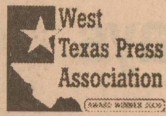


THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



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Congressional representative to be in Eldorado next Tuesday

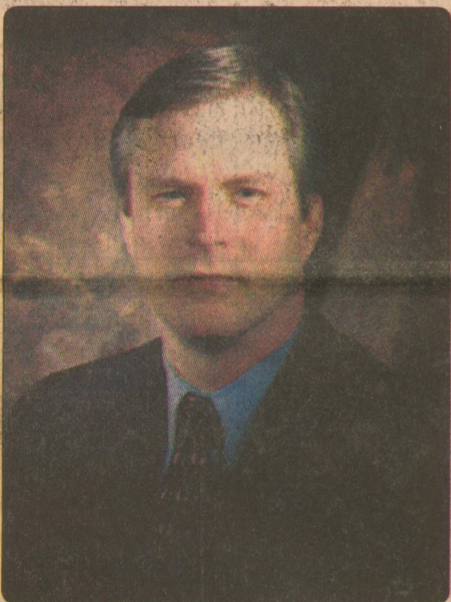
Joanne Powell, a member of Congressman Mike Conaway's (TX-11) staff, will be in Eldorado on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, to visit personally with constituents. This will allow citizens to share concerns, request help on a federal issue or to ask any questions they may have.

Ms. Powell will be in the County Commissioners Meeting Room on the first floor of the Schleicher County Courthouse beginning at 9:30 a.m. and continuing through 11:30 a.m. The public is invited to stop by and visit with Ms. Powell about any federal concern.

Hilderbran files legislation to help small business owner

State Rep. Harvey Hilderbran (Kerrville) has filed House Bill 1022 and House Joint Resolution 54 which clarify that personal vehicles used for the production of income are exempt from ad valorem taxation.

"Most small business owners and professionals use their personal vehicles for both personal and business purposes," Rep. Hilderbran said in an announcement. "This mixed use should not warrant an additional tax burden. My bill and the accompanying joint resolution will give much needed tax relief to an already overburdened small-business owner in Texas. Everyone from independent lawn maintenance service people to real estate agents to CPAs will benefit from this personal vehicle tax exemption."



State Representative
Harvey Hilderbran
Texas House District 53

opinion stating personal vehicles used in the production of income are still taxable unless specifically exempt from taxation in the Texas Constitution.

"This legislation is necessary to clear up any confusion created by the AG opinion that Texans should not pay an unfair tax simply because they use their personal vehicle in the day-to-day course of doing business," Rep. Hilderbran said.

HB 1022 and HJR 54 are also joint authored by Ways and Means Chairman Jim Kefer (Eastland), Rep. John Otto (Dayton), Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer (San Antonio) and Rep. Robert "Robby" Cook (Eagle Lake).

Rep. Hilderbran represents House District 53 which includes the following counties: Crockett, Sutton, Schleicher, Real, Kerr, Kimble, Menard, Mason, Llano, San Saba, McCulloch, Concho, Coleman, Runnels and Callahan. Hilderbran also chairs the Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism and was recently appointed to the Committee on Natural Resources.

During the 2005 legislative session, Rep. Hilderbran passed legislation that business owners are no longer required to render a personal vehicle for ad valorem purposes. However, since the legislation was passed and signed into law, the Texas attorney general has issued an



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Lady Eagles defenders Chelsey Hill, Mariana Guzman and Kirsten Stubbs surrounded this Irion County player Tuesday night as the Eldorado dominated the visiting Lady Hornets. Eldorado got 45-38 win and a share of 3rd place in the district. There will be a play-in game with Miles in at 6:30 p.m. in Christoval to determine who goes to the playoffs.

K of C Free Throw Tournery slated Feb. 17

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2007 Knights of Columbus International Free Throw Championship.

The local competition will be held Saturday, February 17, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Eldorado Middle School Gym.

The International Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually by the K of C with winners progressing through local, district, and the state level competition.

International champions are announced by the K of C International Headquarters based on scores from the state

level competitions.

All boys and girls 10 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in respective age divisions (Determine age as of January 1, 2007). Last year more than 247,000 sharpshooters participated in 4,017 local competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in this event. Participants will be required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For entry forms or additional information contact: Rogelio Adame at 853-3629 or Jimmy Aguilar at 853-3098.

Rocksprings deputy to face sentencing March 12

Guillermo F. Hernandez, an Edwards County Deputy Sheriff, known to his friends and neighbors as "Gilmer," could face up to 10 years in a federal prison because he fired four shots at a fleeing Chevrolet Suburban after the driver reportedly tried to run him down. One of the car's nine passengers, Maricela Rodriguez-Garcia, a Mexican national who was being smuggled illegally into the United States, was reportedly struck in the lip by ricochet bullet or other metal fragment.

Hernandez was convicted in federal court in December, 2006, of violating Rodriguez-Garcia's civil rights while acting under the color of law. He was acquitted on a second count. The prosecutor, U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton, is the same man who convicted two U.S. Border Patrol Agents, Ignacio Ramos, 37, and Jose Alonso Compean, 28, after a similar incident near Fabens in far West Texas. That case has garnered national media attention. Gilmer Hernandez's case has received little attention outside Edwards County.

The incident that resulted in Hernandez's conviction occurred shortly before midnight on April 14, 2005. At that time, Hernandez, who was taking his wife to buy a cold drink from a nearby vending machine, witnessed a blue Chevrolet Suburban run a stop sign. He pursued the vehicle on U.S. 377 and pulled the suburban over near the outskirts of town. As Hernandez approached the Suburban he said he noticed several passengers but only the driver was sitting up.

Suspecting that the passengers

were illegal aliens, Hernandez said he asked the driver to step out of the car. However, at that time, the driver reportedly turned his wheels and sped away, attempting to run down Deputy Hernandez. That's when Hernandez pulled his pistol and fired four shots at the car's rear tires.

The Deputy then radioed a report to dispatch and gave pursuit to the fleeing SUV. The car didn't go far before a flat rear tire caused it to swerve and strike a fence and H-brace alongside the highway. Border patrol agent Terry Hunt responded to the scene and arrived in time to see the Suburban crash into the fence and witness several passengers exit the vehicle and flee on foot. Ms. Rodriguez-Garcia was the only one who stayed with the vehicle and an EMS crew was called to treat her injuries. Volunteer EMTs reportedly believed her injured lip resulted from



COURTESY PHOTO

Guillermo F. "Gilmer" Hernandez
Edwards County Deputy Sheriff

the vehicle striking the fence. She later claimed to have been shot.

Sheriff Letsinger initiated an investigation into the shooting as a matter of policy. Deputy Hernandez turned over his gun and Texas Ranger Bobby Smith was called in to investigate. The Sheriff met with the treating physician in Del Rio who reportedly doubted Ms. Rodriguez-Garcia's wound was made by a bullet. However, upon questioning by the Sheriff the doctor allowed that it was possible for a bullet or metal fragment to enter the lip then exit through the open mouth, leaving only one hole. Ms. Rodriguez-Garcia was transported to Brook Medical Center in San Antonio for further examination.

As Ranger Smith investigated the incident, he located four spent cartridges at the spot where Deputy Hernandez said he shot at the Suburban's tires. And, one of the passenger's in the vehicle, who had subsequently been captured confirmed that the driver tried to run the deputy down.

Meanwhile, there were no cartridges nor bullets found at the place where the Suburban crashed into the fence even though two of the Mexican nationals who fled the scene later told investigators that the deputy shot at him as they ran away. Federal agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were called in to look for bullets at the crash site, but could not locate any.

In other statements made to investigators, three of the Mexican nationals, Ms. Rodriguez-Garcia, Ivonne

SEE DEPUTY ON PAGE 7

Runge plans Mardi Gras Parade

Since New Orleans has been hard hit and is having trouble getting geared up for Mardi Gras this year, Eldorado has agreed to step up into the void and host the Krewe of Wagons Mardi Gras Parade. The parade will begin staging at the famous Eldorado Hysterical District at 2:30 PM on Sunday, February 18, and proceed through downtown to the courthouse square, beginning at 3 PM. This roadside attraction is located in south Eldorado. Participants are encouraged to come early in order to view the numerous displays at this one of a kind park.

Beads will be thrown, and participants are encouraged to dress in Mardi Gras attire of green, purple and gold. The wearing of costumes and masks is strongly encouraged, but not mandated. All types of entries are welcome including floats, walking groups, animals, riding groups, motorized vehicles, bicycle groups, posse's, scout groups, school groups, bands, individuals and organizations.

All types of wagons from throughout the state have been invited to participate

in the parade and attending wagons will congregate on the parking lot of the courthouse after the parade for viewing, rides and the trading of wagon information. Wagon owners have been encouraged to come if they have wagons to sell, and prospective buyers have been invited to check out the selections.

Residents from Eldorado and the surrounding area are invited to participate in this first annual event. Residents from within "Nowhere," the 32,000 square mile area surrounding Eldorado are especially invited, but no one will be turned away. All expenses have been spared to present this unique event. There is no entry fee and awards will be given for the most entertaining entries during the "Circle the Wagons" event on the square.

This event will be a good opportunity for businesses or organizations wishing to rent wagons for special occasions to talk to the various wagon owners concerning their services. For questions or further information about the event, contact Jim Runge at 325-853-3678 or eoboc@hotmail.com.

Hillary the Calculator

When Hillary Clinton announced her presidential exploratory committee while sitting on a couch in her living room, she didn't project warmth so much as a sense that she was desperately trying to project warmth.

As TV producer Steve Rosenbaum wrote of her performance on the liberal Web site The Huffington Post: "Hillary is struggling with words that are not her own. You can practically see the teleprompter reflected in her eyes. Every word has been word-smithed, every phrase looked at by a

team of consultants." Welcome to the Hillary Clinton campaign, which will be the most blatantly calculated presidential campaign in memory. Almost all political campaigns involve falsity and playacting, but it is Hillary's lot in life not to be able to fake it well, so the scriptwriting and the consultants' work show through. She seems to take the advice to "act naturally" literally, and the acting is always more in evidence than the naturalness.

Thus, the great battle is joined between the ruthless, highly effective inauthenticity of Hillary Clinton and the vapid, feel-good authenticity of Barack Obama.

Calculation has its advantages. But no one likes naked calculation, and Clinton worries Democrats traumatized by the experience of their last few presidential candidates. Because liberalism typically doesn't sell in American presidential politics, liberal candidates tend to run as culturally conservative centrists -- i.e., phonies. It sank both John Kerry, who couldn't even order a Philly cheesesteak properly, and Al Gore, who adopted three such utterly different personas in three national presidential debates that his performances could be a case study in abnormal-psychology classes.

The two tried, ineffectually, to duplicate the success of Bill Clinton. He was a liberal who could appeal -- prior to Monica-gate -- to conservative-leaning "Bubba" voters. He was a Southerner who had no problem negotiating fried food, and he governed as a centrist from 1994 to 1998. Just as importantly, his fakery was so deft and deeply ingrained that it was impossible to tell where it ended and the real Bill Clinton began. This constituted a kind of political genius, and it won't soon be repeated, certainly not by his wife.

If Bill was all id, Hillary is all superego. Comedians still make fun of Bill's out-of-control appetites, but with Hillary, the mockery is about how she lets nothing be out of control (except perhaps her husband).

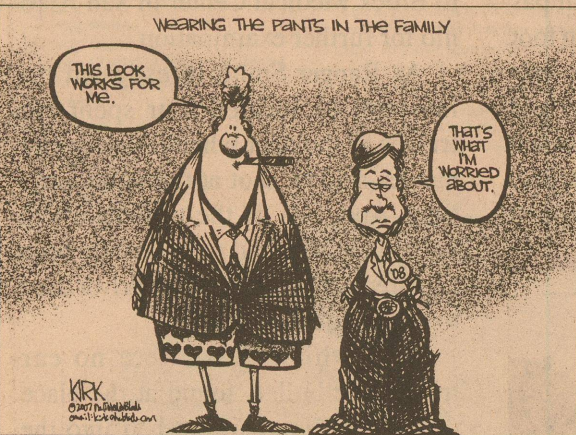
Last month, "Saturday Night Live" portrayed her explaining her position on the war thusly: "I think most Democrats know me. They understand that my support for the war was always insincere. Of course, knowing what we know now, that you could vote against the war and still be elected president, I would never have pretended to support it."

Even Democrats would be hard-pressed not to see truth in that skit, and that's why, even if she's a strong favorite for the nomination, it's hardly a lock.

All that is certain is that at some defining moment during the campaign, Hillary Clinton will face an unexpected challenge. She will have to react to it without the benefit of careful handling or a script, and that moment will determine whether or not all her calculation goes for naught.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Will that be Regular or Decaf?

by Don Flood

We have good news on the doughnut news front.

Dr. Robert Bohannon, a molecular scientist with too much time on his hands, has developed a way to produce caffeinated doughnuts.

Finally!

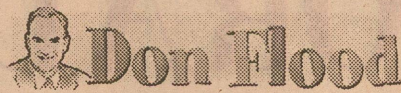
No more trying to wake yourself up with a breakfast of coffee and decaf doughnuts.

Between the coffee and the new doughnuts, which have the same caffeine content as two cups of coffee (but which size? Tall? Grande? El Mucho Biggo Grande?), you'll be cranked up until next April.

Bohannon, in a jittery news conference where he talked way too fast, appeared fairly upbeat -- having eaten two dozen of his creations that morning -- but expressed regret that he wasn't able to follow through with his idea for crystal meth doughnuts. "Krispy Kreme and Dunkin' Donuts just totally wimped out," he screamed at the top of his lungs.

OK, that last paragraph wasn't exactly true, in the sense it was a fabrication, but who exactly was demanding caffeinated doughnuts?

It's hard enough now to pick out a dozen doughnuts. You get



a few of these and a few of those and the people are waiting behind you and you haven't had any coffee yet so you can't think clearly and the pressure builds and builds and builds until you finally start choosing those nasty doughnuts that nobody eats.

They just sit and sit in the box until you have no choice but, well, to eat them anyway.

But now it's going to be worse: "Do you want regular or decaf doughnuts?"

And with all this caffeine coursing through our veins, how will America relax?

No problem. We recently got the word from Drew Barrymore.

There's nothing I find more useful in the Sunday papers than relaxation tips, especially from movie stars, who are experts at relaxation, so much so that they are continually checking into rehab to recover from their extensive relaxation activities.

Barrymore did not disappoint.

Here, printed verbatim from Parade magazine, is how Barrymore becomes "one with nature."

(Which is really a good thing, unless of course you're in one

of those countless places where nature is yucky and filled with bugs.)

"I'll drive in Ireland and park my car and run out into the field and rip all my clothes off and just run in the wheat fields naked."

Excellent! But what if you can't make it to Ireland's wheat fields?

Not to worry. Any field will do. In fact, if you're really hopped up on coffee and doughnuts you might want to try it on the freeway.

Also on the food and beverage news front is a report of a non-alcoholic beer made especially for dogs.

This is good news, especially if your dog serves as your designated driver.

But be warned. The doggy beer, called Kwispelbier, costs four times more than a Heineken, a pretty expensive beer; so don't serve it unless your dog is a real connoisseur.

And, if he is driving, keep some caffeinated doughnuts on hand to make sure he stays awake.

Write to Don Flood in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mails to dflood287@comcast.net.

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House limits flow of legislation in first 60 days of session

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - When the Legislature convenes, one of the governor's duties so says the Texas Constitution, is to recommend to lawmakers "such measures as he may deem expedient."

That means the all-important state budget and the governor's top issues -- usually referred to as emergency issues -- go to the front of the line.

Other bills can be acted upon quickly too, if a well-oiled procedure is followed: the House simply votes to suspend a constitutional rule that reserves the first 60 days of the legislative session for the passage of bills that top the governor's priority list.

However, as January drew to a close, the House departed from its normal behavior when a motion to suspend the rule, which required a supermajority (four-fifths) vote to pass, failed.

Thirty-four of the House's 150 members voted "no" despite cries that doing so would create a logjam of bills late in the session and likely prevent many local bills from ever making it out of committee.

So, for the first time since the 1981 legislative session, House bills won't get past the committee level in the first 60 days of the session.

The vote not to suspend has been interpreted as retaliation against House Speaker Tom Craddick, who doled out committee assignments perceived as punitive by some members who supported Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, in his short-lived speaker candidacy.

Despite the vote, there is a movement among Craddick lieutenants and other House members to vote again on rule suspension.

Child safety program launched

John Walsh, host of the Fox television program "America's Most Wanted," joined Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in a Capitol news conference to announce Dewhurst's "Texas First!" child safety initiative.

The initiative teams the state and private sector in helping kindergarten through second grade students learn how to be safe around strangers and to educate the children about the dangers of predators online, in schools and in neighborhoods.

The Safe Side Company, co-founded by Walsh, is donating more than 1,000 Stranger Safety Resource Kits to Texas school districts.

Kits include lesson plans and activities for classroom use, and a media library that includes 25 copies of the "Stranger Safety" DVD for take-home use.

Texas is the first state to participate in the program, Dewhurst's office said.

Order issued for vaccination rules Gov. Rick Perry on Feb. 2 issued an executive order directing the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules requiring girls age 11 and 12 to be vaccinated against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) before they enter sixth grade.

The rules are to include an opt-out provision for parents who don't want their daughters to be vaccinated.

Perry wants the program to be up and running by September 2008.

Certain strains of HPV are known to cause cervical cancer.

TEA publishing expenditures

Gov. Perry is now publishing his office's expenditures online and on

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 3



What's all this fascination with ice?

One of the most enjoyable times I had over the holidays was when our family went to see the ice sculptures at the Gaylord in Grapevine. A 14,000 square foot freezer was created to keep temperature around 19 degrees so the bigger than life-size sculptures wouldn't melt. Forty ice artisans from Harbin, China were called in to spend 34 days creating the wagons, horses and manger scenes from two million pounds of ice.

We were given parkas to wear during the time we were viewing the unique exhibit. There was even an ice slide that most of the guests experienced. 5,000 ice blocks were hand carved and transformed into a winter wonderland. Three different types of ice were used: clear, glass-like crystal ice, white ice that looked like compacted snow and colored ice which was dyed brilliant colors. 1,400 led lights frozen within the ice created a dazzling display. We were all amazed. The hot chocolate and cookies we had after turning in our parkas were warm and welcome.

It just occurred to me that there's a lot of ice stuff going on.



by Tumbleweed Smith

When we were in Queenstown, New Zealand one evening in December (summer over there), I noticed a room full of people wearing fur-lined parkas, boots and gloves. They were preparing to go into a nightclub named Minus Five Degrees. For \$30, you can head inside the bar, which is made of ice and drink vodka from glasses also made of ice and sit on ice chairs and place your glass on ice tables and admire the ice sculptures.

Patrons are only allowed to stay for thirty minutes. They wear timers to let them know when their half-hour is up. Even the bar staff only works in rotating one-hour shifts. One person who emerged from the bar said you wouldn't go to Minus Five for a night out. You should treat it like a ride on a roller coaster, something that only lasts a short time but is very memorable.

What's cooler than being cool?

I thought this might be a one-of-a-kind thing, but I found out there are several ice bars around the world. Sydney and Auckland both have Minus Fives, so do Paris, London and Tokyo. Beverly Hills and Las Vegas both have what they call Vodka Freezers and Manhattan has a long bar made of ice.

Quebec City has an ice hotel (or Hotel de Glace, as it's called in French). Everything is made of snow or ice, including the walls and roof. Transparent crystal columns and soaring archways don't take away the fact that a night there is an experiment in sub-freezing survival. If you feel chilled, you can soak in the hot tub before climbing into your sleeping bag. There is a permanent structure with central heat, bathrooms and a fireplace.

The hotel has been there six winters. For the past five years it has been frozen in place in the Station touristique Duchesnay, a forest reserve 30 minutes west of Quebec. It has 34 rooms and can accommodate 84 guests. Nobody stays a second night.

Sonora man elected VP Sheep Industry Association

ENGLEWOOD, CO — Glen Fisher of Sonora, Texas, was elected vice president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) at the 2007 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention[1] in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 27, 2007.

Fisher is the major partner and manager of Askew-Fisher Ranch, located on 18,000 acres of land in Sutton County, Texas. He runs approximately 1,800 head of sheep and 400 cows, as well as offers a hunting enterprise on his ranch.

Before being elected to the office of vice president, Fisher served as secretary/treasurer of ASI. He has served on the ASI Executive

Board and is a past chairman of the American Wool Council. In addition to ASI, he has served as past president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, past director of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center and past director of the Texas Polled Hereford Association. Fisher managed the Sonora Wool and Mohair Co. for 16 years and has also been involved in numerous civic and local organizations. Currently, Fisher serves as co-chair of the ASI Goat Committee.

Fisher is married to wife, Linda, and has two children, daughter, Tammy, of Washington, D.C., and son, David, who lives near San Antonio, Texas.

Commenting on his election to the office, Fisher says, "Of course it is an honor to be elected. The best thing about being involved with this organization is that we have almost total unity in the industry. We are in very good shape, but we still have challenges. It's exciting."

Other officers elected to the ASI Executive Board at the convention were Burdell Johnson of Tuttle, N.D., to the office of president and Margaret Soulen Hinson of Weiser, Idaho, to the office of secretary/treasurer.

ASI is a national trade organization supported by 44 state sheep associations, benefiting the interests of nearly 68,000 sheep producers.

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Texas Tech researchers in Florida to judge new tornado scale

NEWSWISE — A year after the National Weather Service implemented a new rating scale to more accurately measure tornado intensity, Texas Tech University wind researchers are in tornado-ravaged portions of Florida this week to study how well the new scale worked.

The system, called the Enhanced Fujita Scale, will continue to rate tornadoes from zero to five, but should provide more accurate ranges in wind speed. It was developed in part by Texas Tech's Wind

Science and Research Center.

Weather Service field agents were trained over the past year to assess structural damage and then determine wind speeds and tornado ratings based on the new scale. The system was implemented this month just as a string of tornadoes hit Florida Friday, killing 20 people.

Larry Tanner, a civil engineer-

ing research associate, is now leading efforts to document structures damaged by the tornadoes — including mobile homes and recently built houses with in-home shelters — and measure how well the new system worked.

The original F Scale was developed in 1971 by the late University of Chicago professor T. Theodore Fujita to rate tornadoes and esti-

mate associated wind speed based on the damage they cause. The new EF scale refines and improves the original scale. Limitations of the F Scale have led to inconsistent ratings, including possible overestimates of wind speeds.

Kishor Mehta and Jim McDonald of Texas Tech led a group representing Fujita Scale users — including nationally renowned meteorologists and wind engineers — that began working to revise the scale in 2001. The wind speed ratings were revised based on based on 30 years of damage assessment data recorded by Texas Tech from tornado sites across the nation.

Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Feb. 1 proposed requiring all state agencies to publish their expenditures online as part of his budget reform package.

The Texas Education Agency went ahead and published its check register online. It can be viewed at <http://tea.state.tx.us> by clicking on the "About TEA" button. The check register will be updated at least quarterly, the agency said.

State lottery may be up for sale

Gov. Perry indicated he is thinking about selling the Texas Lottery to a private firm. Other states are contemplating doing the same in exchange for a chunk of the profits. Perry was to give more details in his Feb. 6 State of the State speech.

Opinion page mainstay dies

Widely read and published syndicated columnist and best-selling author Molly Ivins, 62, died Jan. 31 at her home in Austin after an eight-year recurring battle with breast cancer.

Ivins focused strongly on the Texas Legislature in particular and state politics in general for nearly four decades. In recent years she devoted extra attention to the political career of President George W. Bush.

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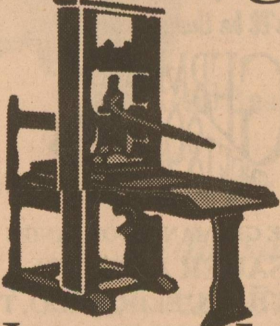
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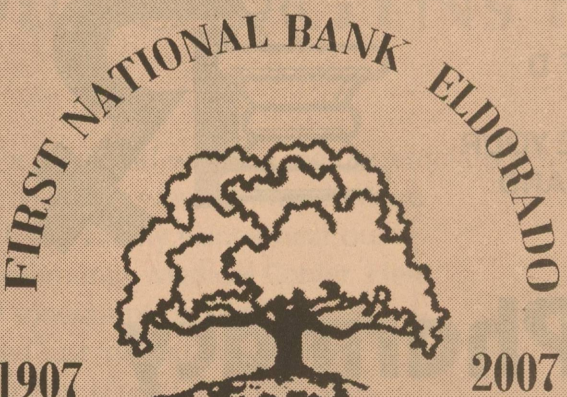
This week's winner of the \$100 Weekly Drawing is: Henderson Ranches (L-R) Shane Henderson, Sam Henderson Jr and Sam Henderson Sr. presented by Stacy Haynes

Weekly Sudoku Puzzle
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ Hoo Boy!

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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See Solution on Page 8



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◆ HANNIBAL RISING (10:50) 1:40 4:45 7:50 10:40 (PG-13)	◆ NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (10:20) 12:55 3:50 6:30 9:15 (PG)
◆ HOBBIT (Showing on 2 screens) (10:30) (11:00) 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:30 7:00 7:30 9:40 10:20 (PG-13)	◆ SMOKIN' ACES (11:00) 1:50 4:50 7:50 10:40 (R)
◆ BECAUSE I SAID SO (11:15) 1:45 4:35 7:15 9:55 (PG-13)	◆ STOMP THE YARD (10:25) 1:10 4:05 6:55 10:00 (PG-13)
◆ BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (11:30) 2:00 4:40 7:40 10:25 (PG-13)	◆ THE MESSENGERS (11:45) 2:15 5:00 7:45 10:15 (PG-13)
◆ CATCH AND RELEASE (10:35) 1:20 4:30 7:25 10:20 (PG-13)	◆ THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (10:40) 1:35 4:20 7:10 10:10 (PG-13)
◆ DREAMGIRLS (12:45 4:00 7:00 10:00 (PG-13))	◆ THE QUEEN (10:45) 1:25 4:25 6:55 9:35 (PG-13)
◆ EPIC MOVIE (10:45) 1:05 4:15 7:15 9:45 (PG-13)	

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Miles ends Eagles district winning streak 62-57

Determined play would not be enough to hold back the Miles Bulldogs on Tuesday, January 30, as the Eldorado Eagles varsity boys lost their first district game of the year 62-57 in Eagle Gymnasium.

Jorge Mata fouled out after scoring 16 points and grabbing 14 rebounds in a valiant outing. Drew Bosmans also put 16 on the board, including two 3-point goals. Bosmans added 5 rebounds in the losing effort.

Zach Hash dominated the paint for the Eagles hauling in 10 rebounds to go along with his six points. Lalo Sanchez added seven points and a rebound for the Eagles, plus a game-high two assists.

In the waning minutes of the game, the Eagles had a few less players to call upon, Mata, Sanchez

and Hash having fouled out.

The Eagles' defense still played well, despite the final score as they noted up five takeaways to Miles' two.

Eldorado is 17-9 overall and 4-1 in District.

Coach Valeriano stated after the game "I thought we played a good game overall. We just couldn't get our free throws to go in at the end."

Warbrids get 63-51 win over Cougars

The Eldorado Eagle boys varsity squad improved to 5-2 on the district season with a 63-51 victory against the Christoval Cougars on Friday, February 2 in Christoval.

Zach Hash had a stellar night for the Eagles, pouring in 16 points while tallying 11 rebounds.

Drew Bosmans also scored 16 points on the night. He hauled in six rebounds, had two assists and one block.

The visiting Eagles' swarming defense zeroed in on the Cougars as they snagged 20 steals on the night. The Warbirds totaled nine assists as a squad and were able to easily dictate the tempo of the game.

Tyler Dombroski contributed to that swarming defense and fouled out at the end of the physical game.

Lalo Sanchez and Jorge Mata scored 8 points each and Mata had 13 rebounds. Sammy Estrada, Rance and Russell Cathey, Michael Redish contributed 9 points to the board. Manny Gonzalez made one rebound.

Coach Rene Valeriano explained, "This was the 3rd time we had to play Christoval and every time we met they got better. We were lucky to walk out of their gym with a victory."



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
Briley Ledbetter put up this shot for the 8th Grade Eagles last week as they took on the Water Valley 8th grade squad in the Eagle Middle School Gym. Eldorado won the game 34-24.

Lady Eagles dispatch IC Lady Hornets 45-38

The Eldorado High School Lady Eagles defeated the Irion County Lady Hornets 45-38 on Tuesday, February 6 in an exciting game at Eagle Gym. The victory secured a third place tie for the Lady Eagles and set up a play-in game with Miles at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 8th in Christoval.

Eldorado's effort was paced by Kirsten Stubbs, who poured in 14 points for the game. Leslie Cruz put 8 points on the board with most coming from the free throw line in the fourth quarter. Cassandra Buitron also put 8 on the board.

Chelsey Hill moved the ball down the lane contributing 5 to the score.

Bridgett Mitchell hauled in a rebound and immediately put up a shot that found nothing but net late in the 3rd, to pull the Lady Eagles ahead 24-23. Seconds later, Leslie Cruz hit a two-pointer as time expired to cement Eldorado's lead going into the 4th stanza.

That's when the Lady Eagles offense erupted, scoring 20 points and pulling away from the Irion County girls giving Eldorado the lead for good and the victory. Most of Eldorado's 4th quarter points actually came from the charity stripe as the Lady Hornets fell behind and were forced to foul.

Rhapsody Swyter, put an emphasis on the Lady Eagles hot streak as she hauled in a long

rebound and immediately put up a long 2-pointer that found the heart of the basket.

Katherine Johnson and Meg Griffin also scored for the Lady Eagles.

School Lunch Menu



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

BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, February 12
SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Tuesday, February 13
Biscuits/Sausage, Jelly, Choice of Juice, Milk
Wednesday, February 14
Cinnamon Toast, Choice of Cereal, Choice of Juice, Milk
Thursday, February 15
French Toast/Syrup, Pineapple Tidbits, Choice of Juice, Milk
Friday, February 16
Buttered Toast/Jelly, Choice of Cereals, Choice of Juice, Milk

BASKET LINE

Monday, February 12
NO SCHOOL, HOLIDAY
Tuesday, February 13
Burritos, Tater Tots, Fresh Broccoli/Dip, Sliced Peaches
Wednesday, February 14
Chef Salad / Dressing, Diced Ham/Cheese Cup, Crackers (8), Cup Cakes
Thursday, February 15
Chicken Strips/Half Baked Potato, Applesauce, Tossed Salad, Mixed Fruit
Friday, February 16
Hamburgers/Chips, Burger Salad Pickles, Apple & Orange Halves

CAFETERIA LINE

Monday, February 12
NO SCHOOL, HOLIDAY
Tuesday, February 13
Chicken Spaghetti/Hot Rolls, Tossed Green Salad, Early June Peas, Sliced Peaches
Wednesday, February 14
Cowboy Beans/ Cornbread, Carrot Stix/Dip, Potato Salad, Cup Cakes
Thursday, February 15
Chalupa's/ Cheese Cup, Spanish Rice, Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Mixed Fruit
Friday, February 9
Hamburger/Chips, Burger Salad Pickles, Apple & Orange Halves

Varsity Girls

January 30, 2007
Eldorado 10-12-14-15=51
Miles 26-20-11-17=74
Playing for the Lady Eagles: Chelsey Hill 5, Cassandra Buitron 18, Kristen Stubbs 17, Bridgett Mitchell 6, Katherine Johnson 5. 3 Point Goals: Hill 1.

January 9, 2007
Eldorado 05-08-14-13=40
Christoval 24-17-19-12=72
Playing for the Lady Eagles: Chelsey Hill 5, Cassandra Buitron 12, Kirsten Stubbs 5, Bridgett Mitchell 3, Mariana Guzman 4, Rhapsody Swyter 2 and Leslie Cruz 9. 3 Point Goals: Mitchell 1, Buitron 2.

Eldorado scholars and Eagles athletes get good press at

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February

8th Candi Homer, Enrique Rocha, Haley Higgins, Ana Iglesias, BreeAnne Davis, Judy Ford
9th Cy Griffin, Felix Ramos, Reyes Sanchez, Les Bassinger, Wes Sutton, Sandra Pina
10th Sylas Politte, Jacob Politte, Carolyn Mittel, Shannon Wideman, Guillermo Zuniga, Nancy McCray, Tammy Spinks
11th Phil McCormick, Laurie Almazan, Patrick Ruiz, Reuben Minor
12th Rick Stricklan, Denese Capps, Casey Triplett, Joe King, Donna Whitten
13th Kathleen Nolen, Austin Whitten, Jazmine Ford, Kathy Fauli, Leo Rodriguez, Christine Romero, Casey Akins
14th Austin Albin, Emily Ussery, David Olivan, Cody Engdahl, Marcos Hernandez, Torey Griggs, Chase Storie

ANNIVERSARIES

February

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13th Julian & Lesa Martinez,
14th Manuel & Elena Pina, Raymond & Mary Spears, Lupe and Epolo Herrera

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Admiral Nimitz Museum to reopen this month

FREDERICKSBURG — Following an extensive renovation, the Old Nimitz Hotel will reopen as the Admiral Nimitz Museum on Sunday, Feb. 25. Located in downtown Fredericksburg, the museum has undergone a \$3 million transformation which began in 2004 and will culminate with rededication ceremonies scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on the front portico of the museum. The rededication ceremonies coincide with the 122nd anniversary of the birth of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz for whom the museum is named.

The Admiral Nimitz Museum is part of the National Museum of the Pacific War com-

plex, a Texas Historical Commission (THC) property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation. The foundation is headquartered in Fredericksburg and has raised millions of dollars over the past few years to support the National Museum of the Pacific War, which is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II. Originally housed solely in the historic Nimitz Hotel, the complex has developed into a six-acre site which includes the George Bush Gallery, the Admiral Nimitz Museum, the Plaza of Presidents, the Veterans' Walk

of Honor and Memorial Wall, the Japanese Garden of Peace, the Pacific Combat Zone and the Center for Pacific War Studies.

Boasting 34,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, the museum's collection includes an impressive display of U.S. Allied and Japanese aircrafts, tanks, guns and other large artifacts. An additional 40,000 square-foot expansion is planned for the George Bush Gallery.

For more specifics visit www.nimitz-museum.org or call 830/997-4379. For additional information contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512/463-5853.

Mid-season shots, personal precautions offer flu protection

Mid-way through the flu season, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) officials are reminding people that it is still important to take precautions against getting the viral illness.

Getting a shot is the one best way to prevent flu, which can cause serious, sometimes deadly complications, said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS Commissioner. The flu shot together with simple precautions such as washing your hands frequently, covering your cough and

sneeze and staying home when sick are good ways for people to protect themselves and their families from infection.

Flu season typically runs October through March, and vaccinations can be given at any time during this period or later as long as the vaccine has not reached its expiration date. While the season in Texas has been relatively light so far, the peak for flu illnesses in Texas is usually January and February but could run longer.

Because most flu vaccine is privately purchased and distributed, it is difficult to determine how much flu vaccine remains statewide. DSHS recommends that people check on the availability of flu vaccine in their community by contacting their health care provider. The flu shot takes about two weeks to become effective.

Flu is a viral respiratory illness. The illness is spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, releasing the contagious

virus into the air. People with flu generally can transmit the virus to others from one day before getting sick to up to seven days after showing symptoms of the flu.

Symptoms include a sudden, often high, fever; headache; extreme tiredness; dry cough; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; and muscle aches. Flu complications can include bacterial pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, dehydration and worsening of chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes.

Flu is not a reportable condition in Texas, but DSHS relies on reports from a surveillance network to classify flu activity in the state.

Seven ways to get a jump start on your taxes

(SPM Wire) While we all know that earlier is better when it comes to working on our taxes, many of us tend to procrastinate. The IRS, of course, is encouraging taxpayers to get a head start on tax preparation, especially since early filers avoid the last minute rush and get their refunds sooner.

Here are seven easy tips from the IRS on how to get a good jump on your taxes long before the April deadline is here:

- Gather your records in advance. Make sure you have all the records you need, including W-2s

and 1099s. Don't forget to save a copy for your files.

- Get the right forms. They're available around the clock on the IRS Web site, at www.irs.gov.

- Take your time. Don't forget to leave room for a coffee break when filling out your tax return, as rushing can mean making a mistake.

- Double-check your math and verify all Social Security numbers. These are among the most common errors found on tax returns. Taking care will reduce your chance of hearing from the IRS and speed up your refund.

- Get the fastest refund. When you file early, you receive your refund faster. When you choose direct deposit, you receive your refund sooner than waiting for a check.

- E-filing is easy. E-filing catches math problems, provides confirmation your return has been received and gives you a faster refund.

- Don't panic. If you have a problem or a question, remember the IRS is there to help. Try visiting the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov for help, or call the IRS customer service number at 1-800-829-1040.

Texas DPS does not solicit donations

Private organizations claiming to be with the Texas Department of Public Safety have been calling Texas residents in various parts of the state, claiming to be raising funds to help the families of a Texas State Trooper recently killed in the line of duty.

Texas residents should know that the Texas Department of Public Safety NEVER solicits financial contributions from private citizens. DPS is funded from your tax dollars. The DPS will NEVER call you at your home or business to solicit cash donations.

DPS advises you not to give money to these groups, as the funds are not likely to go to the causes that are claimed. DPS does not receive any of these funds, even if the telemarketers say that DPS does.

Some groups include in their names the terms "Texas Rang-

ers," "State Troopers," "Texas Highway Patrol" or "Department of Public Safety." While some officers may be members of some of these associations on their own time, these organizations are not affiliated with the DPS. They are private associations raising money to fund their own programs, some of which may benefit officers and their families.

If you have been contacted by

an organization that you believe is misrepresenting itself, you can contact the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 621-0508.

For additional information about a particular group, you can contact your local Better Business Bureau, which has information on fundraising organizations and the percentage of donations that actually goes toward helping people or projects.

Meals for Friends Menu



Monday, February 12

Beef Stew, Stew Vegetables, Sweet Peas, Cornbread, Citrus Fruit Cup, Milk

Tuesday, February 13

Barbecue Chicken, Blackeyed Peas, Beets, Hot Rolls, Pears w/Pineapples, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Milk

Wednesday, February 14

Fried Fish w/Tarter Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Zucchini Squash, Garlic Bread, White Cake w/Caramel Icing, Juice, and Milk

Thursday, February 15

Salisbury Steak, Baked Beans, Mustard Greens, Bread, Peaches, Milk

Friday, February 16

Roast Beef w/Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Coleslaw, Carrot Cake and Milk

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- Avoid Being Overweight
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Credit counselors warn against Valentine's overspending

StatePoint — With Valentine's Day passions heating up, many of us overspend on gifts and treats only to end up paying dearly down the line.

Money may not be able to buy love, but many Americans continue to pay for the debts of past relationships long after the romance has fizzled, according to the results of a new survey.

A diamond may be forever, but what about the relationship? Or the debt caused by the relationship?

A recent survey conducted by Family Credit Counseling Service (FCCS) found that 29 percent of consumers have incurred debt from a relationship and continued to pay for it after the relationship ended.

"There are times when a generous gift is appropriate. If you decide to make this an extra special Valentine's Day, have a plan ahead of time," says Michael McAuliffe, president of FCCS. "Romance is emotional

but your finances should not be. Think about your purchase and make sure you have a plan to pay it off within a reasonable amount of time. Ideally, that will be when the bill arrives."

Valentine's Day is the holiday of luxury: fine chocolates, upscale restaurants, fine jewelry, or maybe even a romantic weekend getaway. Your love deserves nothing but the best, but you need to be sure you have a way to pay for your generosity or scale it down.

That's why the FCCS is offering some suggestions to keep you from paying long after the romance has gone away or after the heat of passion has been dialed down to a steady fire:

- Put an emphasis on sentimental gifts. Visit the location where you first met or the restaurant where you had your first date.
- Use caution when financing purchases. Be sure to read the fine print; jewelry and depart-

ment store credit cards historically carry high interest rates. If no interest is being charged, ask what will happen if the purchase is not paid within the specified payment period or if a payment is missed.

• Budget for gifts year round. Birthdays, anniversaries, Valentine's Day and Christmas are all times for big ticket gifts.

The key to planning special indulgences for the love of your life is being able to afford them. Gift planning is not unlike financial planning - you need to create an action plan to help you reach your financial goals.

"When consumers are rational, they plan to spend less. While some of us may feel guilty about not spending as much as our emotions want, maintaining control over personal spending will surely benefit the relationship in the long term," said McAuliffe.

For more practical tips on budgeting and advice on how to live debt-free, visit the FCCS Web site at www.familycredit.org.

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Hilderbran re-appointed to chair Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee

Also named member of Natural Resources Committee

AUSTIN — House Speaker Tom Craddick (R-Midland) announced last week that Rep. Harvey Hilderbran (R-Kerrville) will continue to serve as Chairman of the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee, and as a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

"I am very pleased to continue to chair the committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism," Rep. Hilderbran said. "Restoring excellence to Texas parks is my top statewide priority this legislative session. As chairman, I will actively lead this committee to find solutions to address the deficiencies in our park system and help it to become the beacon system in the nation."

Speaker Craddick spent weeks

meeting with the members and carefully deliberating the assignments. "This session, Harvey will work diligently to ensure adequate funding for Texas parks," Craddick said. "He is an experienced and trustworthy member, and I have great confidence in his abilities."

The Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee oversees the regulation and control of hunting and fishing, the preservation of wildlife and fish, operation and control of state parks, development and regulation of the state's cultural and historical resources, and the promotion of international and interstate tourism. It has jurisdiction over the following state agencies: Office of Gulf States

Marine Fisheries Compact Com-

missioner for Texas, the Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the State Cemetery Committee, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Texas Historical Commission, the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board and an office of state government to the extent the office promotes the Texas music industry.

Rep. Hilderbran will also continue serving on the Natural Resources Committee, which controls the conservation of Texas' natural resources, including the regulation of water use.

"I am very involved in the water issues affecting my district and the entire state of Texas," Rep. Hilderbran said. "I am proud to continue serving on the Natural Resources Committee to ensure our future water sources and protect our interests."

During the 79th Session, Rep. Hilderbran served as Chair of the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee, as a member of the Natural Resources Committee and as co-chair of the Oversight of Edwards Aquifer Committee.

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ACROSS

1. Competed in a marathon
4. Sunglasses, slangily
10. Surgery memento
14. Anka's "___ Beso"
15. Complete, as a pregnancy
16. Deep sleep
17. School for fatalists?
19. Resting on
20. Abrasive stuff
21. Demolitionist's need
22. Grain to be ground
23. "That's a lie!"
25. Fill with horror
27. School for huggers?
31. Smelter waste
34. Is in session
35. Addams Family cousin
36. Forward sunup
37. Leonine group
39. Time for a bite
40. Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
41. Like a storied Piper
42. Tubular pasta
43. School for Lasik surgery candidates?
47. It makes all the stops
48. Scold severely, in slang
52. Sandbox toys
54. Calendar divs.
55. ___ Domini
56. Tear apart
57. School for the indecisive?
60. Anita of jazz
61. Sweet-talk
62. Not "agin"
63. Jazz flutist
- Herbie
64. Danish money
65. Orgs. with red trucks
- DOWN
1. King's term
2. Nolan Ryan, for years
3. Like seven
4. Nolan Ryan gems
4. Normal: Abbr.
5. Spa amenity
6. Penitent one
7. Red ink entry
8. Before, to bards
9. The Mustangs'
- sch.
10. Brightly colored beetle
11. Deb's ball
12. Famous ___ of cookiedom
13. Totally absorbed
18. Declare to be true
22. Transcript figs.
24. Condo ad abbr.
25. Etching fluid
26. Folkie Seeger
28. Out of the way
29. School on the Thames
30. The ___ Reader (eclectic magazine)
31. Meat slicer site
32. Tout's place
33. Maureen of Tarzan films
37. Leaning tower site
38. Barn dance
39. Mad's Alfred E.
41. Chest muscles, briefly
42. Vijay Singh's org.
44. Anne ___ (Henry VIII's second wife)
45. Like some patches
46. Big name in chocolate
49. Kind of switch
50. Still single
51. They may be guided
52. Tuxedo rental event
53. 2000 Elton John/Tim Rice musical
54. Voodoo charm
57. "That's disgusting!"
58. Patriotic women's org.
59. Prefix with flop or plop

"Hey U!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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See solution on Page 8

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Rocksprings deputy faces sentencing in 2005 shooting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hernandez Morales and Candido Garcia Perez, told investigators that they paid \$2,000 each to be taken across the Rio Grande from Acuna, Mexico. They later met the vehicle's driver and a guide, who were supposed to take them to Austin and Dallas.

As the investigation moved forward, authorities with the Mexican Consulate contacted the FBI to request a federal inquiry.

So it was that residents of Rocksprings were stunned to learn that Deputy Gilmer Hernandez was indicted by a federal grand jury. Their shock turned to horror on Dec. 1, 2007, when a federal jury in Del Rio convicted Hernandez of depriving Ms. Rodriguez-Garcia of her civil rights while under color of law. Sentencing is slated for Monday, March 12, 2007, at which time Hernandez could receive as much as 10 years in prison.

Meanwhile the citizens of Rocksprings have rallied to support Hernandez. "Free Gilmer" signs are posted all over town. The local Baptist Church has taken over payment of the Hernandez family's mortgage while other citizens are making payments on the family pickup, propane and water bills.

Hernandez and his wife Ashley have a four-year-old daughter.

For his part, Sheriff Letsinger is petitioning the judge for leniency. (See the text of the Sheriff's letter below)

Meanwhile, Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Baumann, who prosecuted the case, is reported as having said that the law does not give law-enforcement officers the right to use "deadly force to stop a car unless it poses an imminent threat to the officer or another person. If the car is going away from you, it's not even a close call."

Deputy Hernandez remains in custody in Del Rio awaiting sentencing.

None of the occupants of the Suburban have been charged.

Letter from Sheriff Letsinger Your Honor,

I have served the enforcement of the law and the protection of the public for 25 years, 15 of them as an elected Sheriff. I have been cross-designated with the DEA. I was the Task Force Officer and case agent in the prosecution of a Conspiracy to Traffic Narcotics in violation of Federal Statutes. I fully understand the need to protect the rights of all individuals, especially the rights of the accused. I understand the need to defend the rule of law and the Constitution. I

understand the need for 18 USC § 242, Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law. I also understand the Doctrine of Self-defense from the use and threatened use of deadly force.

I have always believed that those of us that protect and defend the law are obligated to truth. The truth to disclose to a Jury or Grand Jury all the facts, all the evidence, the truth and the whole truth. We must do this even if the guilty are not indicted or found not guilty. Justice is only truly served with the truth.

I cannot begin to explain to anyone my dismay when I was informed of the guilty verdict handed down against Deputy Sheriff Guillermo F. Hernandez. I assure you that I became truly ill. I could have not been any more upset if the verdict had been passed on my own son.

My first thoughts were that the system that I have served for 25 years had failed. For about three days I was ashamed to be part of the law enforcement community that serves and protects the Constitution. Finally I remembered what I already knew. The Grand Jury did not fail, they indicted on the information they were given. The Jury did not fail, they convicted on the evidence presented. The Court did not fail the system. The Court does not control the investigation or the prosecution's presentation of the facts.

I know that the system only fails when we (law enforcement officers and prosecutors) the protectors of the system fail the system by not disclosing to the jury the whole truth, all the facts and all the evidence. We fail the system when we imply to the jury wrong doing when there is none. When it is implied that evidence was not collected to protect an officer from prosecution. When we know that the policy requires another agency to collect that evidence and the prosecution knew the evidence was collected.

We fail the system when we imply to the jury that policy is law. When we know that policy is only a guideline for operations. When we imply before a jury that evidence may have been tampered with. When those of us who know better know that it is a simple thing for the FBI to test a videotape to see if it has been erased or tampered with.

We fail the system when an expert witness testifies with words like "There were four shots fired and maybe six." When we posture before the jury with implications

that we do not believe the integrity of a witness when we know the witness is honorable and truthful. We fail the system when we know a witness for the government has made false statements to investigators and we justify those statements as confusion and we do so for a conviction. We fail the system when we buy witnesses and purchase testimony at the expense of our Statutes.

Your Honor, no man should stand for judgement based on prosecution courtroom antics in the name of advocacy based on false statements and implied evidence. As God is my witness Deputy Hernandez is a good and honorable young man.

Deputy Hernandez told the truth when he said the driver of the vehicle tried to run him over. Even the statement of Yvonne Hernandez-Morales supports Deputy Hernandez. "When the officer got to the drivers door the driver took off."

Deputy Hernandez and his wife could have told any story they wanted. Deputy Hernandez was shooting at the tires trying to stop a vehicle whose driver was evading arrest or detention.

Deputy Hernandez had every

right to arrest and detain the driver of the evading vehicle. Deputy Hernandez did not intentionally harm anyone. Deputy Hernandez is a good enough shot to have placed all the rounds in his weapon right through the back glass of the suburban.

Your Honor, I respectfully request that you sentence Guillermo Falcon Hernandez to time served and release him from custody.

Sincerely,
Don G. Letsinger,
Sheriff, Edwards County

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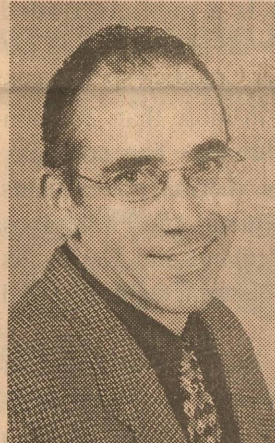
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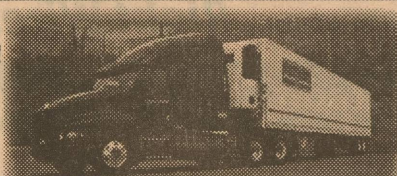
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Land Office awards Texas' first geothermal lease

Coastal tracts of land in seven counties went to highest bidder

AUSTIN - Texas reinforced its status as the nation's new frontier for renewable energy on Tuesday, awarding the state's first lease for geothermal energy production. Nevada-based geothermal industry leader, Ormat (NYSE: "ORA"), had the high bids Tuesday for six tracts of coastal land in seven counties totaling more than 11,000 acres. The lease allows Ormat to explore the potential of the land's geothermal resources and produce geothermal power from the tracts. "Texas is hot for geothermal en-

ergy," said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. "At the Land Office, renewable energy means renewable revenue for the schoolchildren of Texas."

Geothermal energy provides a steady, reliable power source that doesn't create any carbon dioxide, and its "fuel" * is the earth's natural heat * is unlimited.

Ormat paid \$55,645 to lease the submerged land for an average of about \$5 an acre, or more than twice the minimum bid of \$2 an acre. In addition to the lease bonus,

the Texas Permanent School Fund will earn 10 percent of any electricity produced from the geothermal leases.

Multiple bids received for the land ensured that the bidding process was very competitive, Patterson said. "We got more bids than we expected," he added. "I think that's a good sign geothermal might just be an economically viable form of renewable energy for Texas."

The tracts of land range from 1,174 acres to 2,480 acres and are along the coast in Jefferson, Galveston, Chambers, Calhoun,

Jackson, Nueces and Kleberg counties.

Geothermal energy is heat energy from the earth's molten interior. Heat can be brought to the surface from movements in the Earth's crust or by deep circulation of groundwater, which forms reservoirs of hot water under pressure.

Texas isn't exactly known as a geothermal hot spot like Hawaii or California, which sit on the volatile Pacific Rim. But relatively new technologies, such as binary power plants, are primed to take advantage of Texas' medium-heat geothermal potential.

Binary power plants take hot water from an underground reservoir and use it to heat a secondary fluid with a lower boiling point. The resulting vapors can drive a turbine and create electricity.

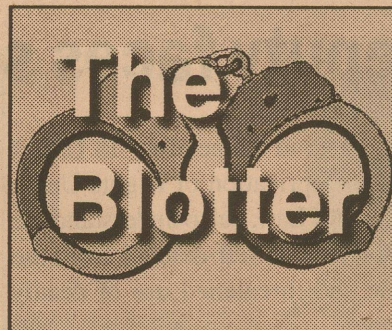
That electricity can then be sent to the power grid and used to power homes, businesses or industry. Much as with oil and gas leases, the Texas General Land Office would make money from a royalty, or a percentage of the energy production, from any geothermal lease.

"There's no way to tell what the potential is until private industry invests its capital to find out," Patterson said.

Since 1854, the Land Office has deposited more than \$9 billion into the state's Permanent School Fund, mostly from oil and gas production on state lands. Oil and gas production in Texas peaked in 1971, prompting the Land Office to look for new sources of income for the Permanent School Fund.

Ormat is a publicly traded company with about 70 U.S. patents and has geothermal projects operating in more than 20 countries worldwide. The company operates geothermal power plants in New Zealand, the Philippines, Mexico, Iceland and Kenya, as well as in Nevada, California and Hawaii.

Ormat isn't new to Texas, either. It provided the power plant technology used in the El Paso solar pond project in the 1980s. In that project, an Ormat Rankine cycle unit operated for 16 years at temperatures as low as 175 degrees Fahrenheit.



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. Accidents 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**
- Feb. 1** • Shurley, Collier Mitchell, male age 26, offense Motion To Revoke. Transferred.
 - Feb. 2** • Monroe, Sandra Susan, female age 33, offense Warrants/Fraud/Credit Card Abuse. Transferred.
- INCIDENTS**
- Jan. 30** • 7:00 p.m. Complainant reported harassing phone calls to an employee. Subject requested an officer. Officer responded.
 - 9:31 p.m. Parent reported missing teenager. Requested to speak with officer.
 - Jan. 31** • 7:24 a.m. Caller reported their car had been egged a couple of days ago and wanted to make a report. Officer responded. •10:17 Hospital informed dispatcher the hospital was having a fire drill.
 - 11:52 a.m. Complainant reported an injured pit bull in alley behind resident. City was notified.
 - Feb. 1** • 4:09 p.m. Subject on North Street reported juveniles breaking bottles.

- 8:47 p.m. Ambulance requested on Lee Avenue.
- 9:52 p.m. Complainant reported two speeding vehicles on Hwy. 277 North heading southbound of county line. Two officers notified.
- Feb. 2** • 4:35 p.m. Complainant reported loose livestock on Hwy. 190 West about 304 miles. Officer unable to locate.
- 5:52 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a basic transfer to San Angelo hospital.
- 7:09 p.m. Complainant reported a reckless driver passing on the right hand side driving a black pickup about 12 miles on Hwy. 277 north heading southbound. Officer notified.
- 11:40 p.m. Complainant reported a woman waling down the road at FM 23129 County Road 114. The subject told the dispatcher it looked like the car was in the fence. Officer notified.
- Feb. 3** 6:02 p.m. Complainant reported a controlled burn on FM 2129. Officer notified.
- 11:31 p.m. Complainant reported their son was out with a friend and wanted him home. Officer notified.
- Feb. 4** • 9:39 a.m. Complainant reported a controlled burn on Hwy. 277 north. Officer and Fire Department notified.
- 7:18 p.m. Sonora Sheriff Office was notified of a stranded motorist 8 miles north on Hwy. 277. Sonora Sheriff Office notified.
- Feb. 5** • 8:23 a.m. 911 call to report an accident on US 190 East and McIntosh. Officer responded. No injuries.
- 10:23 p.m. Subject requested an officer to check their residence. Subject could hear someone in their house. Officer responded.
- 11:28 p.m. Hospital requested an ambulance for a ACLS transfer to San Angelo hospital.
- Feb. 6** 9:57 a.m. Controlled burn reported on FM 2084. Officer notified.

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Answer to Sudoku on Page 3

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

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

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

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CARD OF THANKS

The 2007 West Texas Rehab Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their donations to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center. They are: *MIM Robert Bland, MIM Kerry Joy and Jon Cartwright.* The grand total in donations from Schleicher County and Eldorado residents to the West Texas Rehab came to \$4,116.00.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

Schleicher County Hospital District is accepting sealed bids on the sale of a used eRadlink Laser Pro 16 Film Digitizer

Bid deadline 6:00 p.m., February 26, 2007

Submit Sealed Bids to:

Schleicher County Hospital District

Attn: Hospital Board; 400 W. Murchison; P. O. Box V Eldorado, TX 76936 SCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Parallel Petroleum Corporation, P.O. Box 10587, Midland, TX 79702 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Strawn Reef of Page Unit, Well Number(s) 102. The proposed injection well(s) is/are located 9 Miles SE of Eldorado, in the Page Field, Schleicher County.

Fluid will be injected into the subsurface strata through a lateral section from 5478' to 7420' MD.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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Compressor Mechanic, Sheffield area, must own tools, fax resume to 281-344-9709. 5-6b

SCHLEICHER COUNTY I.S.D.
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Is seeking applicants for **Director of Maintenance Position** Applications are available at the Administration Office 205 Fields, Eldorado, Texas 325-853-2514, ext. 221 SCISD EOE

Talon Yearbooks on Sale
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The yearbook will contain a section for each campus-high school, middle school, and elementary. The will be distributed in May.

To order a yearbook, contact a Talon staff member at the high school, e-mail linda.chancellor@scisd.net, or mail your check to Linda Chancellor, P O Box W, Eldorado, TX 76936. Make check payable to EHS Talon.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, addressed to the Schleicher County Commissioners' Court will be received by the County Clerk, until 10:00 a.m. February 12, 2006 when such bids will be opened in the Commissioner's Courtroom for:

Electrical Provider for All Schleicher County Facilities
The Commissioner's Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
Peggy Williams
County & District Clerk
P.O. Drawer 580
Eldorado, Texas 76936
Phone: (325) 853-2833 ext 72
Fax: (325) 853-2768

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ELDORADO-For Sale by Owner: 119 E. Dorris; 3/bdr 2/ba double wide (less than 10 yrs old) on big corner lot. Not in a mobile home park setting. House may be sold on lots, or sold to be moved. For more info call 853-2248 or 277-1050. 4-5b

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Home 25-949-9913 6-9b

Garage & Yard Sales

ELDORADO-MOVING/INSIDE SALE: 102 Maple Street (Corner Murchison & Maple). Sat. Feb. 10; Time: 10 AM.b

ELDORADO-ESTATE SALE: 205 Callender; Fri. Feb 9 & Sat. Feb. 10; Time: 8AM-5PM; NO SALES BEFORE 8AM. Selling All-Household Items & Furniture.p

ELDORADO-YARD SALE: 204 Denny Street; Sat. Feb. 10th; Time: 8:00 AM; Kids Clothes & Much More.

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February 10, 2006

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Jo Ward, Agent/ 325-853-2339

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Eldorado Spotlight



82 Year Old Naomi Dodson of Eldorado won the "Best Original Song" competition at the "All the King's Clones" Festival held January 27 and 28, 2007 by singing a compilation of events of Elvis' life to the tune of "Davy Crockett." She was presented a trophy of mesquite wood by "Elvis" Jim Runge.

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AG warns Texas seniors to hang up on callers pitching foreign lotteries

AUSTIN - Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott this week warned Texas seniors and other consumers to just hang up on callers posing as the "President of Jamaica" and promising large cash prizes. Attorney General Abbott issued the warning about international lottery scams as part of National Consumer Protection Week, which runs Feb. 4-10.

International lottery scammers often target seniors by telephone, claiming to be an official with a foreign lottery. The perpetrators assure potential victims they are on the verge of tremendous wealth, but claim the "winner" must first pay substantial up-front "taxes" or "processing fees." After the

victims wire their money to bank accounts in foreign countries, the callers disappear forever - and so does the victims' hard-earned money.

"Don't be fooled. Callers claiming to represent foreign lotteries are con artists who cannot be trusted," said Attorney General Abbott. "These kinds of promises are always fraudulent and aim to bilk consumers out of their hard-earned money. Texans who receive these calls should just hang up."

The most recent international lottery scam involves telephone calls to seniors from individuals posing as Jamaican officials. An 85-year-old Houston-area

woman recently reported losing approximately \$16,000 after she was tricked into believing she won the Jamaican lottery. One of the perpetrators, who posed as the "President of Jamaica," reassured her that just a few "processing fees" would yield a \$2.5 million jackpot. The offer was a fraud, and the woman lost her life's savings.

Consumers can find more information by calling (800) 252-8011 or visiting the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us. The Office of the Attorney General produces numerous resources, newsletters and news releases that contain common-sense tips about a variety of consumer issues, including emerging scams. Consumers also can subscribe to receive consumer alerts and other publications via e-mail.

Information about avoiding scams is also available at the National Consumer Protection Week Web site: www.consumer.gov/ncpw.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Nancy Lester retired County Extension Agent hosted a "Courtesy Table" for Riley Umphress, Keanu Hernandez, Luis Miguel Martinez, Jacob Sanchez and Christian Martinez. These students received a quick lesson on table etiquette while enjoying a special table setting prepared by Mrs. Lester on Friday, January 26 during lunch at the Elementary cafeteria. The "Courtesy Table" is a special treat for students who earned a courtesy tickets by doing something trustworthy, respectful or responsible. The program, along with character education, is taught in group sessions by elementary counselor Mrs. Kathy Newman.



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School Board candidate workshop slated Feb. 21

Area school board candidates and interested citizens can learn more about the demands and rewards of school board service at a candidate workshop, Wednesday, February 21, 7-9 p.m. at the Region 15 Education Service Center (612 South Irene St., Service Center/Llano Room.)

The workshop will provide interested community members and individuals thinking about running for the board with a better understanding of what is involved in being elected and serving as a local trustee. Experienced school board members will explain board members' key responsibilities and outline the qualities necessary for effective service.

Topics to be covered include what it's like to be a trustee, key responsibilities of the board, division of authority with staff, how to campaign constructively, and where to find more information. Participants will also view A Call to Service, a Texas Association of School Boards' video highlighting many aspects of board service and featuring several experienced school trustees.

The workshop is open to anyone. Admission is free. For more information about the workshop, call Tanya Barnett at TASB, 512-467-0222 or 800-580-8272, extension 6248, or check the TASB Web Site at www.lts.tasb.org/candidates for other dates and locations.

Melt Hearts

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FAMILY FEATURES

Cupid understands that it's the people we care about every day — and those who care about us — who are our valentines. Best friends, running buddies, office mates, parents and children touch our hearts on a daily basis.

Why not say "you mean the world to me" this Valentine's Day by stirring up something special for those you cherish? Start with these sweet ideas made for sharing and fun activities for the family. A multitude of bright, festive ideas — invitations, gift tags and more to download — that will fire your creative spirit can be found at BrightIdeas.com.

Gather the Gang

Have the family get together to make sweet favors — perfect for school or the office — and make Lovepops! Bake heart-shaped sugar cookies on a stick, frost with red or pink icing and decorate with M&M's.



Heart-Felt Parties

Make your sweet holiday celebration fun, unforgettable and full of spice.

- Host a "Couples Dinner Party," and have everyone attend in cocktail attire or black tie. Right before you serve dessert, have the men at the table switch seats — it's a great way to mix and mingle with your guests!
- Masquerade Parties are great for all ages — try hosting a Venetian Masquerade for adults and a fun and festive "make your own mask" party for kids.
- For a quick and inexpensive romantic touch to your dinner for two — scatter rose petals across your tabletop. To set a really sweet mood, scatter Valentine's M&M's with rose petals.
- Create lively conversation by printing a famous love quote underneath each guest's name; place a Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Heart next to each card.

Create the Perfect Date Night

To plan the perfect date night, check out indulgent and romantic ideas at <http://www.brightideas.com/valentines/date>.

Bright Ideas for Every Season

Don't miss out on creative fun designed especially for every season. Sign up for seasonal newsletters, special recipes just for you, entertaining party ideas complete with invitations and party favors. All entertaining, all the time! Visit www.brightideas.com for tastefully sweet ideas for every year round celebrations.

Tunnel of Love

Treat your "special someone(s)" to this scrumptious tunnel of chocolate.

Makes: 24 servings

- Cake**
- 1 bag Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Hearts
 - 3 cups flour
 - 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon soda
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 3/4 cup vegetable shortening
 - 1 2/3 cups sugar
 - 1 teaspoon orange zest
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1/2 cup sour cream
- Glaze**
- 1 bag Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Hearts
 - 1/4 cup light corn syrup
 - 1/2 cup heavy cream

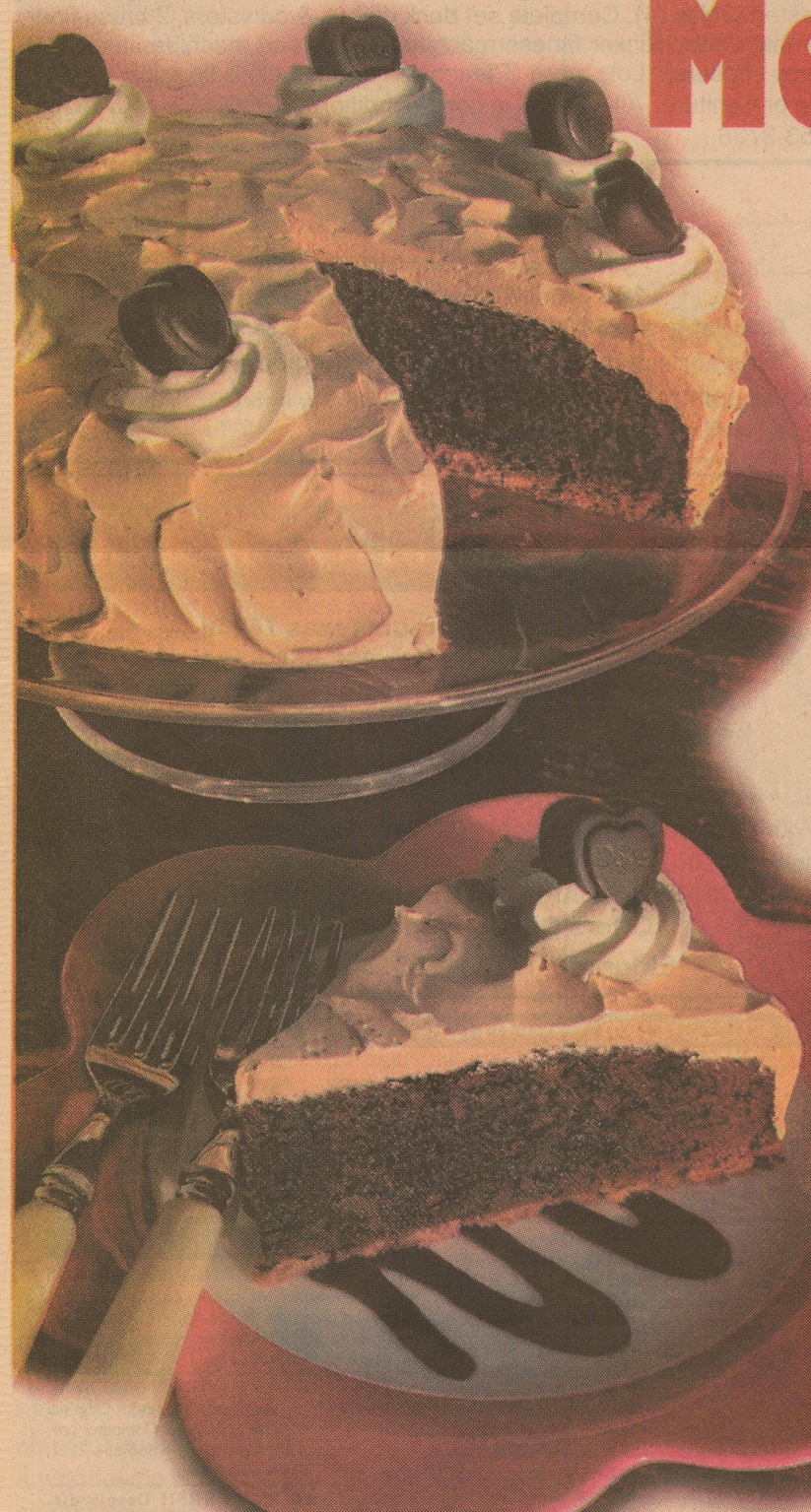
Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 12-cup Bundt pan, set aside. Combine flour, baking powder, soda and salt in mixing bowl, set aside. In separate bowl, microwave 1 bag chocolate hearts until melted (about 1 1/2 minutes), stopping to stir occasionally; set aside.

In large bowl, beat shortening, sugar and orange zest until fluffy; add eggs one at a time,

heating well after each addition. In another bowl, combine milk and sour cream. With electric mixer on low, alternately add flour and milk mixtures into shortening mixture, beating until smooth. Stir 1 cup cake batter into cooled melted chocolate; set aside.

Spoon half of plain batter into bottom of prepared pan; cover with all the chocolate batter; top with remaining plain batter. Bake 55 to 60 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven to wire rack; cool completely.

For glaze: From 1 bag chocolate hearts, set aside 8. In microwave-safe bowl, combine remaining chocolate hearts, corn syrup and heavy cream. Heat 1 to 2 minutes, stirring frequently until smooth. Cool slightly. Remove cake from pan to wire rack set over sheet pan covered with waxed paper. Spoon glaze over cake, allowing excess to drip. Decorate with reserved chocolate hearts.



Mocha Delight

This true chocolate indulgence will touch everyone's heart.

Makes: 16 slices

- Cake**
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
 - 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
 - 1 22.5-ounce box brownie mix
- Frosting**
- 3 egg whites
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
 - 2 tablespoons instant espresso coffee
- Decoration**
- 1 bag Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Hearts
 - 1 cup whipped cream or topping

Heat oven to 350°F. Line bottom of 9-inch spring-form pan with waxed paper; grease. Add melted butter to graham cracker crumbs and press into bottom of pan. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions; spread over crumbs. Bake until firm, approximately 35 to 50 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven to a wire rack; cool completely, and remove cake from pan.

Meanwhile, prepare frosting: Whisk egg whites and sugar together over simmering water until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat; using electric mixer, beat until

cooled. Add butter one nugget at a time while continuing to beat. Dissolve espresso in 2 tablespoons warm water. Beat espresso into frosting.

Frost top and sides of cake. Snip small corner of a resealable plastic bag; pipe 8 rosettes around outside edges of cake. Place a chocolate heart atop each rosette.

To serve, place 8 chocolate hearts in a small, resealable plastic bag. Microwave until melted, about 15 seconds. Cut a corner of bag; randomly drizzle chocolate on dessert plates. Place a cake wedge on each plate.



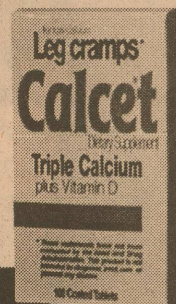
A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers

Newswire: People are selling their old scrap gold that is gathering dust for its cash value because gold prices are so high. With the price of gold at a 25 year high, it makes sense to recycle unwanted items for cash. ScrapGold.com, a large gold recycler, offers free insured recycle kits so people may cash in their scrap with 24 hour service and guarantee satisfaction.

They accept broken and outdated items like chains, charms, rings and more. "Everyone has bits of gold just lying around which can be turned into cash" says Richard Zakroff, Founder. "Even old dental gold has value." ScrapGold.com has been in business for over 16 years and has served over 800,000 clients. Request a FREE GoldKit at 800-283-4700 or ScrapGold.com.

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