

# THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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## Jury selection now underway in Jeffs' trial

District Judge James L. Shumate began the arduous task of selecting jurors last Friday to determine the guilt or innocence of fundamentalist Mormon leader Warren Jeffs on two counts of rape as an accomplice.

The self-proclaimed prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stands accused of using his power over his followers to coerce a 14-year-old bride into marrying her 17-year-old cousin. Jeffs then allegedly pressured the girl into having sex with the groom against her will and over her repeated objections.

Jeffs denies the allegations and hired a team of high-profile attorneys to defend him in the 5th District Court of Utah. Walter Bugden, a Salt Lake City attorney known for his bow ties and mismatched socks, will be joined at the defense table by Tara Isaacson, also of Salt Lake City and Richard Wright, the Las Vegas, NV lawyer who Jeffs hired shortly after his arrest last August.

Jury selection began with a survey being submitted to 300 potential jurors. The number quickly dwindled as more than 30 failed to show up. Another 30 or so were dismissed at their own request or because they weren't qualified to serve.

Two days of screening produced only 20 of the 28 potential jurors needed for the final panel from which eight jurors and four alternates will be chosen to hear the case.

Jury selection was slated to continue on Wednesday with the trial to begin as soon as eight jurors were seated, the number required under Utah law.

Among the list of potential witnesses submitted by the prosecution and defense were a mix of former and current FLDS members.

The defense plans to call Nevada Highway Patrol trooper Eddie Dutchover and FBI Special Agent Scott Schons.

It was Trooper Dutchover who stopped the 2006 Cadillac Escalade in which Jeffs was riding as a passenger. When the fugitive prophet, who was on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List at the time, failed to provide sufficient identification, Dutchover became suspicious, called for his supervisor, and ultimately the FBI.

Others who may be called by the prosecution include former FLDS accountant Jethro Barlow, businessman Richard Holm and Carolyn Jessop, the former polygamous wife of Merrill Jessop, the man who currently oversees the daily operations of the YFZ Ranch here in Schleicher County Texas.

For their part, Jeffs' defense team intends to call one of Carolyn Jessop's daughters as well as one of her former sister-wives.

Prosecutors also list Shauna Bistline, one of Richard Holm's former polygamous wives, as well as three of Holm's children, Susie Bistline, Richard "Rick" Holm Jr., and Michelle Holm.

Ruby Jessop Barlow, sister of anti-polygamy activist Flora Jessop, is also on the list of potential defense attorneys. Flora Jessop has often alleged that her younger sister Ruby was being kept by FLDS faithful, against her will. Now she is slated to testify on behalf of Warren Jeffs, the man most of those faithful acknowledge as their leader and prophet.

It was Flora Jessop who first alerted Eldoradoans to the presence of FLDS members on the YFZ Ranch when she brought the news to the attention of Success editor and publisher Randy Mankin on March 15, 2004.

Since that time, followers of Warren Jeffs have built a town on the 1,796 acre ranch, just four miles north-north east of Eldorado.

The Success will monitor Jeffs' trial as it progresses and post any breaking news on the newspaper's website at www.myeldorado.net.

## Eagle Runaway



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Eagles halfback Wes Brown ran to daylight last Friday night as the Eldorado Eagles cruised to a 24-7 win over the Mason Punchers in the team's season opener. Brown, a sophomore, carried the ball 11 times for 64 yards and one touchdown. The Eagles will travel to Junction Friday evening to take on the Junction Eagles on their home field.

## Enrollment climbs to 630 at SCISD Fund balance continues to grow

Schleicher County ISD trustees met Monday night and received good news on a number of fronts, including rising enrollment and a growing bank account.

Superintendent Billy Collins explained to trustees that the district's "eligible" enrollment has grown to 630. Higher enrollment means more money from the State of Texas with which to run the school system.

Also, finance director Ray Ballew explained that by the time the district's auditors complete their review of the books the school's financial reserves or fund balance could increase by as much as \$800,000.00 with approximately \$500,000.00 of that amount coming directly from higher than anticipated tax revenue. The remaining surplus could be attributed to holding expenses below budget, an insurance settlement and other sources.

The trustees moved quickly to designate \$592,100 of the surplus for unspecified capital improvement projects. The move pushes the district's capital improvement fund to \$1.5 million.

Superintendent Collins explained that if and when the trustees decide to proceed with facility renovations, the funds will be used first, limiting the need to borrow money or raise taxes.

In other business, the trustees heard from 8th grade students Marissa Gonzalez, Melissa Gonzalez, Nathan Jimenez and Oscar Robles. The four students described a book they are reading titled "212 Degrees." They

SEE SCISD ON PAGE 6

## 1st Community customers target of internet scam

Bogus email messages purporting to be from 1st Community Federal Credit Union have been showing up in computer inboxes in recent days.

The fraudulent emails urge customers to click a link in order to receive an important message from 1st Community. Clicking the link apparently allows a computer virus known as a "Trojan Horse" to be installed on the users computer.

A variant of the message tells unsuspecting recipients that their 1st Community account has been frozen or locked and urges the user to click another

link. The second fraudulent email contains a copyright symbol and appears to have been generated by Visa.

Dorothy Dacy, branch manager of the 1st Community Federal Credit Union in Eldorado warns local customers not to be fooled by the bogus emails.

"They have our logo and make every effort to appear as if they come from us, but do not click on them!" Dacy urged.

Ms. Dacy went on to explain that the bogus emails are mass mailed across the nation in hopes of

finding their way into the inbox of a 1st Community customer. "We've heard reports of people getting the emails who don't even have an account with us," she explained.

Dacy continued by urging anyone who received a questionable email that appears to be from 1st Community Federal Credit Union to call 853-2538.

Bogus emails may also be reported on the internet to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. The site is jointly operated by the FBI and the White Collar Crime Center.

Nancy Pope, 55, of Sonora, was injured at 12:28 a.m. on Monday, September 10, 2007, when the 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer she was driving struck a guy-wire supporting a utility pole at the corner of Bud Avenue and South Divide Street in Eldorado. Ms. Pope told investigators she was coming to Eldorado to seek medical attention when she reached down to pick up her cellular telephone. At that point, she reportedly lost control of the vehicle. Deputy Kevin Herbert and Deputy Chris Martinez investigated the accident. Ms. Pope was taken by ambulance to Schleicher County Medical Center for treatment. Fire department and personnel and utility crews were summoned to deal with downed electrical wires.

PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN



## Read the Paper from Back to Front: Public Notices Are News!

by Steve Haynes  
President, National Newspaper Association

Steve Haynes is publisher of The Oberlin (KS) Herald and president of Nor'West Newspapers, which operates six community newspapers in northwest Kansas. He is a former president of the Kansas and Colorado Press associations.

The front pages of our nation's newspapers are more colorful and compelling than ever. From the smallest county-seat weekly to the largest city tabloid, action shots reach out to the reader, trying to draw you in.

We try our best to help you stay informed, even as you blog, GPS and phone-video your way through the world.

But while there's plenty of interesting news in the front, I find the back of the paper even more important. I invite the reader to join me there.

The public notices in most newspapers appear in the classified section. In some states, that is because state law considers them classified ads. In others, it's simply tradition. They've been there for all of our lives. Lewis and Clark used public notices. Most state constitutions were drawn up with the help of public notices.

Now they are so much part of our tradition that we sometimes forget them. These notices are part of the three-legged stool of democracy: open public meetings, public records and public notices.

They let us know about tax increases, zoning changes and property foreclosures -- when they are allowed to work.

Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire drew attention to these notices this year when she signed a bill requiring her governments -- state and local -- to resume using public notices to inform citizens. The law she signed was a reaction to a state Supreme Court decision involving the owners of a small business whose property in south Tacoma was condemned to make way for a train station parking lot. The public notice provided by the transit authority was posted solely on the agency's own website. There it announced condemnation of private property. The property owners never saw the notice. They sued, but the Washington Supreme Court said notice on an obscure website was enough.

The legislature thought otherwise. It now requires notices to be mailed to property owners -- and a notice to be put back into the newspaper, where people will see it. As the state of Washington has acknowledged, people have a right to know. And notices are meant to be noticed.

Newspaper notices also help get people back together with something they have lost -- unclaimed property.

In most states, an unclaimed property fund exists in the state treasury for assets in long-forgotten bank accounts, uncollected insurance claims and personal property, all belonging to someone who has not yet found it or laid claim to it. Not surprisingly, some state governments happily sit on these assets. In the days of more vigorous newspaper notices, readers could pore over interesting catalogues of unfound heirs and uncashed checks -- and let their friends know of an unfound bounty. Today, in many states, notice of these funds has shrunk to a website page buried in a state computer.

A federal judge in California has stepped into that state's hoarding of these rich deposits. He stopped the state from continuing to rake in the contents of abandoned lockboxes and the like. He demanded a better effort by the state to find right-

SEE NEWSPAPER ON PAGE 3

## Retirement Can Be Doggone Expensive

The big question on everybody's mind lately is: How many millions of dollars would my dog need to retire?

Leona Helmsley, the recently deceased hotel magnate fondly recalled as the "Queen of Mean," answered that question with a bequest to her beloved Maltese -- named Trouble -- of \$12 million.

(Two of her grandchildren received nothing. Perhaps they barked too much.)

While Trouble has expensive tastes -- according to the New York Times, a hotel chef cooks her meals and a housekeeper hand-feeds her -- most financial experts feel \$12 million should be sufficient to maintain her current lifestyle.

But whether your dog could survive on \$12 million depends on your answers to these questions:

- Is your dog a paws-on investor that enjoys sniffing out business trends?

- Is your dog a risk-taker? Research shows that dogs that chase cars often chase the riskiest investments.

- Does your dog have expensive hobbies or is it -- be honest -- a dumb animal happy chasing its own tail?

Speaking of chasing (editor's note: Just watch how smooth this

### Don Flood

transition is) -- elsewhere in the news we have the report that Discovery Canyon Campus School in Colorado finally has banned one of the worst examples of our barbaric past: the game of tag.

"It causes a lot of conflict on the playground," said Cindy Fesgen, assistant principal.

But, she said, running games are still allowed as long as students don't chase each other.

So they can have "running games" but not chase each other.

KID: Hey, I've got an idea. Let's run around aimlessly in circles!

KID 2: That's a great idea, though we must be careful to avoid chasing each other as that could result in unnecessary conflict.

KID: Right-O!

This represents a sea change from when I was kid. The idea then seemed to be to create conflict. The theory, I believe, was that if we were encouraged to commit assault and battery in gym we'd be less likely to cause trouble in other classes.

Dodge ball, for example, is more violent than tag, but it wasn't deadly enough for our gym teacher.

We played in a small circle using a medicine ball, with the victim in the middle. He didn't stand a chance.

If, by some misfortune, he had survived more than 15 seconds without being knocked senseless, the gym teacher introduced a second medicine ball.

The highlight came when players on opposite sides simultaneously hit the victim in the feet and on the head -- resulting in an instant collapse to the floor and cheers all around, except for the stunned guy in the middle.

Nowadays, of course, such a gym instructor would be publicly recognized for his teaching practices -- most likely as the lead story on the 11 o'clock news as he was led away in handcuffs.

I think our gym teacher would have used balls with metal spikes if he thought he could get away with it.

It could have been worse, though. Our gym teacher could have been Leona Helmsley.

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](mailto:dflood287@comcast.net).

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## Hutchison files anti-toll legislation

by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Talk of buying back certain stretches of federal interstate highway in Texas and then collecting new tolls to drive on them hit a roadblock earlier this month.

On Sept. 5,

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, filed S. 2019, legislation to prohibit the tolling of existing federal highways across the country.

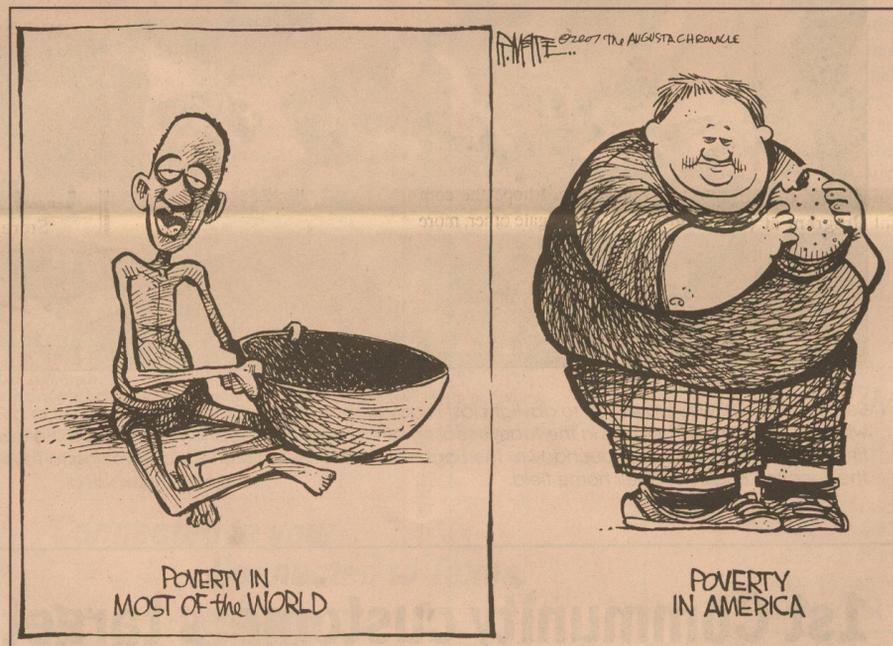
"My bill will protect drivers from paying tolls on roads that were already paid for by taxpayers," she said.

The Texas Department of Transportation floated the idea of buybacks in February in its report, "Forward Momentum."

Under current law, states can apply to the U.S. Department of Transportation to place tolls on existing federal highways.

But Hutchison said she would oppose any such effort by TxDOT to toll existing interstate highways.

"I will work with members of the Texas Congressional delegation and the state Legislature to ensure that Texans are never asked to pay a toll of an existing interstate highway," she said.



## Some Words from a Funny Man

I first met Lee Bartlett when he was chief of police in Brownfield. It was in the seventies and my hair was longer than it is now and I had a beard. He was familiar with my radio program and quickly said yes when I told him I was in town and wanted to interview him. When I walked into his office, I thought he was going to arrest me for not having a fresh haircut and shave.

He lives in Gatesville now and while I was there the other day, I called and asked him to come down to the Gatesville Messenger for a visit. I hadn't seen him in 30 years. The first thing he said when he got to the paper was "I see you've shaved."

Lee Bartlett was making humorous speeches back then and he still does them occasionally when they don't interfere with his golf game.

"I play every day I'm able," says Lee, "and I'm able most every day. We warm up for our golf game by playing dominoes first. That loosens us up."

He is a popular figure around Gatesville and I can understand



by  
Tumbleweed  
Smith

why. He is friendly-looking and loves to talk. He's happy and he's funny. After he left Brownfield he ran an ambulance service in Lamesa, then moved to Gatesville and sold tires. He says selling tires is sort of like police work.

"You're still dealing with the public and they're usually upset about something."

His speaking experiences started with talking to youngsters about safety. Then he joined Toastmasters. The local club entered him in a contest and he won the highest award Toastmasters gives. That speech was about the adventures of a rookie policeman. After that, he had all the free speeches he wanted. He made lots of speeches while doing police work. He'd make talks and throw people in jail.

"I've probably enjoyed making

people laugh as much as anything I've ever done in my life. I think that's what's wrong with the world now. We don't laugh enough. We need to laugh at ourselves more."

Lee is nearly seventy now and still gets calls to speak. He has appeared at podiums all over Texas and New Mexico and never got paid for a speech, even though people have offered him money.

"I figure if God gave me the talent to make people laugh, I didn't need to get paid for it. If there's 40 or 400 in the audience and they're all smiling and laughing, that's better than money any day. I use lots of one-liners and sometimes pick on people in the audience. I might get serious for about 30 seconds at the end. But I never did think being serious was good for you. I think most people go to a banquet to eat, drink and laugh. I don't talk about the government or current events. I don't have anything dirty. You might call my speeches homespun. I tell 'em 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhea. Does that mean there's one that enjoys it?"

### Report details high cost of living

"The Family Budget Estimator: What It Really Takes to Get By in Texas" is a new report released Aug. 30 by the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization based in Austin.

The report shows that living expenses in the Lone Star State are rising faster than incomes and that Texans are far less likely to receive employer sponsored health insurance than employees in other states.

The report also reveals Texas has the highest percentage of people without health care coverage in the nation and that Texas' high sales and property tax rates hit lower-paid workers the hardest.

Based on its findings, the CPPP makes a number of suggestions that if accomplished would improve the lot of Texans, such as:

- Texas should ensure that families remain eligible for CHIP and food stamps until they earn enough to meet basic needs.

- Texas should increase its commitment to community colleges and ensure that higher education remains affordable.

- Texas should adopt policies that help low-wage workers move into jobs with wages high enough to support a family.

- State and local tax abatements should be tied to employment and wage policies that require family-supporting wages and benefits.

- Texas should invest in policies and programs that increase homeownership, higher education, and retirement savings.

- Texas should convert its tax system to a low-rate personal income tax that would reduce overall taxes for middle and low-income families while providing enough money for education, job training and work supports to help Texans earn more.

The full report is available online at [www.cppp.org](http://www.cppp.org).

### Perry spares inmate's life

Gov. Perry on Aug. 30 commuted the death sentence of Kenneth Eugene Foster of San Antonio to life imprisonment following the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles' majority recommendation.

Foster was sentenced to death for driving the getaway car in the 1996

SEE CAPITAL ON PAGE 5

**THE ELDORADO SUCCESS**

Publisher and Editor: Randy Mankin  
Office Manager and Classifieds: Kathy Mankin  
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Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication only if they are signed and are accompanied with a day and night phone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for length or offensive material. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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# OBITUARIES

## Robert Lelland Bob Shirley

Robert Lelland Bob Shirley went home to be with his heavenly Father on Friday, August 31, 2007.

Bob was born to Robert Kelvin and Viola Lorene Shirley on January 9, 1933 in Electra Tx. He was the eldest of seven children. He enlisted in the Navy in 1950 and served three years. He reenlisted in the Army and served twelve years.

He married Jimmie May Jackson of Hico Tx in August of 1959. They had four children, Donna in 1961, Danny in 1963, Wade in 1964. Tammy in 1965.

He was preceded in death by his wife Jimmie on July 2, 2003. He is survived by four brothers; Dean, Dan Randle and David and two sisters; Betty, and Annie, four grandchildren, Robert and Dustin Rhodes, Christina and Tabitha

Martin. Three Great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob loved the military and the military way of life. He was stationed in many countries, and at one time three of his brothers were in the army, two of them in Viet Nam with him.

Bob was an artist, he worked in oils, acrylics, pastels, charcoal, and wood burning. he loved to teach the arts to any one interested. Bob loved his God, his family, reading his bible and spent many hours discussing verses with friends and family.

Bob moved to Eldorado two years ago to be close to his son and family, Wade and Teresa Shirley, Taylor and Mason.

Bob was laid to rest in Rest Haven cemetery in Ozona.

# Burger and a CEU

The extension office is holding its second annual fall CEU luncheon series. We call it "Burger and a CEU". This series allows producers in Schleicher County the opportunity to gain knowledge in four different areas, and also earn a few Continuing Education Units for the pesticide license. Remember, you must earn at least 15 CEUs every 5 years to keep your license current. The following events will begin at noon at the extension office, and a \$5 fee will cover lunch expenses. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend.

- Burger and a CEU Series**
- Monday, Sept. 17: Dr. Billy



## County Agent's Update

- Warrick - Crops Update
  - Tuesday, Sept. 25: Dr. Chris Sansone - Entomologist Update
  - Monday, Oct. 1: Dr. Alan McGinty - Herbicide and Rangeland Update
- Please call the Schleicher County Extension Office with any questions: 853-2132.

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## Foster Grandparent Program celebrating 10 Years of service

The Concho Valley Council of Governments/Area Agency on Aging and the Foster Grandparent Program of the Concho Valley are celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program.

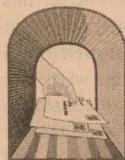
The Foster Grandparent Program volunteers provide loving and experienced tutors and mentors to children and youth with special needs. Foster Grandparents volunteers provide support to schools,

childcare, Head Starts and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Concho Valley.

We are inviting Foster Grandparent Volunteers past and present to join us in recognizing our 10th anniversary. This celebration will take place September 27, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Concho Valley Council of Governments Training Center located at 2801 W. Loop 306, Suite A.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend no later than Friday, September 21, 2007.

For more information, please contact Sylvia A. Nombro, Program Coordinator of the Foster Grandparent Program at (325) 223-5704.



## 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.

### Commissioners should pay more attention in the future

Dear Editor,

I would like to commend the astute and clear headed thinking of Commissioner Lynn Meador during the vote on use of the courthouse lawn. In the midst of an apparent barrage of misinformation, he suggested that the matter should be explored further. Taking the question under study with a minimal amount of research would have easily ferreted out the correct facts and proven the wise course of action.

As it was, artificially generated hysteria by a secretive group with a petty agenda, created a crisis situation that did not exist, and there was a rush to judgment, which was unfortunate. I hope the commissioners investigate other, more

important matters more closely before letting such pettiness dictate county business.

Since my credo is that not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life should be taken seriously, it would be hypocritical of me to stress about this, but it does show what can happen if the commissioners are not diligent.

I am not concerned about not being able to use the lawn in the future for my festivals, etc., but I am concerned about the dissemination of vastly incorrect figures of all financial facts concerning the festivals.

Thank you,  
Jim Runge

## Read the newspaper

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ful owners. (The list of unclaimed property in that case included a Medal of Honor and Navy Cross awarded to a World War II hero who is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.)

One big problem with California's program is the lack of newspaper lists of the property. The public's right to know is served when we can see for ourselves what is going on. Other states should pay attention to this lesson of government accountability: a government website doesn't do the job.

The Internet is going to be an important channel for delivery of newspaper information. It also will help newspapers provide broader public notice. But the Internet must not become a tool of secrecy for governments.

Washington's governor and legislature understand this principle. The California judge knows visible public notice is important. Newspapers provide public notices week after week where people can see them, not locked away on some obscure website.

That's why so many readers are like me. We read the paper from back to front.

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Winner of this week's \$100 drawing is Carrie Pridemore, shown here accepting her prize from Roxanne Arispé.





First National Bank of Eldorado raised \$600 with its \$100,000 Hole-in-One Shootout last Saturday. Unfortunately, no one claimed the Grand Prize, but the proceeds of the shootout went to benefit the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department. FNB Vice President Mason Vaughan (R) is shown here presenting a \$600 check to Fire Chief Jerry Jones (L) on Tuesday!

**Weekly Sudoku Puzzle**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

**Eagles run over, around and through Punchers**

by J.L. Mankin

Wes Brown rumbled 27 yards to the end zone Friday night with 6:27 left in the game to seal the Eagles victory over Mason 24-7.

"I can't say enough about this team's tremendous effort out there," Head Coach Johnny Burleson said. "This team is meshing together like no other team I've seen."

Dustin Gauna kicked the evening's scoring off with a 46-yard reception from Rance Cathey with 30 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Gauna ended the night with four receptions for 103 yards and the one touchdown.

The Eagles continued to roll when Jorge Mata hauled in an 80-yard pass from Manny Gonzalez to bring the score to 12-0.

Mason would respond with 5:51 remaining in the third quarter when quarterback Bryce Estes connected with Thad Geagley on a 45-yard touchdown reception to bring the Punchers within five points of the Eagles.

"There, when it was 12-7 we really showed what we are made of," Burleson said. "The young men just kept their heads down and kept fighting. They never quit."

Early in the fourth quarter Louie Buitron found the endzone from two yards out to give the Eagles a bit more cushion on the score board.

The question of whether this Eldorado team could put an opponent away was answered with 6:27 left in the game when Wes Brown trudged toward the endzone from 27 yards out to seal the win and give the Eagles a much needed boost in confidence.

"We are feeling good right now," Burleson said. "I can't even tell you who the offensive and defensive standouts are. That's how well we played on both sides of the ball. Every kid was a standout in my mind. Just amazing."

Eldorado ended the night with a total of 394 yards on offense while the Warbirds defense held the Punchers to 180 yards on the night.

Burleson's team brought a balanced attack, gaining 197 yards on the ground and through the air both.

Wes Brown led the Eagles on the ground with a total of 74 yards on nine attempts and a touchdown. Manny Gonzalez was 5 of 6 for 114 passing yards and a TD. Dustin Gauna led all receivers in the district with 113 yards.

The Eagles will travel to Junction this week in hopes of improving their record to 2-0 on the season.

"They have even more size than Mason did," Burleson said. "We have a good amount of what it takes to beat size. Heart and speed."

The game is slated to begin at 7:30 pm in Junction. Eagle fans are encouraged to make the trip and support the team. However, those who cannot make the trip can keep up with the action on KLDE 104.9 FM.



PHOTO BY J.L. MANKIN

Ivany Sanchez protected the ball Friday night as he ran through a Mason defend's grasp in the Eagles 24-7 win over the Punchers.

**Eagles JV falls to Mason**

by Stacy Jurecek

The cheerleaders started the game off with a bang and a great looking run through sign for the 2007 JV Football team. The game appeared to started out evenly matched. Size and depth were about equal.

The first quarter was a show of both teams defense and offense but resulted in no scoring.

In the second quarter Ben Wipff and Josh Jurecek took down a Mason ball handler in the end zone for a touchback

In the third quarter the Eagles' Miles Mikeska answered the Mason punchers touchdown and 2 point conversion with six more points. The Eagle fell short on the two point conversion after a penalty was called.

In the fourth quarter the Eagles did not answer the second Puncher touchdown and conversion. The defense played to the very end but finished out the night with a loss to the Mason Punchers JV.

The Eldorado Eagle special teams and defense played a solid game, while the offense was stifled by penalties.

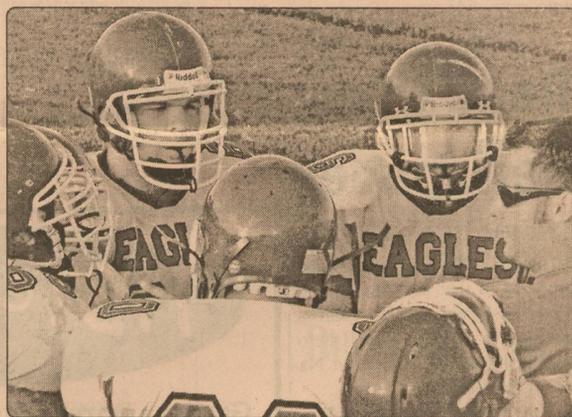
Kadie Niblett wins biggest smile of the night

Josh Jurecek wins team spirit of the night

Ben Wipff wins quarterback sack of the night

Garett Lux, Rudy Sanchez & Miles Mikeska win the fighting heart

	1	2	3	4	Final
Eagles	0	2	6	0	8
Punchers	0	0	8	8	16



COURTESY PHOTO

Eagles JV players (L-R) Shane Young and Anthony Mata listened intently as Coach John Broussard huddled with his team last Friday in Mason.

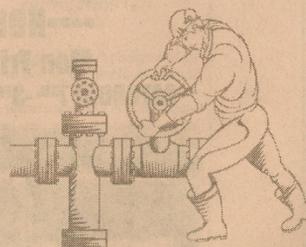
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## City of Eldorado employees receive 5 percent pay raise

The Eldorado City Council met Monday, September 10, 2007 to handle a short business agenda.

Before proceeding, the council elected Stan Meador to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

He then chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor John Nikolauk.

Among other business, the council took up the discussion of employee pay.

Utility Superintendent Floyd Fay asked the council for pay raises for four new employees and the council granted the request.

Discussion then turned to an across the board raise for all employees.

At one point the council considered a raise for all non-supervisory employees. City Secretary Carolyn Mayo argued for a raise for herself, explaining that she puts in many more hours than the hourly employees. Mayo went on to elaborate that she worked over 70 hours during Texas Ranger Brooks Long's investigation into theft by a former city employee.

For his part, Floyd Fay explained that he, too, puts in hours much longer than those of regular employees and cited recent rains and the time required to pump out the flooded landfill.

Stan Meador suggested holding the matter of pay raises over until Mayor Nikolauk returned,

but the idea seemed to get lost in the debate.

Finally, A motion to give all employees a 5 percent raise, excluding the four who had already received raises, but including supervisors Carolyn Mayo and Floyd Fay, passed unanimously.

Other business included an update from Utility Superintendent Floyd Fay on work in his various departments. Fay noted that the landfill and water department are due for annual inspections from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Fay said that the departments were running smoothly but that the dump truck that pulls the pothole patcher needs repair to its rear axle differential. Road repairs would resume as soon as the truck is fixed, he said.

Among other business, the council approved the minutes to the August 6, August 13, August 20 and August 30 meetings. They also reviewed and approved the current bills.

Carolyn Mayo next informed the council that the seat previously held by Dr. Pat Johnson, in Single Member Ward #1 was still vacant.

Council members present for Monday night's meeting included Stan Meador, Dora Bosmans, Stacy Haynes, Richard Mendez and Dorothy Dacy.

## Nursing Home Chit Chat



by Nursing Home Activity Director Annie Arispe

Last week the residents and I reminisced about homework.

Thinking back the residents wondered why they didn't have homework from school, like kids have, today. One reason was probably that they had to walk to a little one room country school in all kinds of weather — rain, snow, sleet, and heat. They didn't have backpacks or even plastic bags to carry their books and lunch. The books belonged to the school and had to be well cared for, which wouldn't have happened, if they had to carry them back and forth.

Another reason could have been that one teacher had to teach all eight grades. After she taught each grade the lesson, they had to do there assignment while she went on to teach the next grade, giving them plenty of time to do their work at school. If they didn't get it done, we stayed inside for recess and lunch, and she helped them. Back then, homework was really

"home" work and "homework" was schoolwork.

Last October 2006 we were thinking of a way to raise money for the Activity Fund and someone came up with a Bean Cook-Off. Well, we did so, and it turned out to be so, much fun that we are going to have it, again. It will be Saturday, October 27, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., outdoors on the Nursing Home Patio. 1st place is \$250 cash. The beans must be made from scratch on site with an open fire, gas grill or slow cookers. Award for 2nd and 3rd place prize will be given. Awards for 1st and 2nd place for most creative table will also be given. If you like more info, please, contact Annie Arispe at 325-853-2507-Ext.132.

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## Capital Highlights...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

capital murder of Michael LaHood. Foster sought to have his death sentence commuted to a life sentence, arguing that he did not shoot LaHood.

Perry said the Legislature, which convenes in January 2009, should examine the state law that allows capital murder defendants to be tried simultaneously.

### State purchases Crockett letter

Texas Historical Commission on Sept. 4 announced its purchase of the last known letter of Davy Crockett from a private collection in Houston.

The letter, dated Jan. 9, 1836, and addressed to his children, was

written by Crockett in San Augustine, then enroute to the Alamo.

The price tag was \$490,000, but after the sale questions were raised as to the authenticity of the document.

### Test preparations to be reduced

The Texas Education Agency announced it would cut back on "field testing" practices at many public schools. The agency says field testing helps educators gauge the fairness of questions on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills and other exams.

The decision to cut back addresses complaints that field testing takes too much time that could be used for instruction.

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## Commissioners Court meets

The Schleicher County Commissioner met Monday, September 10, 2007 to open bids for unleaded and diesel fuel and the demolition of the hog barn located near the Civic Center.

Three bids were received for unleaded and diesel fuel. Regal Oil's diesel fuel bid of \$2.5850 per gallon was approved by the court. Griffin Fuels' bid for unleaded gasoline in the amount of \$2.6715 per gallon. Town and Country's bids on diesel and unleaded gasoline were rejected.

Likewise, three bids were received for demolition of the hog barn. Michael Faull bid of \$100 and the use of salvaged material was accepted by the court. The bid includes all steel structures from the slab up and removal must be completed within 6 weeks.

The commissioners then approved budget transfers totaling \$203,000 as recommended by

County Treasurer Karen Henderson.

In other business, the sum of \$28,000 was set back to pay the State of Texas as a first installment for the upcoming runway paving project at the County Airport. The paving is slated to be carried out next year.

Judge Johnny Griffin presented a 2008 budget to the commissioners for inspection.

The court will have two public hearings on their proposed tax increase on Thursday, September 13 and Monday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Court Room.

County Clerk Peggy Williams read the minutes from the August 27, 2007 meeting, which were approved.

Commissioners present included Lynn Meador, Johnny Mayo and Matt Brown. Commissioner Kirk Griffin was absent.



(L-R) Ernest Sweatt, J.B. Christian and Claude Meador watched as wool was turned into yarn at the Eldorado Woolen Mill.

## Touch of History

by Rene Calcote

### The Eldorado Woolen Mill

Joe Muller Christian received his degree from Texas Tech University in Textile Engineering, and his dream was to someday own his own woolen mill. His father, Joseph B. Christian helped make this possible when together they had a stone building erected in Eldorado, and in 1941 The Eldorado Woolen Mill had it's grand opening.

The grand opening was the celebration of all times. A huge parade, with five bands leading, started the day. 5,000 people at-

tended the event to hear Governor W. Lee O'Daniel speak, and enjoy free barbecue. Early day Schleicher County pioneers were the guests of honor.

Thousands filed in and out of the mill during the day to inspect the intricate wool carding, spinning and weaving machinery.

After WWII started the mill made regulation army blankets for the government. The mill was the first woolen blanket factory to be built in Texas.

## Congressman Conaway's aide due in Eldorado on Monday

A member of Congressman Mike Conaway's (TX-11) staff will be in Eldorado on Monday, September 17, 2007 to visit personally with constituents. The visit is scheduled so that local citizens may concerns, request help on a federal issue or to ask any questions they may have.

Anyone with questions of comments for the congressman's aide should stop by the Schleicher County Courthouse on Monday, September 17, 2007 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

## SCISD trustees hold monthly meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

explained that 211 degree water is very hot and will burn your hand, but by raising the temperature by a mere degree, the water turns into steam and is capable of producing great energy.

The students noted that the book has taught them that by increasing their efforts slightly, they can achieve great things. 212 degrees, they said has become their motto.

The trustees thanked the four students for attending and encour-

aged them to continue putting extra effort into their studies.

Among other business, the board approved the minutes of the previous meeting. They also authorized Randy Mankin to dismantle and remove an antennae tower located on school property in return for the tower.

Discussion then turned to the upcoming rollback election. The trustees agreed to contract with Schleicher County election administrator Brenda Mayfield to conduct the election in connection with the

upcoming constitutional amendment election on November 6th. The estimated cost to the district is \$590.78.

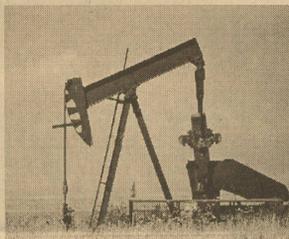
The board then voted to call for bids for air conditioning units as recommended by Maintenance Supervisor Oscar Martinez.

An executive session for the discussion of personnel matters followed with the trustees returning to open session and voting to extend their present contract with finance director Ray Ballew.

Before adjourning, the trustees met with food service director Ima Bruce to discuss nutrition guidelines and they learned of an upcoming convention of the Texas Association of School Boards, slated for Sept. 28-30 in Dallas.

## Have you been contacted about making an oil and gas lease?

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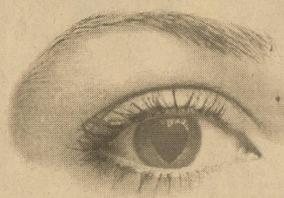
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## Schleicher County Medical Center Health Fair

October 4, 2007

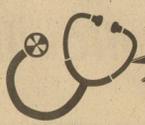
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#### ACROSS

1. "Rise and \_\_\_!"
6. Fade away
10. Dr. Pavlov
14. Like an icecap
15. Genesis son
16. Terra cotta piece
17. Gridiron elite
19. Mark for life
20. John, formerly of "ET"
21. Wall Street order
22. \_\_\_ Rizzo ('69 Hoffman role)
23. Start of a classic Christmas poem
25. It takes two
27. Hot dog topper, perhaps
31. \_\_\_-Kettering Institute
33. A Beatle bride
34. Take third place
35. "Unagi," at sushi bars
36. Hopi Indian doll
40. "\_\_\_ No Hooks"
41. H.S. math subject
43. Coiling creature
44. Stein filler
46. Spanish dish made with saffron
50. B&B visitor
51. "Dragonwyck" author Seton
52. Clock climber of rhyme

#### DOWN

1. Set-to
2. Pocket problem
3. Sorry situations
4. Petroleum distillate used in solvents
5. Make a goof
6. Dance named for

68. Positive thinker
- Norman Vincent

7. Aid in wrongdoing
8. PBS-funding org.
9. "Slippery" tree
10. "Jumping Jack Flash, \_\_\_"
11. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" author
12. [sigh]
13. Notorious

- "fiddler"
18. October birthstone
22. GOP org.
24. Subtle signal
25. Actress Collette
26. Bard's "in a little while"
27. Flag carriers
28. "George M!" subject
29. Durante's protuberance
30. Fancy pitcher
31. Dreamcast maker
32. Wolf's look
37. Rudiments
38. Crotchety sort
39. Comrade in arms
42. Chilled desserts
45. Apple pie order
47. Snore symbol
48. Ford's bestowal on Nixon
49. Peeling spuds, maybe
52. Post-it message
53. Like much testimony
54. Gives a boost to
56. Blue-green shade
57. Break in the action
58. Handy bag
60. Sine \_\_\_ non
61. Young \_\_\_ (tykes)
62. Eminem's genre

#### Pros and Cons

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20					21				22				
			23	24			25	26					
27							28				29	30	
31	32						33			34			
35				36	37	38			39		40		
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52	53						54			55	56	57	58
59							60	61		62			
63							64			65			
66							67			68			

American Profile HomeTown Content

See solution on Page 8

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## High school parent/teacher conferences slated

Eldorado High School will host a two day Parent/Teacher Conference in order to visit with all of the students parents.

Times have been chosen in order to allow parents more flexibility to attend this conference around their work schedule.

The conferences are scheduled for:

Monday, October 1, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 8, 2007 from 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The designated times for both days were selected so that parents may have some flexibility in their work schedules to meet with the teachers. A private room will be available for those teachers and parents who

wish to visit privately.

The high school counselor will be present to answer questions and to make available various materials including information about financial aide for students nearing graduation, various testing options for all students, and graduation requirements and a 4-Year Plans for freshman and sophomores. Spanish translation will be available.

The teachers of Eldorado High school hope each parent of a High School student will take this opportunity to ask questions and get to know who instructs their children.

## Girl Scouts of central Texas host Concho River canoe race

Girl Scouts from across Central Texas and Girl Scout participants statewide will hold the inaugural Statewide Girl Scout Race on the River, a canoe race on the Concho River in San Angelo. Girl Scouts from across Texas and their families have been invited to join the Girl Scouts of Central Texas for a day of canoe racing and fun.

The Girl Scout races, beginning at 1 p.m. at the El Camino Program Center, consist of 150 yards around a buoy and back. Approximately 80 Girl Scouts are expected to compete. Races for adults, who will compete for the Concho Cup, will begin at 2 p.m.

In addition to the canoe races, a one or

three-mile run, the Dry Creek Run, will take place at 9 a.m. before the canoe races begin. Registration for the Dry Creek Run begins at 8 a.m. A Family Funfest will be held from 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the San Angelo YMCA. The Family Funfest is free of charge and open to the public.

For 16 years, Girl Scouts in the El Camino Council have been competing in annual canoe races on the Concho River. This year, for the first time, Girl Scouts from across Texas are invited to compete in a statewide canoe race. Girls must be 12 years or older and must qualify in their own councils to compete.

The four Girl Scout councils that will become the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Bluebonnet, Heart of Texas, El Camino and Lone Star Councils, currently serve nearly 20,000 girls, ages 5-17 years, and more than 12,000 adult volunteers in 46 Central Texas counties. As the largest organization with a commitment to girls, Girl Scouting offers an array of fun, educational programs focusing on art, science, technology, engineering, math, the environment and life skills. We build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. For more information about the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, visit [www.gsctx.org](http://www.gsctx.org).

## Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church to hold annual Diez y Seis Festival

Here we go again! Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Rocksprings is gearing up for its Annual Diez y Seis Parish Festival to be held on Saturday, September 15th at the Edwards County Fairgrounds.

Festivities will kickoff at 10:30 a.m. with a parade, games for the kids, food booths and fun activities throughout the day for the entire family.

Music will be provided throughout the day by Latin Sound Express DJ of Eldorado, Tin Cisneros y Su Show of Eagle Pass, The Dead End Road Band of Rocksprings and the dance to begin at 9:00 p.m. with Romaldo y Grupo Fuerzzo Band

of Ozona.

The queen coronation is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Vying for the crown is Jessica Rodriguez of Rocksprings, Candace Ruiz of Camp Wood and Angela Streib of Leakey.

Also scheduled for the day are a washer pitching and a horseshoe pitching contest. A drawing for the

\$2,000 cash give away is scheduled to be done that night along with other prizes.

Come on over, bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a day full of festivities throughout the whole day.

The church would like to remind all who are attending that there will be no coolers allowed on the grounds.

### Meals for Friends Menu

**Monday, September 17**

King Ranch Chicken, Steamed Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Carrot Salad, Oatmeal Cookies, Milk

**Tuesday, September 18**

Roast Beef Sandwich, Baked French Fries, Lettuce Leaf, Tomatoe Slices, Pea Salad, Peach Halves, Milk

**Wednesday, September 19**

Chicken Fried Steak w/Gravy, Buttered Peas, Spinach, Cornbread, Sunshine Fruit Cup, Milk

**Thursday, September 20**

Chicken Fajita Salad, Cheese, Tomato Wedges & Lettuce, Macaroni Salad, Crackers, Cherry Perfection, Pumpkin Pie, Milk

**Friday, September 21**

Hamburger on a Bun, Whole Baby Carrots, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Bun, Seaform Salad, Fresh Grapes, Milk

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by J.L. Mankin

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### REAL ESTATE

**ELDORADO-FOR SALE-3 BR 2 BA home on 10 acres.** .75 miles S of 190 E on Hwy 2596 CH/A, stove, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, new carpet, paint and flooring, yard and pecan orchard on sprinkler system, pen w/ 10' X 24' barn and 10' X 20' storage bldg (w/ elect.), 8' X 10' storage bldg., 15' X 30' metal shop (w/elect.), carport, earthen tank, fenced yard. \$140,000.00 Shown by appointment only. Call 325-853-1400 or 325-206-1112.31-35b

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**ELDORADO-FOR SALE:** 10 Acres, plus a 4/BR, 2/BA Manufactured Home, 2,432 sq. ft., 1 mile East on Hwy. FM 2596, CR 203. Call 325-226-2079. 37tfn

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN OZONA:** Spacious family home at 104 Live Oak. 2100 sq feet. Central heat and air, great location, newly painted exterior, 3 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, dining room and oversize living and kitchen area. Large Jacuzzi bath tub, lots of storage inside the home and a work area for man of the house in the back yard. 392-2471. wtccn

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SCHLEICHER COUNTY ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating

SCHLEICHER COUNTY ISD WILL HOLD

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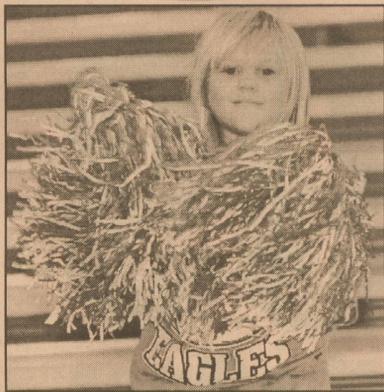
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### Eldorado Spotlight



Cheering on the Eagles is 2nd Grader Tricia Carter, the daughter of Stu and Sharon Carter of Eldorado.

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Must be at least 18 yrs old & have a GED or High School Diploma.

Shifts will vary, including nights and some weekends. This position could become part/full time.

FMI contact:  
Dana Shriver, Daycare Supervisor  
853-4154  
PHL is an EOE

Preferred Hospital Leasing Schleicher County Medical Center is currently seeking an

Assistant Childcare Provider  
**FULL TIME**

Must be at least 18 yrs old & have a GED or High School Diploma.

Shifts will vary, including nights and some weekends. FMI contact:

Dana Shriver, Daycare Supervisor  
853-4154  
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400 W. Murchison  
Eldorado, TX 76936  
**LVN**

Full Time Night Nurse

36-40 hours a week,

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Certifications Preferred

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Phone: 325-853-2507 ext. 109

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### EMPLOYMENT

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Maria Duran 853-4354  
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**FOR SALE AT auction:** 1969 Hurst/Olds 442, 1950 Ford Custom Convertible, 1957 Corvette Roadster. The Branson Auction, Oct. 19-20. Call now to bid or consign 1-800-335-3063. www.bransonauction.com.

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### ESTATE AND GARAGE SALES

**ELDORADO: 5 FAMILY GARAGE SALE:** Saturday; September 15: 9AM-12 Noon: Grannynette Cafe on South Divide.b

**ELDORADO-Cream & Blue Floral Couch,** oversized blue/white stripe chair & ottoman; glass & wood end tables & coffee table, Queen pillow top mattress and box springs, Twin bed set, twin mattress only, red print sofa, gray print love seat, mahogany gate-leg table and 6 chairs (seats 8-12), small dinette (4 chairs), oak double dresser w/mirror, lots more, **SECOND HAND ROSE,** 853-3736, Eldorado. Consignors must call ahead before bringing any items in.

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**Basin Land Services**  
432-684-4850

### Lynn Meador Real Estate

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



208 McWhorter St.

**New Listing-208 McWhorter St.** Very attractive 4 Bedroom 3 Bath home on a 3 acre tract. The home is in excellent condition with wood laminate floors in the living area, carpet, 2 central heat and air units, two living areas. Could be used as a 5 bedroom home or 3 bedroom and efficiency apartment. Corner lot with circular driveway and carport gives the home a lot of "country" appeal. Walking distance to county recreational facilities. \$160,000.

**New Listing-104 Eldorado Drive** 3 Bedroom 1 1/2 Bath fame home on three lots in Glendale Addition. Interior has been remodeled, includes central heat & ac, carpet, new roof, fenced yard, storage. \$55,000

**New Listing- 410 West Gillis** Two story 4 Bedroom, 2 bath native stone home. Recently repainted interior and new carpet. Large family rooms, two car garage, fenced yard with large pecan and shade trees. Corner lot near downtown. This property has a lot of options as home or investment property. \$65,000

**Commercial Listing:** 100 S. Divide Street. Intersection of US Hwy 277, 190 and 915 at the spotlight. Good exposure for business in downtown Eldorado. Building contains approx. 1512 sq. ft. \$35,000.00

**Unimproved Lot:** Sunset Acres Addition. Corner of Redwood Street and Murchison Ave. 115' X 140' Restrictions. \$6,000.00

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**RANCH LIQUIDATION.** 200 acres- \$79,900. Perfect for hunting retreat. Big buck area, plus turkey, dove, quail & more. Very private with EZ access. Financing available. 1-866-899-5263.

**5.02 ACRES NORTH** of Brady, Texas. Seasonal creek, electricity, water, large oak, elm, mesquite trees, newer mobiles allowed, low down, \$338/month. TX Vets. \$210/month. 1-800-876-9720. www.texasranchland.com

**1ST TIME OFFERED.** New Mexico Ranch Dispersal. 140 acres- \$99,900. River access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,500' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ Terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-877-877-6621.

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◆ <b>DEATH SENTENCE</b> (R) 10:15am 1:15pm 4:05pm 7:05pm 10:05pm	◆ <b>SUPERBAD</b> (R) 10:20am 1:20pm 4:20pm 7:20pm 10:10pm
◆ <b>HALLOWEEN</b> (R) 10:00am 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 9:50pm	◆ <b>THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM</b> (PG-13) 10:40am 1:40pm 4:40pm 7:40pm 10:25pm
◆ <b>HAIRSPRAY</b> (PG) 10:45am 1:45pm 4:45pm 7:45pm	◆ <b>THE INVASION</b> (PG-13) 7:55pm 10:45pm
◆ <b>I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK &amp; LARRY</b> (PG-13) 2:05pm 5:05pm 8:05pm 10:55pm	◆ <b>THE NANNY DIARIES</b> (PG-13) 11:00am 2:00pm 5:00pm 8:00pm 10:50pm
◆ <b>MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY</b> (G) 10:35pm 1:35pm 4:35pm 7:35pm 10:20pm	◆ <b>THE SIMPSONS MOVIE</b> (PG-13) 10:50am 1:50pm 4:50pm 7:50pm 10:40pm
◆ <b>RATATOUILLE</b> 11:05am (G)	◆ <b>UNDERDOG</b> 10:55am 1:55pm 4:55pm (PG)
◆ <b>RUSH HOUR 3</b> (PG-13) 10:25am 1:25pm 4:25pm 7:25pm 10:15pm 10:35pm	◆ <b>WAR</b> (R) 10:10am 1:10pm 4:10pm 7:10pm 10:00pm

Showtimes Valid  
 Friday - Thursday - 8/31 - 9/6, 2007 ONLY



COURTESY PHOTO

**On the Air**

KLDE Oldies 104.9 FM broadcast its first Eldorado Eagles football game last Friday night from Eagle Stadium. Bringing the action to the listeners were (L-R) color commentator Kerry Joy, play-by-play reporter Mason Vaughan and broadcast engineer Danny Boyer. The crew will travel to Junction Friday night to broadcast the station's first "away game."



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 www.myeldorado.net

ELDORADO  
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 ALL THE TIME

**Stargazer**  
 Paul Derrick

**Keeping Stargazing in Perspective**

My wife and I, both retired, share a home office where we spend considerable time engaged in our individual endeavors. Usually we work quietly and are only vaguely aware of what the other is doing. Recently, however, I found her activity distracting.

A member of Waco's Community Race Relations Coalition, she was previewing a DVD on racism on her computer. Hard as I tried, I couldn't tune it out even though it wasn't overly loud. It was the subject matter I found deeply disturbing.

Without belaboring the details, the DVD forced me, once again, to examine a question I revisit from time to time: How can I spend time peering at other worlds when in our own world so many fellow passengers on Spaceship Earth live in such pain and need?

All my life I've embraced the ideal of leaving the world better than I found it. Becoming a father reinforced that resolve, and likely contributed to my choice of a career in social work where I spent 35 years trying to improve my small corner of the world.

A part of me asks: Haven't I now earned the right to retire to the sidelines? Haven't I fulfilled my obligation to humanity? Didn't my 35 years help make the world at least a little better? But before I can give myself permission to rest on my laurels, another part of me asks: So, am I now satisfied with the world I'm leaving my young grandchildren? Can I now ignore my fellow passengers' continuing plights?

Of course not, which is why I stay involved and continue making my modest contributions. But given the distressing state of our world, why am I not spending every waking moment working to improve it? And why haven't I sold my telescopes and given the money to the local hunger relief agency or homeless shelter?

I solace myself with the notion of balance. We all know examples of the perils of "all work and no play" as well as the empty folly of "all play and no work." Both remind us of the importance, indeed necessity, of balance in our lives.

So I stargaze. Am I rationalizing? I hope not, but I do wonder why my questions periodically resurface. Maybe re-examining them helps me maintain the right balance and perspective in my life.

• Naked-eye Planets. Evening: Mercury is low in the west at dusk, and Jupiter is the brightest object in the southwest. Morning: Saturn begins to emerge ahead of the rising Sun as Venus becomes the brilliant "morning star" low in the east and Mars is high in the southeast.

• Astro Milestones. Sep. 23 is the 161st anniversary of the 1846 discovery of Neptune from Berlin Observatory.

*Stargazer appears every other week. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or paulderrickwaco@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at stargazerpaul.com.*

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**Connect to Customer Choice**

AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for over 90 years, AEP Texas knows a thing or two about energy conservation. While we no longer sell electricity or send out monthly electric bills, we recognize this is going to be a long, hot summer.

Since AEP Texas and its 1,700 employees are directly connected to the many communities we live in and serve, we'd like to share some information on how you can help manage your electric bills through active retail choice and where you can go for additional help if need be.

One of the best ways to lower higher electric bills is to shop around for a less expensive retail electric provider (REP). Finding different offers can be done quickly and efficiently.

- 1) Visit the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) electric choice website at [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org). If you don't have access to a computer, you can call the PUCT's Electric Choice hotline at 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (797-4839).
- 2) Use the information you receive to contact different REPs to collect more information on various services and offers. Also contact your current REP at the number listed on your electric bill for other offers that may be available. Ask about contract terms and prices and be sure to look at the REPs' Electricity Facts Labels to make a good comparison.

**Need some help?**

Customers having trouble paying their electric bills and wishing to avoid disconnection should discuss their concerns with their current retail electric provider. All REPs are required to offer deferred payment plans to eligible customers who express an inability to pay. REPs also offer balanced billing plans, which allow eligible customers to pay an average amount each month year-round.

Additionally, many community action agencies may be able to help with electric bills or energy efficiency programs. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) at 1-800-525-0657, e-mail at [info@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:info@tdhca.state.tx.us) or visiting one of the following websites.

TDHCA Utility Bill Help and Other Assistance  
[www.tdhca.state.tx.us/assist\\_energy.htm](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/assist_energy.htm)

TDHCA Home Repair Assistance and Weatherization  
[www.tdhca.state.tx.us/assist\\_repair.htm](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/assist_repair.htm)  
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