oven every 10 minutes or so, and brush generous amount of glaze all over ham, until crust is golden-brown and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

Serves 8 to 10

Asparagus With Warm Tomato Vinaigrette
48 medium asparagus
Vinaigrette
1/2 cup finely chopped shallots
1/2 cup light olive oil
2 cups peeled, seeded and chopped vine-ripened tomatoes
1/2 cup Heinz Red Wine Vinegar
2 large garlic cloves, finely minced
1 2/3 cup dry white wine

Saute asparagus until crisp-tender.

Saute shallots in oil over medium heat until wilted, but not browned, about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and bring to simmer. Cook another 5 minutes, stirring to prevent sticking, and then add vinegar, garlic, wine, salt and pepper. Simmer 15 minutes to reduce and thicken vinaigrette.

Serve over warm or room-temperature asparagus spears.

Serves 8 to 10

EGG-DYEING
The Natural Way

You can create a virtual rainbow of dyes from ingredients in your own kitchen. Beets, blueberries, onion skins, coffee, turmeric, cranberry juice, fresh spinach... these are just a few simple and all-natural alternatives to pre-made egg-dyeing tablets.

To make a natural dye, add 4 cups of chopped fruit or vegetables (or 1 tablespoon spice) to 4 cups of water. Add 2 tablespoons of Heinz White Vinegar, bring to a boil and simmer 15 to 30 minutes. Strain the dye and cool slightly. Use this dye on previously cooked, refrigerated eggs. Dip eggs for 5 to 10 minutes, or until desired color is reached.

Beautiful egg dyes can be made with all-natural ingredients. These stunning eggs were created using a mixture of water, all-natural vinegar and beets.