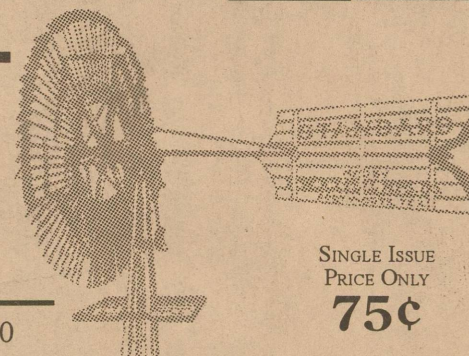
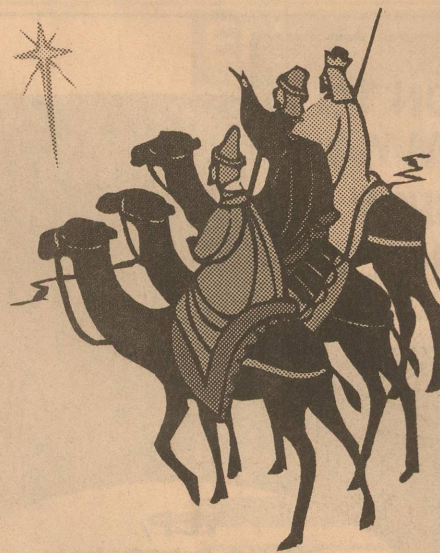




"When they saw the star they
 rejoiced with exceeding great joy"
 -- Matthew 2:10



SINGLE ISSUE
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VOLUME 102, ISSUE 52

"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"

DECEMBER 25, 2003



COURTESY PHOTO

Best New Rodeo — The Eldorado Rodeo was named the New Rodeo of the Year by the Cowboy Professional Rodeo Association during a ceremony at the CPRA Finals Rodeo in Coushatta, LA recently. Here, Schleicher Co. Rodeo Association President Troy Daniels (R) accepts a trophy from CPRA President Ricky Carpenter. The Eldorado Rodeo has been held for the past 34 years, but last year was the first time to be sanctioned by the CPRA, thereby qualifying for the New Rodeo honors.

Local rodeo honored by CPRA

The Eldorado Rodeo was named the New Rodeo of the Year by the Cowboy Professional Rodeo Association during the CPRA Finals Rodeo held November 1 & 2, 2003 in Coushatta, Louisiana. Schleicher County Rodeo Association President Troy Daniels was on hand for the occasion and accepted a trophy from CPRA President Ricky Carpenter in recognition of the honor.

Daniels said he was pleased with the honor and expressed his desire to make the rodeo bigger and better in 2004.

The 2003 rodeo was a success story for the Schleicher County Rodeo Association. After years of dwindling attendance and participation from area cowboys and cowgirls, the SCRA board of directors decided that the rodeo needed a shot in the arm. That's when Troy Daniels went shopping for a new rodeo producer and made contact with the CPRA.

With little time to prepare, the deal was made to list the Eldorado Rodeo as a CPRA circuit event and in August, 2003, when the SCRA's 34th annual rodeo became the first ever CPRA event held here.

For the first time, local competitors found themselves competing head up with professional cowboys and cowgirls from across the country. According to Daniels the CPRA sanctions rodeos in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Rodeo attendance was up and is certain to be up even more in 2004 as word of the change gets around. Troy Daniels says that it was good to see that the CPRA was happy with the Eldorado Rodeo which was selected as New Rodeo of the Year from among 15 new rodeos on the circuit in 2003. Daniels says he looks forward to a long association with the CPRA.

Interestingly, several of the cowboys and cowgirls who won in Eldorado in August were among the finalists in CPRA Finals last month, including Chance Abshire who was the top money winner in Bull Riding.

The CPRA is based in Huntsville, TX. More information about the CPRA may be found on the Internet at www.cpra.com.

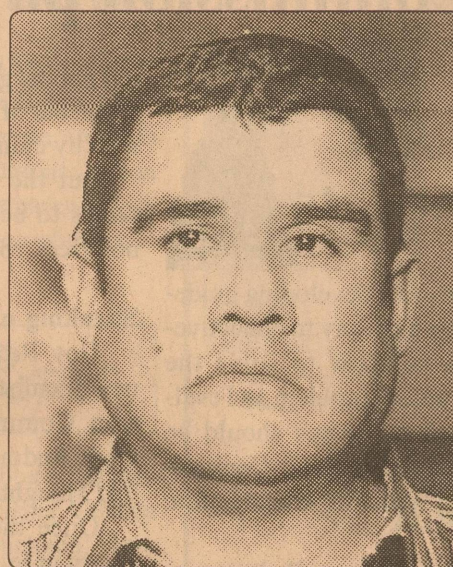
Menard fugitive apprehended here

Jose David Samaniego, 39, of Menard, was arrested Friday, December 19, 2003 by Schleicher County Deputy David Oliván on two felony warrants from Menard County. Samaniego was wanted in Menard on two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance as well as a misdemeanor warrant for Possession of Marijuana.

A Crimestoppers advertisement, listing Samaniego as being wanted, ran in the Menard News on Thursday, December 18, 2003. The ad outlined the charges against Samaniego and offered an award up to \$1,000 for information leading to his arrest. By that time Game Warden Marco Alvizo of Eldorado had been contacted by his counterpart in Menard with information that the suspect may have been hiding on a ranch in Schleicher County.

That word, plus additional information from the Menard Sheriff's Dept. the following day, led local officers on Friday to a check a couple of remote ranch houses in Schleicher County. The first stop proved to be fruitless. The second, however, would result in the capture of Samaniego.

As Deputy Oliván, Warden Alvizo and Deputy Jason Chatham approached the house, located in the southwest corner of Schleicher County, they noticed a car parked in front of it that appeared to be packed and ready to leave. With one officer knocking on the front door and two others covering the rear, they hoped to nab Samaniego, if indeed he



COURTESY PHOTO

In custody — Jose Samaniego was arrested here last Friday on warrants from Menard County.

was in the house. He was there, all right, but the men very nearly missed him.

Oliván reports that Samaniego had heard their approach and had bolted out the back door. Meanwhile, a man and a woman who remained in the house re-

portedly told the officers that they had not seen Samaniego and did not know where to find him.

The two were detained, on suspicion of harboring a fugitive and a search for Samaniego began. It wasn't long before he was found, hiding under weeds and brush in the pasture behind the home.

As the officers questioned Samaniego, they learned that the male subject in the house was his friend and the female subject was Samaniego's girlfriend. The men also determined that Samaniego had been holed up in the house for some time. The car the officers noticed in front of the home was packed with clothes belonging to Samaniego and the woman and the men speculated that the couple were about to leave.

Samaniego was booked into the Schleicher County jail on Friday evening. He was arraigned the following day and was ordered to be held without bail. He was turned over to a Menard County deputy sheriff on Sunday.

County learns that cable TV facility hinders Orient Heights water project

Schleicher County Commissioners heard from Eldorado City Administrator Randy Mankin Monday morning regarding a water improvement project in the Orient Heights addition. Mankin explained that recent survey revealed that a radio tower and satellite TV equipment belonging to Classic Cable are constructed in an alleyway between Denny and Lea Streets where the water mains are due to be replaced. He distributed maps of the area and pointed out that the "guy wires" that support the tower are of great concern.

Mankin asked for the county's help in relocating some of the obstacles, or in obtaining easements to go around them. The commissioners indicated their willingness to help and asked that the issue be placed on the agenda for the January 12, 2004 meeting so that formal action could be taken. At that point, Commissioner Bill Clark said he wanted to express his appreciation to the city for taking on the water system improve-

ment, even though it is outside the city limits. Clark noted that on two previous occasions the county had sought grant funds with which to carry out the project. He said he appreciated the city being willing to take on the project.

In an unrelated item, Mankin noted that Sheriff David Doran had offered to give the city a surplus truck his department has and asked if the commissioners had any objections. At that point, Judge Griffin explained that the truck had been awarded to the Sheriff's Department by the Army through the Star Program. Griffin noted that the International brand truck is a single axle and is of little use to the county road department. He further explained that the Sheriff has the authority to dispose of the truck and suggested that it would be good if the city could put it to use. None of the commissioners raised any objection and Mankin thanked them on behalf of the city, saying that the truck

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Snelson runs for Tax Assessor



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Jeanne Snelson

I, Jeanne McCravey Snelson, am announcing my candidacy for the office of Schleicher County Tax Assessor Collector. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree from Angelo State University and have been employed by the First National Bank for the past 26 years. Growing up in Eldorado has made it possible for me to know many of our local citizens. I have also had the pleasure and privilege of serving you as a bank teller and personal banker. The office of Tax Assessor Collector is an important part of our county government. It would be an honor to serve the voters of Schleicher County. I would appreciate your consideration in the March Democratic Primary.

Bybee seeks Sheriff's position

I am Robert E. Bybee and I am seeking election for the Schleicher County Sheriff's Position in the March 2, 2004 Democratic Primary.

I attended Texas Tech University and Lubbock Christian University before entering Law Enforcement.

I have been in Texas Law Enforcement for over twenty six years as a Deputy and as a Highway Patrol Officer.

I have served Schleicher County for the last seven years as your Highway Patrolman.

I have over two thousand hours of training in Law Enforcement.

I am also certified by TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) to instruct all phases of Law Enforcement.

I feel that I am highly qualified for

the position of Sheriff.

It would be a great honor to serve the people of Schleicher County as your next Sheriff.

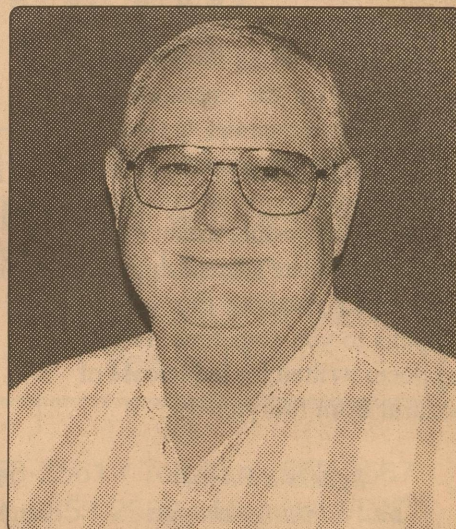


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Robert Bybee



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Lookin' over the list — Crystal Pina brought her wish list for Santa Claus to read over Saturday when the jolly old elf stopped by the Gazebo on Main Street. Crystal was among some 50 youngsters who braved the cold blustery wind to meet with St. Nick.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO THE AGE OLD DILEMMA: "WHO WASHES TH' DISHES AFTER CHRISTMAS DINNER?"

www.barryscartoons.com

Barry
©/03

YEP, THIS KITCHEN DON'T LOOK HALF BAD —WITH TH' LIGHTS OFF!

J.P. Doodles

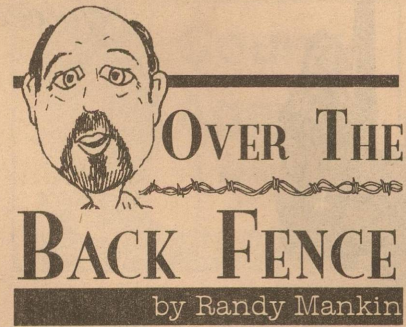
My Christmas wish for you and yours

It was many years ago now, and far too many for me try to enumerate here, but I was once a little boy who had great difficulty going to sleep on Christmas Eve.

Along with all the excitement of the holiday, and the sugar laden Christmas candies, there was the anticipation of what the following morning would bring.

I can remember laying in bed, eyes shut tight, lest Santa look in and find me not sleeping. Each noise outside my house, noises I wouldn't have noticed on any other night of the year, sounded exactly like reindeer on the roof, or the runners of sleigh scraping through the upper branches of nearby trees.

My heart would leap each



time I heard a floor board creak and leap again with every door hinge squeak, even as I struggled to go to sleep.

And it was a struggle. Still, somehow, and I never knew when, I would drift off to sleep and dream about all the toys I had seen in the Montgomery Wards catalog.

That catalog, new and shiny when it first arrived at our house, was always ragged and dog-eared by the time Christmas got there. Every year, I would memorize major portions of that book.

White Christmases were virtually nonexistent in my childhood. But there was always something special about a Christmas morning. It was the one morning of the year that I didn't have to be coaxed out of bed.

But, there was something more, something about the light. I don't know why, but I always thought the sky looked different on Christmas morning...almost as if it was glowing.

I can't recall exactly when,

neither am I sure why, but Christmas changed as I grew up. One day I was wishing for the latest toys, the next day I was buying them for my own kids.

As much as I cherish my childhood memories of Christmas, I treasure those of my own children and their Christmas mornings even more. The look on Sarah's face when she first saw her new swing set. J.L.'s awe at the sight of a shiny new Dallas Cowboys football helmet.

The kids are grown now and in college. Thankfully, they're back home for Christmas. I'm going to relish it, for the day is coming, when they will be on their own, making Christmas memories for their own kids.

I hope that you, too, enjoy the blessings of Christmas this year. It is my fondest desire is that you and yours may know true peace and joy this Christmas season. May you be free from suffering and want and may those you love gather around you so that together you can make your own Christmas memories this year.

I also hope you will take a moment to give a helping hand to someone less fortunate than yourself.

As for your children and grandchildren, may they bask in that special Christmas morning light that I knew as a child so many Christmases ago.

Transportation Commission paves way for toll roads

AUSTIN — Looking down the road toward Texas' transportation future, there's a toll booth not too many figurative mile markers ahead. Or maybe a toll tag on your vehicle's windshield, right there above your registration and inspection stickers.

The three-member Transportation Commission voted unanimously last Thursday to institute a new policy that will lead to a new way of building highways faster than currently possible through the use of gasoline tax revenue.

The policy the commission approved requires the Department of Transportation to study every controlled-access highway project — either in the planning or construction phase — to see if it could be converted into a tollway.

State Capital Highlights

by Mike Cox

"We are just developing guidelines on the best way to collectively figure out how to solve the [transportation] problem and evaluate which roadways should be considered [for tolls]," Commissioner Ric Williamson said before the vote.

Commissioner Robert L. Nichols noted that the gasoline tax, which has paid for Texas highways since the 1920s, is "inefficient." On the other hand, he said, "Tolling ... allows us to build roads years, if not decades, faster."

John W. Johnson, commission chair, stressed that public input would be sought long before any

toll booths go up. And converting segments of highways will take a vote by county commissioners.

But the fundamental change seems to be coming — there are no "free" roads.

Speaking of transportation...

Gov. Rick Perry appointed two new members to the Transportation Commission on Dec. 15: Hope Andrade of San Antonio and Ted Houghton Jr. of El Paso.

Once the commissioners are sworn in by the secretary of state, the policy-making body will be up to its new five-member strength. The Legislature increased the size of the panel last spring.

Andrade is vice president of OptimaCare Inc. and has prior experience as a member of the Texas Turnpike Commission (since folded into the Transportation Department.) Houghton is an El Paso insurance executive.

Something for the teachers...

One measure that got little or no attention during the 78th Legislature was House Bill 1844. But if you teach school, or go to a public school in Texas, the bill has resonance.

Essentially, the new law allows the Texas Education Agency to grant eligible schools up to \$200 per teacher so they can be reimbursed for any classroom supplies they buy with their own money.

School districts must match the

money with local funds.

Teachers may use the money at their discretion, providing it benefits their students.

Easier than the shots...

Flu vaccine is a lot harder to get these days than an attack from the viruses the shots protect against, but there is another way to protect yourself — wash your hands.

Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez recently recommended a two-step flu control program: Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands frequently.

Simplistic as that sounds, that's how the flu spreads, Sanchez said.

Bad December for the Grinch...

"Last year, the Grinch stole Christmas," Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said recently. "We were seeing declining sales tax revenue at both the state and the local level, and tough economic times were also taking a toll on other revenue sources."

But this year, she said, the Grinch isn't going to get Christmas. Sales tax revenue is up compared to last year.

In fact, Strayhorn said, sales tax revenue is up for the sixth month in a row compared to last year. The last time that happened was in 2001, prior to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 that year.



ROLLING ALONG

WITH TUMBLEWEED SMITH

My buddy Carl, the Fire Marshal poet

Carl Condray joined the Big Spring Fire Department when he was a teenager. Not yet forty, he worked his way up to Fire Marshall. He's got enough years in to retire, but he just can't quit because he's so young.

If he ever does decide to retire, he's got another career ahead of him: Cowboy Poetry. He has performed it at the State Fair and at some of the top Cowboy Poetry events in the country. I've had the privilege of being in audiences where Carl has recited both his own poetry and poems written by other people. Folks laugh and laugh when they hear Carl spout words about cowboys. They also get real quiet when he does a serious poem.

The Heritage Museum in Big Spring was the scene of a release party for my latest CD, Natural Born Storytellers. Carl came by and bought four of them.

He also told me he had written a poem for the occasion and recited it from memory in front of me. I'm going to print the words of the poem here to let you know how much his gesture meant to me. I appreciate Carl's friendship and hope that something this special happens to you sometime. Here's the poem written for the release of Natural Born Storytellers.

and worldly treasures just fade so fast. Yet there are lessons left to learn by those who have the desire and yearn, to gather that gold from the past.

Roads once traveled by those before are the greatest source of worthwhile lore but their tales must be gathered like a herd.

I know one who can wrangle with the best. His talents shine far above the rest.

Each rope he throws gathers the spoken word.

And though the winds may blow him 'cross the land

I am grateful for this tireless hand and how he does his noble deed.

He talks to those who truly know then shares it with us

on his show Thank you and God Bless you my dear friend, "Tumbleweed."

I guess it's a fact that all things change. Ideas, once common, may now seem strange

He signed it "Thanks for all the laughs. Carl Condray." When Carl recited the poem to me at the release party, I got quiet

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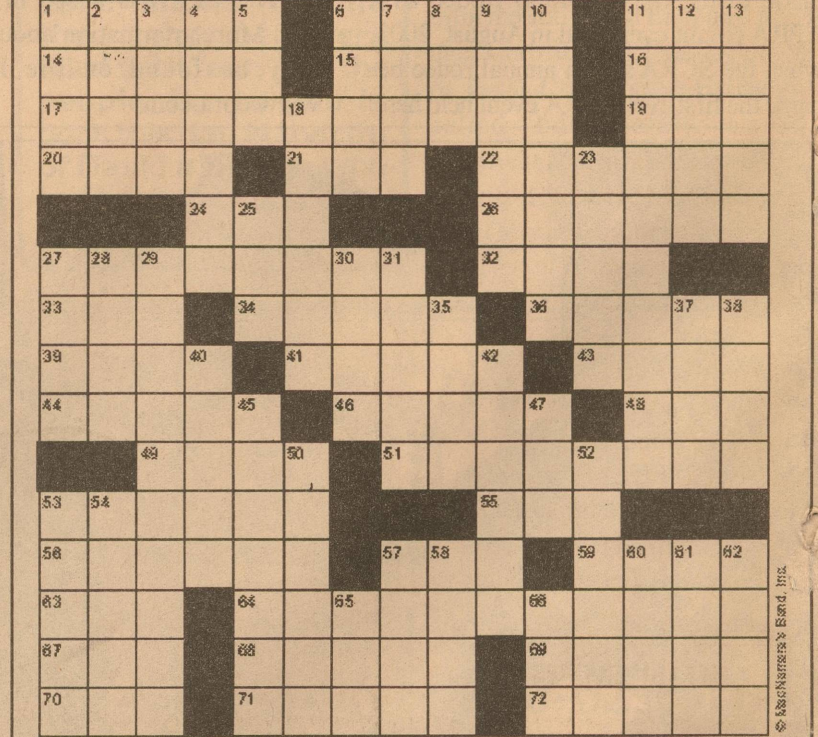
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MEMBER 2003
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS																																																																		
1. Marco Polo traveled there	6. Shady spot	11. Cardinal cap monogram	14. Propelled a kayak	15. Character actor Victor	16. ___-ha (commotion)	17. Explode with anger	19. 911 respondent	20. ___ fide	21. UFO passengers	22. Shakespearean Dane	24. Tonic's partner	26. Bologna's land	27. Ballfield path	32. Hatcher or Garr	33. ___-Locka, Florida	34. AWOL part	36. Suppressed	39. John ___ (the Lone Ranger)	41. Golf's "Slammin' Sammy"	43. Vocal quality	44. Speak off the cuff	46. Firebug's felony	48. Thurman of film	49. Mineral in bath powder	51. College term	53. Austrian composer Gustav	55. ___ Dhabi (Gulf emirate)	56. Ukrainian seaport	57. 2001 Will Smith biopic	59. Roach or rat	63. Windows forerunner	64. Take the lead on Broadway	67. Bard's before	68. Like Stephen King stories	69. Tree-dwelling primate	70. Shepherd's place	71. Be fearful of	72. Working stiff, informally	12. Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"	13. Led Zeppelin's "Whole ___ Love"	18. Bottled spirits?	23. Corday's victim	25. Feeling rotten	27. When doubled, a Polynesian island	28. Acted the copycat	29. Captain a schooner, say	30. Granny	31. Tinker-Chance middleman	35. Lighten up	37. Tab-taker's phrase	38. Within earshot	40. Features of old phones	42. Field of influence	45. Consecrated	47. Lincoln's state. Abbr.	50. Moon pock	52. Late meal	53. Hobby kit	54. Be wild about	57. La Scala solo	58. Threw the bull	60. "Blondie" boy	61. "Herzog" author Bellow	62. Rolls radial	65. "You ___ There"	66. Yodeler's perch
DOWN													1. Baseball's "Georgia Peach"	2. Heavenly circle	3. Soldering tool	4. Enya's music	5. Nabokov novel	6. Blind as ___	7. Actor Tamlyn	8. ___ choy (Chinese veggie)	9. ___ wonder (musical flash in the pan)	10. Goes around	11. Spend big																																											

Fish Heads See solution on Page 6



American Photo HomeTownClient 061322 © Mankin's Band, Inc.

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by:

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OBITUARIES

Jacob Franklin Hausenfluck, Jr.

Jacob Franklin "J.F." Hausenfluck Jr., 86, of Christoval died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at his home surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren.

Family visitation was Monday, Dec. 22, at Johnson's Funeral Home. Services were held Tuesday, Dec. 23, in Christoval Church of Christ. Burial followed in Ivy Cemetery.

Jacob was born in Georgetown, Texas, on Sept. 24, 1917, to Job Franklin and Maggie Williams Hausenfluck. He graduated from Georgetown High School in 1935.

J.F. was an active member of the Christoval Church of Christ. He was a rancher his entire life and his greatest love was his horses.

J.F. was married to Etta Merle Montgomery on Sept. 23, 1939 in Georgetown, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Etta Merle Hausenfluck of Christoval; son, Billy Hausenfluck and wife, Janell, of Eldorado; daughter, JoAnne Poyner of Big Spring; grandchildren, Troy Headrick, Patti Harris, Cindy Hardee, Bobby Headrick and Jeffrey Hausenfluck; great-grandchildren, Jennifer Grelle, Kaleb Headrick, Nick Headrick, Stefanie Headrick and Jacob Harris; sisters, Lois Guttman of Austin, Laura Nell Teel of Merced, Calif., and Betty Chapin of San Angelo; and many nieces and nephews.

His parents, three brothers and five sisters preceded him in death.

Walter Ray Hanusch, Sr.

SAN ANGELO — Walter Ray Hanusch Sr., 71, of Christoval passed away Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, in a local care center.

Funeral services were Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, with Pastor Robert Budewig officiating. Burial followed in the Eldorado Cemetery.

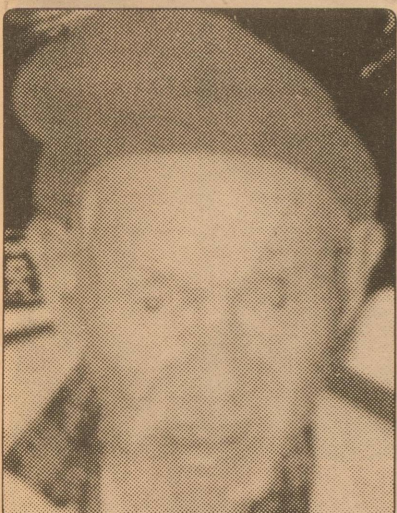
Walter was born on Feb. 18, 1932, in Weir, Texas, to Walter A. and Elsa Hanusch. He was raised in both Schleicher and Concho Counties.

He married Frieda Naidine Yardley on April 18, 1952, in Old Mexico. He worked in the oil fields from 1952 until his retirement in 1998. Walter and Frieda moved to Christoval in 1991 from Eldorado. He was a member of the

Trinity Lutheran Church. His parents and one brother, Ernest Hanusch, preceded him in death.

His wife of 51 years, Frieda of Christoval; three children, Judy Pridemore and husband, Gary, of Ozona, Texas, Walter Hanusch Jr. of Christoval and Janette Doyle of Coppell, Texas; six grandchildren, Shane Pridemore, Walter Ray Hanusch III, Curtis Michael Armentrout, Ryan Doyle, Kristy Pridemore and April Armentrout; two great-grandchildren, Brittany Key and Strait Pridemore; two brothers, Leroy Hanusch of Eldorado and Floyd Hanusch of Del Rio; and one sister, Laverne Crump of Sulpher Springs, Texas, survive him.

Lionisio R. Perez



ELDORADO — Lionisio R. Perez, 92, of Eldorado away December 17, 2003 in a local nurs-

ing home. He was born May 8, 1911 to Isabel Perez and Josefa Rodrigues.

Lionisio made his home in Eldorado, however, he lived in San Angelo for part of his life.

He is survived by two sons, Amando Perez, and Alfredo Perez, both of San Antonio; a sister, Sara Rangel; many nieces and nephews, including two close nieces, Isabel Rangel & family of Rocksprings, and Mary Adame of Eldorado; and a close nephew, Manuel R. Espinosa.

Lionisio will be missed by everyone of us. He is with his master now.

Viola Ruth Taylor

MENARD - Ruth Taylor passed away December 19, 2003 at her residence in Fort McKavett, Texas. She was born December 21, 1923 in Bowser, Texas to Oscar and Iva Woodward. Memorial services were held December 20, 2003 at the First Baptist Church of Eldorado.

Ruth had numerous jobs in her lifetime, but her hardest and most important job was being the Mother to her five boys.

She is preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Pauline Smith, two brothers, Jimmy Woodward, Burl Woodward, two sons, Billy Cash Taylor, and Jerry Nolen.

She is survived by three sons, Kevin Taylor and wife, Tina of Fort McKavett, Texas, Frank Taylor and wife Patricia of Brackettville, Texas, and Keith Nolen and wife Mary of Eldorado, Texas; grandchildren

, David Nolen and wife Brandi, Stephanie Wheeler and husband, Cody, Jessica Pina and husband Roland, Arron Taylor and wife Vickie and Dusty Nolen. Great-grandchildren; Nicholas Pina, Madilyn Nolen, and Wyatt Nolen. A sister, Billie McAlpine of Christoval and brother, M.H. Woodward of San Angelo.



Mr. and Mrs. Alton Bybee

Woods/Bybee exchange vows

Monty and Cindy Bybee would like to announce the marriage of their son, Alton Bybee, to Susie Charise-Rose Woods on Dec. 5, 2003.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. Alfredo Arnold Aquidez of

Marysville, CA., and Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Hernandez of Biggs, CA.

The bride and groom are both in the Navy and are stationed at San Diego, CA. All of the parents wish God's blessing on their children.



Beta Sigma Phi Report

by Barbara Jackson

'Tis the season to be busy and busy we were during the month of December 2003. On Monday December 15th, Mary Leigh Dunagan, Geneva Wade, Flora Hubble, Barbara Jackson and Dorothy Dacy met at the Schleicher County Medical Center to help residents address Christmas cards and visit. A small gift of something to keep their feet warm was presented to each resident to be opened at their Christmas party later in the month.

The next night, December 16th, members met at the home of Dorothy Dacy to leave for the trip to San Angelo where they had dinner and exchanged secret sister Christ-

mas gifts. Flora Hubble, Barbara Jackson, Kim'et Nelson, Geneva Wade, Mary Leigh Dunagan, Mary Nolen and Dorothy Dacy who were all in attendance for the wonderful Christmas lights before returning home to Eldorado.

Geneva Wade will be our hostess for our first meeting of 2004 on January 13th. Flora Hubble who was the winner of the Sunshine gift at our December 9th, business meeting will bring a Sunshine gift at this time.

Meals for Friends Menu



Monday, December 22

Beef Stew, Sweet Peas, Crackers, Canned Peaches, Choc. Pudding, Milk

Tuesday, December 23

Chicken Fried Steak w/Cream Gravy, Mashed Potato, Mixed Vegetable, Dinner Roll, Fresh Orange, Milk

Wednesday, December 24

Meat Loaf w/Tomato Sauce, Mashed Potato, Corn, Wheat Roll, Fruit Cocktail, Sugar Cookie, Milk

Thursday, December 25

Closed for Christmas

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Friday, December 26

Fried Catfish, Corn Tomato Casserole, Seasoned Spinach, Dinner Roll, Fruited Gelatin, Milk



COURTESY PHOTO

Retirement — Randy Elliston Chief, Texas Highway Patrol Division, presents Trooper Robert Bybee with his retirement plaque in Austin. Trooper Bybee will retire December 31, 2003, serving in the Texas Highway Patrol for over 26 years with the last 7 years being in Schleicher County.

Eldorado Forecast

Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26	Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28
58/29	59/34	63/39	68/45	68/40
Sunny skies. High 58F. Winds NNW at 15 to 25 mph.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	A few clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

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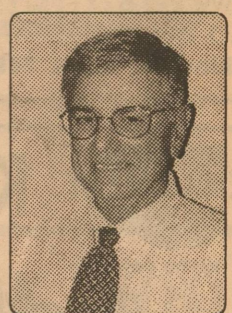
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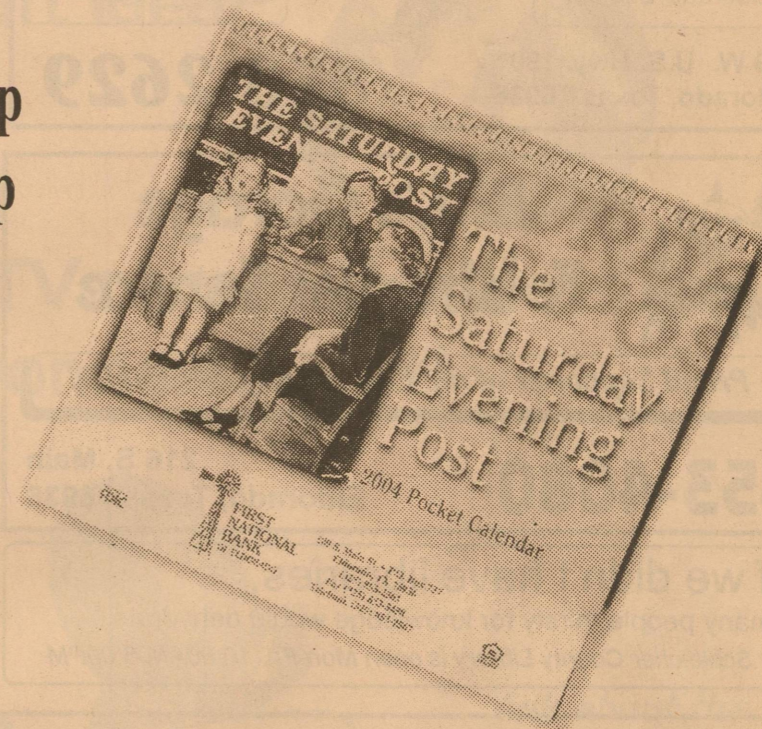
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- DECEMBER**
 25th April Robinson, Sonny Dean, Heliodoro Sanchez
 26th Ashley N. Ramos, Victor Pina, Irene Reynolds
 27th Veronica Ussery, Ashby Ragsdale, Jim Chancellor, Garrett Lux
 28th Dee Jay Garvin, Tracy Sellers, Abigail Ussery
 29th Cynthia Caldwell, Laura Hill, Howard Ledbetter, Allison Reynolds
 30th Chandra Wanoreck, Mary Farmer, Briley Ledbetter, Lori Jones, Elmer Garlitz, Holly Ford, Tip Finley
 31st Gabriel Avila, Garrett Bownds, Lance Jones, Christy Robinson, Jack Dean, Larry Hamilton
- ANNIVERSARIES**
DECEMBER
 25th Claude & Jessie Jenkins
 26th John & Rita Meador, Bob & Stacy Page
 28th Danny & Janet Curtis, Joe & Sonja Key, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Roubison, Shari & Harvey Wink
 29th Sam & Cynthia Caldwell
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PIPS have team spirit — Lady Eagle Betsy Green enjoyed the cheers of the Players in Progress (PIPS) as she and the Lady Eagles took the floor recently for the second half of a game with Christoval. The PIPS had entertained the local crowd during the intermission and the Lady Eagles did the same, defeating the Christoval Lady Cougars 43-40.

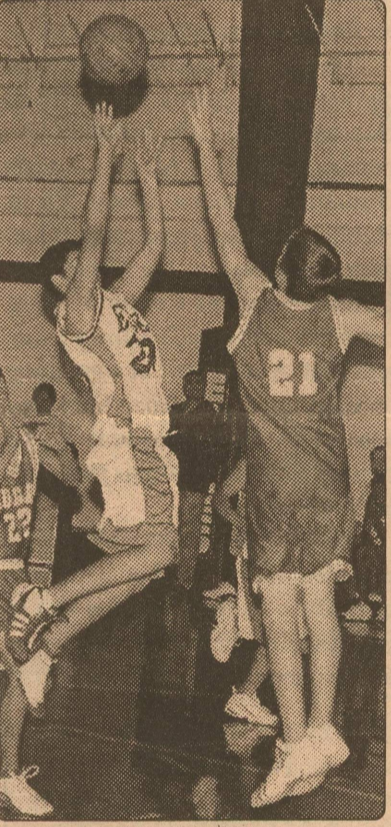


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

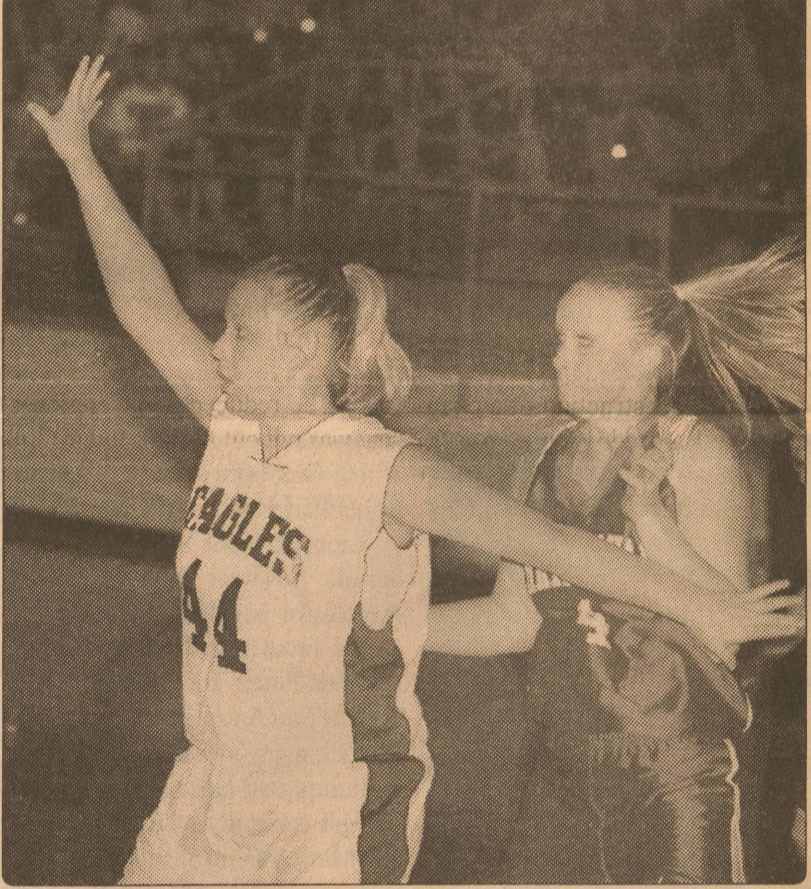
ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL 2004 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TEAM	TIME
Mon.-Wed. Dec.29-31	Iraan Tourn.	Iraan	VG,VB	TBA
Fri. Jan. 2	Colorado City	Eldorado	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Tues. Jan. 6	Brady	Eldorado	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Fri. Jan. 9	Grape Creek*	Eldorado	JVG, VG	5, 6:30
Fri. Jan. 9	Stanton	Stanton	JVB, VB	5:00, 8:00
Tues. Jan. 13	Sonora*	Sonora	JVG, VG	5, 6:30
Tues. Jan. 13	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Fri. Jan. 16	Reagan Co.*	Eldorado	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Tues. Jan. 20	Wall*	Eldorado	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Fri. Jan. 23	Ozona*	Ozona	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Tues. Jan. 27	Grape Creek*	Grape Creek	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Fri. Jan. 30	Sonora*	Eldorado	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Tues. Feb. 3	Reagan Co.*	Reagan Co.	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Fri. Feb. 6	Wall*	Wall	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Tues. Feb. 10	Ozona	Eldorado	JVG,JVB, VG,VB	5, 5, 6:30, 8
Fri. Feb. 13	Grape Creek*	Eldorado	JVB, VB	5, 6:30
Tues. Feb. 17	Sonora*	Sonora	JVB, VB	5, 6:30

*Denotes District 2-2A Games



Up, up and away — JV Eagle David Hernandez scored 10 points against the Christoval Cougars in a home game on December 15. The Eagles JV defeated Christoval 54-41.



Gimme the ball — Lady Eagle Taylor Baker #44 calls for the ball against the Christoval Lady Cougars during varsity girls action last week. Baker scored 9 points on the way to a 43-40 win.

High Five for a Great Performance — The 2004 Players in Progress (PIPS) performed for the first time during the half time December 15 during the home game between the Lady Eagles and Lady Cougars from Christoval.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

ELDORADO MIDDLE SCHOOL 2004 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TEAM	TIME
Mon. Jan. 5	Ozona*	Eldorado	7G, 8G	5:00,6:15
Mon. Jan. 5	Ozona*	Ozona	7B, 8B	5:00,6:15
Thurs.-Sat. Jan. 8-10	Wall Tourn.	Wall	7G, 8G	TBA
Thurs.-Sat. Jan. 8-10	Wall Tourn.	Wall	7B, 8B	TBA
Mon. Jan. 12	Grape Creek*	Eldorado	7G, 8G	5:00,6:15
Mon. Jan. 12	Grape Creek*	Grape Creek	7B, 8B	5:00,6:15
Mon. Jan. 17	Mason Tourn.	TBA	7G, 8G	TBA
Mon. Jan. 17	Mason Tourn.	TBA	7B, 8B	TBA
Mon. Jan. 19	Sonora*	Sonora	7G, 8G	5:00,6:15
Mon. Jan. 19	Sonora*	Eldorado	7B, 8B	5:00,6:15
Mon. Jan. 26	Reagan Co.*	Eldorado	7G, 8G	5:00,6:15
Mon. Jan. 26	Reagan Co.*	Reagan Co.	7B, 8B	5:00,6:15
Mon. Feb. 2	Wall*	Eldorado	7G, 8G	5:00,6:15
Mon. Feb. 2	Wall*	Wall	7B, 8B	5:00,6:15
Mon. Feb. 9	Ozona*	Ozona	7G, 8G	5:00,6:15
Mon. Feb. 9	Ozona*	Eldorado	7B, 8B	5:00,6:15

* Denotes District 2-2A Games

County Commissioners meet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would be put to good use.

The meeting was the final one of the year for the commissioners. It was called to order by Judge Griffin with Commissioners Matt Brown, Bill Clark, Kirk Griffin and Johnny Mayo in attendance. Commissioner Kirk Griffin joined the meeting in progress. After approving the minutes of two previous meetings, the men then heard from Tax Assessor/Collector Lou Ann Turner who advised them that she will not be seeking reelection in 2004. She thanked the men for their cooperation and in turn they thanked her for her efforts of behalf of the county. County Attorney Marian Overstreet and County Treasurer Karen Henderson were also on hand for the meeting. Chief Deputy George Arispe also attended portions of the meeting.

In other business, the commissioners met with Fire Chief Jerry Jones who presented to them with the title to his department's 1999 pumper truck. The pumper was purchased for the department with funds from the county as well as the City of Eldorado, Schleicher County ISD, and the Schleicher County Hospital District. The county's part of the \$132,000 price tag came to \$32,000. Jones noted that the truck is now paid for and asked the county to hold the title for the Fire Dept.

At that point, Judge Griffin stated his appreciation for Chief Jones being willing to take on the position of Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Schleicher County and attending all the necessary meetings. He further explained that Jones was instrumental in getting the \$81,000 grant for the county and city for radio equipment.

The commissioners then learned that no bids had been received for construction of a chapel at the Eldorado Cemetery. The men then voted for the county to act as its own general contractor so that individual tradesmen could

be hired to carry out the project. County Attorney Marian Overstreet commended Johnny Griffin for completing his twenty-fifth year as Schleicher County Judge. He was first sworn in as judge on January 4, 1979.

The commissioners decided to pass on the request from Sheriff Doran for the purchase of a new vehicle for his department until the first meeting in January. Chief Deputy George Arispe then advised that DPS Trooper Danny Nunez will be coming to Eldorado to replace Trooper Robert Bybee who is retiring at the end of the year.

Next, the commissioners designated First National Bank of Eldorado as the county's depository. They also voted on a list of official county holidays for 2004. The men also approved four indigent care requests for the payment of utility bills totaling approximately \$640.00.

The men then learned that former county resident Gerry Miller wanted to sell his cemetery lots back to the county. The men agreed and ordered that the lots be bought back at the same amount for which they were originally sold.

During a discussion of airport repairs and the installation of airport runway lights, Judge Griffin explained that he met with the project engineer at the airport last Friday and told the court that the project should go to bids in February, 2004. The judge added that the Texas Dept. of Transportation will pay to bury a power line on the north end of the runway.

At one point, Commissioner Brown asked if the county is responsible for the bidding process and inquired how an engineering firm would be selected. Brown expressed concern that \$80,000 budgeted for engineering services might be reduced if the engineering was put out for bid. Judge Griffin advised Brown that he had chosen the firm of Hibbs and Todd from a list approved by TxDOT.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Regional Band — EHS juniors (L-R) Aston Murr and Anna Troy competed in the Region Band tryouts in Coleman on December 6, 2003. They will advance to the Region 7 Band Concert on January 24 at Abilene Christian University and will perform in the Symphonic Band. They also scored high enough to go to the Area D tryout in Robinson, Texas on January 9. At the regional tryouts Ashton Murr received 3rd chair Trombone and Anna Troy received 2nd chair Oboe.

Hospital board meeting held

by Staci Key

The Schleicher County Hospital District board of trustees met Monday night in a regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to order by Board President Randy Mankin at 6:05 p.m. and the group went directly into executive session for the discussion of personnel matters. The board returned to open session at 6:34 p.m. but took no formal action on the matter.

In attendance were trustees Randy Mankin, Shirley Joiner, Jim Martin, Frank Williams, Administrator Sharon Dietz, Assistant Administrator Beverly Minor, hospital consultant Andy Freeman, and Attorney Jim Kosub. Trustees Rick Fuessel and J.D. Doyle were absent.

In other business it was explained that a contract dispute with Emergency Staffing Solutions has been resolved. Attorney Jim Kosub negotiated a settlement of \$7,500 which will effectively end the contract between the two entities. The hospital once used Emergency Staffing Solutions to provide temporary physicians but have no need for their services any longer.

Mr. Kosub also updated the board on an agreement he reached with the Texas Hospital Insurance Exchange (THIE) for the continuation of liability insurance coverage for the facility. He reported contacting the State Insurance Commissioner regarding THIE's attempt to cancel an existing liability policy. The issue was soon resolved and the policy was reinstated. A letter from THIE to the board referred to the incident as a "clerical error." The net result is that the hospital will not need to purchase new coverage, or a "tail" policy to cover claims that may have occurred when the THIE policy was in effect. Andy Freeman estimated a \$90,000 savings to the hospital.

In her Administrator's Report Sharon Dietz informed the board of the sale of the hospital's house on Honeysuckle St. The board moved to put the proceeds of the sale into a certificate of deposit. Dietz also explained personnel changes in the clinic. Cindy Daniels has turned in her resignation as clinic manager. Daniels will be continuing employment as a traveling nurse. Replacing Daniels as clinic manager will be Irene Minor and Bertha Castillo will

assume Minor's position as Dr. Lucas's nurse. Dietz added that the hospital is still going through software updates and training. She said she is optimistic that the update will be finished sometime in late February.

Next, the board received only one bid for a portable X-Ray machine, that coming from GE in the amount of \$40,445.90. The trustees moved to accept the bid upon approval from the X-Ray staff and Medical staff.

Before adjourning the hospital discussed improvements that are needed in different areas of the hospital and nursing home. They agreed to purchase new lobby furniture to replace the current furniture that has been in the lobby since 1992.

The board of trustees will meet again on Monday, January 26, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

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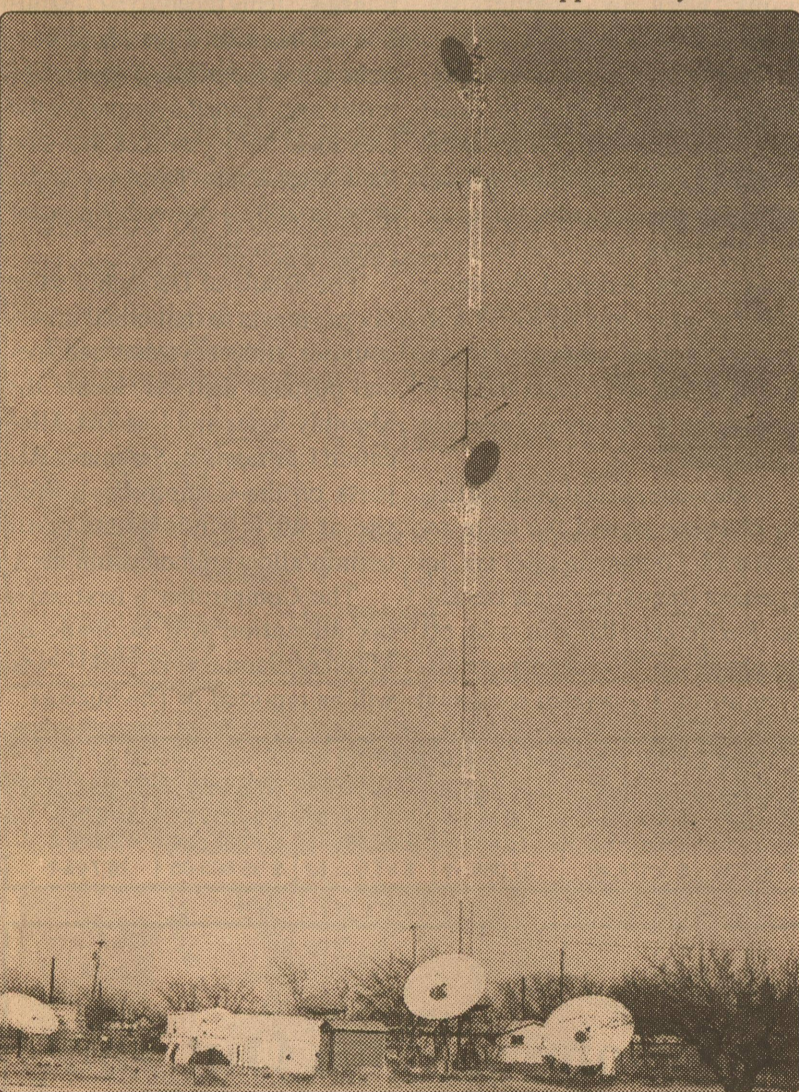


PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Standing in the way — The cable TV facility located in the Orient Heights addition is built in an alleyway according to a survey conducted by the City of Eldorado. The city and county are discussing possible remedies so that a water system upgrade may continue in the neighborhood.

Golf Club elects board

The Eldorado Golf Club held their annual Christmas party December 13th. The new board members elected for 2004-2006 were Danny Halbert, Don Richters, George Scott and Kerry Joy. These new members will join Tommy Hunley, Tip Finley, Branda Gray, and Karen Henderson to form the Eldorado Golf Club board. Membership dues of \$140 will be due at the first of the year for 2004.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Remember the Alamodome

Dear Editor:
 The Alamodome a great and wonderful place to visit, but you must be prepared.

Several years ago the city of San Antonio set forth to build a new facility to accommodate the

city's needs after the fate of HemisFair Arena had been decided. As you know the arena was torn down and the dome went up. If you have never seen or been inside to Alamodome you should take the trip if at all possible. Last week I went to the Alamodome to see Austin West Lake and Galena Park North Shore play football to determine who would proceed on the tract to the State 5A championship game. Seeing the dome from the outside is very impressive, but being on the inside is even more impressive. I found the seating comfortable and like they (the promoters) say there is not a bad seat in the house. Concessions and bathrooms are numerous and well located. The size of the building is unreal.

Although being well located and easy to see and to drive to. Parking is a problem. My advice to anyone going to see this facility is to be prepared. You will probably have to park at least 5 city blocks away so wear walking shoes. Be sure you know what entrance you will be using and where it is located (what side of the building). Remember this is a huge building to walk around trying to find the correct entrance.

If you have a chance to take a shuttle or a taxi that might be the thing to do. Then you don't have to worry about finding the vehicle after the game, fighting traffic or finding or paying for a spot to park. If you are prepared I think you will really enjoy seeing what San Antonio has to offer.

Have a Great Visit
 Niki Cuna

Solution to puzzle on Page 2

Fish Heads

C	H	I	N	A	A	R	B	O	R	S	T	L	
O	A	R	E	D	B	U	O	N	O	H	O	O	
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B	O	N	A	E	T	S	H	A	M	L	E	T	
G	I	N	I	T	A	L	I	A					
B	A	S	E	L	L	I	N	E	T	E	R	I	
O	P	A	L	E	A	V	E	S	A	T	O	N	
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- THE LAST SAMURAI (R) 12:15 3:30
- MASTER AND COMMANDER (Pg-13) 12:45 3:45
- STUCK ON YOU (PG-13) 1:15 4:00
- THE MISSING (R) 12:30 3:30
- THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG) 1:00 3:15
- ELF (ds) (PG) 12:20 2:45
- BAD SANTA (R) 12:40 3:00

No 12:00 Shows On Christmas Day
 ID Required on R Rated Movies

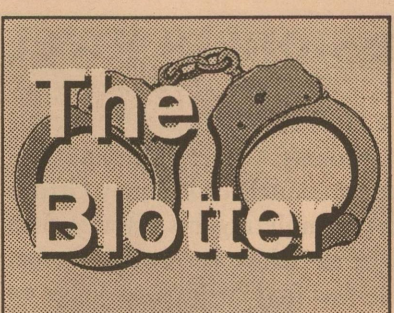
Times good for the week of 12/25-1/04/04

Show Times for FRIDAY-THURSDAY

- THE LAST SAMURAI (R) 6:45 9:50
- MASTER AND COMMANDER (Pg-13) 7:00 10:00
- STUCK ON YOU (PG-13) 7:10 9:45
- THE MISSING (R) 6:30 9:30
- THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG) 5:30 7:35 9:35
- ELF (ds) (PG) 5:00 7:20 9:40
- BAD SANTA (R) 5:15 7:40 10:00

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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 19 • Dominguez, Andres III, male age 20, serving for Irion County. Serving weekends only.

December 19 • Samaniego, Jose David, male age 39, arrested for Possession of Controlled Substance. Returned to Menard County.

INCIDENTS

December 17 • 11:09 a.m. Clinic requested an ambulance for an ACLS Transfer. EMS 1 responded.

• 4:01 p.m. Complainant reported a small grass fire at ag barn on US 277 South. Officer and Fire Department responded.

• 8:44 p.m. Hospital requested a basic transfer to a San Angelo hospital.

December 18 • 5:54 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Subjects reported livestock on roadway on FM 2129. Officer responded.

• 6:59 p.m. Store employee reported the Texaco Star Stop possibly on fire. Officers and fire department responded and found everything OK.

• 10:36 p.m. Complainant reported a horse on the road on Depot Street. Owner notified.

December 19 • 1:38 p.m. Complainant requested an officer check on a male subject that had fallen.

Officer responded and found everything OK. Subject went by private vehicle to the hospital.

• 8:43 p.m. Subject requested an ambulance for a 16 year old female. EMS 2 responded.

December 20 • 12:10 p.m. Bank alarm sounding and officers responded.

• 6:07 p.m. Female complainant requested to speak with an officer. Officer responded.

• 5:57 p.m. Hospital called and requested an ambulance for a basic transfer. EMS 1 responded.

December 21 • 12:20 a.m. Complainant reported a black Angus cow loose 3 miles east on Hwy. 190. Officer responded and tried to find owner.

• 6:25 a.m. Complainant reported an electrical line on fire 3 miles south on US 277. Officer, fire department and WTU employee responded.

• 2:40 p.m. Complainant reported possible child neglect and child endangerment. See police report.

• 5:35 a.m. Crystal Vallejo, female age 22, fell asleep while driving her 1996 red Ford Mustang and hit the corner of a travel trailer belonging to Tony Cheatham on Fields Street. No injuries.

• 1:26 p.m. Complainant requested officer to help with husband. Officers responded.

December 22 • 11:23 a.m. Complainant requested an officer for their father. An ambulance was also requested. Officer and EMS 2 responded.

• 12:31 p.m. Complainant called and requested an ambulance for their mother. Officer and EMS 2 responded.

• 6:58 p.m. Complainant reported a red pickup headed north on US 277 with a possible drunk driver. Officer notified.

December 23 • 12:55 a.m. Complainant reported a grass fire on Old Sonora Road. Fire department responded and fire chief. Fire was started from dumped fireplace ashes.

Comptroller delivers sales tax rebates

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn reported as she sent Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their final sales tax allocations for calendar year 2003. Strayhorn sent local sales tax allocations totaling \$306.6 million. December sales tax allocations to local governments are up 4.9 percent compared to December 2002 and local sales tax allocations for calendar year 2003 are up 0.7 percent compared to last year.

Locally, the sales tax rebates continue to offer a mixed picture for the local economy. The tax rebate to the City of Eldorado was down 16.67 percent year-to-date while the rebates for Schleicher County and the Schleicher County Health Services Tax, which the County Commission-

ers use to fund the ambulance service, and other county programs, were up considerably. (See chart below)

Strayhorn sent sales tax payments of \$208.9 million to Texas cities, up 6.2 percent compared to December 2002. For calendar year 2003, city sales tax allocations are up 1.9 percent compared to 2002. Texas counties received December sales tax payments of \$17.7 million, up 5 percent compared to one year ago. Counties' sales tax allocations for 2003 are 1.7 percent higher than 2002.

Eighty-one special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$8.2 million in sales tax, up 3 percent compared to last December. For the calendar year, sales tax allocations to special purpose districts are up 1.9 percent compared

to 2002. Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit systems received \$71.8 million in December sales tax allocations, up 1.8 percent compared to a year ago. Transit systems are the only local taxing entities that saw their overall sales tax revenue decline in 2003—down 2.9 percent compared to 2002.

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 sales tax allocation will be made on Monday, January 12, 2004, and will be reported in The Success.

December 2003 Sales Tax Rebates

Local Jurisdiction	Dec. '03	Dec. '02	% Change	2003 YTD	2002 YTD	% Change
City of Eldorado	\$ 5,744.37	\$ 6,090.59	5.68% ↓	\$ 76,146.67	\$ 91,389.23	16.67% ↓
Schleicher County	\$ 6,671.19	\$ 6,015.58	10.89% ↑	\$ 89,888.13	\$ 79,661.86	12.83% ↑
Schleicher Co. Health Services Tax	\$ 6,957.39	\$ 5,474.40	27.08% ↑	\$ 83,505.52	\$ 65,885.06	26.74% ↑

More than just a Nursing Home



State inspectors have found Schleicher County Nursing Home to be Deficiency Free!

When the time comes that you or one of your loved ones require more care than family and friends can provide, consider the advantages offered by Schleicher County Nursing Home. Unlike some distant facility in a far off town, we're right here in Eldorado. You know us and we know you...and we know how to provide the specialized care you need.

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Many factors contribute to the choice of a long term care facility. Proximity to loved ones, planned activities and a homelike atmosphere are but three of the reasons many have chosen Schleicher County Nursing Home as their home away from home. We appreciate the trust that so many of our neighbors have placed in us. We work hard every day to make certain that trust is deserved.

Please feel free to call or come by. We'll be happy to visit with you about the long term care options at Schleicher County Nursing Home. We'll take as much time as necessary to answer all your questions. After all, we're more than a nursing home...we're your neighbor and we want you to feel comfortable and understand all your alternatives.



We have beds open now!
 Call or come by while they are still available!

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34th Annual Eldorado Cowboy Professional Rodeo Association

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Call for an appointment now at 450-3166.

Public Notice on Public Hearing on Proposed Traffic Ordinance #101-04

The City of Eldorado will hold a public hearing on proposed Traffic Ordinance #101-04 which would convert traffic flow from one-way (currently) to two-way (proposed) on that portion of N. West St. adjacent to the New Gym, Field House, Middle School, Band Hall and Tennis Courts.

Authorized parking areas will be altered to accommodate the two-way traffic flow.

Said Public Hearing shall be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2004, at the City Hall.

Citizens are invited to provide written or oral comment or ask questions at said hearing. For further information, please contact the City Hall at 853-2691 during regular working hours, Monday through Friday.

Tips For Shearing

STOKESWOOL LLC AT FORT MCKAVETT WILL PAY BETTER PRICES FOR YOUR WOOL IF TAGS AND BELLIES ARE ALL SEPARATED AT SHEARING AND PACKED IN SEPARATE BURLAP BAGS.

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Eldorado Spotlight



The spotlight shines on 7th grade student Taylor Jenkins. Taylor mowed lawns and solicited businesses for donations for the Angel Tree Project. Taylor was responsible for collecting \$400.00 in donations making it possible to buy gifts for 16 angels. With these donations and others solicited by the 7th grade class 30 needy children will receive gifts this Christmas.

Call us for your insurance needs.

Mittel Insurance
853-2576

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

Miscellaneous

WALK-IN COOLER 12 X 20 Must be moved! Great Deer Storage! \$5,000 REDUCED
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EXPERIENCED DRIVERS WANTED

Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operating pump trucks & winch truck.

- Competitive salary
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Please apply in person Niblett's Oilfield Service, Inc. Hwy. 277 South, Eldorado. No phone calls please. 9th

Notice to Bidders

Sealed bids, addressed to the Schleicher County Commissioners' Court will be received by the County Clerk, until 10:00 a.m. January 12, 2004, when such bids will be opened in the Commissioner's Courtroom for the purchase of:

- One Transport Load of Unleaded Fuel
 - Price shall include all taxes applicable
- The Commissioners Court has the right to accept or reject any and all bids submitted.
- Peggy Williams
County & District Clerk
PO Box 580
Eldorado, TX 76936
325-853-2833

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Texas State Senator: SENATE DISTRICT 28 - SENATOR

ROBERT L. DUNCAN

Capitol Office: CAP 3E.12
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HOUSE DISTRICT 53 REPRESENTATIVE HARVEY HILDERBRAN

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EL PASO TX 79932

District Phone: (915) 584-5644

Real Estate

ELDORADO- HOUSE FOR RENT-306 Larado Street-3 Bedroom, 1 Bath. Fenced yard, refrigerator and stove, washer hookup. 1-830-896-4295.50-01p

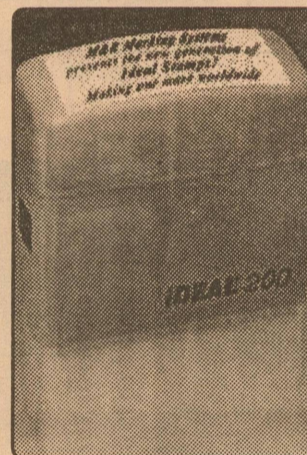
ELDORADO- 202 Live Oak; Beautiful corner lot; large brick home; 4/2.5; utility; large master suite; built-in entertainment center in den; screened in back porch. Call: (325)853-2204 or 1-830-613-8342. 39tfnb.

ELDORADO-Make Happiness Your Own - 298 CR 414-Burrow into the comforts of this country home. Hill country rock design, beautifully sited on 8 acres, quiet street. 3 bedrooms, farm-style kitchen, cellar, trees, well. PRICED REDUCED \$100,000 - Call Julie McWilliams 325-944-9559.44tfn

ELDORADO-Nice, modern home for sale. Two bedrooms, two baths, large walk-in closet, corner white brick fireplace in large livingroom, dining and kitchen area. Beautiful wood cabinets & butcher block top bar in kitchen. Corner lot, established yard. 853-3181.49-52B

ELDORADO-House for Sale: 2BR - 1B, Appliances, Double Carport, Privacy fence, New Carpet & Paint. Ready to move in asking \$32,000 Call: 325-853-2115 309 E. Hill. 49-52p

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Card of Thanks

For Lionisio R. Perez we want to Thank You all, the Care Nursing Home Staff for their care. One of his favorite nurses which treated him with lots of care Annie Arispe and his doctor L.Perez and everyone else thanks alot.
By Manuela Espinosa and Family

Lynn Meador Real Estate

5 N. Divide Lynn Meador, Broker • Jo Ward, Agent/ 915-853-2339

HOMES/LOTS

★ **NEW LISTING 106 ELDORADO DRIVE**-2 Bedroom, 1 Bath frame house. Needs some repair. Good location. \$24,000.

★ **NEW LISTING 201 BLUEBONNET DR.** 3 or 2 Bedroom-1 Bath Home with utility room, carport, hardwood floor, energy efficient, fenced yard with attractive wood deck, storage building. Glendale Addition.

201 EAST HILL-3 Bedroom-.2 bath manufacture home on corner lot. Completely fenced, double carport, central heat and air, outside storage, covered patio. Must see to appreciate. Only \$44,900.

205 Dixie 3BR/2BA, Frame Home, Carpet, Evap. A/C, Panel Heat, Fenced Yard. Additional lot included. In good condition. \$35,000.

COTTONWOOD ST. - Attractive 3BR, 2BA manufactured home on large corner lot. Rock underpinning, metal carport, large metal shop, sprinkler system, shade trees. Call for details & prices.

★ **NEW LISTING**- 145.66 Acres about 17 miles WEST of Eldorado. 3 BR-2BA home approx. 1800 sq. ft., 2 water wells. Approx. 109 acres of cultivated fields, 37 acres of pasture, pens and grain storage. \$120,000.

• 1 - 2 acre tracts in Edgfield Addition. City water available. Perfect for double wide locations. The 2 acre tract is priced at \$4,500. Call for details.

COMMERCIAL: Intersection of Hwy 277 & 190 (Formerly Hayloft Liquor Store) Good location and visibility on 2 major highways. Improvements in good condition with large walk-in cooler. \$57,500.00.

Eldorado, Texas Call 325-853-2808

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PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Helping others — Alan Espinosa, representing his fellow 4th graders presented a check to Rev Stan Troy for the Eldorado Ministerial Alliance. The youngsters collected money so that the Alliance would have it to help the needy during Christmastime.

Goat breeders to benefit from new program

Expected Progeny Differences or EPDs have been available within several cattle breeds for years. Boer goat breeders will soon have the same tool thanks to the Boer Goat Improvement Network or "B-GIN" (pronounced "begin"), a genetic improvement program being developed by the American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) with assistance from Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

"This new program being implemented by the ABGA is the first of its kind within the U.S. meat goat industry," said Dr. Dan Waldron TAES geneticist here. "EPDs provide measurable estimates of the genetic value of an animal as a parent. This program will make a real difference for U.S. goat producers in terms of selecting breeding stock for specific measurable traits."

The ABGA was recently awarded \$35,000 by the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center to fund the program.

Robert Swize, ABGA's executive director, said the program has



County Agent's Update

by Scott Edmonson

the potential to change the U.S. meat goat industry by making use of the same genetic improvement methods that have been so successful in other species. "Breeders across the U.S. will soon be able to get EPDs on their animals to use as an aid in selecting breeding stock," he said. "ABGA members from across the U.S. will collect the performance information needed to help breeders make genetic improvement. This will result in animals that are documented to be genetically superior for growth and reproduction being available to all goat producers."

"Through the combination of performance records and pedigree records, we will be able to have a

valid comparison of animals in Texas, Kentucky, California, or any other state. The ABGA is fortunate to have the Texas A&M faculty available to help us develop this very valuable resource."

Waldron said the program will give purebred Boer breeders a commercial goat producers an important tool to improve the genetic merit of their herds. "Selecting more productive animals will lead to increased efficiency of production," said Waldron. "Using EPT to select breeding stock gives producers the ability to predict the next year's kid crop will perform."

"The ABGA breeders took the initiative and came to me for help in developing this program last winter. This grant will help the ABGA to make faster progress toward the availability of EPDs," Waldron said commercial goat producers will ultimately benefit from the B-GIN program because they will be able to buy bucks that will produce predictable results in the coming year's kid crop.

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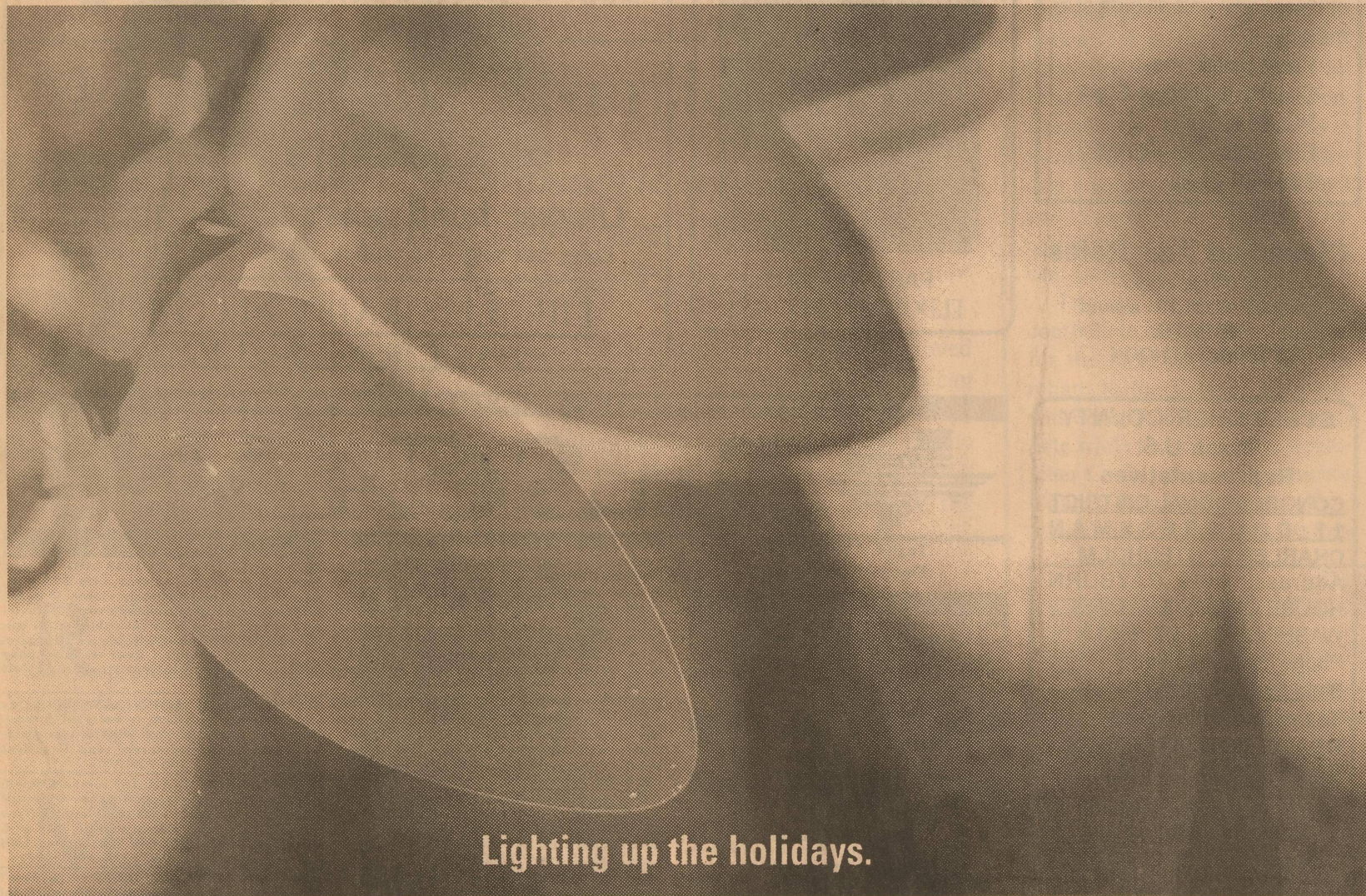


Leon Langley, Rowdy Brown & Brenda Kellermeier



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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 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, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. **AEP is there, always working for you.**



For more information about electrical safety, visit aep.com

Texas Cooperative Extension to offer food manager certification training course

Statistics indicate that foodborne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, 1 in 4 Americans will become sick, 1 in 1,000 will become hospitalized, and 5,000 will die due to a foodborne illness.

During the past legislative session, a statute was amended that allowed the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to require each food establishment to have one certified food manager.

Recently, the Texas Board of Health adopted rules to implement this statute. Many of you have already received a letter from the Texas Department of Health regarding this. Under these

new rules, each food establishment permitted by the Texas Department of Health must have one certified food manager. New food manager certificates will be valid for 5 years.

Texas Cooperative Extension, Crockett County, is offering a food manager certification training course. This program will be offered for \$90 on January 13-14 at Crockett County Extension Office. The program will begin at 8:00 on both days. You must register at the Extension Office before December 31. Cost includes training, materials, and the State food manager certification examination.

This program is designed to not only prepare foodservice managers to pass the certification examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food. Almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Foodborne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance, and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of how to prevent foodborne illness is essential. The benefits of improved food safety include:

- Increased customer satisfaction
- Improved relationships with health officials
- Prevention of bad publicity and law suits due to foodborne illness

By attending the course, foodservice managers will learn about:

- identifying potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling
- preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food
- teaching and encouraging personal hygiene for employees
- complying with government regulations

- maintaining clean utensils, equipment and surroundings
- controlling pests

Foodborne illnesses can be prevented by following simple food safety practices. For more information about the Food Manager Certification Training course of Texas Cooperative Extension called "Food Safety: It's Our Business," call Wendy Scot County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences at 392-2721.

Second Hand Rose
Consignment

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Scripture
And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2: 8-11

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