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THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

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Jeffs facing yet another lawsuit in Utah

A young woman identified only as M.J. filed a lawsuit Tuesday against FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs in Utah's 5th District Court, located in Cedar City.

The lawsuit alleges that Warren Jeffs, acting as the "alter ego" of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, commanded M.J., and underage girl, to enter into a "spiritual marriage" with an adult man, many years older than her. The man is identified only as S.J.

Jeffs is also accused of performing the marriage ceremony between S.J. and M.J. without the girl's consent

and without a marriage license or legal sanction.

The lawsuit continues by alleging that Jeffs instructed and commanded M.J. and S.J. to live together as husband and wife and to have sexual relations in order to produce children and thereby "multiply and replenish the earth."

The marriage allegedly resulted in pregnancies which were physically and emotionally devastating to the girl.

The lawsuit is brought by Salt Lake City, UT law firm of Hoole & King, L.C., the same lawyers who successfully sued Jeffs and the FLDS church on behalf of

Jeffs' nephew Brent Jeffs and a group of young men known as "The Lost Boys." Brent Jeffs accused the FLDS prophet of sexually abusing him when he was a young boy. The Lost Boys claimed they illegally excluded from the church in order to reduce competition for young brides.

Hoole & King's clients won both of those lawsuits by default judgement when Warren Jeffs failed to appear to defend himself.

Although the latest legal action is a civil lawsuit, the charges are similar to those made in felony criminal indict-

ments the State of Arizona obtained against Jeffs in Mohave County. He stands accused there of arranging and performing marriages between underage girls and some of his older male followers. The indictments resulted in a warrant being issued for Jeffs' arrest and subsequently in a federal charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

This latest lawsuit accuses Warren Jeffs of: 1) Conspiracy to commit battery and sexual abuse of a child; 2) Infliction of emotional distress; 3) Outrage due to the conduct that goes beyond the bounds of decency; and 4) Breach of his fidu-

ciary duties as leader of the church.

The lawsuit asks for a jury trial and seeks unspecified general damages, special damages, punitive damages, court costs and other financial relief as the court should deem reasonable.

Despite being sought by multiple law enforcement agencies in four states, Warren Jeffs remains at large. The fugitive prophet's followers are building a massive temple as well as numerous other buildings on the YFZ Ranch near Eldorado. Sheriff David Doran says there is no evidence, however, that Jeffs is on the property.

County awards contract to extend sewer lines

Schleicher County commissioners met Monday, Dec. 12, 2005 and voted to award a \$255,035.21 contract to Hardin Plumbing, Inc. of Junction for the installation of sewer lines in the Edgefield Addition, just outside the Eldorado city limits. Hardin Plumbing won the bid over three other companies competing for the project. The highest of the bids, submitted by Darnell & Dickson of San Angelo, came in at more than \$376,000.00.

Most of the sewer project will be paid for with grant money from the Texas Colonia Fund. The fund is administered through the Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs in conjunction with the Concho Valley Council of Governments.

Schleicher County has tried for the grant before and came close many times, but this year is the first time the project was funded. The county pledged \$24,500.00 toward the project but will now provide an extra \$20,000.00, since the bids came in higher than expected.

The county's civil engineer, David Todd of Abilene, explained that he could scale the project back and save the county the additional \$20,000.00, but the commissioners were eager to get on with the much needed work and voted to pay the extra money.

The decision to move ahead came during the commissioners' regularly scheduled meeting. It was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by County Judge Johnny Griffin, with commissioners Matt Brown, Kirk Griffin and Johnny Mayo in attendance. Commissioner Bill Clark was absent.

Among other items of business, the commissioners received bids on a truck chassis and cab for a water truck. Young Truck Center submitted the winning bid of \$61,197.00 for a Sterling LT 7500. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

The men then heard from Fire Chief Jerry Jones who updated them on the progress his department is making on converting a recently purchased truck chassis and cab into a fire truck. He explained that the Fire Department raised enough money to purchase a water pump and air-cooled diesel engine for \$13,515.39. Jones said the truck is nearly complete and will soon be put into service.

The Fire Chief then advised the commissioners about several fires his department found itself battling in recent days. Two of the fires were caused by downed power lines, Jones said. Another was caused by a local rancher burning trash in a pit. Jones noted that a county-wide burn ban is still in effect and urged everyone to exercise extreme caution, especially since the countryside is so dry.

Next, the commissioners approved 12 county holidays for the upcoming year, including Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King Day); Monday, February 20, 2006 (President's Day); Friday, April 14, 2005 (Spring Break); Monday, May 29, 2006 (Memorial Day); Tuesday, July 4, 2006 (Independence Day); Monday, September 4, 2006 (Labor Day); Monday, October 9, 2005 (Columbus Day); Friday, November 10,

SEE COUNTY ON PAGE 7



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Only three more performances! Time is short for those wanting to see the Way Off-Broadway Players production of "A Sanders Family Christmas." Performances are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday in the Ratliff Civic Theater. Here Dennis Sanders (Marcus Murr) and his twin sister Denise (Luanne Shipman) decorate their sister June Sanders (Maela Edmonson) who is pretending to be a cactus while the group sings "Cactus Christmas Tree."

City looks to hire code enforcement officer

The Eldorado City Council met Monday, Dec. 12, 2005 and spent much of the meeting discussing the need for a code enforcement officer. City Secretary Carolyn Mayo advised the council that she knows a person who is interested in taking on the job of enforcing city ordinances on a part-time basis.

Ultimately the council voted to authorize the expenditure of \$9,000.00 to hire a part-time person for the job. The money is to fund the position for the remaining 9 months of the city's fiscal year.

Mayor John Nikolauk convened the meeting with council members Juquin Rojas, Richard Mendez, Tommy Minor, Dora Bosmans, Toni Sudduth and Bill McCutcheon in attendance. Among other business, the council voted to hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the city's mobile home ordinance.

The council is also considering changes to the 1950 fireworks ordinance as well as the ordinances regulating

animal control and junked or abandoned vehicles.

The council then voted to join the Association of Rural Communities in Texas at the urging of Mayor Nikolauk. It was explained that the group is forming a local official advisory committee that will meet quarterly with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The mayor also explained that C-bridge Connections, the local cable TV provider, is intending to raise its rates in January.

Next, the council approved the city's holiday schedule for 2006. The list contains 12 holidays including: Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King Day); Monday, February 20, 2006 (President's Day); Friday, April 14, 2005 (Spring Break); Monday, May 29, 2006 (Memorial Day); Tuesday, July 4, 2006 (Independence Day); Monday, September 4, 2006 (Labor Day); Monday, October 9, 2005 (Columbus Day); Friday, November 10, 2006 (Veteran's

Day); Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 25 (Thanksgiving Day); and Friday and Monday, December 22 and 25, 2006 (Christmas Day).

The council also okayed the payment of "longevity pay" to city employees. The payment is made each year in lieu of a Christmas bonus.

Utility Superintendent Floyd Fay then reported that the trash truck will be down for repair. He also noted that city crews had been busy fixing potholes until cold weather interfered.

City Secretary Carolyn Mayo then presented the Investment Report showing a current balance of \$990,389.36. She noted that \$117,075.38 of the city's \$208,080.15 tax levy for 2005 has been collected.

Ms. Mayo further explained that she recently attended investment and election schools and she updated the council on proposed changes that might effect the city.

The next meeting of the Eldorado City Council is slated for Monday, January 9, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

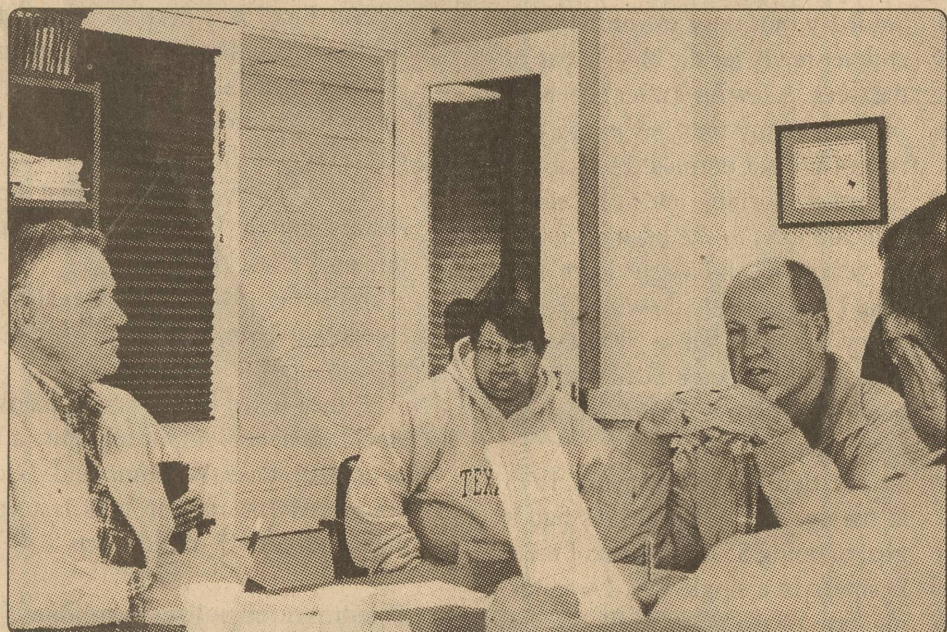


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Civil Engineer David Todd (2nd from right) reviewed details of the sewer system expansion in Edgefield Addition with Schleicher County Commissioners during their Monday morning meeting. The commissioners awarded a \$255,035.21 contract to Hardin Plumbing, Inc. of Junction. Holbert L. Hardin (background) was on hand for the bid opening.

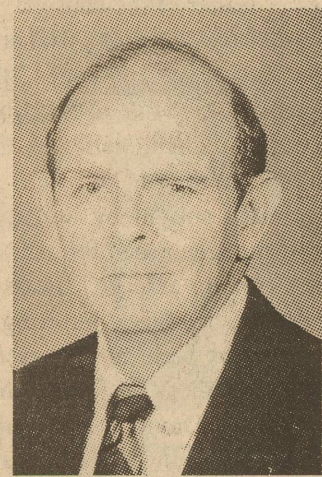
Those 'First Christmases After'

by Dr. Earl Tilford

While I cannot say I look forward to Christmas, I celebrate it, even if less enthusiastically as time passes. Perhaps it's the "bah humbug factor" that comes with fading eyesight and the other vicissitudes of what is, however—at least for now—still preferable to the alternative.

For me, two Christmases contributed immeasurably to my bah-humbug factor, each vying for "worst"... my two "First Christmases After."

The first worst Christmas of my life was my twenty-sixth. I had just returned from Indochina, where I served as an Air Force officer. A few months



Commentary
by Dr. Earl Tilford

before the end of my tour, orders for my next assignment in Omaha, Nebraska arrived along with my divorce papers. I welcomed neither since as a Floridian, I detested snow, and my Christian upbringing took a dim view of divorce. That Christmas ended a youthful naivety which took as Gospel that, when a couple swore before God they would love, honor and cherish each other until they croaked, that settled it. What psycholo-

gists call "an adverse reaction to an adult situation" settled like a black snow around me that cold, bleak and very lonely First Christmas After.

Twenty-one years later and fourteen Christmases ago—six months after my teenage daughter died, following a ten-year bout with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis—I endured my second worst First Christmas After. It took several months for the reality of my daughter's death to sink in. Slowly, I realized she was not away at school, off at camp or on a European tour. The empty chair at the Thanksgiving table inaugurated my Yuletide saga of increasing dread. As others counted down the shopping days left 'till Christmas, I gladly would have traded the grave for the living agony approaching with that second First Christmas After. Fortunately, relatives invited my family to visit them over the holidays. The change of scenery and a concerted effort to keep reality at the periphery of consciousness got me through that second, awful First Christmas After. Nevertheless, at Christmas Eve mass I lost it when we sang, "What Child is This?"

For me, hopefully, the next "First Christmas After" will also be my first Christmas in heaven where—finally—I will understand why people break promises and sometimes our children die. On my sixtieth Christmas there's enough bark on me to understand life has its mountain tops and it has its deep valleys; dark nights as well as bright days. Another carol we sang at mass before that second First Christmas After, "Be Not Afraid," contains the promise, "If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you through it all." The miracle of Christmas gives us hope in the promise of Him who is always faithful and who knows the answers to all the "whys?" which confound and confuse us, even during those First Christmases After.

If you know someone who has lost a loved one—whether by divorce or death, or maybe someone with a loved one in harm's way in the War on Terror—pray for them and offer some loving words of encouragement. After all, inevitably all of us face a First Christmas After. Meanwhile, may your Christmases be merry and full of hope.

Dr. Earl Tilford is Professor of History at Grove City College. He enjoyed an extensive military career and after retiring from the U.S. Air Force, served as an associate professor of history at Troy State University in Montgomery and professor of military history at the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College. In 1993 he became director of research at the U.S. Army's Strategic Studies Institute in Carlisle, Pa., where he worked on a project that looked at possible future terrorist threats. He has authored three books on the Vietnam War and co-edited a book on Operation Desert Storm. He has lectured throughout the U.S. and abroad on the Vietnam War and, more recently, the future of armed conflict.

Fruitcakes and other holiday hoaxes

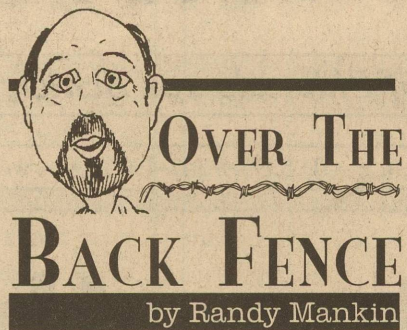
I have this theory about fruitcakes, you know the rock-hard spice loaves filled with brightly-colored and somewhat rubbery bits of fruit. The theory goes something like this:

There are only seventy-seven real fruitcakes in the known world and nobody is interested in eating any of them.

Instead, the cakes are wrapped and given as gifts, over and over. In a good year, a cake may be presented a dozen times or more. I'm sure of this because I have personally received the same fruitcake from two or three different people in the same year.

A few crafty con artists found a way several years ago to make a profit off the phenomena. They set up fake kitchens and began marketing counterfeit fruitcakes. Since no one actually eats a fruitcake there is little chance the crooks will ever get caught.

Soon these hucksters were flooding the market with their highly decorated boxes and ornate



OVER THE
BACK FENCE
by Randy Mankin

tins filled with concrete. On the off chance that someone might actually peek inside, the con men usually paint their fake cakes to look like the real thing and top them off with bits of red, yellow and green plastic and a few fake nuts. They are very convincing.

It has gotten to the point that hardly anyone can tell a real fruitcake from the fake ones. Which is convenient since, other than the aforementioned con artists, I am apparently the only one who has noticed the problem.

Think about it. When was the last time you ate a fruitcake?

I mentioned this theory at church recently to a lady who as-

sured me that she likes fruitcake. Which I took to mean that at some point in her life she accidentally bit down on one of the fake cakes and developed a taste for Portland cement.

Not that this is all bad. Fruitcakes, both real and fake can be quite useful. For example, keep one in the trunk of your car just in case you break down on a hillside and have to chock your wheels. They also make good boat anchors and trot line weights.

I hear that Santa Claus even carries a few fruitcakes in his sleigh for ballast—the real ones of course, the jolly old elf knows when you are sleeping and he knows when you're awake so it goes without saying that he can spot a counterfeit fruitcake.

So this year, when you get a fruitcake for Christmas, take some consolation in the fact that it probably isn't even real. Then carry the thing outside and put it to good use...driving some T-posts or something.



Memories of the store

My father had a corner grocery store in Fort Worth. Growing up, I worked there when I wasn't in school or sleeping. Our lives revolved around the store.

My dad was a fabulous meat man. He could make choice taste like prime just the way he sliced off a steak or roast. He was an artist with a butcher knife. It was fascinating to watch him stand at the meat block and work. He did lots of cutting up. He told me he had butchered about 10,000 head of cattle. He had the strongest right arm I've ever known about. It got that way by using a hand meat saw for decades.

Customers came from as far away as Austin to buy his meat. The store carried a complete line of groceries and produce, but about half the income came from the meat market. That's where the action was. When salesmen came in, my dad just kept right on working at the meat block, talking and answering questions just like he was giving the salesman his full attention.

My dad was a philosopher and a poet. He had the unique ability to make people feel good. State legis-



by
Tumbleweed
Smith

lators came to the store and leaned over the meat counter for advice and counsel, to hear a story or joke and get their batteries charged. He was pre-med at Baylor, but left after two years to tend to business and raise a family. He quoted poetry that suited the occasion, no matter what the occasion was. He was a Kiwanian and served as Lt. Governor for the Texas-Oklahoma district. He also served on the school board and taught a Sunday school class. He always wore a dress shirt and tie while working in the store and seldom walked out the front door without a coat and hat.

He always enjoyed a certain status. He was valedictorian of his high school class at Athens. He was so popular that once he exploded a firecracker in a classroom and nobody would tell the teacher who did it.

When he and my mother began

to travel, I came home and managed the store and its dozen or so employees. I loved the constant parade of characters that came in, especially the ones from across the street that walked over just to visit. My dad discouraged that, but I thought they provided the most interesting part of the day.

My dad got up at 3 o 4 o'clock Saturday mornings to get the meat counter ready for the biggest day of the week. A few days after I got back from an Army tour in Europe, the two of us sat on meat blocks one Saturday morning and just talked. It meant a lot to me because I was 25 years old and wasn't sure just what I was going to do with the rest of my life. That was a very special time for me, especially knowing how valuable time was on Saturday mornings.

My dad passed away in 1975 at the age of 64. He always had a goal of doing \$5,000 worth of meat business in a single day. I was taking care of the store while he was in the hospital near the end of his life. One Saturday night I took the adding machine to his hospital bed and showed him the bottom number. It was \$5,000.

Judge lets stand 2 charges against DeLay

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Senior state District Judge Pat Priest let stand felony charges of money laundering and conspiracy against former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, and dismissed other conspiracy charges also leveled by a Travis County grand jury at the Sugar Land Republican.

Charges that stuck allege DeLay and his associates moved campaign donations from Texas entities to Americans for a Republican Majority, his national fundraising committee in Washington, D.C., and the money was returned to Texas as donations to his Austin-based fundraising committee, Texans for a Republican Majority.

When DeLay was indicted in September, he stepped down from his leadership post in accordance with U.S. House rules.

DeLay did not deny the campaign funds in question helped a select few Texas House Republicans in their successful 2002 races. Their votes in favor of DeLay's redistricting plan in 2003 helped the GOP pick up five U.S. congressional seats in 2004.

Now, DeLay's attorney Dick DeGuerin of Houston is asking Judge Priest for a couple of things: (1) to speed up the trial date — so DeLay has a better chance of putting the issue behind him before he campaigns for reelection in the coming year — and (2) to move the trial away from Austin.

(Trial) location, location, location

DeGuerin, a Democrat who also donates to Republican candidates, told reporters DeLay can't get an impartial jury and thus a fair trial in the state's capital city, where a jury panel is likely to include more than one or two Democrats.

After all, Austin is the Travis County seat, and Travis was the lone Texas county "blue" enough to vote against the proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage back in November.

Meanwhile, Vice President Dick Cheney attended a fund-raiser for DeLay in Houston and had to walk within earshot of hecklers to get in. A DeLay aide said the hecklers were "professionals" not from the congressman's district.

Status: DeLay vs. prosecutor

Judge Priest has not ruled on DeLay's complaint alleging Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, a Democrat, illegally goaded grand juries into the indictments.

Agency chief touts Texas coal

Coal will be increasingly important in the next energy boom and Texas has plenty of it, Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams told energy executives at a national meeting in Phoenix, Ariz.

But there is a desperate need for sensible federal and state regulatory policies that balance economic interests with environmental concerns for coal usage, Williams said.

"Our challenge is to tell that story in Washington, D.C., just as we have done in Texas," he said.

Williams said Texas also is the No. 1 coal-using state and the No. 5 coal-producing state.

Either Texas is consuming its own stockpile or it is importing quite a bit of coal, because, Williams said, Texas consumed 103 million tons last year and produced 45 million tons.

Friedman formalizes candidacy

Hill Country humorist, musician and author Kinky Friedman took a serious step by filing papers with the secretary of state Dec. 8, officially declaring his intention to run as an in-

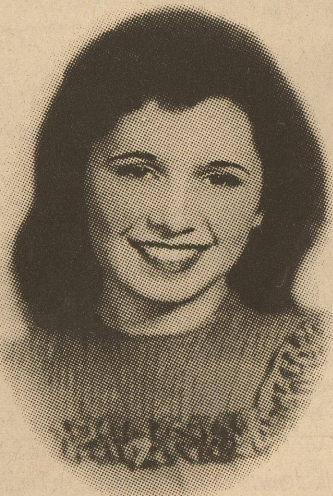
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OBITUARIES

Virginia Ruth Davis



assistant at the Evans Eye Clinic in Valparaiso, IN, and the San Angelo Medical Center in San Angelo, Texas. She loved sports and was always playing sports with her brothers when she was younger. Virginia enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs and Dallas Cowboys, playing the organ, reading, and working crossword puzzles. She especially enjoyed her family and would be the first to play games with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will dearly miss her.

Virginia Ruth Davis, age 80, of Brady, Texas, formerly of Valparaiso, IN, passed away at her home on Saturday, December 10, 2005, after 9 years of battling cancer. Her loving husband of 61 years, Clarence (Tex) was at her side. A faithful Christian, Virginia was a member of the Church of Christ in Brady, TX.

Born in Valparaiso, IN, on August 12, 1925, she was a daughter of William Foster and Bertha (Dowell) Foster. After graduating from Boone Grove High School, she worked during World War II as a riveter. On April 7, 1944, she married Clarence William Davis, in Phoenix, AZ. Virginia always believed in helping others and worked as a nurse's assistant at Porter Hospital, Valparaiso, IN, and as a licensed ophthalmologist

She is survived by her husband, Clarence Davis of Brady; three children: Candy West and husband Jerry of Valparaiso, IN, Carl Davis and wife Maureen of Canoga Park, California; Nila Faga of Valparaiso; six grandchildren: Chadd Davis; Shayne, Jade, and Blake West; Taylor and Chase Faga; and five great-grandchildren.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, stepfather, William Eaton; a dear son, Jack "Jackie" Foster Davis of leukemia at age two; sisters, Mary Van Scoik and Mildred Groves; brothers, Jack Foster, Gene Eaton, and extended family.

Funeral services were held 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at the Eldorado Church of Christ with Gene Lyles officiating. She was laid to rest in Eldorado, TX at the Eldorado Cemetery.



Courtney Whitten and Rocky Robles

Whitten/Robles engagement

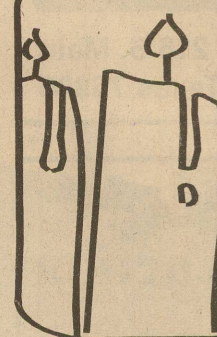
Sam and Penny Whitten of Aubrey, Texas, formerly of Eldorado, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Courtney Whitten to Rocky Robles. The happy couple plan to exchange vows on February 25, 2006. The ceremony will be held at the First Baptist Church in Comanche, Texas.

Courtney is a 2004 graduate of

Eldorado High School and is attending University of North Texas in Denton.

Rocky is son of Mario and Rosa Robles of Eldorado. He is a 2001 graduate of Eldorado High School. Rocky is currently employed at Oakmont Country Club in Denton as an assistant Golf Professional and is pursuing a career as Head Golf Professional.

Woman's Club Bake Sale Friday, Dec. 16th at the Museum!!



The First United Methodist Church will be having a Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 24 and Christmas Day Sunday, December 25, at 11 a.m.

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Capital Highlights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

dependent candidate for governor.

In a statewide grassroots effort to earn him a spot on the November ballot, Friedman's camp must collect about 45,540 signatures from registered Texas voters who do not vote in the March 7 state Republican or Democratic primaries.

After filing, Friedman said his main opponent will not be incumbent Gov. Rick Perry, but voter apathy.

FEMA resets move-out deadline

Hurricane Katrina evacuees now have until Jan. 7 to move out of Texas hotels and motels, Gov.

Perry announced Dec. 8. The same deadline applies to FEMA-reimbursed apartment leases. In November, Perry talked FEMA out of enforcing a Dec. 1 deadline for the housing assistance.

Perry announces corridor plan

Gov. Perry is not waiting for federal aid before moving on his Trans Texas Corridor/Interstate 69 plan.

He said the state will proceed to work with the private sector to develop an interstate-quality roadway connecting the Rio Grande Valley with the midwestern states.

Plans route the corridor through East Texas and into Arkansas.

Ft. McKavett SHS cutting back hours of operation

New operational hours at selected Texas State Parks are taking effect December 1st. The changes are necessary due to a staffing cut-back systemwide. All Texas State Parks remain open and available to the public. Please check our web site, www.tpwd.state.tx.us, before you plan a visit to a Texas State Park for the latest information on park hours of operation.

Beginning December 13th, Fort McKavett State Historic Site will

not continue to operate seven days a week. The new days of operation will be Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. While this reduction in hours will affect special events and activities we will make every effort to accommodate schools and other groups for educational tours.

MONUMENTS & PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANS CALL JOHN WILSON KERBOW FUNERAL HOME 853-3043

BIRTHDAY LIST

December
16th Chase Mertz, Stephen Grelle, Kevin Freeman, Virgilio Escobar Jr., Stephen Whitten, Jason Clark
17th Dylan Ramos, Micaela Gonzalez, Anita Robles
18th Felipe Montalvo, Brenda Greer, Vickie Schwiening
19th Jay Ray Holley, Mario Avila, LaTasha Newton, Jill Preston, Mary Lozano
20th Lanese Stewart, David Overstreet, Elmer Garlitz
21st Cody Bill Whitten, Edward Robinson, Ashley Mittel, Jesse Lynn Barajas, Angela Ballew
22nd Todd Overstreet, Holly Rae Romero, Julian Martinez

ANNIVERSARIES

December
15th Richard & Gloria Kent
22nd Weldon & Mary Jenkins

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Tuesday, December 20th

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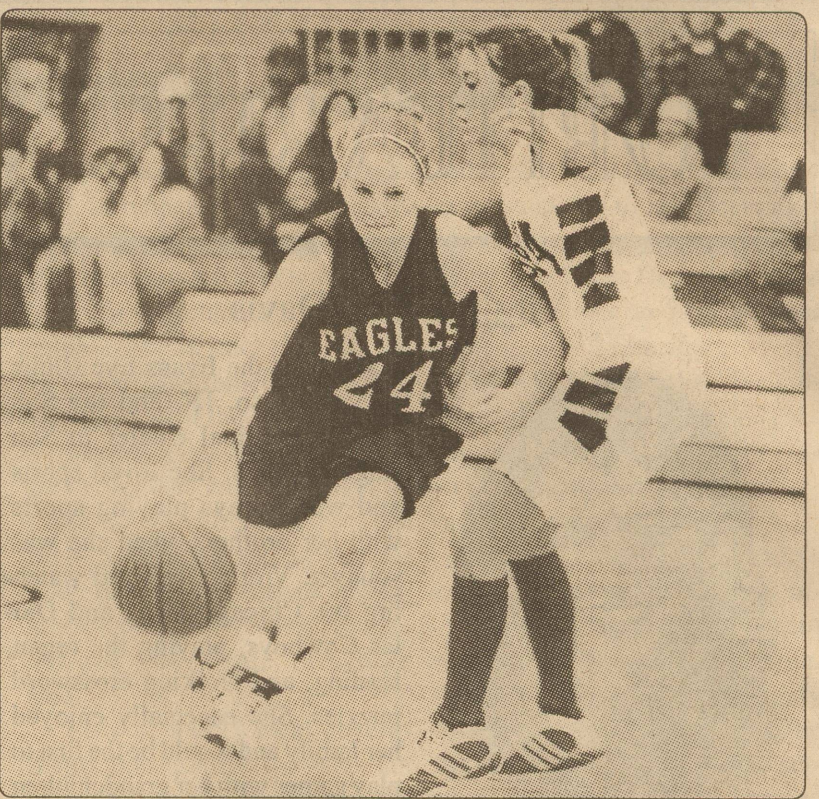
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Eagle boys drop 6 straight
 Looking to improve before district

The Eldorado Varsity Boys traveled to Bronte on December 1st to take part in the Bronte Tournament. The Eagles faced Eula in the first round and lost that decision 68-25. The Eagles found it tough sledging on the offensive side of the ball with the high scorer only racking up 6 points. That being Drew Bosmans who drained one three pointer in the contest. Michael Ballew ended the night with 5 points. Sammy Estrada and Russell Cathey were close behind with 4 points each. Jorge Bustos, Jorge Mata and Jeremy Ussery all had 2 points. The Eagles then moved on to face Eden in their second and last game of the Bronte Tournament, losing to Eden 69-26. Jeremy Ussery was the high scorer with 8 points. Russell Cathey had 6, Frank Wipff 5 and Jorge Bustos 3 off of a three pointer. The Warbirds then traveled to Iraan on December 6th to take on the Braves. Eldorado played a closer game than their previous two, but still fell short 46-36. Michael Ballew led the team with 11 points, Lalo Sanchez had 6, Wipff had 5, Bosmans and Bustos both had 4, Michael Redish, Ussery and Cathey all had two on the night. The Eagles then headed to the Water Valley Tournament on December 8th and faced the Forsan Buffalo in the first round.

Forsan out scored the Eagles 61-47. Bosmans drained one three pointer to help him get to a 20 point game, Ballew was the closest behind him with one three padding his 12 points on the night. Wipff and Ussery both ended the night with 4 points. Redish made one three pointer in the contest. Both Mata and Bustos had 2 points. Eldorado then faced Brooksmith in the second round of the tournament, losing 38-34. Frank Wipff was high scorer for the Eagles with 7 points on the night. Ballew, Bosmans and Ussery all had 6 points. Cathey ended the evening with 3 while Sanchez, Bustos and Redish all had 2. On Tuesday the Warbirds headed back to Water Valley, but this time not for tournament play. The Eagles made the trip while the Lady Eagles Opened district play in Sonora. The Warbirds came up on the short end of a 55-50 final score. Bosmans scored 16 points to lead the team, Cathey had 8, Mata and Bustos both had 5, Ballew and Ussery each had 4 points, Redish had 3, Estrada and Sanchez had 2 and Wipff had 1. The Eagles have one more test before heading into district play against Mason on December 20th. They will play the Del Rio Sophomore team on December 16th in Del Rio.



Chandra Wanoreck brought the ball down court Tuesday night as the Lady Eagles took on the Sonora Lady Broncos in the District 2-2A opener for both teams. The Eldorado girls fell 49-47 in Sonora as the heartbreaker went down to the wire.

Lady Eagles drop district opener

The Eldorado Lady Eagles opened district play on Tuesday night losing a tough fought game against the Sonora Lady Broncos in Sonora 47-49. In a game where the Eagles looked to solve their offensive woes the Eagles put up double digits in all but the final quarter. "We shot the ball three times in the last three seconds," Girls Coach Brian Daniels said. "If one of those fall then we at least go to overtime. I can't say enough about these girls and how they played. They showed great heart."

Taylor Baker led the Lady Eagles with 16 points on the night. Kirsten Stubbs accounted for 11, Maxie Holley had 9, Chandra Wanoreck hit three free throws to pad her 5 points, Josie Diaz had 4 points, and Cassandra Buitron put up two in the fourth quarter. The Lady Eagles will head to Wall on Friday in hopes of evening out their district record. "They have a good team," Daniels said. "If we can play sound defense and control the ball we will make a game out of it."

JV BOYS B

November 28 2005
 Eldorado 06-12-02-17=37
 Ozona 15-05-13-19=52
 Playing for the Eagles: Louie Buitron 8, Josh Taylor 2, Milo Vallejo 13, Armando Moreno 12, Rolando Gonzalez 2,

ELDORADO JV TOURNAMENT
 December 1, 2005

Eldorado 08-02-05-05=21
 Reagan Co. 12-10-12-07=45
 Playing for the Eagles: Armando Moreno 5, Louie Buitron 4, Rolando Gonzalez 2, Landy Alfaro 2, Clark Meyers 2, Milor Vallejo 8. 3 Point Goals: Moreno (1), Vallejo (2).

ELDORADO JV-B TOURNAMENT
 December 3, 2005

Eldorado 04-04-04-04=16
 Sonora 12-15-11-10=48
 Playing for the Eagles: Clark Meyer 4, Armando Moreno 6, Louie Buitron 4, Milo Vallejo 2. Also playin were: Josh Taylor and Rolando Gonzalez.

December 6, 2005

Eldorado 04-06-11-05=26
 Iraan 21-11-19-13=64
 Playing for the Eagles: Rolando Gonzalez 3, Louis Buitron 3, Clark Meyers 2, Milo Vallejo 2 and Armando Moreno 15. 3 Point Goals: Buitron (1), Meyer (1), Moreno (1). Also playing was Josh Taylor.

JV BOYS A

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

ELDORADO JV TOURNAMENT
 December 1-3, 2005

Eldorado 07-12-09-09=37
 Christoval 07-07-04-02=20
 Playing for the Eagles: Manny Gonzalez 9, Jaaron Crawford 6, Rance Cathey 15, Dustin Gauna 8. 3 Point Goals: Cathey (1).

December 5, 2005

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

December 6, 2005

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

7th GRADE GIRLS

December 05, 2005
 Eldorado 02-04-00-02=8
 Wall 12-12-14-10=48
Playing for the Lady Eagles-Green Team : Ashley Paulson 4. Amy Alvizo 2, Brittaney Gauna 2. Also playing were: Deisy Aranda, Allison Jarrett, Marci Minor, Abbie Ussery, Carli McAngus, Brenda Galan.

December 05, 2005
 Eldorado 04-00-02-05=11
 Wall 04-02-04-06=16
Playing for the Lady Eagles White Team: Deisy Aranda 4, Janeth Hernandez 1, Brittany Gauna 6. Also playing were : Abbi Ussery, Brenda Galan and Rosy Iglesias.

7th GRADE BOYS

December 05 , 2005
 Eldorado 02-00-02-06=10
 Wall 10-00-11-08=29
 Playing for the Eagles: Eloy Bustos 2, Aaron Parsley 2, Zack Brame 2, Briley Ledbetter 4. Also playing were: Jamie O'Harrow, Bailey Minor, Josh Jurecek, J. R. Martinez, Miles Mikeska, Ben Wipff.

December 12, 2005

Eldorado 08-06-03-05=22
 Grape Creek 05-04-04-06=19
 Playing for the Eagles: Eloy Bustos 5, Jamie O'Harrow 2, Josh Jurecek 1, Miles Mikeska 8, Ben Wipff 4 and Briley Ledbetter Also playing were: Aaron Parsley, Bailey Minor, Zack Brame, J.R. Martinez.

8th GRADE GIRLS

December 5, 2005
 Eldorado 00-02-00-00=02
 Wall 30-05-15-14=64
 Playing for the Lady Eagles: Adriana Hernandez 2. Also playing were Emily Espinosa, Maureen Martinez, Maegan Self, Clarissa Hernandez, Taylre Bibrey, Victoria Garza, Krystal Hamilton, Patricia Hernandez.

School Lunch Menu

Milk & Bread Offered
Menus Subject To Change
 1/2 pt. Milk & 4 oz. Juice offered w/each

BREAKFAST MENU
Monday, December 19
 Banana Nut Muffins, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
Tuesday, December 20
 Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Juice, Milk
Wednesday, December 21
 French Toast, Syrup, Applesauce, Choice of Juice, Milk
EARLY RELEASE
Thursday, December 22
 Merry Christmas
Friday, December 23
 SEE YA NEXT YEAR

BASKET LINE
Monday, December 19
 Corn Dogs, Tator Tots, Cole Slaw, Sliced Peaches
Tuesday, December 20
 Pep. Hot Pockets, Carrot Stick's, Dip, Tossed Salad, Apple Halves
Wednesday, December 21
 Pizza, Salad, Veggie Stick's, Dip, Peach Cups
EARLY RELEASE
Thursday, December 22
 MERRY CHRISTMAS
Friday, December 23
 SCHOOL'S OUT

CAFETERIA LINE
Monday, December 19
 Chicken Spaghetti, Hot Rolls, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Sliced Peaches
Tuesday, December 20
 Taco Roll, Cole Slaw, Pork-n-Beans, Apple Halves
Wednesday, December 21
 Pizza, Salad, Veggie Stick's, Dip, Peach Cups
EARLY RELEASE
Thursday, December 22
 MERRY CHRISTMAS
Friday, December 23
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◆ KING KONG (PG-13) 10:30 2:30 6:30 10:40	◆ AEON FLUX (PG-13) 11:00 1:20 4:15 7:05 9:30
◆ KING KONG (PG-13) 10:50 2:50 7:00 11:00	◆ YOURS, MINE, AND OURS (PG) 11:50 2:20 5:00 7:25 9:50
◆ KING KONG (PG-13) 1:00 5:15 9:15	◆ PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) 6:40 9:40
◆ THE FAMILY STONE (PG-13) 11:20 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:15	◆ JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) 12:10 2:40 5:20 7:45 10:10
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 11:30 3:00 6:45 10:00	◆ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) 12:00 3:40 7:15 10:45
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 12:20 4:00 7:10 10:30	◆ WALK THE LINE (PG-13) 12:35 3:30 6:55 10:05
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 12:50 4:20 7:40 10:50	◆ CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 11:40 2:00 4:10
◆ SYRIANA (R) 10:40 1:30 4:30 7:20 10:20	

Showtimes Valid 12/01/05 - 12/20/2005 () - Friday through Sunday only.

EHS band places 4 members on the UIL All-Region Band

On Saturday, December 3, 2005 members of the Eldorado HS Band traveled to Coleman for Region 7 Band tryouts.

The band placed 4 of its members in the honor organization.

To qualify for All-Region Band, students must play scales and challenging music for a panel of five judges. The judges can not see the students and do not know who they are or where they are from. They evaluate the students and rank them in chair order. The top students are certified to the All-Region Band. The very top students are certified to Area and get to tryout for the All-State Band.

Eldorado had one student qualify for Area tryouts which will be held next month in Waco.

There were thirty eight (38) schools participating in the tryouts. The competition is open to schools in class 1A through class 3A. At the tryouts in Coleman, there were five hundred and twenty-one students entered.

Eldorado High School students who qualified for All-Region Band are: LiAna Danford and Rhapsody Swyter. The both made the Symphonic Band on flute.

Leslie Cruz made concert band on the bass clarinet and Janelle Pechacek made the concert band on the contra bass clarinet. Abel Montalvo was alternate on trumpet.

LiAna Danford, who placed first chair flute in the Syphonic Band is the only Eldorado student who qualified for Area and will tryout for All-State. She will travel to Waco on January 6 to compete for the All-State Band.

The band is under the direction of Band Director Jerry Barker.

The students who made Region Band will travel to Abilene on Friday, January 20. They will rehearse Friday evening and all day Saturday.

Saturday, January 21, the All Region band will present a public concert on the campus of Hardin Simmons University.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jerry and Bessie Jones celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends on Dec. 3rd. They were married Dec. 3, 1955 in Eldorado at the home of her parents. They have lived in New Mexico, Montana, Colorado and Arizona but have called Eldorado home for the past 41 years. Together they own and operate Jerry's TV Service.

AG unveils open gov't training for public officials

AUSTIN – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today unveiled new mandatory open government training materials to educate state and local public officials about Texas open records and open meetings laws. Abbott highlighted the two videos at the Attorney General's 2005 Open Government Conference, which is being held Dec. 12-14 to educate public officials and others about all facets of the state's open government laws.

The materials were developed in compliance with a new state law that gives the Attorney General authority to establish the formal training necessary to ensure that all elected and appointed government officials have a good command of both open records and open meetings laws. The Attorney General's office enforces the Texas Public Information Act, also known as the open records law.

"No longer do public officials have any excuse for not following the state's open government laws," Attorney General Abbott said. "This training will teach them what the law requires and that there will be consequences for not following it."

Copies of the free training video can be requested by calling the Attorney General's office at (800) 252-8011. In addition, the public can visit the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us to apply for the Attorney General's approval of an open government training course; view the Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act training videos; and fill out an open government course completion certificate. The new law, long supported by Attorney

General Abbott, grew out of his desire to clear up confusion about open records law and change attitudes among government officials as they interact with the public at the local and state levels. The Attorney General's Open Records Division receives about 11,000 requests per year from government officials seeking guidance about disclosure of records to citizens and media.

Abbott added: "We live in an era in which citizens demand more openness from their government. This law will have a tremendously positive impact on the way government officials perceive their role, not as protectors of public information but as active participants in sharing information with the public."

The new law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2006. Officials who are in office before that date have until Jan. 1, 2007, to complete the required training. Officials who are elected or appointed after Jan. 1, 2006, have 90 days within which to complete the required training.



Abel Montalvo, LiAna Danford, Janelle Pechacek and Rhapsody Swyter (above) and Leslie Cruz (at right) are members of the Eldorado Mighty Eagle Band who were chosen to represent Eldorado in the All-Region Band. LiAna Danford will advance to Area in Waco.

PHOTOS BY KATHY MANKIN



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Way Off Broadway Players Sanders Family Christmas
Tickets for the Way Off Broadway production of the Sanders Family Christmas are now on sale. Tickets will be sold at the Eldorado Success, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. You can contact the office at 325/853-3125 or email for tickets at kathy@myeldorado.net.
7:00 PM-Fri: Dec. 16
7:00 PM- Sat. Dec. 17
3:00 PM - Sun. Dec. 18

Meals for Friends Menu


Monday, December 19
Chicken Strips w/ Cream Gravy, Pinto Beans, Mustard Greens, Corn Bread, Cherry Cobbler, Juice, Milk


Tuesday, December 20
Hamburger Steak, Oven Fried Potato, Lettuce, Tomato & Onion Slices, Bun, Carrot Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Milk

Wednesday, December 21
Cheese Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Toss Salad, Wheat Bread, Mandarin Orange, Milk

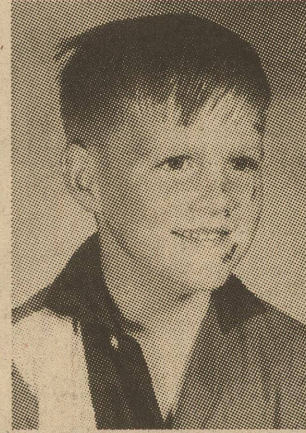
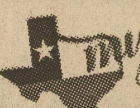
Thursday, December 22
Meat Loaf w/ Tomato Sauce, Black-eyed Peas, Okra, Corn Bread, Banana Pudding, Milk

Friday, December 23
Turkey w/ Giblet Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Corn Bread Dressing, Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Cabbage Salad, Pumpkin Pie, Milk

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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1. Puccini classic
- 6. Bank takeback, briefly
- 10. Give the cold shoulder to
- 14. Fall bloomer
- 15. Got mellow
- 16. ___ sapiens
- 17. "Goo," for one?
- 19. Algerian seaport
- 20. Jean of "Bombshell"
- 21. Cardinal cap letters
- 22. Old U.S. gas brand
- 23. Like the Sabin vaccine
- 25. Elsa Maxwell or Perle Mesta
- 27. Matterhorn's range
- 30. Big, fat mouth
- 32. Surf's partner, on menus
- 33. Scroogian expletive
- 34. Looks over
- 36. Indiana's state flower
- 39. Gator's cousin
- 41. Hair-protecting kerchief
- 43. Toledo's lake

- 44. "Paradise Lost" figure
- 46. Vincent Lopez theme song
- 47. Windy City train initials
- 48. Leave off
- 50. Pince-___ glasses
- 51. Brewski
- 52. Whitman's ___ (box of chocolates)
- 55. "A ___ formality!"
- 57. Mining finds
- 58. Canon camera

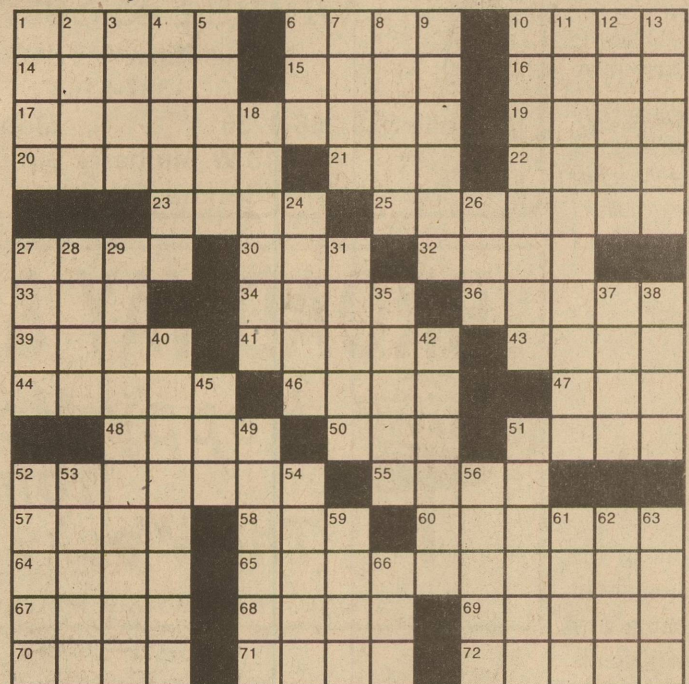
- 60. Dam builder
- 64. Longish skirt
- 65. Movie part that isn't really needed?
- 67. Nut center
- 68. Cause of goosebumps
- 69. Dutch bloomer
- 70. Model Macpherson
- 71. Actress Soleil Moon ___
- 72. Church recesses

DOWN

- 1. RPM dial
- 2. Labor safety org.
- 3. Use a swizzle stick
- 4. String quartet instruments
- 5. Intense devotion
- 6. Like sashimi
- 7. Self-images
- 8. Australian port
- 9. Nonstandard Wall Street unit
- 10. Oxfords stretcher,

- perhaps
- 11. Cavalry?
- 12. Amherst campus, briefly
- 13. Forbidden acts
- 18. Went to and fro
- 24. Apply, as a phony accent
- 26. Have a late bite
- 27. Basic lessons
- 28. "___ Croft: Tomb Raider"
- 29. Paparazzo's award?
- 31. Eva of Argentina
- 35. Witch trials city
- 37. Evening, in ads
- 38. Vintner's concern
- 40. Place to pitch a tent
- 42. Garden structure
- 45. Zilch
- 49. Start a hole
- 51. Withstand stress
- 52. French river to the Channel
- 53. Israel's Sharon
- 54. Pollster Elmo
- 56. Oscar de la ___
- 59. Collar insert
- 61. Encyc. units
- 62. Author Wiesel
- 63. Iron pumper's count
- 66. Ill temper

Double Plays



American Profile Hometown Content 051120

See solution on Page 10

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:

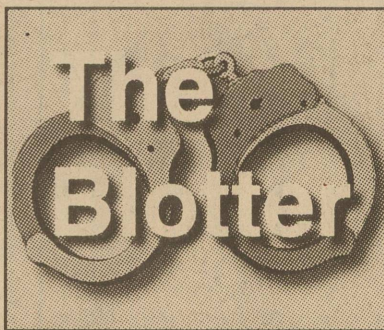
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The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Schleicher County Sheriff's Dept. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the Sheriff's office, nor does it include routine security checks,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

ARRESTS

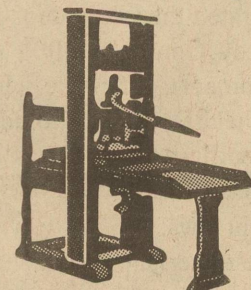
December 8 • Parks, Rosaura, female age 30, arresting



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officer SC deputy, offense Disorderly Conduct/Public Intoxication. Released on Time Served.

• Vasquez, Antonio, male age 18, Turned self in, offense MTR Probation Assault.

December 10 • Ranson, James, male age 21, arresting officer SC deputy, offense DWLI / No Insurance. PR Bond \$2,000.00 Surety.

December 12 • Garcia, Antonio deJesus, male age 20, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Family Violence.

INCIDENTS

December 6 • 5:10 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a basic transfer. EMS 1 responded.

• 8:47 p.m. Complainant requested assistance because her car was broke down. Officer responded.

December 7 • 10:12 a.m. Complainant requested to speak with an officer. Officer responded.

• 5:20 p.m. Complainant reported that he had pumped \$20 worth of gas into his vehicle and the next day it was empty. He believes that someone stole it from his car. Officer

responded.

• 11:15 p.m. Complainant reported her son's dog missing. Dog is tan in color and weighs approximately 60 lbs.

December 8 • 6:30 a.m. Complainant reported a grass fire on CR 316. All units responded.

• 4:51 p.m. Complainant reported a domestic disturbance at the Eldorado Place Apts. Officer responded.

• 4:52 p.m. Complainant reported a domestic disturbance at the Eldorado Place Apts. Officers responded.

• 6:55 p.m. Complainant reported a break-in and theft of a X-Box Playstation taken from his home on East Street. Officer responded.

• 7:20 p.m. Complainant reported a white pickup dropped off a chemical trailer in front of his house. Officer responded.

December 9 • 3:46 p.m. Complainant reported a black Mustang driving recklessly. Officer responded.

• 3:42 p.m. Complainant reported her daughter's bicycle stolen. Bicycle is a purple Magna. Estimated value is \$125. Officer notified.

December 10 • 7:25 p.m. Caller reported a stolen bicycle from the game room at the Memorial building. Office responded.

December 11 • 11:32 p.m. Complainant reported a grass fire on CR 312. Officer and EVFD responded.

• 11:37 p.m. Caller requested officer to address on Dorris to assist with domestic disturbance (drunken disturbance). Requested that callers son be arrested for disturbing the owner and occupants. Officer notified and responded.

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853-3125

204 SW Main ~ Eldorado

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

The voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County since 1901

Attention Public-Emergency Care Attendant Course

Schleicher County Volunteer EMS will be having an Emergency Care Attendant Class beginning January 5, 2006 and Ending February 2, 2006, if you are interested in taking this class please contact the Schleicher County Volunteer EMS business office at 853-3456. The ECA Course Provides classroom and skills instruction in CPR, (cardiopulmonary resuscitation, choking) bleeding and shock, bandaging, splinting, child birth, injury and illness care for infants, children and various other emergency subjects. Spaces are limited Please call soon! 50-53b

NEW LOW PRICE

Starting at

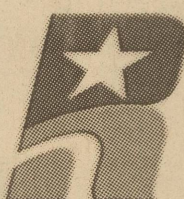
\$29.95

price includes

- Unlimited Minutes
- No Contract
- No Credit Check
- No Deposit

They say the number one Christmas gift this year will be a cell phone, and this could be the best Christmas gift ever a parent or grandparent could give a young person between the ages of ten and twenty-five. There are plenty of cool picture phones with text messaging to choose from...the coverage area is growing by leaps and bounds...and there are no surprises on the bill. Just one low price starting at \$29.95. See store for details.

Come see us in our new, additional location in Sunset Mall, opening by Thanksgiving, where you can pay your bill or activate your phone during mall hours seven days a week.



Right Wireless
Now Serving More of West Texas

Check out our new, additional location in Sunset Mall.

Contact Our Area Agents:

- | | | | |
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Sunset Mall
4001 Sunset Dr.
Food Basket
2 South Main Street | Brady
West Central Wireless
2019 S. Bridge | Mason
Mason Gas
1004 San Antonio Hwy. | San Saba
Central Texas
Communications
208 East Brown
San Saba Butane
113 S. High |
|---|---|--|--|

School trustees make short work of agenda

The school board met Monday night for what would become one of its shortest meetings of the year.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by board Vice President Eddie Albin with Berta Nicholson, Jan Wanoreck, Kurtis Homer, Lupe Sanchez, Supt. George Blanch and Sandra Robledo in attendance. Board President Jo Helen Kotsch and trustee Leanne Higgins were absent.

The trustees reviewed and approved the district's financial reports as presented. They also reviewed and corrected the minutes of the previous meeting before approving them.

Next, the trustees approved a student transfer request to allow for an out-of-district student to

attend school here. The board then entered into executive session at 6:05 p.m. for the discussion of personnel matters. They returned to open session at 6:30 p.m., taking no action on the matter.

Superintendent George Blanch advised that student enrollment is up to 580, as compared to 575 at

this time last year.

Blanch then noted that the board's next meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on January 9th due to a dinner the members will be having at 5:45 p.m. There were no objections to the time change.

Before adjourning, the trustees reviewed TASB board briefs and the meeting ended at 6:35 p.m.

Pesticide applicator certificates set to expire on Feb. 28th

AUSTIN —The Texas Department of Agriculture reminds private pesticide applicator certificate holders that their certificates will now be renewed Feb. 28 every five years rather than the original Dec. 31 expiration date.

TDA recently implemented a new licensing system and changed the expiration date to make the licensing process more efficient. Certificate holders, as well as any TDA license holders, should receive a renewal notice about a month before the license expires.

Applicators should report any mailing address changes to be sure to receive the renewal notice.

Private applicator certificates were issued prior to January 10, 1989. While they never expire, applicators must earn 15 continuing education credits, including two credits in laws and regulations and two credits in integrated pest management, prior to expiration of the license, to keep the certificate active.

If you need additional information, please contact TDA at (800) TELL-TDA.

County...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2006 (Veteran's Day); Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 25 (Thanksgiving Day); and Friday and Monday, December 22 and 25, 2006 (Christmas Day).

The men then voted to appoint Judge Griffin as the agenda officer for 2006.

Next the commissioners voted to select First National Bank of Eldorado as the county's depository and requested the bank reduce some fees. Commissioner Johnny Mayo and Matt Brown voted for the measure while Kirk Griffin abstained.

The commissioners then agreed to a request by County Clerk Peggy Williams and passed a resolution allowing for the use of newly purchased voting machines in conjunction with traditional paper ballots.

The commissioners then briefly discussed a complaint they had received regarding the inability of handicapped persons to access the second-floor court room. The commissioners asked that attorney James Kosub's office assist them in responding to the complaint.

Before adjourning the commissioners called for bids for a transport load of diesel.

The commissioners will next meet on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. on the first floor of the Schleicher County Courthouse.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Eldorado Elementary's third and fourth grade Freedom Singers and their music teacher Joella Parker performed Christmas music for the Senior Citizen dinner hosted by Schleicher County I.S.D. on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. Local seniors were treated to a traditional turkey and dressing lunch served by the High School Student Council.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Eldorado Middle School 7th graders last week learned the true meaning of Christmas. They purchased and wrapped gifts for 30 little Angels from the local Angel Trees. The students went on a shopping trip to San Angelo and spent the afternoon wrapping the gifts. The youngsters raised the money as a group to purchase the gifts.



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Merry Christmas

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To Yours!
Rosa's Casita & Staff**

Eldorado, Texas

Rosa's Casita Hours


Sun.	10-2 & 5-9
Mon.	Closed
Tues.	10-2 & 5-9
Wed.	10-2 & 5-9
Thurs.	10-2 & 5-9
Fri.	10-2 & 5-9
Sat.	10-2 & 5-9



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Offer ends 1/31/06. New residents only. See store for details. Add \$4.99/mo. for separate programming on 2nd and each additional TV.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

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

Eligibility

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

For more information contact: Patti Castillo-Indigent Health Care Coordinator
Schleicher County Medical Center, 400 Murchinson, Eldorado, TX 76936 325-853-2507

NOTICIA PUBLICA

PROGRAMA INDIGENTE DE CUIDADO MEDICO

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

Elegibilidad

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

Para mas infomacion de ponerse en contacto con:

Patti Castillo
Indigent Health Care Coordinator
Coordinadora del Programa Indigente de cuidado Medico
Schleicher County Medical Center
400 W. Murchison
Eldorado, Texas 76936
(325) 853-2507

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

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LOOK!

The Success prints renewal dates on all mailing labels. Our readers can help us hold down the cost of subscriptions by mailing in renewals in the appropriate month. Thank you! In County \$21.83; Out of County \$27.41 Out of State \$32.73. PO Box 1115, Eldorado, TX 76936.

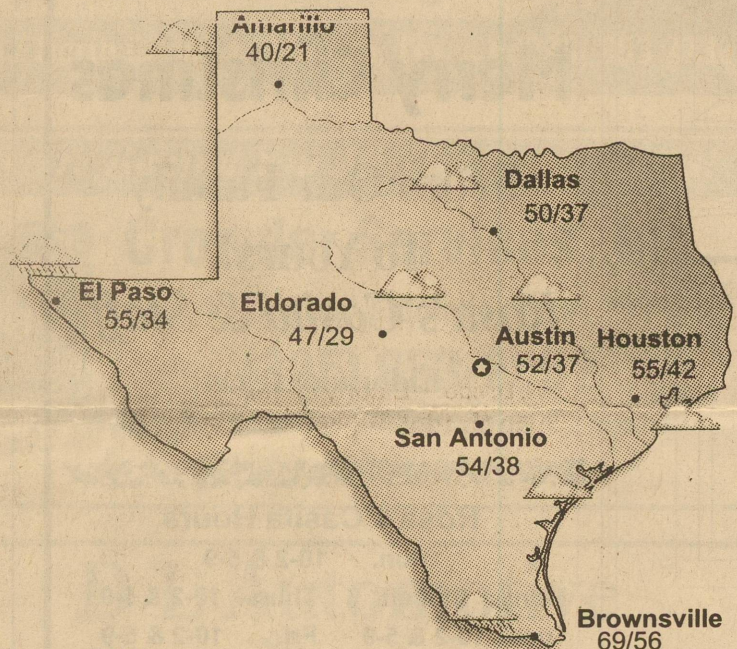
Eldorado Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 12/16	Sat 12/17	Sun 12/18	Mon 12/19	Tue 12/20
47/29 More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	45/28 Occasional showers possible. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	47/26 Few showers. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	42/19 Rain and snow. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper teens.	38/24 Snow showers at times. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM

UNIVERSAL MUSIC STORE on eBay
 www.universalmusicstore.com
 One of a kind music items!

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	44	31	cloudy	Kingsville	63	48	rain
Amarillo	40	21	cloudy	Livingston	53	36	cloudy
Austin	52	37	cloudy	Longview	52	37	cloudy
Beaumont	55	41	cloudy	Lubbock	42	23	cloudy
Brownsville	69	56	rain	Lufkin	54	38	cloudy
Brownwood	51	32	cloudy	Midland	43	29	rain
Corpus Christi	61	49	cloudy	Raymondville	66	52	rain
Corsicana	51	37	cloudy	Rosenberg	55	41	cloudy
Dallas	50	37	cloudy	San Antonio	54	38	cloudy
Del Rio	51	36	rain	San Marcos	53	38	cloudy
El Paso	55	34	rain	Sulphur Springs	50	35	cloudy
Fort Stockton	50	35	rain	Sweetwater	44	31	cloudy
Gainesville	49	31	cloudy	Tyler	51	36	cloudy
Greenville	51	33	cloudy	Weatherford	48	31	cloudy
Houston	55	42	cloudy	Wichita Falls	50	31	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	48	29	mst sunny	Minneapolis	22	12	sn shower
Boston	43	29	mixed	New York	46	28	rain
Chicago	25	17	sn shower	Phoenix	65	39	mst sunny
Dallas	50	37	cloudy	San Francisco	57	44	mst sunny
Denver	31	11	pt sunny	Seattle	40	29	pt sunny
Houston	55	42	cloudy	St. Louis	36	24	pt sunny
Los Angeles	64	47	sunny	Washington, DC	45	28	pt sunny
Miami	74	64	rain				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 12/16	Sat 12/17	Sun 12/18	Mon 12/19	Tue 12/20
2	2	3	3	4
Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

Strayhorn reports sales tax revenues in light of hurricanes

AUSTIN — Some Southeast Texas communities continue to see declines in their sales tax revenue as a result of Hurricane Rita, but overall state and local sales tax revenues are up significantly, Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn reported today.

The state collected \$1.58 billion in sales tax in November, up 9.4 percent compared to November 2004. December sales tax allocations to local governments rose by \$50.8 million, or 15.8 percent, compared to December 2004. Sales tax allocations are up 19 percent in 22 counties that were declared disaster areas following Hurricane Rita.

"These sales tax numbers tell the story of Texans' heroic response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita," Strayhorn said. "They show the generosity of Texans who purchased millions of dollars worth of clothing, household goods and emergency supplies for those in need. And the numbers reflect spending by thousands of evacuees, who were welcomed in cities throughout Texas."

"The numbers also show that after Hurricane Rita, Southeast Texans immediately bounced back and began to repair, replace and rebuild what they lost," Strayhorn

said. "Also contributing to stronger than average sales tax growth were the mining and utility sectors."

In the hard-hit Beaumont-Port Arthur area, Beaumont's local sales tax allocation dropped 9 percent in November, but its December sales tax soared by 43 percent compared to December 2004. Port Arthur's sales tax allocation dropped 12.1 percent in November, but rose 23.7 percent in December. Orange, whose sales tax allocation declined 12.3 percent in November, saw a 42.8 percent increase in December.

Only 25 local governments in 22 Southeast Texas disaster counties show declines in their December sales tax allocations, compared to 73 local governments whose sales tax revenue dropped in November. Cities, counties, special purpose taxing districts and a transit system located within the disaster area lost about \$271,000 in sales tax in December, compared to losses of \$2.3 million in November.

Strayhorn's unprecedented plan to help local governments whose sales tax revenue has declined since Hurricane Rita remains in effect.

"Some towns continue to lose sales tax revenue, because they

have businesses that have not been able to reopen," Strayhorn said. "I am offering local governments an option to help them with short-term fiscal problems caused by a sudden drop in sales tax revenue."

"Local governments in disaster counties can, if they wish, receive additional sales tax allocations for November and December to make up the difference between their November and December 2005 sales tax allocations and the amount they received last November and December," Strayhorn said.

Lists of the 25 local governments that qualify for sales tax assistance in December and the 73 that qualified in November are attached.

Strayhorn today sent \$372.4 million in December sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 15.8 percent compared to last December.

Texas cities received \$252.8 million in sales tax allocations, up 15.8 percent compared to December 2004. Texas counties received December sales tax allocations of \$21.8 million, up 17.2 percent compared to one year ago. The 103 special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$10.6

million in sales tax, up 22.5 percent compared to last December. Ten local transit systems received \$87.1 million in December sales tax payments, up 14.6 percent compared to a year ago.

November state sales tax collections and December sales tax allocations to local governments mainly represent sales that occurred in October.

Locally, the City of Eldorado's numbers showed the smallest increase in December and remain down year-to-date. Meanwhile, Schleicher County and the County Health Services tax with which the county funds the ambulance service and other projects increased in December and year-to-date. (See chart below)

For details of December 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 local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, Jan. 13, 2006 and will be reported the following week in The Success.

December 2005 Sales Tax Rebates

Local Jurisdiction	Dec. '05	Dec. '04	% Change	2005 YTD	2004 YTD	% Change
City of Eldorado	\$ 7,286.60	\$6,316.54	15.35%	\$ 89,921.79	\$ 95,386.61	-5.72%
Schleicher County	\$12,799.68	\$8,807.84	45.32%	\$130,099.15	\$106,953.64	21.64%
Schleicher Co. Health Services Tax	\$12,705.37	\$8,766.66	44.92%	\$127,179.93	\$ 105,511.12	20.53%

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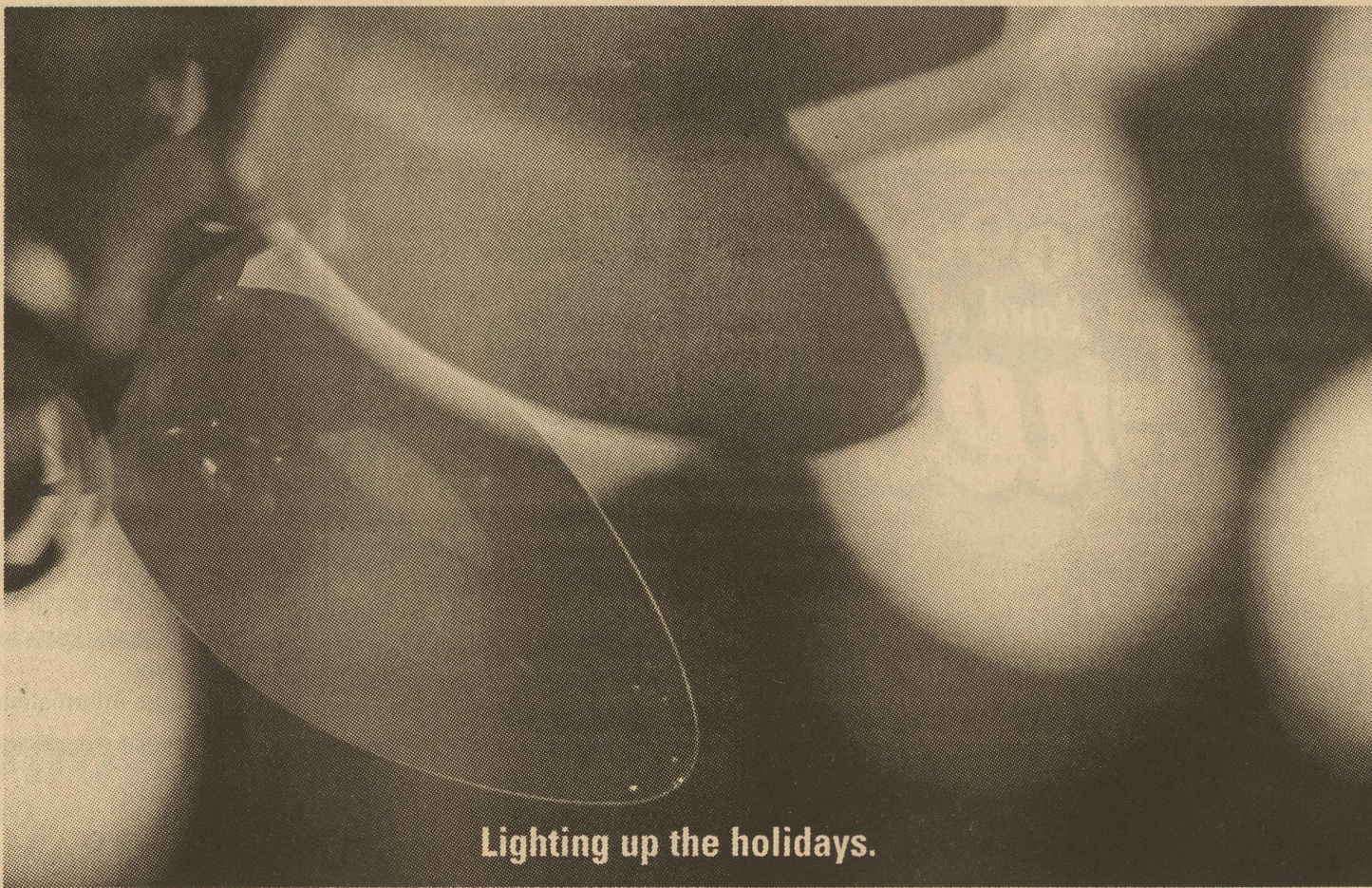
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5:35 p.m. Thursday



Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP Texas reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP Texas, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. AEP Texas is there, always working for you.

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

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EMPLOYMENT

 **Texas Department of Transportation**
4502 Knickerbocker Rd. San Angelo, TX 325-944-1501

Job Title: Trans Maint Tech II
Location: Sonora Maintenance Office
708 North US 277
Sonora, TX 76950

Job Number: 00-9234
Closing Date: 12/23/05 at 5:00 p.m.
Salary: \$9.92-12.92 per hour

Minimum Requirements: One (1) year experience in maintenance, construction or an equipment operation-related field. (Experience requirements may be satisfied by full-time experience or the pro rated part-time equivalent.) Must have or obtain within 60 calendar days from date of employment a Class A Commercial Driver License. In addition to the CDL employee must have or obtain within 90 calendar days of employment the X endorsement on their CDL. Must be able to report for duty within 30 minutes of notification on a 24 hour basis.
(The above is not a complete list of requirements or qualifications) A Completed Application is Required. For additional information call Human Resources at 325-944-1501 or visit our web site at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/> An applicant needing an accommodation in order to apply for the above job may call Human Resources. An Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo
Contract 0034-03-016 for SEAL COAT in RUNNELS County, etc will be opened on January 10, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.


Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 18612

STATE OFFICE
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

DIST/DIV OFFICE (S)
San Angelo District
District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd
San Angelo, Texas 76904
Phone: 325-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Woman's Club Bake Sale
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Garage & Yard Sales

For Sale: 4 metal padded kitchen chairs; jennings jars all sizes; 2 draw filing cabinet: FMI call 853-2394. 50b

Beautiful couch and loveseat, white metal trundle bed, chest of drawers, 3 wicker bar stools, like new blue/cream/wine floral couch with built-in recliners, hunter green swivel recliner/rocker, 2 baby high chairs, 1 girls like new bicycle, 2 boys Schwinn bicycles, treadmill, 2 tall wooden traditional bar stools, youth bed, Mahogany table and 6 chairs. Pentium computer w/printer & warranty (\$300), dining room sets, brown jenny lend baby bed, baby walker, stroller, cream print chair, antique fireplace mantel, teal leather loveseat, Great selection fall clothing and jeans for whole family. Lots more. Please call ahead before bringing in clothing or furniture. All must be in good condition. **SECOND HAND ROSE 853-3736.**

Brisket Sale to Support the Schleicher Co. Ag-Booster Club

The Ag-Booster Club is barbecuing briskets for a fund raiser for their newly formed group. Funds from this club will help local students participate in ag-activities through the 4-H and FFA clubs. 8-10 lb. briskets can be pre-ordered and paid for at either West Texas Feed and Mercantile or the high school ag classroom. Briskets are \$30 each and will be available for pick-up on Saturday, Dec. 17th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the High School Ag building. For more information, please call Will Self at 853-2514, ext. 365. **DEADLINE FOR ORDER 12/12/05**

Lynn Meador Real Estate

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

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

- 603 North Street: 3BR - 2 Bath, Large corner lot, covered front porch, fireplace, 28'x37' metal shop, fenced yard, large storage unit. \$85,000
- 809 N. Divide: 2BR - 1 1/2 Bath, 1393 sq. ft., frame, new appliances, new carpet, new CH/CA, covered carport, fenced yard. \$55,000. 100% financing available to qualified borrower**.
- 110 Dixie Drive: 3 BR - 2 bath frame home with vinyl siding, 1825 sq. ft., CH/CA, lots of storage, metal roof, privacy fence in good condition \$57,500.
- 708 Lee Ave: 4BR - 2Bath homewith steel siding, 1592 sq. ft., carpet, large lot w/ fenced yard. \$50,000.
- Old Mertzong Road: 4BR - 2 bath home on large lot. 2186 sq. ft., Attractive hardwood floors, CH/CA, privacy fence, metal storage building. Excellent condition. \$96,000.00
- 307 Depot Street: 3BR - 2 Bath frame home on approx. 1.65 acres. City utilities, 1998 sq. ft. CH/CA, water well, carport, various out-buildings and other improvements, large trees, privacy. \$105,000

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Sonora, TX
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Apply In Person 9/39ftn

REAL ESTATE

Eldorado: House for Sale: 2,500 sq.ft. house; 3 bedrooms; 2 1/2 baths; sits on @ 17.5 acres 10 miles west of Eldorado. Call 853-2447 for more information. 48-50b

INVESTMENTS

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver CO, 80201-2-01p

AUTO

2003 Chevrolet 3/4 Ton Silverado V-8 Automatic; A/C, power steering, 113K, regular cab, Tommy lift available. Asking \$7,850.00; FMI call 655-4759 or 656-3915 can be seen at 110 N Adams Street. 49-50b

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Service company needs consciousness road truck and winch truck operators. Must have current CDL, clean driving record, and experience in rig moving/oilfield equipment hauling. Offers most competitive pay in the area, commensurate with experience. Drug free and dependable persons call for interview. 325-387-5220.

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TexSCAN Week of December 11, 2005

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DRIVERS - OTR \$HOLIDAY Cash\$. Class "A" CDL. 1 year OTR. From start, get extra \$300 first 8 weeks. Then .03 cpm to \$4,000. Call FFE Transportation, 1-800-569-9232.

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Attorney General Abbott, Mexican officials warn against sending money to family in Mexico

Holiday season creates surge in the multi-billion-dollar wire transfer market

AUSTIN – Attorney General Greg Abbott today urged consumers to exercise caution when sending money to family and loved ones abroad, especially during the holiday season. He also encouraged the public to report wire transfer businesses suspected of foul play.

Attorney General Abbott is working closely with Profeco – Mexico's federal consumer protection agency – and Texas Applesseed – a nonprofit consumer advocacy group – to ensure that the hundreds of thousands of people in Texas who send money to Mexico are treated fairly.

"The money that hardworking families in Texas send abroad is essential to those who receive it," said Attorney General Abbott. "It makes a significant impact in improving the quality of life for millions of people around the

world, and I want to make sure that consumers are not the targets of unfair treatment or scams."

Carlos Arce Macias, Mexico's Attorney General for Consumer Protection and head of Profeco, concurred: "While the vast majority of money transfer companies respect their clients and the law, officials in Mexico and the United States recognize that the money consumers send across the border can also attract abuses and scams."

In their consumer education effort, Attorneys General Abbott and Arce are also joining with Texas Applesseed, an Austin-based organization that works to educate Texans about the money transfer market and problems consumers sometimes face.

Texas Applesseed Executive Director Annette LoVoi said: "We are extremely pleased to

partner with top officials like Attorneys General Abbott and Arce to inform and protect consumers in these increasingly important financial services."

Abbott, Arce and LoVoi provided several tips to consumers who are considering sending money. For example, in addition to fees charged for the money transfer, most businesses legitimately earn a profit by offering the sender an exchange rate that is somewhat less than the prevailing market rate. Consumers can find the prevailing rate in most daily newspapers and on many Web sites.

Texas law requires companies that send money to provide consumers a receipt detailing the amount of money being sent, fees charged, exchange rate information, and a toll-free or local customer service phone number. The receipt must be translated into Spanish if the money is being sent to a country where Spanish is widely spoken.

In Texas, consumers may cancel a transaction and obtain a full refund of the money sent and any fees if they request the cancellation within 30 minutes after the process begins, provided the sender never left the premises of the business and the money has not been received in the other country.

The following are signs of possible violations of Texas law and should be reported:

- The exchange rate is different from what is advertised or on the receipt.

- The person receiving the money in Mexico has to pay an additional fee that was not disclosed to the sender in Texas.

- The person receiving the money at a retail outlet in Mexico is unexpectedly forced to accept merchandise or store credit instead of cash.

- The time for the transfer is considerably longer than what consumers were told.

- The company refuses to provide written information about the exchange rate and transfer conditions or will not provide a receipt.
- The company will not allow the consumer to cancel a transaction as indicated above.

Consumers in Texas who wish to file a complaint should contact the Office of the Attorney General at 1-800-252-8011 or file a complaint online at www.oag.state.tx.us. Consumers in Mexico who wish to file a complaint should contact Profeco at 01-800-468-8722 (toll-free throughout Mexico) or by e-mail at quejas@profeco.gob.mx. Profeco also provides information on its Web site, www.profeco.gob.mx, about various money transfer businesses.

In addition, English and Spanish brochures offering tips on wise money transfers are available from the Texas Applesseed Web site, www.texasapplesseed.net.

Since assuming office, Attorney General Abbott has become a nationally recognized leader in the protection of Hispanic consumers by halting dozens of operations that defraud consumers based on their last name, the language they speak or their immigration status. He has taken action against more than 30 fraudulent immigration services consultants; housing and real estate scams against Hispanic families; the sale of thousands of legally worthless "international licenses" marketed to immigrant drivers; and bogus credit card offers in which thousands of Hispanics nationally were defrauded. His efforts have been praised by numerous Hispanic advocacy groups, including the National Caucus of Hispanic State Legislators.

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

Double Plays

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



Cinnamon Hazelnut Crescents



Choc-Oat Chip Meringue Bars

THE GREAT Exchange

Cookie exchanges are the perfect way to give and receive this holiday season.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Time is tight for everyone during the holidays, so why not host a cookie exchange this year and check off two important items on your "to do" list? Not only will you have a great opportunity to reconnect with friends, coworkers and neighbors, but you'll also end up with a delicious assortment of holiday cookies.

FIVE TIPS FOR THE PERFECT COOKIE EXCHANGE

- Invite five to 12 friends to bake and bring one batch of home-baked cookies to exchange with the others. A good rule of thumb is to have everyone bake six to 12 cookies for every person attending. Bar and drop cookies are easiest to make and transport in large batches.
 - When guests RSVP, ask them which cookie they're bringing, to prevent duplicates. Additionally, ask them to bring copies of the recipe to share with everyone.
 - Serve a variety of beverages and simple appetizers to snack on. While the cookies are the focus of this party, the true purpose is to reconnect with friends and neighbors. Be sure to have an ample supply of food in case the conversations last long into the evening.
 - Display everyone's cookies on a dining room table or kitchen island so that it will be easy for your guests to walk around and fill their containers.
 - Provide large containers for everyone to bring home their cookies. Bakery boxes and aluminum roasting pans work well. Or, for a more festive feel, find large, holiday-themed trays or cookie tins at your local party supply store.
- COOKIE BAKING TIPS:**
- Read the entire recipe before baking to make sure you have all the ingredients and utensils on hand.
 - Measure all ingredients accurately. Line them up on your countertop or island in the order they appear in the recipe for quick, easy preparation.
 - Follow baking directions to the "t." Be sure to use the correct pan size and begin checking for doneness at the minimum baking time given in the recipe.
 - Bar cookies should cool in the pan on a wire rack. For a festive holiday touch, try cutting them in triangle or diamond shapes.

Lemon-Cranberry Crumb Bars

- 1 can (15 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1-1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Croc Spreadable Sticks
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)*
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Confectioners' sugar, for sprinkling

*If using old fashioned oats, add additional 2 tablespoons flour.

- Heat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 15-1/2 x 10-1/2 x 1-inch jelly roll pan with no-stick cooking spray.
- Combine condensed milk, lemon juice, egg and lemon peel in medium bowl; whisk until well blended. Stir in cranberries; set aside.
- Beat spread and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer until blended. Add combined flour, oats, baking powder and salt; beat well. Reserve 2 cups oat mixture for topping. Press remainder evenly onto bottom of pan. Pour lemon mixture over crust. Crumble reserved oat mixture evenly over lemon mixture.
- Bake until edges begin to brown, about 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool in pan on wire rack 15 minutes. Cut into 1-1/2-inch squares. Cool completely. Cover and refrigerate. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

Makes 60 bars

Holiday Oatmeal Drops

- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Croc Spreadable Sticks
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)*
- 1-1/2 cups holiday (red and green) candy-coated chocolate pieces
- 1 cup white chocolate chips

*If using old fashioned oats, add additional 2 tablespoons flour.

- Heat oven to 375°F. Grease or line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
- Beat spread and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add combined flour, baking soda and salt; beat well. Stir in

combined oats, candies and chips.

- Drop dough by rounded measuring tablespoonfuls onto prepared cookie sheets.
- Bake 9 to 10 minutes, just until set and light brown. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets; remove to wire racks. Cool completely. Store tightly covered at room temperature.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies

Cinnamon Hazelnut Crescents

- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Croc Spreadable Sticks
- 1-1/2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (3 ounces) toasted ground hazelnuts
- 2-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)

- Beat spread, 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer until creamy. Add combined flour, hazelnuts, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and salt; beat just until combined. Add oats; beat until combined. Cover and refrigerate dough until firm, about 2 hours or overnight.*
- Heat oven to 350°F. Combine remaining 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar and remaining 1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon in medium bowl; set aside.
- Roll rounded measuring teaspoonfuls of dough into 2-inch ropes. Place ropes about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets; shape into crescents.
- Bake 10 to 13 minutes, until golden brown. Cool 2 minutes on cookie sheets. Roll cookies, a few at a time, in cinnamon-sugar. Transfer to wire racks. Sift remaining cinnamon-sugar over tops of cookies. Cool completely. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies

*If dough is too cold to shape easily, let stand at room temperature 15 minutes.

Cook's Tip: To toast and grind chopped hazelnuts: Spread 3 ounces chopped hazelnuts in single layer on cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F until fragrant, 6 to 8 minutes. Cool completely. Process toasted nuts in food processor until finely ground.

Choc-Oat Chip Meringue Bars

- 2-1/2 cups firmly packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Croc Spreadable Sticks
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)*
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup shredded coconut
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans

*If using old fashioned oats, add additional 2 tablespoons flour.

- Heat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 15-1/2 x 10-1/2 x 1-inch jelly roll pan with no-stick cooking spray.
- Beat 1-1/2 cups brown sugar, spread, egg yolks and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add combined oats, flour, baking powder and salt; beat just until dry ingredients are incorporated. Stir in chocolate chips. Spread evenly onto bottom of pan. Sprinkle with coconut. Bake 25 minutes. Remove to wire rack; leave oven on.
- Beat egg whites (at room temperature) in clean dry bowl with electric mixer on high speed until foamy. Gradually add remaining 1 cup brown sugar beating until stiff peaks form. Gently fold in pecans. Spread meringue evenly onto warm cookie layer.
- Return pan to oven. Bake 15 minutes until meringue is light brown.
- Cool bars completely in pan on wire rack. Cut into 1-1/2-inch squares with thin, wet knife. Store tightly covered at room temperature.

Makes 60 bars

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