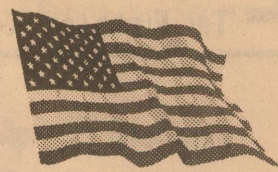


Pee wee League and Major League team photos inside



THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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VOLUME 102, ISSUE 25

"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"

JUNE 19, 2003

Lucas joins SCMC as Chief of Staff

When Dr. James Lucas came to Eldorado last week, he thought he was doing a favor for his longtime friend Andy Freeman.

Freeman, a partner in Preferred Management, a consulting firm that is under contract to Schleicher County Medical Center, had asked Lucas to accompany him to Eldorado and to assist with recruiting a physician to the facility.

Lucas said that he had heard a lot about the local hospital from Freeman and was intrigued by the opportunity to come to Eldorado and look it over. But, the doctor says he wasn't prepared for what he found when he arrived here.

"This is a marvelous facility!" Dr. Lucas told the Success. "The staff is exceptional and the equipment that's been put in place here is out of this world."

Soon, the doctor who thought he was coming to Eldorado as a favor to a friend, and who expected to be helping to recruit another physician, found himself being recruited instead.

A whirlwind series of meetings resulted in Dr. Lucas returning to Eldorado on Monday, June 16, to meet with the hospital district's board of trustees.

Andy Freeman and Hospital Administrator Sharon Dietz met with the trustees in executive session before bringing Dr. Lucas in for an interview.

"I knew that if we could just get him in front of the board they would love him and he would love them," Dietz said later.

She was apparently right. After meeting with Lucas for the better part of an hour, the trustees voted unanimously to hire him as medical director for the hospital, nursing home and clinic, and to serve as the facility's Chief of Staff.

Lucas plans open a clinic practice here beginning in mid-August. He comes to Eldorado from Agra, OK, where he makes his home with his wife, Marty. Dr. Lucas is currently in general practice at Wetumka Hospital in nearby Wetumka, OK.

Lucas will take over as SCMC Chief

of Staff from Dr. Gordy Day of San Angelo. Dr. Day was appointed as interim Chief of Staff following the recent departure of Dr. Patrick Taylor.

Dr. Lucas is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. He served a rotating internship at the United States Public Health Service Hospital in Norfolk, VA., and was the senior assistant surgeon at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, AK. He also served a 2-year residency in anesthesiology at the University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC.

The doctor then spent two years in private practice at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, AK, followed by 16 years in Holdenville, OK, where he was in general practice and had a private practice in anesthesia. A five year stint in general practice at Holdenville and Wetumka, OK, followed. Then, in 1993, he moved to Rusk, TX, where he was in general practice at the Rusk Family Health Center for eight years.

That's when he retired....but, it took only seven months for Lucas to decide that retirement wasn't for him and he returned to the practice of medicine at Wetumka.

Board President Randy Mankin welcomed the doctor to SCMC following Monday's board meeting. "We are delighted that Dr. Lucas has agreed to join us. It isn't often that you can find a physician of his caliber," Mankin said. "I'm happy to welcome him aboard."

Mankin also took the opportunity to mention another physician. "I would also like to say how very much we appreciate Dr. Jim Brame," Mankin said. "He stepped in to staff the clinic on very short notice and I, for one, want him to know that it is noticed and appreciated by his friends and neighbors."

Look for others to be joining the staff at SCMC soon. The Success has learned that, even as Dr. Lucas was being hired, efforts were underway to recruit a second physician to the clinic, a move that apparently pleases Lucas.

There is also talk of hiring a nurse practitioner to assist Dr. Lucas and a possible second physician.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Yes, there's a doctor in the house — Dr. James Lucas was hired Monday to serve as the Chief of Staff and medical director at Schleicher County Medical Center. He will open a clinic practice here in August.

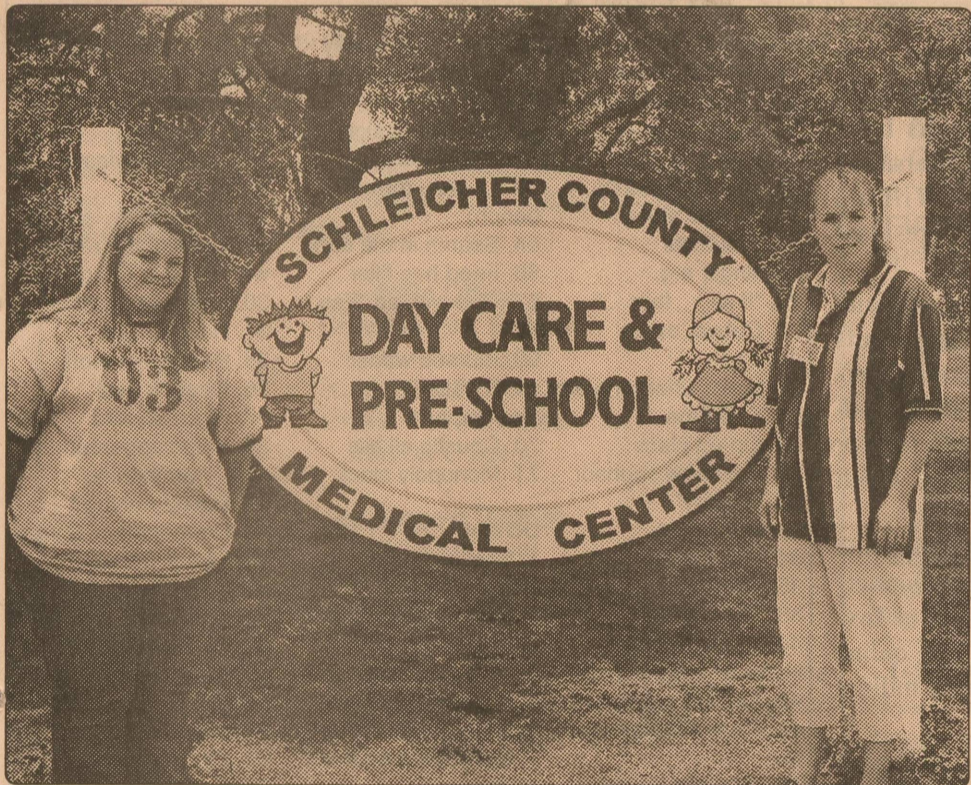


PHOTO BY LORI STRICKLAN

More changes at SCMC — Layna Murr and Dana Shriver stand with the sign outside the newly opened Day Care and Pre-School at Schleicher County Medical Center. The facility, located at the corner of West Callender and South West Streets, is open only to employees of the hospital district. It is hoped the center will help the clinic, hospital and nursing home retain employees.

Comptroller Strayhorn delivers sales tax rebates

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn sent \$303.7 million in monthly sales tax payments to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts last week. That total is down, down 0.9 percent compared to June 2002. So far this year, local sales tax revenues are down 1.4 percent compared to the same time period in 2002.

June's sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected in April and reported to the Comptroller in May.

Comptroller Strayhorn sent June sales tax rebates of \$205.5 million to Texas cities, up 1.1 percent compared to June 2002. Year-to-date, city sales tax rebates are running 0.3 percent lower than last year. Texas counties received

sales tax rebates of \$17.6 million, down 4.4 percent compared to one year ago. Year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 1 percent lower than last year.

Locally, the sales tax rebates offer a mixed picture for the local economy. Schleicher County's payment was up considerably from one year ago. So was the rebate for the County Health Services Tax. The City of Eldorado's rebate was down, however, due mainly to an overpayment reported in previous months. (See chart below)

The state's share of sales tax revenue increased, after falling for ten consecutive months. The state's share of sales tax reported in May was \$1.3 billion, up 2.9 percent compared to a year ago. However, other state tax revenues

continue to decline. Franchise tax paid by Texas businesses in May, the most critical month, was down 11.7 percent compared to last year. Motor vehicle sales and rental tax collections were also down by 8.3 percent compared to May 2002.

For details of June sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, July 11, and will be reported the following week in The Success.

City/County land \$80,000 grant for communications equipment

Schleicher County and the City of Eldorado are set to receive grant funds totalling more than \$80,000.00. The news came after a regional review committee, made up of mayors and county judges from across the Concho Valley, met last Thursday to divide up more than a half million dollars from the federal Homeland Security Department.

The funds, aimed primarily at improving the way local governments and emergency service agencies communicate with one another, totalled just over \$1.1 million. Half of the money had already been directed to the various cities and counties within the Concho Valley by a state panel, based on a complicated formula that took into account population, tax rates and other criteria. The City of Eldorado received just over \$14,000 in that distribution while Schleicher County received more than \$25,000.

Members of the regional review committee reviewed the purpose of the project and discussed several ways of

dividing the remaining half million dollars. Ultimately, the committee chose to follow the formula used by the state panel and voted to simply double each entity's grant. That meant that between them, the City of Eldorado and Schleicher County will receive more than \$80,000 with which to upgrade communications equipment.

The money must be used to enhance existing communications systems so that various local governmental agencies can communicate with other agencies. For example, a link could be installed to allow local sheriff's deputies to communicate by radio with city personnel.

A mutual aide agreement must be signed by city and the county before Dec. 31, 2003, in order for either of them to qualify for the money. Also, all funds must be spent by Sept. 2004.

Charles Graves, who serves as the homeland defense coordinator for the CVCOG, explained during the meeting that a second round of funding is expected next year.

June 2003 Sales Tax Rebates						
Local Jurisdiction	June '03	June '02	% Change	2003 YTD	2002 YTD	% Change
City of Eldorado	\$ 3,608.45	\$ 5,446.96	33.75% ↓	\$ 38,609.59	\$ 40,448.46	4.54% ↓
Schleicher County	\$ 8,133.66	\$ 5,016.32	62.14% ↑	\$ 47,459.68	\$ 35,833.69	22.44% ↑
Schleicher Co. Health Services Tax	\$ 8,004.82	\$ 6,113,7413	30.93% ↑	\$ 41,348.10	\$ 35,028.71	18.04% ↑

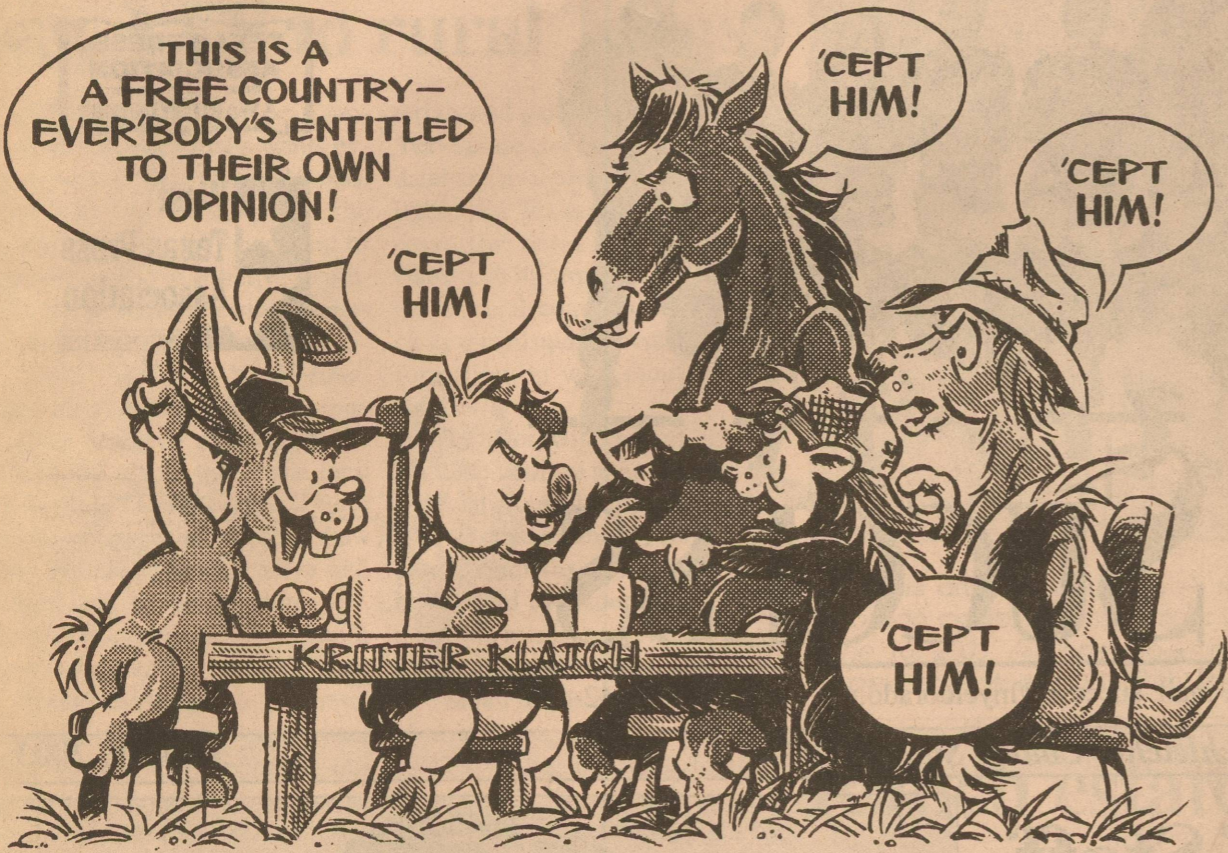
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ZERO TOLERANCE ON INTOLERANCE...

Good night, David



OVER THE BACK FENCE by Randy Mankin

David Brinkley, journalist, news man, and television pioneer, died this week, one month shy of his 83rd birthday.

Growing up as a member of the first TV generation, my initial exposure to journalism came not from newspapers, nor from magazines, but from a flickering picture tube in my parent's living room.

In time I would gravitate more toward the printed word, but in those early years, through my childhood and early teens, television news was my window to the world and through that window I saw many wondrous things.

I saw Soviet Premiere Nikita Khrushchev take his shoe off and

pound it on his desk at the United Nations as he promised that the Soviet Union would bury us all.

I also watched as President Kennedy's flag-draped coffin crept slowly down Pennsylvania Avenue.

There would be many other funerals. Television news is really good at funerals. There were funerals for soldiers, astronauts, civil rights leaders and senators. Through it all, David Brinkley was there, holding my hand as he whispered in my ear, telling me what all of it meant.

Brinkley was one-half of the famed "Huntley-Brinkley Report" on NBC. He was younger than his colleague and therefore more appealing to a youngster like myself. I grew to respect him without knowing it. Each night Brinkley would sign off the show by saying, "Good night, Chet." To which Huntley would reply, "Good night, David, and good night from NBC News."

One thing confused me about David Brinkley. Never one to tolerate cigarette smoke, I failed to understand why he insisted on smoking while on camera.

Years later I learned that the cigarette companies that sponsored most of the news shows required all the news anchors to smoke while on the air.

As I grew up and matured, David Brinkley grew older and wiser. He left NBC and the evening news format that he had pioneered in the '50s and launched an entirely new program on ABC. Titled "This Week With David Brinkley," it was the first hour-long Sunday morning news/interview show and it quickly became the model for a host of imitators. None of them ever came close, at least not as long as David Brinkley was there.

As my tastes in news changed, and my own view of the world became more conservative, I appreciated Brinkley even more. He was erudite and articulate. But he never wasted the words he so deftly employed. Just the opposite, he was stingy with language and used words with economy. It was almost as if he spoke like a good newspaper reporter writes, using only the absolute minimum number of words to tell the story.

I finally outgrew most television news. I found I couldn't trust it to tell me the truth. Too many hidden agendas and far too much bias. But, I never outgrew David Brinkley. Any time he was on I would hurry to turn up the volume and hang on every syllable of every well chosen word.

Although many reporters have asked and even more pundits have speculated about David Brinkley's political beliefs, he would neither confirm nor deny.

"That's not what they pay me to do," he told one nosy reporter.

Oh, for a thousand just like him!

David Brinkley died this week. We shall not see his like again.

Good night, David.

Stack of bills awaits June 22 signature deadline

AUSTIN — The legislative process in Texas has gone from sine die to sign or die.

When the Legislature adjourns sine die, the governor has 20 days to sign or veto bills. Facing that June 22 deadline, Gov. Rick Perry had signed 202 bills as of June 10.

Three of the bills Perry put his name on will have a big impact on homeowners, but not as much of an impact as some had hoped.

The biggest of the three was Senate Bill 14, which effective on

State Capital Highlights

by Mike Cox

its signing date placed all insurance companies doing business in Texas under state regulation. Under the new law, the insurance commissioner has the authority to review and approve or reject rates for homeowners.

Affected insurance companies have a little less than three weeks to file their current rates with Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor, who then has three

months to approve the rates. That means the cost of new policies or renewals could begin going down by July, in some cases by as much as 25 percent.

That's the good news. The bad news from the consumer perspective is that this new, tough control only holds until December 2003. After that, insurance companies will be able to return to setting the rates they want.

The state will only be empowered to meddle with those rates if it believes they are too high, inequitable or discriminatory.

Consumer groups also were disappointed that the Legislature did not approve an across-the-board rollback of rates to January 2001 figures.

Also signed into law was House Bill 329, which sets up a licensing program for mold remediators and assessors — a previously unregulated industry. This law goes on the books effective Sept. 1.

A third insurance-related measure, Senate Bill 127, requires insurers to move more quickly on water damage claims. The idea behind this bill is to get water damage taken care of before mold has time to grow.

Cuts won't be healthy for some...

Another piece of legislation signed by Perry leaves a lot of state workers wondering whether they will be able to make their mortgage payments, much less their insurance fees.

House Bill 2292, which the governor transformed into law with the stroke of his pen, consolidates a dozen health-related agencies into four components under a new umbrella agency to be known as the Department of Health and Human Services.

Though the reorganization will save an estimated \$1 billion in tax dollars, it also will eliminate at least 2,162 jobs. Opponents of the legislation argued that the real loss could go as high as 5,000. Many of the lost positions exist only on paper or can be realized through retirements or attrition, but some proverbial pink slips will be in the offing.

History crisis...

Still up in the air is whether the 107-year-old Texas State Historical Association will suffer a 100 percent budget cut in its state funding. The association has been headquartered on the University of Texas campus since William Prather was the school's president in the early 1900s.

In modern times, the association has been receiving funds through the UT College of Liberal Arts, which is currently considering elimination of the Center for Studies in Texas History, which includes the TSHA.

The association publishes the Southwestern Historical Quarterly and the New Handbook of Texas, which is available free online and receives more than 1 million hits monthly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



ROLLING ALONG

WITH TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Dining Elegance in the Foothills of the Davis Mountains

We heard about the Laird Ranch while we were in Pecos. People said it had fine food. I went to Balmorhea and met John and Beth Laird. They moved there three years ago from Albuquerque and bought an old ranch headquarters on the edge of town. After spending a couple of years updating the place, they turned it into a reservations only dining facility. It has 4 rooms for overnight accommodations. Each room has a satellite TV with hundreds of channels.

Our dining experience was outstanding. After complimentary cocktails, we sat down and found a printed menu at our places. "Tumbleweed Smith Dinner" was printed at the top of a small piece of parchment paper that listed the six courses. They included blue cheese chips and pecan crusted turkey for appetizers, an avocado shrimp salad and creamed eggs with onion as antipasto, followed by the Laird Ranch signature tomato soup accompanied by delicious hard rolls. Then came a palate-clearing sorbet. The entree was pecan smoked and roasted prime rib of beef cooked slowly over a fire of orange wood. Vegetables included mashed potatoes, a signature hominy casserole, glazed carrots and wine soaked mushrooms. The dessert was creme brulee served with coffee.

John came to the table early in the meal to show us a printed guide to the 101 satellite radio stations available. We chose standards and light jazz.

Everything is made fresh, from scratch. Nothing comes from a

can. Beth prepares all the early dishes, vegetables and desserts while John cooks the meat and serves.

John has made his living in wholesale hardware. He still works in that area but is in Balmorhea on weekends. He and Beth had a catering business that put their kids through college.

"We enjoy cooking and eating and we're good at both," says John. "We've eaten in some of the finest restaurants in the country. When we find something we like, we try to find out how to make it."

The dining room has room for 4 or 5 couples. "It's ideal for folks who come in for a dinner with their friends or neighbors. We have an outdoor porch that can seat 35."

They serve a minimum of four people. BYOB.

When you go to the Laird Ranch, don't be in a hurry. After the sorbet and prior to the entree, Susan and I went to the Gazebo to watch the sunset. Outside speakers kept the music all around us. After the two and a half hour meal, we took a walk along the one mile hiking trail across the highway. John said while we were gone he would make a fire for us in one of the chimineas on the porch.

The prime rib was the best I've ever had. It was tender and flavorful and cooked just the way I like it.

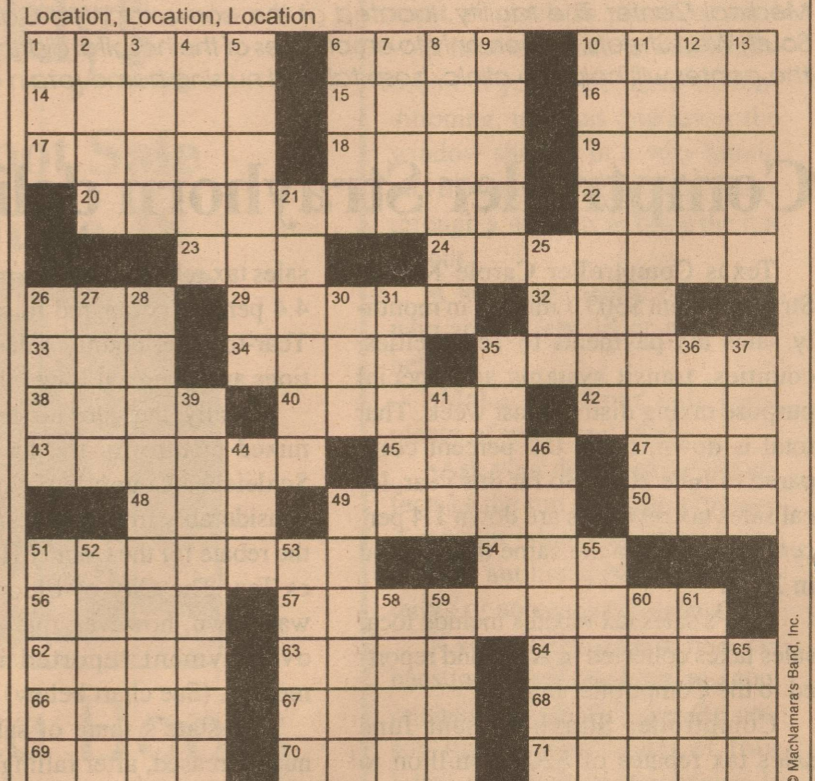
John and Beth say they came to Balmorhea for the people, the view and the tranquillity. "We like it here and love sharing it with our guests."

The meals are about forty dollars per person.

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS advertisement including contact information for Randy Mankin, Kathy Mankin, and Lori Stricklan, along with Texas Press Association award information.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS and DOWN word lists including clues like '1/60 fluid dram', 'Does in, in mob slang', 'Quatrain rhyme scheme', etc.



Advertisement for Kerbow Funeral Home, 'Established in 1943', family owned and operated, listing services and contact numbers.

OBITUARIES

Elmer Charles "Pete" Peters



ELDORADO — Elmer Charles "Pete" Peters passed away on Friday, June 13, 2003. Pete was born in Nashotah, Wisconsin, to Elmer A. and Anna Peters on Oct. 18, 1921.

He was stationed in the Eldorado area while serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II. During his stay here, he met his future wife, Frances Thompson. They married in January 1946 and made their first home in Wisconsin for a short period. They returned to Eldorado in 1947 and have lived there since that time.

Pete began working as an automobile mechanic, then owned and operated the Chevrolet Agency from 1955-60. From 1960 until his retirement in 1990, he was in the insurance and real estate businesses.

Pete believed in contributing to his community. He was a member of the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department for 12 years. He served as a member of the City Council, and was president of the Chamber of Commerce from 1964-68. During that time he played an active role in establishing the Schleicher County Rural Hospital District and served on that board for 12 years. In 1967 he

was recognized as an Outstanding Civic Leader in America.

One of his great loves was supporting and working with the youth of Eldorado. He coached Little League for eight years and was president of the Eldorado Booster Club for two years.

Pete was a member of the First United Methodist Church where he served on the Administrative Board, served as Sunday School Superintendent, taught a youth Sunday School class and was sponsor of the Methodist Youth Fellowship with Frances. He continued to grow in his faith by participating in the Walk to Emmaus and enjoyed his fellowship with others in that group and his Bible study group.

Pete is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Frances; daughter, Kay Heflin and her husband, Neal, of Acworth, Ga., and their children, Whitney Moss of Greensboro, N.C., and Scott Heflin of Knoxville, Tenn.; and his former daughter-in-law, Lesa Ritter and grandsons, Dustin Peters and Ross Peters, all of Lubbock. He was preceded in death by his son, Kenneth Charles.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 16, at the First United Methodist Church of Eldorado followed by graveside services. The Rev. Stan Troy officiated. Pallbearers were Dustin Peters, Ross Peters, Scott Heflin, Neal Heflin, Danny Curtis and Sidney Reynolds. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Orval Edmiston, Jo Ed Hill, Bob McWhorter, Ed Meador, Mort Mertz, Raymond Mobley, Harris Napier and Rick Sterling.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to First United Methodist Church, Hospice of San Angelo or the charity of your choice.

Dorothy Dell Arnold

Former San Angelo resident, Dorothy Dell Arnold, passed away Saturday, June 7, 2003, at her home in Herkimer, N.Y., after a brief battle with cancer. Dorothy was born Nov. 24, 1924, in Eldorado, Texas, to Fred and Edna Brunton.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 36 years, William S. Arnold, in 1983. She was buried beside him in the Houston National Cemetery.

She is also survived by her children, daughter, Barbara and hus-

band, John Keiser, of Herkimer; daughter, Suzanne and husband, Michael Bartniski, of Houston, Texas; son, William and wife, Michelle Arnold, of Fairbanks, Alaska; daughter, Vina and husband, Tony Dorff, of Leduc, Alberta, Canada; and also by grandchildren, Tina and John Baugh, Charlene Bartniski, Parker Dorff, Audra Dorff, Baron and Karen Dorff, and Sabra and Craig Lamb. Numerous great-grandchildren; and a large number of loving family and friends in San Angelo.

George Leo Hoffman, Jr.



George Hoffman, 27 year resident of Sonora, passed away at 1:15 a.m., June 4, 2003. George had been fighting cancer for the past 2 years. George will be remembered as a dedicated Christian, son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, hunter, fisherman, and author.

George was born May 14, 1935 in Center, Missouri to George L., Sr. and Bessie Hoffman. George is preceded in death by his father George Sr. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary Margaret Webb Hoffman who resides in Sonora; two daughters, Deborah Dennis of Mansfield, Texas, and

Cynthia Caldwell also of Sonora. He leaves behind his only granddaughter, Georgina Marie Maritz, who was the apple of her grandfather's eye and his favorite bass fishing buddy.

George is also survived by his mother Bessie Hoffman of Center Missouri; one sister, Susie Couch of Center, Missouri; brother David Hoffman of Hiawatha, Kansas; mother-in-law Gertrude Webb who made her home with George and Mary for the past 30 years; 2 son-in-laws Samuel Caldwell and Charles Dennis; plus many nieces and nephews.

George had multitude of friends, especially his hunting and fishing buddies who were devoted to calling and checking on him during his illness. They will never know the contribution they made in helping him get through the long and difficult days of illness. Their friendship are a treasure.

George was laid to rest Sunday, June 8, in Center, Missouri, his place of birth and family home.

Memorials may be made to: Samaritans Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC, 28607; or www.samaritanspurse.org.



Traci L'Ann Chappell and Jeremy Don Lemons

Chappell/Lemons engagement

Allen and Sharon Lemons of daughter of Rick and Luann Chappell of Hobbs, New Mexico. The wedding will take place in Hobbs, New Mexico at Belair Baptist Church on July 5, 2003 at 7:30 PM (Mtn Time). All are welcome to attend.

Loomis and Mankin receive Carr Academic Scholarships

Lori N. Loomis and J.L. Mankin of Eldorado were among 248 outstanding high school graduates to receive Carr Academic Scholarships from Angelo State University. The scholarships range in value to \$1,500 to \$6,000.

To qualify for Carr Academic Scholarships, entering freshmen must, as a general rule, rank in the top 15 percent of their class and present either a combined math and verbal score of 1140 on the SAT I or a composite score of 25 on the ACT.

The scholarship program at Angelo State is supported by a growing multi-million dollar trust established by the late Robert G. and Nona K. Carr of San Angelo.

Lori N. Loomis is the daughter of Raymond and Gina Loomis. J. L. Mankin is the son of Randy and Kathy Mankin.

Eldorado Forecast

Thu 6/19	Fri 6/20	Sat 6/21	Sun 6/22	Mon 6/23
89/61 Mainly sunny. High 89F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.	88/62 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.	93/65 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	94/67 Sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	96/67 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

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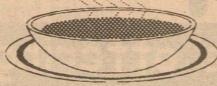
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Friday-Thursday	
• RUGRATS GO WILD dts (PG).....	1:00 3:15
• DOWN WITH LOVE (PG-13).....	1:30 4:15
• BRUCE ALMIGHTY dts (PG-13).....	1:45 4:10
• BRUCE ALMIGHTY (PG-13).....	2:45 5:10
• WRONG TURN (R).....	1:20 3:20
THE IN-LAWS (PG-13).....	
LIZZIE MCGUIRE dts (PG).....	2:30 5:00
IDENTITY (R).....	4:30 4:30
Times good for the week of 6/20 thru 6/26	
• RUGRATS GO WILD dts (PG).....	7:30 9:20
• DOWN WITH LOVE (PG-13).....	6:45 9:15
• BRUCE ALMIGHTY dts (PG-13).....	7:00 9:30
• BRUCE ALMIGHTY (PG-13).....	7:40 10:00
• WRONG TURN (R).....	5:20 7:20 9:40
THE IN-LAWS (PG-13).....	7:15 9:45
LIZZIE MCGUIRE dts (PG).....	
IDENTITY (R).....	7:05 9:20
*No Passes or Discounts	

Meals for Friends Menu



- Monday, June 23**
Swiss Steak w/ Gravy, Peas and Carrots, Corn Bread Muffins, Toss Salad, Orange Sections, Milk
- Tuesday, June 24**
Polish Sausage, Fresh Baked Sweet Potato, Steamed Cabbage, Corn Bread, Pears, Milk
- Wednesday, June 25**
Chopped Steak, Parslied Potatoes, Cooked Carrots, Wheat Bread, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Tapioca Pudding, Milk
- Thursday, June 26**
Bar-B-Que Chicken, Baked Beans, Calif. Mix Vegetables, Macaroni Salad, Cornbread, Fruited Gelatin, Milk
- Friday, June 27**
Tuna Noodle Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, Dinner Roll, Toss Salad w/ Tomato, Red Apple Sauce, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, Milk

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PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2003 Major Diamond Backs - Front L-R: Shane Young, Jonathan Belman, Eloy Bustos, Hervey Solis, Dylan Dombroski; Back L-R: Wes Brown, Coach Tinker Wipff, Dustin Ramos, Ben Wipff, Garrett Lux, Jaymie O'Harrow, Chris Whiddon and Coach John Rusler. Not pictured Kevin Dykstra.

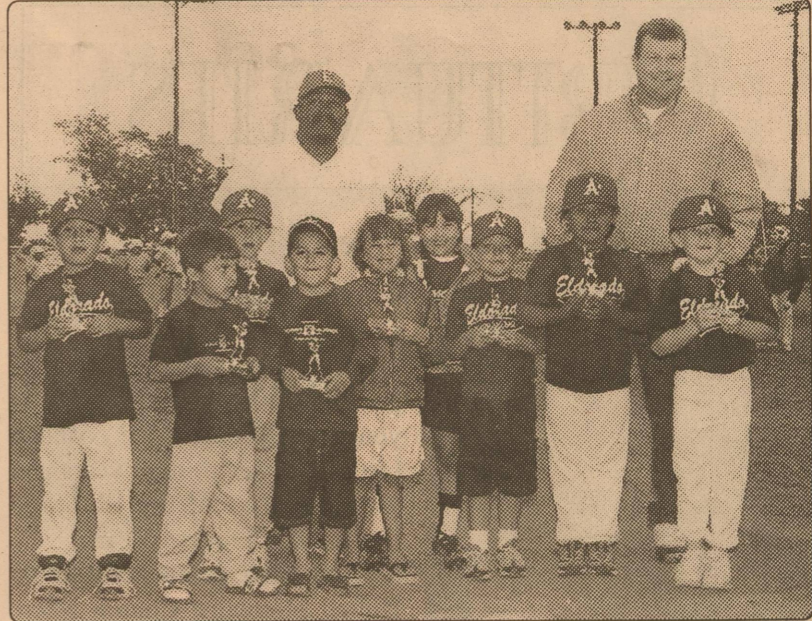


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2003 Pee Wee A's - Front L-R: Gabriel Villareal, Jacob Sanchez, Dalton Buchholz, Michael Rios, Tori Guerrero, Taylor Klee, Joshua Seymore, Ysenia Ramirez, Jonah Griggs; Back L-R: Coaches Tony Martinez and Walt Griggs.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2003 Majors Eagles - Front L-R: J.R. Martinez, Colten Daniels, Milo Vallejo, Tony McCord, Paul Martinez; Back L-R: Coach Emilio Vallejo, Dustin Guana, Jonathan Mejia, J'Lynn Barajas, Ryan Castillo and Coach Jesse Barajas and Ryan Castillo.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2003 Pee Wee Astros - Front L-R: Junior Gonzalez, Deonn Fuentes, Garret Kessler, Cade Ledbetter, Strait Pridemore, Whitney Perez, Justin Ochoa; Back L-R: Jessica Gonzalez, Coach Linda Gonzalez, Victoria Olivian, Alex Rodriguez, Domingue Ochoa, Kameron Wike, West Ramon, Coach Jessica Fuentes, Jose Guerra, Julian Guzman.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2003 Major White Sox - Front L-R: Austin Whitten, Robert Chavez, Junior Trujillo, Anthony Mata, Marty Powell; Back L-R: Meg Powell, Coach Johnny Powell, Miles Mikeska, Briley Ledbetter, Mason Baker, Austin Grubbs, Rance Cathey and Coach Syllas Politte. Not pictured Kevin Kohutek.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
2003 Pee Wee Rangers - Front L-R: Bailey Espinosa, Martin Iglesias, Byron Aycock, Tres Whitten, Joseph Estrada, Evelyn Martinez; Middle L-R: Jamie Sauer, Macy Mikeska, Caitlyn Grubbs, Justin Whitten, Ryan Espinosa, Jackson O'Harrow; Back L-R: Coaches Lynna Mikeska and Lisa O'Harrow.

Tech names Spring grads

Spring commencement at Texas Tech University saw more than 1,900 students awarded degrees. Commencement ceremonies took place May 17, 2003 in the United Spirit Arena on campus.

Tiffany Leigh Case graduated Cum Laude and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Multi-disciplinary Studies.

Her parents are Pete and Angela Case of Eldorado.

Michelle Lynn Frye received a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Agriculture.

She is the daughter of Charles and Pat Frye.

Super S awards scholarship

Super S. Foods, a Texas family owned and operated chain of supermarkets, has awarded over \$47,000 in academic scholarships this year to high school graduates throughout Central and South Texas. These scholarships will be used by the recipients to continue their education in various colleges and universities this fall.

Congratulations to Georgina

Maritz of Eldorado High School recipient of the Super S Food \$1,000 scholarship award. All recipients of the scholarships were chosen by their school principal and the selection was based on the students outstanding scholastic achievements.

Georgina Martiz is the daughter of Sam and Cynthia Caldwell.

Texas Tech names honor students

About 5,000 Texas Tech University students made either the President's List or the Dean's List for the Spring 2003 semester. To be on the President List or the Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and maintained either a 4.0 or 3.5-3.9 grade point average, respectively.

Kayla F. McCravey a sophomore majoring in Early Childhood was placed on the Dean's List for the Spring 2003 semester. She is the daughter of Chris and Chris McCravey of Eldorado.

Andrea L. Sterling a senior majoring in Visual Studies was also placed on the Dean's List for the Spring semester. She is the daughter of Rick and Becky Sterling of Eldorado.

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Exploring Pedernales Falls State Park

by Mark Campbell

We had one of two parks in mind when we headed to the Hill Country. Even as we neared them, we hadn't decided where we'd go.

A stop at a convenience store determined our path. (It was one of those gas stations/fast food combos that seems so wrong somehow.) We met a TPW warden there and, well, he was unhappy. He said he worked at Pedernales Falls SP, nine miles away. We asked about tubing; he said he thought the river was too low and ran out the door.

The cashier at the store gave us information that sent us to the park anyway: "They're filming *The Alamo* down there right now."

If you don't know, a new version of the greatest moment in Texas history is being refilmed with Dennis Quaid as Sam Houston and Billy Bob Thornton as Davy Crockett.

There's much concern about this film being a revisionist retelling of the Alamo. For instance, it may reflect the theory that Crockett survived the assault and was unceremoniously killed afterward. We Texans are rightly jittery about this movie that's coming out at Christmastime, Dec. 26.

I know a stunt man working on the movie, but, coincidentally, we got there Friday the 13th, the final day of filming. The last vestiges of a set overlooking the river were being broken down (mainly giant Styrofoam rocks workers toted around under one arm).

The falls

The Pedernales (pronounced: purd-nal-ess for some reason) River is the focal point of the park. However, be prepared to drive to get almost anywhere in this big park — over 5,200 acres — including a chance to see the "falls."

It's an almost 3-mile drive to get to park headquarters once you turn into the entrance to PFSP (where two deer calmly watched us pass), nine miles from Johnson City. It's \$4 each to get in. Then it's another 2-mile drive to the falls area.

An nice overlook has been created. However, if you prefer, you can walk down to the river on the left or Cypress Pool on the right. (Walking is a big player at PFSP.) You can traipse all over the smooth limestone and on the near shore (the far bank is private property here), but you can't get in the water — for three miles! They're quite strict about that, especially that mean warden, I suppose.

Still, there's plenty to see just by rock hopping. The river has carved scores of pools from the fossil-encrusted limestone — some big, some small. With the remarkably clear water, it's tough to tell how deep some of the pools are.

The river, which looks big a few miles back by the freeway, is whittled down by now, rushing through natural chutes. The river's flow was decent when we were there.

Signs everywhere warn of flash floods. Last year, massive rains (something we'd soon see) closed

most of the park when the Pedernales roared out of its banks.

In and around the pools are small fish, frogs, and some determined vegetation, including some colorful yellow and purple flowers. Kids especially will love bounding around this area. However, always remember that it's a testy uphill walk to get back to your vehicle no matter which part of the park you're visiting.

The falls themselves aren't anything eye-popping; in fact, they're not really falls but more like "tilts." The rocks just kind of slant down at this location. Still, it's refreshing to hear the river run and watch the water cascade down the stair-step rocks. The river is the star here.

Camping

This park, not too far from Austin and San Antonio, is popular. It was steadily filling up on the day we were there. All the electrical campsites are in one place at \$18 each. And each one requires a bit of a hike to get to the water.

At the entrance to the park is a small place to buy ice, firewood, and a machine to air up your tubes for 50 cents. That saves an 18-mile round trip back to Johnson City.

One thing we noticed was how nice the bathrooms were. Often, such areas are lacking in parks, but these two were exceptionally clean and had well-kept showers, which you really appreciate (especially for others) after the testy hike back from the river.

A nature trail runs off the southside of the camping area. It starts between sites 21 and 19 and ends between 15 and 13. (Campers in No. 19-21 could use the small nature trail parking area for their vehicle spill over. [Until they get caught.]) Nos. 15 and 13 will get a lot of foot traffic as the trail is not a true loop; you come out about 200 yards from where you went in.

And it's quite a trail, very rugged with thick grapevines. Usually interpretive trails are mundane paths. But this root-infested path bends between towering trees and rocky terrain. Eventually you can see and hear the river.

Later, closer to No. 15, there's a great scenic lookout at Twin Falls, a small natural waterfall. Look to the right to see some large tropical ferns clinging to the limestone cliff. (Very Fern Grotto-y if you've been to Hawaii.) This is a beautiful, peaceful section of the park.

For a nature trail, this one takes an effort, but it's worth it.

There is a long stretch of primitive camping on Wolf Mountain Trail. The tent sites overlook the river. But you've got to want to go there; it's a 2-mile hike to the primitive area. However, if you're one of those campers who carries around stoves and beds on your back, you probably won't mind at all.

The river

The Pedernales River is one of those clear rivers that those of us

who grew up in North Texas never knew existed. As a kid in Wichita Falls, I thought all rivers were impossible to see through, like the red water that flowed through the irrigation ditch behind our house. Or Lake Arrowhead.

Visitors can enter the Pedernales at a marked point and swim or float in the cool water. Not terribly deep in most places, the water is not cold like so many spring-fed rivers in the Hill Country. Some big rocks are under the water but can usually be seen by those frolicking about.

Unfortunately (for us), tubes were not available at the park. Wise campers had brought their own. Other people just opened up folding chairs and plopped down in the middle of the river, facing upstream. That's a pretty nice way to spend an afternoon, sitting under towering cypress trees, listening to painted buntings (and looking for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler) while the river flows all around you.

Lest you float away, an area called Trammel Crossing has been built — a man-made (the rebar didn't look natural), ankle-deep section that spans the entire river, about 60 feet across there. The shallow area helps tubers and others to disembark from the river. The current is a bit swift there but can be handled by most ages.

It's a substantial hike (over a quarter mile) back to the camping area from the crossing.

There's a designated swimming section upstream from the crossing. Keeping the park's tradition of making getting to the water an effort, it's a downhill walk via a series of 108 steps to get to the swimming part which is really just another part of the river but with many lovely cypress trees.

On the way down there, my eagle-eyed wife spied an almost new football in the overgrowth. It doesn't make up for losing the \$450 lens at Purtis Creek SP, but it's a start. Now we're just \$435 down.

Hiking

We were prepared to seriously hike. Powerbars in pockets serious. One path a mile long led to the backside of Twin Falls. That sounded neat.

But as we got ready to go, the sky, which had been gathering forces above us like Santa Anna, suddenly unleashed its forces on us, Alamo-style. (That's my pitiful tribute to James Michener's *Texas*, a novel everyone bought and no one read.)

Anyway, a massive downdraft heralded the arrival of some scary clouds swirling in a manner that could not be good. When a lightning bolt crashed nearby, we decided hiking could wait. We left, wondering if flash flooding was about to occur.

The hiking path is a popular one, divided up in many sections that allow for intersecting of trails. On the far side of Trammel Crossing is a 4-mile loop open to both hikers and bikers.

Horse enthusiasts will like the 10 miles of trails set aside for them. But no overnight equestrian camping is allowed.

Other PFSP facts

We saw a lot of interesting flora and fauna here. My wife got on her belly to see a "frog town" under a low, moist limestone overhang. All sorts of bugs scurried about — including a passel of daddy long legs (about 1,000?) huddled into a pulsating mass on a boulder — and we saw scores of lizards. But, alas, no horned frogs.

Fish are clearly visible in the water, some of substantial size.

The cypress trees present are remarkable with their massive trunks and root systems of "knees."

In some places near the river, the sand is deep and laden with shells and mussels. It makes the walking tougher and can get a little hot.

And walking you will do at PFSP. You can never drive close to the river. But that makes getting there special and a trip worth taking.



Lots of lumber — The author got no product placement fee from Dairy Queen while examining a huge cypress tree near Twin Falls.

X BAR RANCH

DINNER SHOWS 2003

June 28-Jazz Concho: "Grub-N-Jazz at the Lodge" Spend the evening and/or weekend with us enjoying beautiful scenery, great food, live Jazz and friendly conversation. Dinner show includes meal and live entertainment by Jazz Concho of San Angelo. Menu: Beef/Pork Country Style Ribs, Sausage, Fresh Summer Fruit and Vegetables and Homemade Desserts.

August 9-Terry Maxwell—a native San Angelo & professor of biology.

Place: X Bar Ranch, Live Oak Lodge near Eldorado, Texas
Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Meal Served +/- 7:30 Entertainment

Tickets sold in advance only for meal up to two days before each performance; Prices range from \$14 for adult/\$8 child for full evening. All tickets are non refundable, but are transferable.

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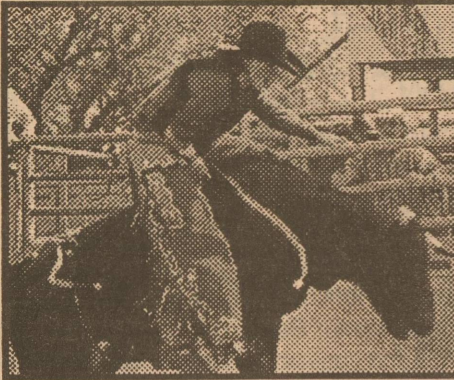
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NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Company (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act as set forth in the Texas Utilities Code, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all of the customers served by the Company in the incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas in the Company's statewide gas utility system (the "System"). The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact all classes of service and all fees and charges presently being assessed by the Company on its transmission and distribution systems. As of the filing date of the Company's Statement of Intent to change rates, the proposed rates are expected to approximately produce a \$69,524,311 or a 7.24 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from customers in the System. The proposed change will affect approximately 1,344,030 residential, 125,603 commercial, and 1,441 industrial sales and transportation customers in the System. The proposed change constitutes a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. The proposed changes in rates will not become effective for environs customers until similar changes have become effective within the nearest incorporated city or town. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$41.69, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$3.59 per month or a 9.4% increase. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$173.04, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$13.91 per month or a 8.7% increase. The effect of the proposed changes to rates and services for industrial sales and transportation customers, which may be significant for individual customers, will vary depending on type of service and consumption. The proposed change would constitute an increase of \$0.00 or a 0% increase in annual revenues to the Company for industrial sales and transportation customers. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas and all of the System cities and towns on May 23, 2003, is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with specific area questions or who want information about this filing may contact TXU Gas Company at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons located inside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with their respective municipality. Any affected persons located outside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, but have a limited time to do so. Pursuant to the Rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code Section 7.230, any affected persons may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the environs rates with the Docket Services Section of the Railroad Commission of Texas, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective. The Company is proposing to have these proposed rates become effective on June 27, 2003.

Este es un aviso para informar a los clientes de TXU Gas Company (la "Compañía") que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa de gas. Este aumento afectará a todos los consumidores de gas de la Compañía en el estado de Texas. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a TXU Gas Company al 1-800-460-3030.

X Bar Ranch plans dinner shows for 2003

When thinking of an evening out for entertainment on a West Texas ranch, the first things that come to mind probably aren't wine tasting, gourmet meals and jazz music. But in an effort to keep things fresh and exciting, the X Bar Ranch has cooked up an interesting recipe for its fourth annual Summer Dinner Show Series.

The series opener was held last month featuring local chef Brad Spradley and Ste. Genevieve wines. The wine tasting included three mouth-watering appetizers and an entrée paired with different wines, which are grown and made about 90 miles west of the ranch near Ft. Stockton.

The next dinner show, "Grub-N-Jazz at the Lodge," will take place on June 28. Live Jazz and

friendly conversation will be plentiful on the back deck and patio of the lodge. This dinner show will include beef and pork country-style ribs, fresh summer fruit and vegetables, homemade desserts and live entertainment by Jazz Concho of San Angelo. The group highlights five to eight instruments and a local favorite, John Talley.

The last show of the 2003 series will feature An Exciting Evening of Edutainment by Dr. Terry Maxwell is a native San Angelo and professor of biology, specializing in birds. Dr. Maxwell has studied in Texas, Alaska and much of Central and South America. His talk will cover thoughts on the changing fauna and flora of the Edwards Plateau region of Texas. That the landscape and its natural inhabitants have changed markedly since the days of buffalo and pioneer open-range ranching is well known, but the fact that change is still occurring requires a different focus to appreciate. Providing music during dinner and closing the show will be the Pards, a cowboy trio, singing all those favorite cowboy and trail songs. The menu for this evening will include beer baked chicken, fresh summer fruit and vegetables and homemade desserts.

Tickets are sold in advance only up to two days prior to each show. Gates open at 6:30 each evening, and the meal is served around 7:30 pm. Call for more information regarding the Dinner Show Series and/or for other activities at the ranch.

Solution to puzzle on Page 2

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BIRTHDAY LIST

- JUNE**
19th Lance Mitchel, Marty Edmiston
20th Mandee Wike, Stefan Barajas
21st Lindsay Beach, Scott McGregor, Sidney Reynolds, David Charboneau, Jeri Whitten
22nd Micky McGregor, Mildred Phillips, Betty Hanusch, Crissi McCormick, Carl Green, Ramon Adame Jr., Lee Overstreet
23rd Kyle Brown, Jeffery Donn, Oscar Martinez, Summer Finley, Mandy Belk
24th Will Whitten, Jerry Whitten, Chelsea Long, Janet Warnock, Mike Haynes, Tracy Brenner
25th Kristi Reeves

ANNIVERSARIES

- JUNE**
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25th Lester Paul & Kymm Nixon

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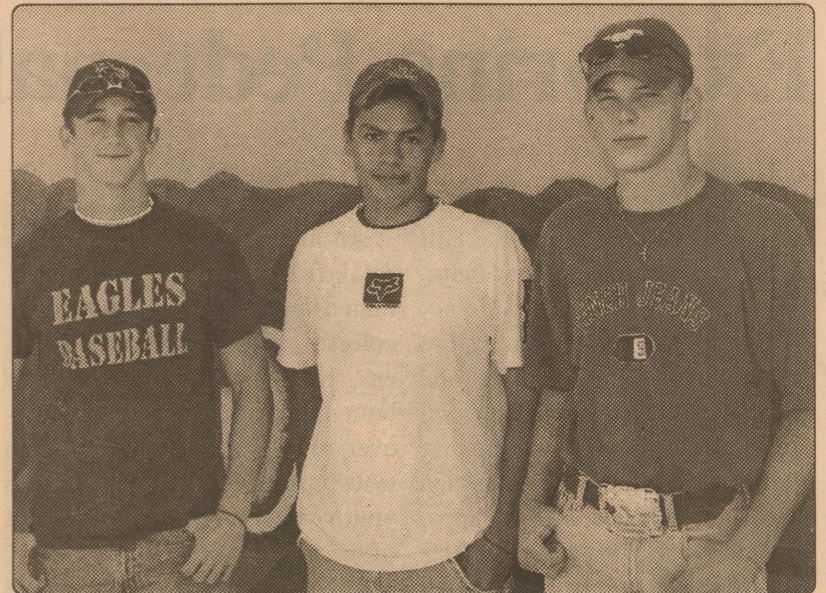


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Cowboy up — Representing Eldorado on the Texas High School Rodeo circuit this year were (L-R) Scott Cawley, Adrian Rodriguez and Travis Lively. All three young men performed well this year. Cawley and Rodriguez competed together in team roping. Cawley also competed in cutting and qualified for the State Finals Rodeo in the event. Meanwhile, Lively competed in bull riding and was the Region II Reserve Champion. He, too, qualified for the State Finals Rodeo.

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.

Dear Editor:

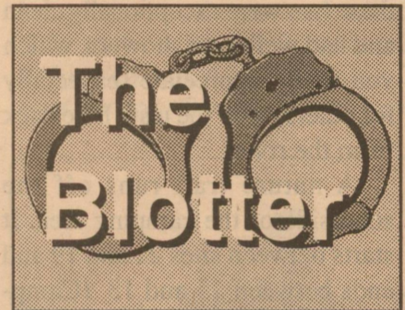
Just a note to tell everyone how much I appreciated all the help, monetary and manpower, that everyone gave to the Booster Club for the past two years. I hope that everyone will continue their support and make our Booster Club the best in the state.

I encourage each citizen to se-

lect at least one organization in our community and support that organization whole heartedly for at least one year. I promise that you, and everyone else, will see a positive difference.

Thanks again,
Bill Hodges

Booster Club Past President



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

- June 11** • Contreras, Valerie Marie, female age 19, arrested by SC Officer, offense Possession of Marijuana (less than 2 ounces) and out of county DPS warrant. Released on \$1,000 PR Bond.
- June 12** • Vouk, Robert Francis, male age 18, arrested by SC Officer, offense Possession of Marijuana (less than 2 ounces).
- Christensen, Alan Robert, male age 19, arrested by SC Officer, offense Possession of Marijuana (less than 2 ounces).
- June 15** • Rodriguez, Juan Roberto, male age 19, arrested by SC Officer, offense Family Violence/Bodily Injury/Class A Assault.

INCIDENT REPORTS

- June 10** • 11:35 p.m. Complainant reported neighbors playing loud music to late keeping their family awake. Officer responded.
- June 11** • 2:59 p.m. Complainant requested to speak with an officer. Officer responded.
- 3:45 p.m. Complainant traveling on Hwy. 190 East reported mowers driving recklessly. Officer responded.

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Combs urges public to say, YES to rural Texas

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs wants everyone to say "Yes!" to rural Texas. That was her message as she launched the Texas Department of Agriculture's new initiative to promote and showcase the cities, towns and counties of rural Texas.

"Texas Yes! will be a broad-based membership and promotional effort designed to spotlight the people and places that make rural Texas great," Combs said. "This is a strong message that will show how rural Texas is not only alive and kicking, but in fact creating new, dynamic opportunities that benefit the entire state."

Texas Yes! is open to businesses, organizations and government entities in non-metropolitan or unincorporated areas and cities with a population under 20,000. Associate membership will be offered to entities that help support and promote rural Texas, such as publications and travel associations.

Members will be able to use the Texas Yes! logo in promotional ma-

terials and participate in the Texas Yes! campaign; be included in the database available online to highlight rural Texas communities; receive the Texas Yes! newsletter filled with information and news of use to rural communities; and receive e-mail updates with timely information on workshops and resources.

The effort will kick off in October 2003 with the announcement of a special group of hardworking Texas towns that exemplify some of the best of rural Texas. The towns will be selected by a special panel representing media, government, marketing, tourism and business.

"Small towns are the backbone of rural Texas, and that's why Texas Yes! is big on small towns," Combs said. "There has never been a more important time to fight for them. Fortunately, we have all the right tools: great rural communities, strong state leadership all the way from the Governor's office down to the local level and an unwavering commitment to succeed."



60 years and still counting — Raymond and Betty Wilson of Eldorado celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Monday, June 16, 2003. A dinner honoring the couple was held in San Angelo at Zentner's Daughter Restaurant.

Ranch estate planning

Estate taxes are a major problem for ranch owners and their heirs. Dr. Wayne Hayenga, a Attorney with Texas Cooperative Extension, will hold a Ranch Estate Planning Seminar on August 6 and 7, 2003, in conjunction with the Annual Beef Cattle Short Course which will be held August 4-6. The Seminar will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on August 7 from 8:30 a.m. until noon. It will be held at the College Station Conference Center.

Topics covered will include the basic tools of estate planning: Wills, Living Trusts, and Powers of Attorney. But most of the time will be spent on income and estate tax saving plans for ranching families. Irrevocable trusts, generation skip-

ping trusts, bypass trusts, property ownership, community/separate property, special use valuation for ranches, partnerships and corporations will be discussed in the context of the gift and estate tax rules.

Dr. Hayenga is an excellent communicator. He delivers a top notch educational program emphasizing key points with an entertaining style illustrating estate and income tax law provisions with practical examples that make learning a pleasure. His teaching makes full use of his broad background and practical experience as a farmer, banker, and lawyer.

Registration fee is \$100.00 per person. It includes seminar materials, lunch on Wednesday, as well as refreshment breaks. For more information, call Sharon at (979) 847-9374.

WTAMU lists Spring honors students

Those named to the Dean's List must have a GPA between 3.25 and 3.85 and carry a minimum of 12 undergraduate hours.

Area students receiving honors were BreeAnne N. Davis she is a Junior majoring in Music. BreeAnne is the daughter of David and Tammy Davis of Eldorado.

Study shows Texas farm and ranch lands getting carved up

AUSTIN — Texas rural lands are being splintered into "ranchettes," endangering wildlife and the family farmers who make their living off the land, according to a joint study by American Farmland Trust and the Texas A&M University System.

"The study shows that mid-sized farms and ranches are disappearing fastest from the Texas landscape," explained Neal Wilkins, wildlife specialist at Texas Cooperative Extension. "Every year, we lose about 250,000 acres of mid-sized properties. In the rapidly fragmenting portions of the state, these farms and ranches are most often broken into smaller ownerships."

"Fragmentation often accompanies a change in land use," continued Wilkins. "Finding land for hunting and recreation is overwhelmingly the biggest motivator for land buyers today." The study found that an increase in the value of land for development or recreation ("nonagricultural land value") was a good early indicator that the size of the average farm or ranch property would soon decrease.

"The consequences of fragmentation can be seen in the eastern half of the state and on the outskirts of just about any major

city," said Julie Shackelford, American Farmland Trust's Texas regional director. "Even land in some of the most rural areas is in high demand for its scenic beauty and recreation potential."

"Farmers are feeling the pinch of fragmentation through rising land values, a breakdown of local agriculture and problems conducting their daily operations with busier roads and new neighbors. City-dwellers feel its impact through declining water supplies, open space, and higher taxes resulting from services needed by new developments," said Shackelford.

The study found that there is a strong correlation between rural land fragmentation and degraded wildlife habitat. Robert L. Cook, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said, "Loss of large blocks of contiguous grassland habitat is a major factor in the decline of Northern Bobwhite quail as well as other grassland birds and mammals."

The study was funded by The Meadows Foundation and Houston Endowment, Inc. An analysis of the study's implications and a map of the top 10 percent of Texas counties struggling with fragmentation can be found on American Farmland Trust's Web site (<http://www.farmland.org/>).

TDH hot weather advisory

The Texas Department of Health Regions 9 and 10 advises area residents to take precautions during hot summer weather to reduce the risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat exhaustion occurs when a person has been in a very warm place, indoors or outdoors, has sweat profusely and has not replaced the fluids and salts lost during sweating. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include: confusion, dizziness, nausea, headache, stomach cramps, shallow breathing, muscle tremors and heavy sweating.

Heat Stroke occurs when the body can no longer control its temperature. A person with heat stroke

will have a high body temperature (up to 106 F); hot, dry skin; no sweating; a rapid heartbeat and may lose consciousness. Heat stroke can result from over exposure to sunlight or to disability if not treated quickly.

To reduce your risk of heat stroke or heat exhaustion:

- Drink plenty of fluids. You need 1 1/2 quarts of fluid each day, even if you do not feel thirsty. When you are working or exercising you need even more fluids. Choose water, fruit juice, or other non-alcoholic beverages. Avoid alcohol, caffeine and beverages with a lot of sugar.

- Plan strenuous outdoor activities for early or late in the day when it is cooler. Take frequent breaks when you are working outdoors.

- Wear a hat, sun screen and light-colored, loose-fitting clothes when you are outside. Inside, wear as few clothes as possible. Babies should also be dressed lightly, in loose-fitting clothes during hot weather.

- Never leave a person or a pet in a closed, parked vehicle. The air temperature in a car can rise very quickly during hot weather.

- Stay indoors in a cool environment as much as possible, until your heat tolerance is well established. If you do not have air conditioning, use fans and lower the window shades. In a very humid environment, aim your fans through a window to blow the hot air out.

- Check frequently on people who are elderly, ill or may need help.

- Make sure your pets have plenty of water and shade.
- Ask your doctor about the effects of the sun and heat exposure if you are taking prescription diuretics, antihistamines, mood-altering or antispasmodic drugs.

If you notice signs of heat exhaustion, move the person to a cool or shaded place and give the person liquids (cool water or fruit juice). Call a doctor for advice. If you suspect heat stroke, cool the person rapidly in a cold water bath (not iced) or wrap the person in wet sheets. Call 911 for an ambulance to transport the person immediately to the nearest hospital. Do not give fluids by mouth if the person is unconscious.



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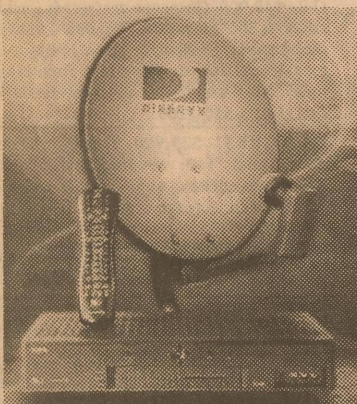


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