

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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Five years and counting, YFZ story still dominates news

CPS and CASA at odds over YFZ custody cases

Many in the statewide and national press are running stories this week about the first anniversary of the April 3, 2008 raid at the YFZ Ranch. Even Oprah Winfrey, the queen of daytime TV, made a trip to Schleicher County last week to tape a show that aired Monday, March 30th.

Meanwhile, here in Eldorado, where local citizens seem to take a longer view of events, the story is entering, not its second year, but its sixth.

Among the latest news is a report of a rift between Texas Child Protective Services, or CPS, and representatives of CASA or Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. At the heart of the disagreement are the differing missions of the two agencies, despite the fact that both work in the child welfare arena.

CPS, a state agency overseen by the Texas Department of Family Protective Services, is mandated by the state to work toward reunification of a family anytime a child is removed by the courts. CASA, on the other hand, is free to advocate for other courses of action, provided the CASA volunteer believes it is in the best interest of the child.

Apparently, decisions reached by CPS officials in the fall of 2008 led CASA executive director Debra Brown to write a letter to Texas Governor Rick Perry on October 23, 2008.

A copy of the letter obtained this week by *The Eldorado Success* reveal Ms. Brown's frustrations with CPS and decisions reached by CPS officials to return children taken from their families during the April,

2008 raid on the YFZ Ranch.

"We have a gold mine of information corroborating abuse of children and the need to act upon it now, as we will never have this opportunity again," Ms. Brown's letter states. "This situation is only going to get worse. By refusing to pursue these cases, Child Protective Services gives the impression to the public that no crimes or violations were discovered. This is absolutely incorrect. If we abandon these children, because of fear of lawsuits or costs to our state, we are no better than the men who systematically sexually assault the young girls in the name of religion."

CPS special projects director Beth Engelking replied to Ms. Brown's letter on November 13th. While she didn't directly refute any Ms. Brown's charges, Engelking did express that she was "surprised by many of the issues raised in your letter to the Governor, as you had not previously raised these same issues as a concern in any of our previous meetings."

The Success also asked CPS about reports that children from the YFZ Ranch, whose DNA tests matched neither of their purported parents, have been returned to those individuals.

Contacted by phone about the issue, CPS spokesperson Patrick Crimmins did not immediately deny the claim, but said instead that he has never before been questioned about mismatching DNA. Crimmins went on to say that he would look into the matter, but could not provide an answer prior to the newspaper going to press.

CPS ended their investigation into alleged abuse at the ranch on December 8, 2008. The agency has non-suited all but one of the 439 children removed during the raid. The girl in question was allegedly married to FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs when she was only 12-years-old.

IT BEGAN HERE FIVE YEARS AGO

The YFZ raid brought unprecedented national attention one year ago to the ongoing saga of FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs and his followers at the ranch. But, for Schleicher County citizens, the story has been going on a lot longer than that.

It was on March 25, 2004 that news first broke in *The Eldorado Success* connecting the so called hunting retreat at the YFZ Ranch to a sect of fundamentalist Mormons from the Utah/Arizona borderland.

The group, under the leadership of Warren Steed Jeffs would gain prominence just over two years later when, in May of 2006, he was named to the FBI's list of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives.

Jeffs was apprehended less than four months later in Nevada, during a traffic stop outside of Las Vegas. He was promptly extradited to Utah where he was convicted in 2007 on two counts of Rape as an



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Young boys from the YFZ Ranch are shooed away from Midland County's armored personnel carrier by ranch resident Valiant "Val" Barlow during the six-day long YFZ Ranch raid last April. The boys had been invited aboard the troop carrier by Midland County deputies who allowed them to photograph and video tape inside the vehicle. Sheriff David Doran explains that the lone troop carrier was brought to the raid as a precaution and was never called into service.

Accomplice and sentenced to two consecutive 5-to-life sentences.

Jeffs was then transferred to the Mohave County Jail in Kingman, Arizona where he currently awaits trial on four counts of being an accomplice to sexual conduct with a minor.

All during Jeffs' time on the run and his incarceration, his followers at the YFZ Ranch stayed busy building a town, complete with a massive white limestone temple. Also, huge gardens and orchards, a dairy, cabinet shops, cement plants, a storehouse and a print shop.

Meanwhile, other FLDS enclaves were located near Mancos, Colorado and Pringle, South Dakota. Buildings constructed at those two sites closely resemble the log cabin style residences at the YFZ Ranch.

A lawsuit accusing Jeffs of sexual abuse was filed against the prophet by his nephew Brent Jeffs, who obtained a default judgement when Jeffs failed to appear and defend himself.

That prompted Utah courts to strip Jeffs of his power over the United Effort Plan Trust, the financial arm of the FLDS church. A judge found that Jeffs and his fellow trustees were not prudently managing the trust and appointed Salt Lake City accountant Bruce Wisan to act as Special Fiduciary over the trust.

With that, Warren Jeffs lost control over a much of his church's vast wealth and it became apparent that his followers were looking for ways to funnel money to him and his pet project at the YFZ Ranch.

Jeffs' brother Seth and his cousin Nathanael Allred were arrested in Colorado Springs on October 28, 2005. At that time police recovered \$174,000 in cash, a number of \$500 gift cards, prepaid cell phones, and a jar containing coins labeled "Pennies for the Prophet."

The pair told authorities they were en route to Texas to deliver the money to FLDS church headquarters near Eldorado.

Warren Jeffs was likewise caught with a large amount of cash, gift cards, and pre-paid cell phones when he was caught by Nevada State Trooper Eddie Dutchover on August, 28, 2006, on Interstate 15 near Las Vegas.

THE YFZ RANCH RAID

Last April's raid was triggered by calls to the New Bridge Family Shelter in San Angelo. Those calls, now widely believed to have been a hoax, were purportedly from a girl named Sarah at the YFZ Ranch. The caller alleged she had been forced into a polygamous marriage with an older man named Dale Barlow. She

SEE YFZ RANCH ON PAGE 6



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Flanked by their attorneys, young women from the YFZ Ranch sat on a picnic bench and patiently waited their turn to testify before Schleicher County grand jurors during the jury's August 21, 2008 meeting.

Murder suspect's troubled past

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the Bryan-College Station Eagle on Saturday, March 15, 2009 and is reprinted here with permission

By MATTHEW WATKINS
matthew.watkins@theeagle.com

The boyfriend of an A&M student charged with killing her and her brother was described as dangerous by his ex-girlfriend when he was arrested on stalking charges in 2007.

The ex-girlfriend, who was 23 and lived in Hempstead at the time of the arrest, told authorities that the man was violent and had choked her before, according to documents.

"He still scares me," she told police, according to court documents. "I have the fear he's going to do worse than choke me if he gets me by myself ever."

About a year and a half later, John Thuesen shot and killed his new girlfriend and her brother at their College Station home, police said.

Thuesen has remained in the Brazos County Jail since his March 6 arrest. He is charged with two counts of capital murder, and no bail has been set.

Last week, a local judge appointed two attorneys to represent him. Billy Carter and Michelle Esparza were involved in the recent capital murder trial of Christian Olsen, who was sentenced to death March 3 for the murder of his 68-year-old neighbor.

Little information has surfaced about Thuesen, but public records and documents reveal that he has been transient, and at times troubled, in recent years. He has spent time at Blinn College, served in Iraq and received several medals and ribbons for his military service.

According to a Blinn College spokeswoman, Thuesen enrolled at the school in 2002 as a part-time student. He then joined the U.S. Marines and attend recruit training in 2002.

Capt. Nathan Braden, a spokesman for the U.S. Marine Corps, said Thuesen served as a field radio operator and was deployed to Iraq from August 2004 to March 2005. He is now an inactive ready reservist.

"For all intents and purposes, he is a former Marine," Braden said. Thuesen could be called back to serve only in the event of a major catastrophe. "He is not an active-duty guy. He is not really affiliated with the Marines anymore," Braden said.

Braden said Thuesen was awarded seven medals during his service in Iraq: the Combat Action Ribbon, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and Global War on Terror Service Medal. He also was a member of a unit that received the Navy Unit Commendation.

SEE MURDER SUSPECT ON PAGE 8



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

EHS students (L-R) Malena Romo, Alicia Hernandez, Abby Fuentes, Carli McAngus and Kairos McCollum were busy gardening on Thursday, March 26th as part of their service learning project in Samantha Carman's Family & Consumer Science class.

The Shame of AIG

Now, that's cost efficiency. It took a mere \$165 million to discredit the entire \$11.6 trillion edifice of bailouts, capital infusions and guarantees that have accompanied the financial meltdown.

The bonuses AIG wants to pay its employees are a pittance compared with the \$170 billion it has received in government bailouts, a trifling .097 percent. But nothing so angers the gods of populism as the word "bonus" (surely some genius is formulating a suitable euphemism even as we speak). President Barack Obama wants to try to block the bonuses, and other administration officials talk of making AIG pay back the government for the amount of the bonuses. Fine, but where do we go to get the other \$169.835 billion back?

AIG has been the bailout from hell, dysfunction and opaque. The government has had to restructure

its rescue over and over, throwing billions more into its maw. Only now have we learned the identity of the true recipients of the bailout, the so-called counterparties to AIG's credit default swaps, financial

firms strewn around Wall Street and the globe, from Goldman Sachs to Deutsche Bank and France's Societe Generale.

AIG first got bailed in the days after Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy put the financial system on the brink and policymakers didn't have the nerve to let another financial giant go down. It was the right call at the time, but the lesson of the AIG fiasco is obvious: Government needs to disentangle itself from the financial sector as rapidly as it responsibly can.

There is nothing about bonuses that's inherently blameworthy. Wall Street has a compensation system that tends to pay lower salaries and higher bonuses -- so what? But that doesn't account for political sensitivities, inflamed by the association of bonuses with Wall Street excess.

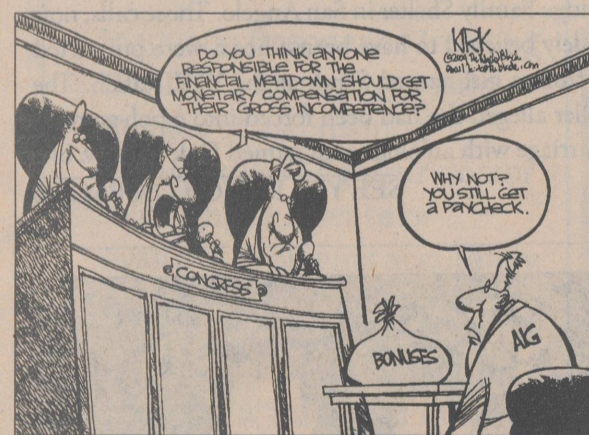
AIG's top seven executives are forgoing bonuses this year, a nice gesture but an insufficient one when \$165 million is going to employees in the financial-products unit whose recklessness brought AIG, otherwise a profitable insurance company, to its knees. The political provocation would only be worse if AIG decided to spend \$165 million to take executives of its German and French counterparties on a lavish golf junket in a fleet of Gulfstream jets.

AIG is caught in a public-private nether world. The government owns nearly 80 percent of it, and government officials handpicked the current CEO, Edward Liddy. The government nonetheless dares not directly run the company, since dealing with complex financial instruments is beyond government's core competence (and apparently beyond even the core competence of many Wall Street firms). Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is hard-pressed just to run his Cabinet department.

Republicans and Democrats are now stumbling over one another to give AIG a good populist beat-down, and no one should pity AIG. But what everyone in Washington wants to ignore is that the banking system, festooned with \$1 trillion or \$2 trillion worth of bad assets, may still need more government attention rather than less. Obama has been taking a pass on cleaning up the banks in favor of passing Great Society II because the issue of the banks is too politically difficult.

Guess what? It just got harder.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Are We Having Fun Yet?

Laura on Life

by Laura Snyder



We met an opossum named George. George was creepy. He looked like Rat-zilla and had a set of teeth that could have belonged to a Tyrannosaurus. Add to that the fact that they only roam at night when you can't see them, and you've got a real live nightmare. I could have skipped that bit of fun.

Of course, it's never fun to wake up at 7:00 am on a good day, let alone waking up with those same 17 sleep-deprived middle-schoolers. We had breakfast and then proceeded to dissect owl pellets. I really would have preferred to do that on an empty stomach, but my son was fascinated by the pieces of rodent bone and fur that he dug out of his owl regurgitation. Not fun. Definitely not fun.

Next was the "tour" of the zoo. Did I mention that it was 35 degrees and pouring rain? Does that sound like fun? If it does, you are demented. Even the animals were smart enough to stay hidden on such a day. In fact, from their little hidey holes, they probably had a great view of the insane humans wandering around in the freezing rain.

Said the baboon to the giraffe "And they say humans have evolved."

I looked like a giant Sponge Bob in my yellow plastic poncho over layers of sweatshirts and jackets; all of which kept my torso reasonably warm if not precisely dry. The poncho turned out to be the perfect conduit to dump the buckets of rain directly into my shoes which made me feel as if I was walking around in an Alaskan swamp all day. Yeah...still not having fun.

The Sonoran Desert display? Now that was fun! It was an indoors display. It was 80 degrees. It was dry. In fact, the Sonoran Desert was the most popular place in the Zoo that day and not because it displayed the most skin-crawling animals in the world. I would have gladly shared space with the tarantulas, snakes, lizards, and scorpions if they would have just let me stay.

The bone-chilling rain never let up and so it was that I commented to my son on the way out of the park, "Good thing we're leaving or we might be required to start building an ark."

He replied, "Yeah, but at least we're in the right place to get two of every animal."

Ever practical, I said, "Right! We could build it in the polar bear pond. They're not out today because it's too cold."

Laura Snyder is a syndicated columnist, author & speaker. You can reach Laura at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more info.



Some Banks Are More Independent Than Others

The Wall Street Journal recently reported that treasury officials expect 25% of the approximately 8,000 US banks to apply for funds available through the Capital Purchase Program (CPP), which is under the umbrella of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), which is part of President Obama's plan to help the economy. I think that says a lot. The fact that 75% of the banks declined the offer is a good sign. I'm glad to see banks pushing back against more federal control of the country's financial institutions.

Big Spring used to have three banks, now it has several. The early ones were owned and operated by local folks. Today most of the banks in Big Spring are controlled from out of town. One is fiercely independent and intends to stay that way. The State National Bank of Big Spring is in the unique position of celebrating its 100th anniversary. It has been in the same family since it was founded in 1909.

When chairman of the board John Currie graduated from TCU in 1951 he wanted to take a job in the oil fields of Venezuela. When



by
Tumbleweed Smith

that fell through, he knew where he could find work. His father, Robert Currie, was president of the State National Bank and his grandfather, T. S. Currie, was the bank's first manager. So John took a job in September of 1951 and has been at the bank ever since. A member of the Currie family had been president of the bank until 1988 when John left that position and handed it over to Jim Purcell.

John worked for the bank during his high school years. He actually earned his first paycheck from the bank in 1936 when he was given five dollars for jumping up and down on a foot-operated device that punched holes in checks.

The bank was chartered on March 1, 1909 as the First State Bank of Big Spring. In 1924 the bank converted to a national bank charter and was renamed The State National Bank

of Big Spring. During the depression years of the 1930's and 1940's the bank used the slogan, "Time Tried and Panic Tested."

The bank has some extremely loyal customers, perhaps because during drought years the bank stayed with them longer than most banks would. Agriculture has been the backbone of both the Big Spring Community and the bank. Farming and ranching now account for about half the bank's business. State National has stayed ahead of the curve on technology and has a number of firsts in computer banking.

In 2003 the bank acquired banks in O'Donnell and Lamesa, a move that has proven profitable for all three banks. State National remains independent, even though it has had the opportunity many times to become part of a conglomerate. John feels he has a responsibility to the customers, employees and the community. Concerning the bank's 100th anniversary, John says simply, "We're proud to have been around that long." When I asked him what he considered the bank's biggest accomplishment, he replied with a smile, "We stayed solvent."

House budget committee continues work on plan for 2010-2011

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Through the week of March 23-27, the House Appropriations Committee and its various subcommittees toiled away at producing HB 1, a state budget for fiscal years 2010-2011. Hopes are that the budget bill may reach the House floor for debate in mid-April.

Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, on March 27 said, "We are faced with very difficult and uncertain times in our economy. We have to make some difficult decisions."

Speaker Joe Straus said he's confident the narrowly divided 150-member House, composed of 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats, can work together to pass a budget without the necessity of a special session.

Despite the ponderous weight of passing a budget on House shoulders, the lower chamber did manage to vote out the committee substitute to Austin Rep. Dawnna Dukes' HB 873, a bill that recognizes Texas is behind other states in offering film incentives.

Intended to create movie industry jobs in Texas, HB 873 lowers the state grant threshold for a film or television program from a minimum of \$1 million in in-state spending to \$250,000 and lowers the percent that must be filmed in Texas from 80 percent to 60 percent.

Senate bills advance to House

The Texas Senate approved more than 60 bills during the week of March 23-27 and sent them on to the House for consideration.

Here are a few of those bills, to be scrutinized by House panels in the coming weeks:

- SB 158 by Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, requiring a school district to notify parents if a nurse is not assigned to a public school campus.

- SB 175 by Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, amending the "Top 10 Percent" law governing the number of students who may automatically be admitted to the University of Texas at Austin.

- SB 188 by Bob Duell, R-Greenville, creating a hypodermic needle-exchange program to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis.

- SB 297 by Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, granting resident tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education for certain veterans and their spouses and children.

- SB 424 by Van de Putte, establishing and implementing school-based flu vaccination programs.

- SB 503 by Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, requiring public notice of the name of each finalist for the position of superintendent of a public school district.

- SB 745 by Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, authorizing a state agency to allow its employees to submit travel vouchers electronically.

- SB 476 by Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, amending nurse staffing and overtime rules.

- SB 506 by John Carona, R-Dallas, restricting operation and movement of motorcycles during periods of traffic congestion.

- SB 572 by Shapiro, relating to transportation safety training requirements for certain child-care providers.

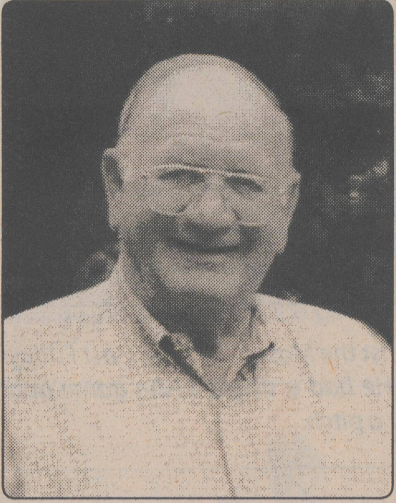
- SB 730 by Glenn Hegar Jr., R-Katy, relating to an employee's transportation and storage of firearms or ammunition while on certain property owned or controlled by the employee's employer.

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 5



OBITUARIES

Curtis Dean Wilson



LAMPASAS — Curtis Dean Wilson, formerly of Austin, died at his home in Lampasas on Monday, March 23, 2009 after two years of battling colon and lung cancer. He was born in Bastrop County on March 10, 1931 to Frances Ford Wilson and Dennis Dean Wilson. He attended public schools in Elgin and Stephen F. Austin High School. On April 21, 1951, he married Barbara Joyce Smith at Central Methodist Church in Austin. He began his career at Austin Machine and Grinding Company as an auto part salesman, and then he was employed by The University of Texas at Austin in the Phys. Plant/Operations Department where he retired after 26 years of service. He was an avid University of Texas sports fan. For many years he had a place in the country near Fentress, Texas. He and Barbara moved in 2002 to a small ranch near Eldorado, Texas, where they spent many happy hours observing wildlife. He loved hunting deer and turkey and just enjoying the outdoors, especially West Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Joyce Wilson of Lampasas; daughter, Denise Wilson Oliver and husband, Jeff of Austin; grandchildren, Ty Wilson Wheeler and Brett Olan Wheeler of San Antonio, and Brooke Bailey Oliver of Austin. Curtis cherished his family and was extremely proud of them. He is also survived by his sisters, Jonnye Dickard and husband, Paul, and Carolyn Baer and husband, Charlie; nephews and nieces, David Dickard (Marja) and Brian Dickard (Trivian), Trey Baer (Kristi) and Molly Baer Holub (Karl); and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

The family received friends Friday, March 27, 2009 with funeral services following in the Chapel of Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home with Reverend J.W. Hutcherson officiating. Interment followed at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Memorial Park.

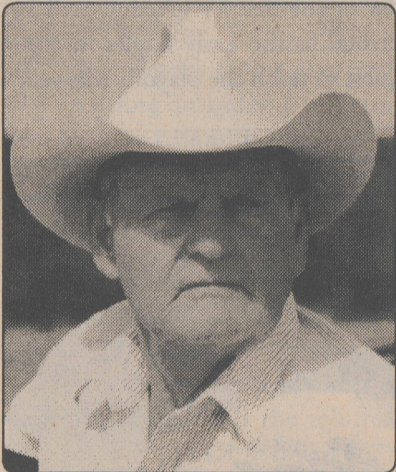
The family thanks Dr. Aung, Sue Hamilton, Elsa Bryant and Melody McPherson and staff at Texas Oncology/SWRCC in Marble Falls for their devoted and loving care.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lighthouse Hospice, 608 Gateway Central, Ste. 200, Marble Falls, Texas 78654 or charity of your choice.

"A precious one from us has gone; a voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home that never shall be filled."

Arrangements under the care of Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home, 6300 W. William Cannon Drive, Austin, Texas 78749, (512) 892-1172.

Charles Miers Johnson



BRADY — Legendary horse-trader, Charles Miers Johnson, 81 of Rochelle, Texas passed away March 21, 2009 in Brady, TX. Miers was born April 8, 1927 in Brady, Texas to Jane Miers and Charles Johnson. He graduated from Lohn High school and then at 17 joined the Navy and was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He went to Sul Ross State University on a full football scholarship and was all-conference in 1948. After graduating he coached football in Christoval from 1950-1951, and then in Eldorado from 1951-1953 and for the next 15 years in Rochelle. During that time he received a Smith-Huges Certificate from Sam Houston State University in 1956. Miers' love of horses began when he was a small boy and his grandfather Roy Johnson gave him his first horse. He owned thousands of horses in his lifetime, being a horse-trader was what he loved to do. He

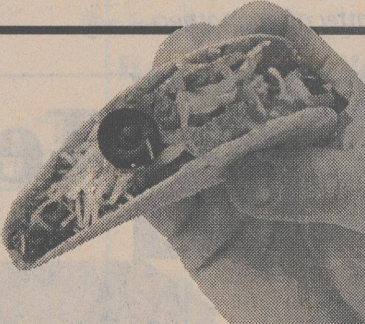
was known throughout West Texas, where he traveled to area ranches to buy and sell horses. Miers had friends everywhere and everyone has a "Miers" story. He was also involved in trading livestock, equipment and real estate. He was an excellent storyteller and had the most colorful life of anyone. He had countless friends and life experiences. His personality was outgoing, positive and he engulfed a room with his presence. Miers was an excellent cook and took great pleasure cooking and entertaining his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife Christine Johnson of Rochelle, Texas; son Ross Johnson and wife Ann of Rochelle, daughter Suzie Byrne and husband Joe of Abilene, Holly Griffin and husband Kirk of Eldorado. Grandchildren include Shanna Johnson Petty, Lindsay Conrad and husband Andy, DeeAnna Morrissey and husband Nick, Allison Johnson, Kenton Byrne, Lane Griffin and Elizabeth Griffin and one great-granddaughter Kadee Petty.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at the Brady Baptist Church with Pastor Ken Barr officiating. Burial followed in the Rochelle Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Don Neal, Cory Dodds, Billy Davis, T. Don Hughes, Mike Knaupp, and Arlan McBee. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the West Texas Boys Ranch.

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Angel Food ministries offers new food choices

Angel Food Ministries is offering some new choices in April to better accommodate specialized groups. They will offer an allergen-free box, processed to eliminate the eight top serious allergens: peanuts, soybeans, milk, eggs, fish, crustacea, tree nuts and gluten (wheat, rye, and barley). Great for children and adults.

There is a senior/convenience box for our senior adults, and there is also a new seafood box with fish and shrimp.

For further information including dates for ordering and delivery please contact: The Community Resource Center or go to www.angelfoodministries.com



It's A Boy!

A. Fidel & Reyna Herrera announce the birth of their second son: Ronin Agustin. Ronin was born February 23, 2009, at Shannon Hospital in San Angelo, Texas. He weighed 7lbs. 11oz. and was 20 inches long.

Welcoming Ronin was big brother Luther. Also, grandparents Fidel and Delia Herrera, Pat Fly, great grandmother Lupe Guerrero, cousins, aunts and uncles.



It's a Girl!

Rocky and Courtney Robles are proud to announce the arrival of their first precious baby daughter Kylie Jewel Robles. Born Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 6:36 pm weighing 8lbs. 7 oz. 20 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed by paternal grandparents Mario and Rosa Robles of Eldorado, and great grandparents Enrique and Anita Robles of Eldorado. Maternal grandparents, Sam and Penny Whitten of Comanche. Great grandparents Johnny and Zulean Poyner and Sam A. Whitten of Comanche. Great great grandmother Inez Fisher also of Comanche.

BIRTHDAY LIST

APRIL

- 2nd Little Joe Aguilar, Andy Spinks, Sandra Goodrum, Connie Andrews, Layton Spinks
- 3rd Byron Gray, Smokey Taylor, Mason Garner, Erin Meador, Bodie Gilstrap
- 4th Ryan Espinosa, John Pippen, Ben Edmiston, Irene Tinney, Stephanie Broome, Kolton Prater
- 5th Deanne Walker, Derek Stevenson, Christin Sanchez
- 6th Lorenzo Pina
- 7th Diego Barrera, Martha Buitron, Fonzie Covarrubiaz, Glenda McCravery, Belinda Faull,
- 8th Albert Fuentes, Amy Green, David Hill, Cassidy Arendt
- 9th Robert Taylor, Becky Sterling, Kathy Graves, Cailyn McCravery, Hanna Hanson, Ryan Farmer, Myrt Williams
- 10th Mack Shepard, Bill Wells, Jimmy Belk, Jorge Arispe, Melva Martinez, Jan Bailey, Fonzie Villanueva
- 11th Colton K. Lively, Gentry Newman, Rachel Pool, Diego Barrera, Cierra Braly,

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

- 2nd Bobby & Connie Andrews
- 4th Mike & Glenda McCravery
- 5th Guillermo & Maria Zungia
- 7th Shannon & Janis Wilkerson
- 9th Mario & Rosa Robles

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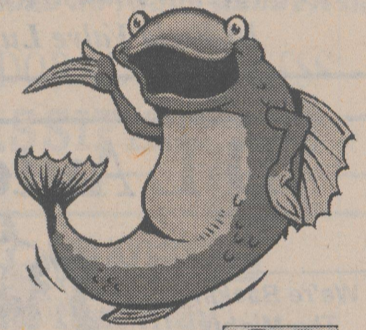
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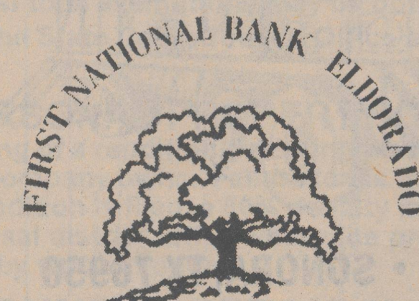
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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle

by Linda Thiele

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: * Moderate ** Challenging *** Hot Boy!
Place a number in the empty boxes so each row, each column, each 3x3 square, each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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See Solution on Page 8

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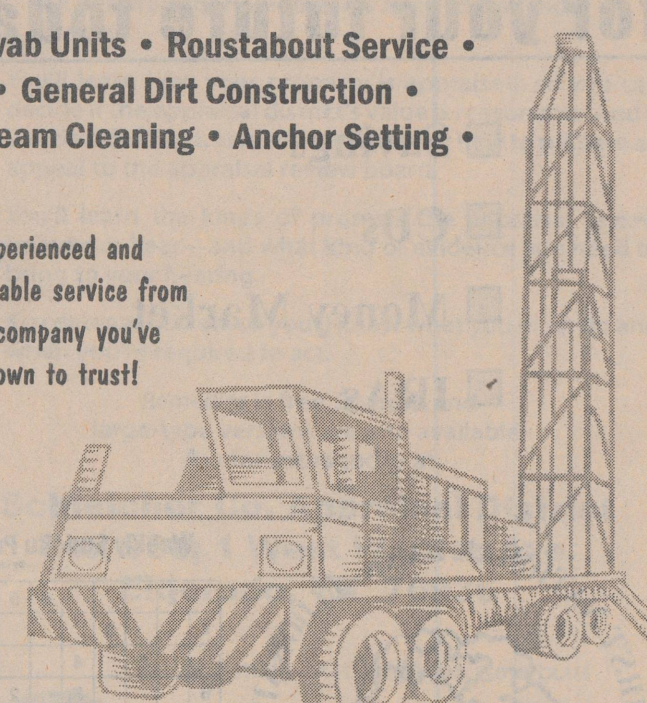
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Eagles defeat Mason 12-2, beat Rocksprings Angoras 8-0

It took the Eldorado Eagles an inning to get warmed up, but when their bats did come to life in the second inning of last Friday's game with Mason, the Warbirds tallied runs in each of the next five innings to claim a 12-2 victory.

The Eagles tallied two runs each in the second and third innings, three more in the fourth and four runs in the fifth.

Nathan Jimenez reached on a single in the sixth, then advanced on an error by Mason's shortstop. Jonathan Belman brought Jimenez home with a single to round out the scoring and end the contest with a 12-2 mercy rule victory.

Belman went 4 for 4 to lead the Eagles at the plate. Rance Cathey went 2 for 2 with two singles while Dustin Gauna was 2 for 3 at the

plate with a single and a double.

The Eagles followed up the win with an 8-0 victory Tuesday night over the Rocksprings Angoras in Rocksprings.

The Warbirds tallied a run in the 1st, four in the 2nd, two more in the 4th and a final run in the 5th to round out the scoring.

Garrett Lux tallied a run on three hits with a stolen base. Milo Vallejo scored three runs on three hits and a base on balls. Once on the base paths, Vallejo kept the Angora defense on its heels by stealing four bases. Meanwhile, Rance Cathey stole three bases and scored three runs while driving in two more. Dustin Gauna also had a big day at the plate hitting three of four and driving in a run.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Paul Martinez stole second base against the Mason Punchers last Friday to help the Eagles to a 12-2 victory. He had a single in the game and reached base again after being hit by a pitch.

Lady Eagles fall to district-leading Junction

This past Tuesday, March 31st, 2009 the Eldorado Lady Eagles traveled down Interstate 10 to take on the district leading Junction Lady Eagles. Eldorado took to the batters box first and retired in consecutive order. Junction would see their second baseman get on with a single up the middle. The second baseman would subsequently score after stealing second and then is brought home by an RBI single by the pitcher.

The second stanza would see Eldorado tally four runs when Haley Higgins, Abby Fuentes, Allyson Jarrett and Deisy Aranda scored. The bottom half of Junction's line up would add two more runs.

The third inning witnessed Eldorado and Junction both retired in order. Eldorado would be leading 4 to 3 after three innings of play.

Eldorado's fourth at bat would again see consecutive outs to retire the side. Junction would then explode for six runs with the aid of three errors by the Eldorado defense. Eldorado trailed 9 to 4 headed into the top of the fifth inning.

The Eldorado Lady Eagles attempted to rally on the next three at bats but could only manage one more run when Haley Higgins scored on an RBI by Allyson Jarrett. Junction would add four more runs to their total in the last two at bats and again the Eldorado squad would be hampered by two more errors in the game. Eldorado committed 7 errors in the contests that proved to be the decisive factor in the outcome of the ballgame.

The loss pushes Eldorado's overall record to 9 wins and 10 losses on the season and 3 wins and 3 losses in district play. The Eldorado Lady Eagles fall to third place in the district standing with four games left to play. Eldorado is now tied with Winters for the third and final slot in the district standings. Junction is tied for the district lead with Forsan.

Eldorado will next see action at home against the Menard Lady Yellowjackets on Friday. The remainder of the district schedule will be pivotal to the Lady Eagles in their quest to reach the playoffs this year.

Middle School girls take 4th place at Hornet Relays

On March 24, 2009 the 7th and 8th Grade Eldorado Girl's Track Team placed 4th at the Hornet Relays, Irion County ISD.

3200 M Run: 5. Robin Hibbs, 4:16.77
100 M Dash: 5. Nikki Herrera, 15.43
100 Hurdles: 1. Miranda Arispe, 19.20; 3. Mary Lou Martinez, 20.85; 6. Brooke Guerrero, 21.48
400 M Run: 5. Lupe Pasillas, 1:22.79
800M: 3. Jessica Pasillas, 3:10.03
400 M. Relay: 3. 58.76 (Miranda Arispe, Mikayla Ramon

Nikki Herrera, MaryLou Martinez)
800 M. Relay: 4.2:13.19 (Mikayla Ramon, Nikki Herrera, Lupe Pasillas, Kasey Gonzalez)
1600 Relay: 3. 5:08.76 (Lupe Pasillas, MaryLou Martinez, Mikayla Ramon, Miranda Arispe)
Long Jump: 2. Miranda Arispe, 13'.05"
High Jump: 1 Brooke Guerrero, 4' 2"; 4. Jasmin Fernandez, 4' 2"; 5. Miranda Arispe, 4' 2"
Discus: 4. Macy Mikeska, 56' 10"; 5. Jordan McCulloch, 54' 11"
Shot: 3. Maria Reyes, 22' 7 3/4"

8th grade boys place 1st at Hornet Relays

On March 24, 2009 the 8th Grade Eldorado Boy's team placed 1st with a total of 213 points at the Hornet Relays, Irion County ISD, Mertzon. Christoval placed 2nd and 3rd place was Water Valley.

Individual Results:
Discus: 1. Diego Sanchez, 121'00.00
Shot Put: 1. Rico Estrada, 42'04.25

High Jump: 5. Dylan Ramos, 5-10; 2. Hagen Porras, 5-00; 4. Rico Martinez 4-08
Triple Jump: 3. Brian Shriver, 31-01.50; 6. Austin Stapp, 30-07.75
Long Jump: 1. J. Martinez 17-00.50; 4. Ruben Vasquez, 14-09
3200 Meter Run: 5. Austin Strapp, 10:49.45; 6. J. Martinez, 11:02.02
400 M. Relay: 1.49.63 (Rico Martinez, Ruben Vasquez, Eric Estrada, Nicholas Gonzales)
800 M. Run: 1. Austin Stapp, 2:36.40
110 M. Hurdles: 3. Blaine Mitchell, 21.19; 2. Justin Estrada, 13.06
400 Meter Dash: 1. Nicholas Gonzales, 59.62; 3. Justin Estrada, 1:02.83 6. Hagen Porras, 1:05.355
300 Meter Hurdles: 1. Blaine Mitchell, 52.31
100 Meter Dash: 1. Rico Martinez, 12.17; 3. Eric Estrada, 12.39
200 Meter Dash: 2. Dylan Ramos, 26.60; Ruben Vasquez, 28.20
800 Meter Relay: 1. 47.63 (Rico Martinez, Lane Griffin, Dylan Ramos, Hagen Porras)
1600 Meter Run: 2. Brian Shriver, 6:28.06; 6. J. Martinez, 6:56.04
1600 M. Relay: 2. 4:10.94

SCISD School Lunch Menu

BREAKFAST LINE
Monday April 6, 2009
 Waffle Stix / syrup, Applesauce cups, Choice of Juice, Milk

Tuesday April 7
 Muffin, Choice Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

Wednesday April 8
 Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Juice, Milk

Thursday April 9
 Buttered Toast/ Jelly, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk

Friday April 10
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HAPPY EASTER

CAFETERIA LINE
Monday April 6, 2009
 Chicken Nuggets/Gravy, Broccoli / Cheese, Cucumber Slices, Fruit

Tuesday April 7
 Corn Chip Pie/ Cheese cup, Pinto Beans, Carrot Stix/Dip, Sugar Cookies

Wednesday April 8
 Ham & Cheese Hot Pockets, Tossed Salad, Fruit

Thursday April 9
 Pep. Pizza, Tossed Salad, Ice Cream Cups

Friday April 10
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HAPPY EASTER

BASKET LINE
Monday April 6, 2009
 CF Steak Sandwich, Sandwich Salad, Carrot Stix/ Dip, Fruit

Tuesday April 7
 Corn Chip Pie/cheese cup, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Sugar Cookies

Wednesday April 8
 Corn Dogs, Carrot Stix/ Dip, Tater Tots, Fruit

Thursday April 9, 2009
 Pep. Pizza, Tossed Salad, Ice Cream Cups

Friday April 10, 2009
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HAPPY EASTER



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Eagles ace Rance Cathey strains as he hurls a pitch homeward against the Mason Punchers during varsity action here last Friday. The Eagles tallied a 12-2 win in the contest in which Cathey contributed with his bat, hitting two singles, and his arm, with which he stymied one Punter batter after another.

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The arrival of Spring usually means two things in Schleicher County, gusty winds and the possibility of severe thunderstorms. While there may not be much we can do about the wind except to tolerate it, the best way to prepare for stormy weather is to be aware and be prepared.

Sheriff David Doran asks citizens to note the following procedures:

1. Three 1-minute blasts of the warning siren is meant to alert the public to threatening weather or other equally hazardous situations.

2. Persons should take cover immediately and tune your radio and/or TV to a local station; listen for sirens, or verbal warnings over police mobile public address systems.

3. One 3-minute blast of the siren signals an All Clear meaning that the danger has passed.

During severe weather - The Schleicher County Sheriff's Office, along with the Emergency Management Coordinator Jerry Jones, sends storm spotters out to monitor weather for possible signs of tornado activity. The Sheriff's Office maintains communication with the National Weather Service in San

Angelo, receiving up-to-the-minute doppler radar reports.

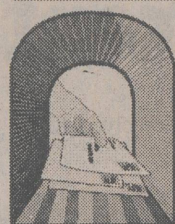
Weather information is then relayed to weather spotters to assist them in making an informed decision in the event a public warning needs to be activated.

The Sheriff's Office also monitors the TLETS (Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System) and broadcasts up to the minute weather information to emergency services. They also monitor the doppler radar via the internet and National weather Service Broadcasts.

When seeking shelter during a storm, find a basement, storm cellar, or a strong interior room on the first floor of your home. Likewise find a sturdy basement or interior room or hallway of a public building. Stay away from windows or open doors. Do not attempt to ride out a storm in a vehicle or a mobile home. You will be safer taking shelter in a ditch or lowlying area.

Public shelter is available in the basement of the Schleicher County Memorial Building.

Sheriff Doran advises Eldorado residents: Be Storm Aware, Be Storm Prepared.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor express the opinions of their author. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the staff, management or ownership of the Eldorado Success.

Spayed or neutered dogs are less likely to bite or attack humans

Dear Editor:

PETA urges communities to help prevent tragic dog attacks—such as the one by a pregnant, chained pit bull that claimed a 2-year-old Luling boy's life—by passing mandatory spay/neuter and anti-chaining laws (AP story).

Dogs who haven't been spayed or neutered tend to be more territorial and more aggressive, making them three times more likely to bite than sterilized dogs. And according to the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, intensive confinement and lack of socialization can cause chained dogs to become frustrated and overly protective of their little patch of ground, turning them into biters. A Centers for Disease Control study found that chained dogs are nearly three times as likely to attack as those not tethered.

Unsterilized dogs also contribute to the companion animal overpopulation crisis, and chained dogs are often deprived of adequate food and clean water and are left to shiver through frigid nights and slowly go mad from lack of exercise, boredom, and loneliness.

Please, always spay or neuter your dogs and make them a part

of your family by keeping them indoors. To learn how you can help get spay/neuter and anti-chaining laws passed in your community, visit www.HelpingAnimals.com.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Pollard-Post
Research Specialist
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-7382, ext. 8107
LindsayP@peta.org

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Capital Highlights . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

'Under God' remains in pledge

A Dallas federal judge on March 27 ruled the phrase "under God" in the Texas Pledge of Allegiance is constitutional.

The court's decision rejected a lawsuit filed by a Dallas couple that argued that the state pledge violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. The Legislature added the words to the state pledge in 2007.

In support of the ruling, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said, "The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that patriotic acknowledgments of the Almighty are constitutional. Texans can rest assured that we will continue defending their

children's ability to recite the state Pledge of Allegiance each morning."

SBOE alters science language

The State Board of Education on March 27 voted 13-2 to change teacher manual language said to cast doubt on the scientific theory of evolution with the assertion that the various schools of thought have strengths and weaknesses.

The new language promotes the use of empirical evidence, logical reasoning and experimental and observational testing, "including examining all sides of scientific evidence of those scientific explanations so as to encourage critical thinking by the students."

Meals for Friends Menu



MONDAY April 6, 2009
Roasted Chicken, Pinto Beans, Spinach, Corn Bread, Cherry Cobbler, Milk.

TUESDAY April 7
Chicken & Rice Casserole, Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Peach Halves, Chocolate Cake, Milk.

WEDNESDAY April 8th
Roast Beef with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Hot Roll, Vegetable Salad, White Cake w/Caramel Icing, Milk.

THURSDAY April 9th
Pork Chop with Gravy, Baked Potato, Yellow Squash, Corn Bread, Pineapple, Waldorf Salad, Milk.

FRIDAY April 10th

CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY

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Why does the early bird always get the worm? Because he reads about it in
THE ELDORADO SUCCESS CLASSIFIED ADS

The People of First United Methodist Church Eldorado, Texas invite you to the Holy Week Services being celebrated April 5 through April 12

This Sunday, April 5 we will be join in fellowship with any who would like to participate with a Brunch at 9:45 A.M. along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the Children. Then we will be celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with a Palm Sunday Service at 11:00 A.M.

On Thursday April 9 at 7:00 P.M. We will be remembering the Last Supper of our Savior with a Service of Communion

On Friday April 10 at 7:00 P.M. we will relive the Crucifixion of our Lord with a Service of Shadows as we remember the Passion of our Savior

On Sunday Morning we will gather with the community of faith as we all come together for a Sunrise Service at 7:00 A.M. at the Gazebo next to the bank. We will follow this with a Service of Resurrection at 11:00 A.M. at the United Methodist Church

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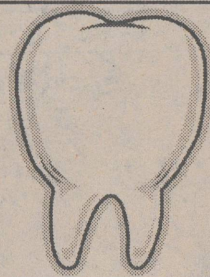
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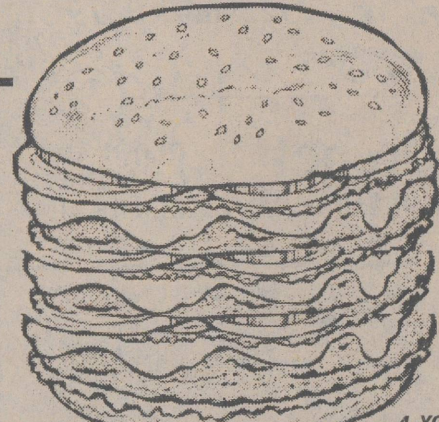
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5. YOU HAVE TO EAT IT IN THE FRONT ROOM
6. THE BATHROOMS ARE OUTSIDE TO THE LEFT AROUND THE CORNER!!!!

7. IF YOU COMPLETE THIS CHALLENGE YOUR PICTURE WILL BE TAKEN AND PUT ON THE WALL OF FAME AND YOUR MEAL WILL BE FREE

COST OF THE MEAL IS \$12.⁹⁵

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Schleicher County Medical Center and Family Clinic offers a few tips on Kidney Health

When they are functioning properly; kidneys rarely, if ever come to mind. However, did you know that kidneys are an important part of keeping bodies healthy?

These little dynamos remove waste products, balance the body's fluids, help regulate blood pressure and control the production of red blood cells among other things. With all these vital jobs, the National Kidney Foundation has deemed March National Kidney Month.

Kidney disease affects one in every 10 adults and can cause a variety of illnesses, including kidney failure, a problem that takes the lives of more than 70,000 Americans each year. Most people don't realize they have a kidney problem until the disease is in an advanced stage, that's why it's important to be pro-active with the kidneys. The best time to treat kidney disease is in the early stages.

To ensure your kidneys stay in working order, health professionals recommend three simple tests to check for kidney disease: 1) A blood pressure test, 2) A urine test, 3) A blood test.

Find out your risk for kidney disease today by calling 325-853-3137 (Family Clinic) and asking our Jessica or Veronica to schedule a kidney check-up with one of our providers Gordy Day, M.D., Rebecca Sullivan, Family Nurse Practitioner or Bobby Romatowski, Orthopedic Physicians Assistant.

...Or call for more information. With our quick and comprehensive on-site laboratory, Schleicher County Medical Center will help make sure your kidneys get the attention they deserve!

"Taking Care of Our Community"

Schleicher County Medical Center & Family Clinic

Monday - Friday 8a-12n/ 1p-5p

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Hospital 325.853.2507 ~ Family Clinic 325.853.3137

YFZ Ranch story continues into sixth year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also reported mental and physical abuse.

The calls were referred to Child Protective Services which sought the support of the Schleicher County Sheriff's Department as they planned to enter the YFZ Ranch and find the girl.

Realizing that his department didn't have the resources to support such an operation, Sheriff David Doran turned to Texas Rangers and the Texas Department of Public Safety for help. Eventually, lawmen and women from across West Texas converged at the YFZ Ranch on the evening of April 3, 2008 as they attempted to gain entry and escort CPS workers onto the property. Even a number of Texas Game Wardens, who had gathered for a meeting in San Angelo, were pressed into service.

A 90-minute standoff at the ranch gate ended when ranch overseer Merrill Jessop, who had been out of town, arrived and met with Texas Ranger Captain Barry Caver and Sheriff Doran. The initial entry to the ranch was made by five CPS workers and a handful of law enforcement officers and interviewers soon began looking for the alleged victim named Sarah.

During testimony before 51st District Judge Barbara Walther, CPS worker Angie Voss reported that the adults at the YFZ Ranch were less than cooperative.

Voss went on to say that CPS workers were barred from meeting with specific girls they asked for and other girls were produced in their place. At one point, when inspecting classrooms in the YFZ school/meeting hall, Voss said she noticed that attendance records for some of the female students were missing. She indicated she knew the students existed because their journals were in the classroom.

Voss continued by saying that she noticed a shredder in the room was full of shredded paper and the light on the machine was still blinking, indicating that it had been recently used.

Voss and others reported that during their night-long attempt to locate the alleged victim "Sarah," CPS workers noticed a number of

pregnant girls they perceived to be under age.

Voss also said CPS workers found a number of girls who said they knew a girl matching the description of "Sarah" and several girls that the investigators believed might be "Sarah."

Armed with the information about pregnant girls, a second warrant was issued the following day calling for the systematic search of the YFZ Ranch, and all of its buildings.

At that point, additional law enforcement officers and CPS workers streamed onto the ranch. And, that's when Midland County's armored troop carrier was brought onto the property. The vehicle had been positioned outside the ranch prior to the raid.

Sheriff David Doran says the troop carrier was brought to the ranch "just in case it was needed."

Once parked inside the ranch several boys took tours of the vehicle, but they were soon warned away by older men who Doran said didn't seem to want the boys associating with law enforcement officers.

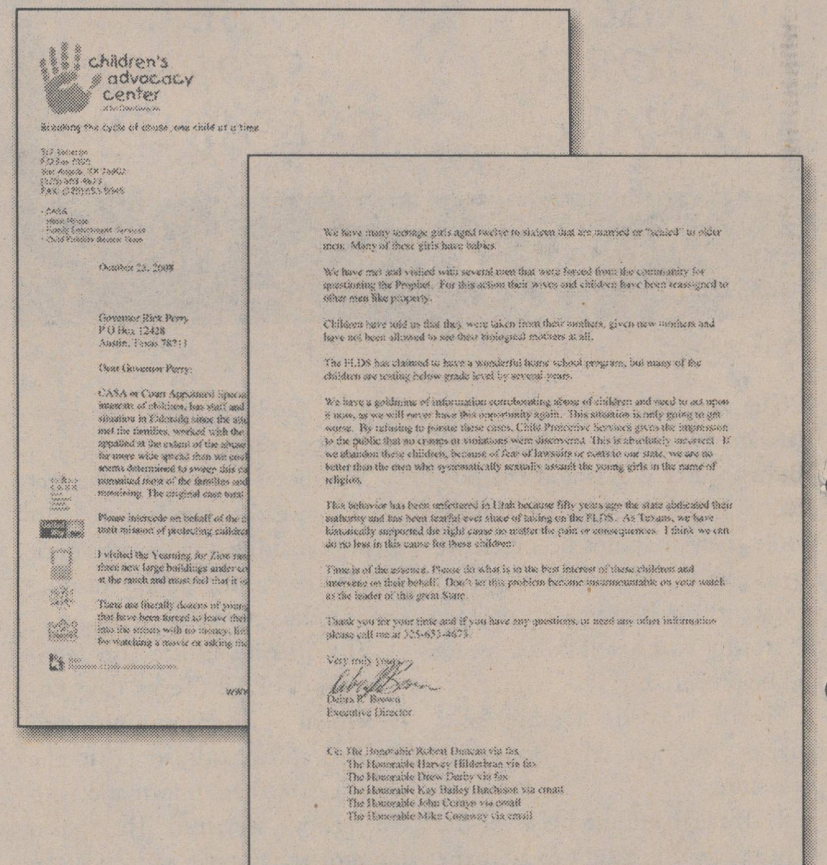
As more lawmen entered the ranch, a door-to-door search was initiated. Meanwhile, still feeling stymied by the lack of cooperation from ranch residents, CPS workers reported to 51st District Judge Barbara Walther who made the determination that all of the children should be removed from the ranch so that they could be interviewed in a neutral setting at the Schleicher County Civic Center.

However, the number of children rapidly swelled beyond the estimated 50-60 that officials were told to expect at the ranch. As authorities struggled to cope with the ever increasing number of children, the state's plan to deal with the children became more and more chaotic.

By the morning of Saturday, April 5th, 2008, more than 200 children had been removed from the ranch. That number soon grew to more than 400. Ultimately, 439 children were taken from the ranch.

Cots were brought in from Goodfellow Air Force as the children were sheltered at the Schleicher County Civic Center and the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church in Eldorado.

Officials quickly determined that there weren't adequate facilities in Eldorado to care for that number of children so arrangements were made to move the children, and a



Letter from CASA executive director Debra Brown to Texas Governor Rick Perry questioning CPS actions in returning YFZ Ranch children. Complete text of the letter may be viewed on The Eldorado Success website at www.myeldorado.net.

number of mothers who were allowed to accompany them, to San Angelo where they were housed, first at Fort Concho, and then at the San Angelo Coliseum.

Child Protective Services' initial plan involved dispersing the children and assigning them to foster homes across the state until their cases could be heard in court.

Bus loads of children were taken to places as far flung as Cal Farley's Boys Ranch near Amarillo and Kidz Harbor in Liverpool, Texas, near Houston.

All the while, attorneys representing the families at the YFZ Ranch fought for the children's return. And, on May 22, 2008, the Texas 3rd Court of Appeals weighed in and ruled that the state had not presented enough evidence to warrant removing all the children. When the Texas Supreme Court agreed, the stage was set for the children's return.

GRAND JURY INDICTS 12

Schleicher County Grand Jurors on June 25, 2008, began reviewing evidence gathered during the YFZ raid. Before it was finished, the jury's term would be extended by 3 months, and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbot would take over as prosecutor.

Abbott personally appeared

before the grand jury on July 22, 2008, before holding an impromptu press conference to announce the first felony charges handed down by the jury.

Before the jury was dismissed the following December, it would formally indict 12 YFZ residents on 22 counts. Among those charges are:

- Warren Steed Jeffs - sexual assault of a child, aggravated sexual assault of a child, and bigamy;
- Raymond Merrill Jessop - sexual assault of a child and bigamy;
- Allan Eugene Keate - sexual assault of a child;
- Michael Emack - sexual assault of a child and bigamy;
- Merrill Leroy Jessop - sexual assault of a child and bigamy;
- Lehi Barlow Jeffs aka Lehi Barlow Allred - sexual assault of a child, and bigamy;
- Abraham Harker Jeffs - sexual assault of a child and bigamy;
- Keith William Dutton, Jr. - sexual assault of a child;
- Wendell Loy Nielsen - three counts of bigamy;
- Frederick Merrill Jessop - conducting a ceremony prohibited by law;
- Leroy Johnson Steed - sexual assault of a child, bigamy, tampering with physical evidence; and
- Dr. Lloyd Barlow - failure to report abuse.

A hearing is slated for May 13 at which time Judge Walther will rule on several motions to suppress evidence gathered during the YFZ Raid. The first trial is tentatively slated for October 26th.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Hopping mad
6. Sacrificial site
11. Tax prep expert
14. Sprang up
15. Greene of "Bonanza"
16. Person of the cloth, for short
17. "Can I put you on hold?" feature
19. Ill temper
20. Getty of "The Golden Girls"
21. Gossip's tidbit
23. Stevie Wonder's "___ She Lovely"
25. Feel contrite
26. Pennsylvania's ___ Mountains
30. Ukrainian port
32. Skip the ceremony
33. Makes even
34. T-Wolves' org.
37. Clobber with eggs
38. Wreck beyond repair
39. Pirate's booty
40. Swelled head
41. Yuletide song
42. Sudden rush
43. End a shutdown
45. Went easy on
46. Tribe in "Dances With Wolves"
48. Think tank nugget

DOWN

1. Doily material
2. Some nest eggs, for short
3. Battery will
4. Setting for Gilligan

50. Fall hue

51. Do a florist's task
56. Boat, to its captain
57. Khrushchev or Kennedy, notably
61. Bathwater tester, perhaps
62. Poland Spring competitor

63. Set foot in

64. Costa del ___
65. Smooths out
66. Active sorts

5. Outdated Arctic radar defense system

12. Co. with brown trucks
7. Builder's acquisition
8. Prefix with color or cycle
9. Cape ___, Mass.
10. Slip back
11. 1850s conflict
12. "Evita" surname

13. Staff off

18. ___-ran
24. Italian ice cream confection
25. Film unit
26. Animated skunk Le Pew
27. Designer Cassini
28. Artist's hue chart
29. ___ for (settle on)
31. Like a Jekyll-Hyde personality
33. Rushed headlong
35. Make less intense
36. Got on in years
38. Eight-track, e.g.
39. Hydrotherapy venue
41. Strong-arms
42. Trained in the ring
44. Suffix with ethylor methyl
45. Red Cross supplies
46. Blog comments
47. "Gesundheit!" inducer
49. Early times
52. River of Florence
53. Evening, in ad-speak
54. One on the move
55. Makes a boo-boo
58. Female gametes
59. Chinese author ___ Yutang
60. NASCAR ___ American Profile Hometown Content

C&W Festival

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See solution on Page 8

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:
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PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

2009 Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade Girls "Shockers" - Front (L-R): Maritzza Villanueva, Melissa Hernandez, McKenzie McAngus; Back (L-R) Coach Vickie Cathey, Megan Powell, Ivie Mynatt, Esmeralda Ruezga, and Coach Rance Cathey.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

2009 Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade Boys - Front (LR): Dalton Buchholz, Cade Ledbetter, and Michael Rios; Back (L-R) Jose Guerra Julian Garcia, Jaxon Sheppard and Coach Sammy Estrada.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade Girls: Front (L-R) Abilgal Narvarez, Kiara Trevino, Tori Guerrero and Marinda Villanueva; Back (L-R) Coach Lyndi Harri, Arden Mertz, Brittney McCulloch and Coach Traci Teaff. Not pictured Evelyn Martinez.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

2009 Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade Girls Team Front (L-R) Mika Key, Danielle Clark, Okshana Hernandez, Taylor Curtis, and Jessica Gandar; Back (L-R) Coaches Grant and Terri Curtis. Not pictured Luisa Muniz.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

2009 Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade Boys - Front Rafael Ruezga, Jose Olivares and Fabian Gomez; Back (L-R) Coach Laurence Brame, Garrett Emmons, Grant Emmons, and Christopher Martinez.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

2009 Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade "Longhorns" - Front (L-R) Justin Ochoa, Straight Pridemore, Deonn Fuentes; Back (L-R) Coach Donnie Fuentes, Bryce Carman, Dominique Ochoa, Junior Gonzalez and Coach Chelsey Hill. Not pictured Byron Aycock.

104 graduate DPS training academy

The Texas Department of Public Safety graduated more than 100 troopers today from the Texas Department of Public Safety's Training Academy.

"DPS is a vital organization in protecting the citizens of Texas," said keynote speaker State Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine. "Texas will be a safer place thanks to the men and women before me today. I am humbled by their commitment to serve and protect the people across this state. I thank them for choosing this challenging career, and wish them the best of luck in the future."

Thirty-nine of the 104 graduates had previous military experience. Anyone interested in becoming a state trooper can call the toll-free line, 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667), or visit the DPS website, www.txdps.state.tx.us, for more information.

The troopers began the 28-week training academy in September. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counter-terrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first aid and Spanish. They also received extensive use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness training.

Col. Stan Clark, director of the DPS, told the graduates that the people of Texas will depend on them for safety and protection.

"It's an exciting day for you and your families. You are now a part of one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country. You will be on the front lines protecting the citizens of Texas, who will expect you to act with the highest integrity. Make all of us proud," he said.

In about three weeks, the troopers will move to their new duty stations. They will spend the first six months in on-the-job training with a senior trooper.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

2009 Eldorado Youth Basketball 5th & 6th Grade Girls - Front (L-R) Stormi Rinehart, Whitney Perez, Suitara Martinez; Back (L-R) Coach Leann Higgins, Breana Crofoot, Jessica Gonzalez and Lucy Adwell.

Don't get hit with a penalty! "Render" your taxable property by April 15.

A "rendition" is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year.

Who must file a rendition?

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income—such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2008. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2009.

What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2009 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after May 15 for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:
Schleicher Co. Appraisal District
Box 936; 1 West Warner Ave.
Eldorado, TX 76936

For more information, stop by your appraisal district and pick up

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"

Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528
or call: (800) 252-9121



or on the Web at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

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

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS CLASSIFIED ADS

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS

Persons who own their residence on January 1, 2009, may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since January 1, 2008, or has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now receive all benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below)

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead if they become 65 during 2006. Over-65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their area. Over-65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead if they wish. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral along with an interest rate of 8% annually, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district or the State Comptroller.

DISABLED VETERANS

Persons who have been declared disabled by the Veteran's Administration are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Farmers and ranchers may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the farm income to the property. This method is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

State law now requires the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. A 30 day filing extension is available by written request.

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JANI MITCHELL
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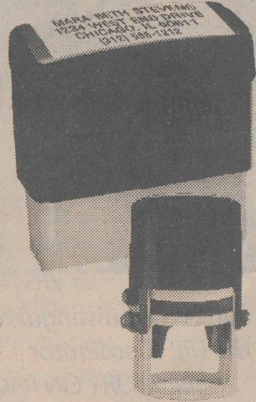
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Revised Notice to Bidders

Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 pm. April 15, 2009 for renovations and HVAC upgrades to the Schleicher County ISD Middle School Gymnasium and the High School Gymnasium, Eldorado, Texas. All bids are to be addressed to Mr. Billy Collins, Superintendent.

Bids are to be delivered to the Schleicher County ISD Administrative offices, 205 W. Fields, Eldorado, Texas. Bids received after 2:00 pm on April 15, 2009, will be returned unopened. All bids submitted in accordance with instructions will be publicly read beginning at 2:00 pm, April 15, 2009.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the amount bid, payable to Schleicher County ISD.

Bid Documents may be procured from Chapman Harvey Architects, Inc. after March 2, 2009 upon a deposit of \$100.00 per set, ten sets maximum. The deposit will be returned to plan holders who return complete sets of Bid Documents within 10 days of the bid opening.

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

Eldorado Spotlight



Lydia Vallejo, a true blue Eagles fan, ignored the cold and blustery winds last Friday as she watched her son Milo help the team to a 12-2 victory over the visiting Mason Punchers.

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ELDORADO-House for Sale: Sunset Acres, 3BR, 2BA, 2 Living Areas, 2 Dining Areas, Updated paint and floors. Established yard, new privacy fence. 325-277-1792. 10-13b

ELDORADO-House For Sale: 104 West Live Oak - 4 bedroom, 4 bath brick home on two lots. 4,399 square feet of living space. Covered parking with established yard with sprinkler system. Beautiful front porch, 2 living areas, dining room, office area, and kitchen with breakfast area. \$189,500 Call 325-226-4845. 12-15p

ELDORADO-HOUSE FOR SALE - 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, kitchen, living room, dining room, with added room to be finished. 207 West St. 325-853-1173 / 325-450-7167 14-15P

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800-443-9346 http://diamondhealth.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Schleicher County Medical Center Nursing Home is looking for **Certified Nurse Aide** to work a Full time position. For details Call Anita Jones, D.O.N. 325-853-2507 Ext. 138. 48ftn

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Plateau Underground Water Conservation & Supply District Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing Thursday, April 2, 2009 at Noon at the Schleicher County Annex, 203 SW Main St., Eldorado, Texas to consider a District Management Plan.

FOR SALE

For Sale: **Breeding Age Registered Brangus Bulls** - Top Bloodline. Fertility Tested. Call Tommy Reeh, Doss, Texas at 830-669-2325. 45ftn

★ AUCTION ★
ANNUAL MILES YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT SALE
Saturday, APRIL 18
Sale Time: 10 A.M.
Miles Coop Gin Yard - Miles, Texas
- NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS -
Large and small, for this sale. Please get your consignments in early so that we may properly advertise them.
For More Information Or To Consign Call:
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MarLon Rankin - 325/895-0514
Collin Klattenhoff
325/468-3461 Work
Or Email: miles.coop@pcca.com

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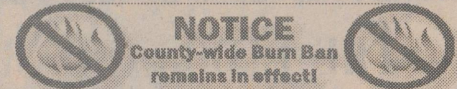
Estate/Garage Sales

ELDORADO-YARD SALE-FRIDAY April 3rd. 1/4 mile south 277. Kathy Faull's residence. 8am-3pm. Nice couch, clothes, home-made hot sauce, other misc. items. 14p

ELDORADO-YARD SALE-Sat. April 4. 9 am-???. 107 E. Brooks Clothes, books, toys curtains, home decor, lawn mower, gas weed eater, Lots More. 14p

ELDORADO-YARD SALE-FRIDAY April 3rd. 805 Lee Ave. Furniture, boys athletic shoes, and baseball pants, complete baby crib bedding set, various items. 14p

ELDORADO-YARD SALE-Saturday, April 4, 2009 107 Northfield Dr. 8 am-?? 14p



Lynn Meador Real Estate

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

115 Cotton Ave - A three acre tract in Edgefield Addition with access to city utilities (no sewer). Improvements include working pen and storage building. Some restrictions. **Price \$22,000.00**

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

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

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

104 Old Mertzton Rd - 4BR-2 Bath home on 0.308 acre tract. In very good condition with spacious floor plan, attractive hard wood floors, plenty of storage, central ac/heat, new roof, metal privacy fence and all metal shop/storage. Over 2100-square feet of living area. Near school. ~~\$99,800~~ **Reduced to \$92,000.**

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www.SonoraTexasRealEstate.com

Schleicher County Property For Sale

1740 CR 243
• 4BR/2BA w/10 Acres
• \$153,500

2140 Hwy 190
• 2BR/1BA w/80.383 Acres
• \$130,000

Hwy 190
• 88.036 Acres
• \$125,000

CR 404
• 84.838 Acres
• \$115,000

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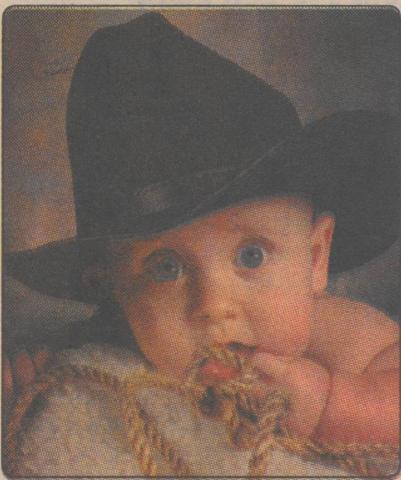
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2. Throw a wide loop.
3. Keep your powder dry.
4. Don't let your subscription to The Eldorado Success expire!
5. Never, ever squat with your spurs on!

We can help you with number four...

Just call **325.853.3125**

As for the rest, you're on your own!



EHS students placed 4th in the UIL academic meet held Saturday in Wink. The group captured 21 medals and 9 ribbons while distinguishing themselves in several areas of competition. Each contest is sponsored by an individual teachers while Teresa Vasquez is the UIL coordinator.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 8

USDA responds to producer concerns by extending sign-up deadlines for DCP and ACRE programs

ELDORADO — Jan Wanoreck, executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Schleicher, Sutton and Val Verde counties, announced today that USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program.

The action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

"Extending the sign-up deadline for both these programs ensure that

America's farmers have enough information and time needed to determine if ACRE is the right program for their operational needs," said Wanoreck. "The DCP and ACRE programs play a critical role in the farm safety net and it is vital that we act to support the hard work of the farmers we depend on."

Sign-up for ACRE is expected to start in late April, with an official sign-up announcement to be made in the coming weeks. Producers can elect ACRE at their FSA county office after the sign-up period commences. The original June 1 deadline may have forced producers to

rush their decision, which is why this extension gives producers more time to make an informed decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond through 2012.

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent

reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

For more information about ACRE, DCP and other price support programs, please visit your local USDA Service Center or your local FSA county office. You can also obtain information on-line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Staples awards \$11 million in stimulus funds for nutrition programs

AUSTIN — Amid rising economic turmoil, Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples is working hard to make sure stimulus dollars are used to benefit Texas school children and Texas schools. The Texas Department of Agriculture received more than \$11 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to replace food preparation equipment in schools.

"It is my first priority to ensure any dollars allocated to the Texas Department of Agriculture are used efficiently and have the greatest impact to the eligible recipients," Commissioner Staples said. "Schools can use this money to replace old, worn-out equipment and make sure our children are receiving healthy meals. These funds will go a long way to improving the nutritional offerings in schools."

To be eligible for funding, school districts must participate in the national school lunch program; priority will be given to schools with a majority of students eligible to receive free or reduced-cost meals. Funds must be used to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of delivering meals. Schools can use the money to replace, upgrade or update equipment.

"I think this is a fabulous opportunity for school districts," Beth Wallace, Food Service Director of Comal Independent School District said.

Eligible school districts can apply beginning April 1 and can find more information at Squaremeals.org. TDA administers the nation's largest school lunch and breakfast program.

"Productivity appraisal" may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timberland!

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon the "production value" of their land rather than on market value. This "productivity appraisal" means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber—not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district by April 30 to take advantage of this benefit on your 2009 property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it by April 30. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

For more information, call or come by:

Schleicher Co. Appraisal District
 Box 936; 1 West Warner Ave.
 Eldorado, TX 76936

We'll be happy to answer your questions and provide you a free copy of

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"

Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
 Property Tax Assistance Division
 P.O. Box 13528
 Austin, Texas 78711-3528
 or call: (800) 252-9121



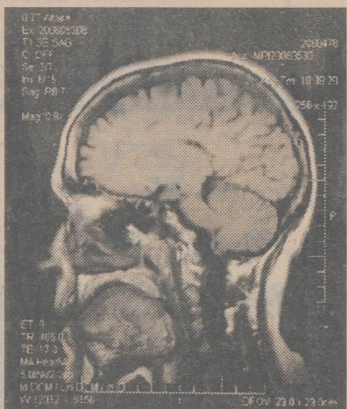
or on the Web at:
www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

State-of-the-art MRI available on-site at Hudspeth Memorial

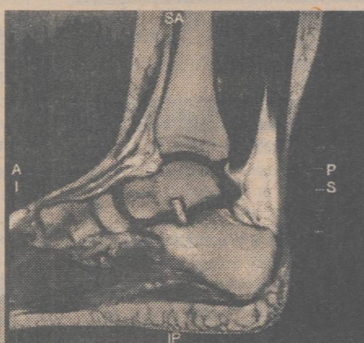
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) produces diagnostic images of astonishing quality, allowing your doctor to diagnose disease or evaluate problems accurately without the use of radiation.

Hudspeth Memorial has an on-site 1.5 Tesla MRI unit equipped with the latest in computer software, allowing us to provide this advanced care to people throughout the Sonora trade area.

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Hudspeth Memorial's state-of-the-art MRI is especially useful for examining soft tissue, your brain, your muscles and skeletal system, your heart and arteries, and early detection of cancer.



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