#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES SECURITIES	§	
AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
<b>V.</b>	§	
	§	
THE HEARTLAND GROUP VENTURES, LLC;	§	
HEARTLAND PRODUCTION AND RECOVERY	§	
LLC; HEARTLAND PRODUCTION AND	§	
<b>RECOVERY FUND LLC; HEARTLAND</b>	§	
<b>PRODUCTION AND RECOVERY FUND II LLC;</b>	§	
THE HEARTLAND GROUP FUND III, LLC;	§	
HEARTLAND DRILLING FUND I, LP; CARSON	§	
OIL FIELD DEVELOPMENT FUND II, LP;	§	
ALTERNATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC;	§	
<b>ARCOOIL CORP.; BARRON PETROLEUM</b>	§	
LLC; JAMES IKEY; JOHN MURATORE;	§	
THOMAS BRAD PEARSEY; MANJIT SINGH	§	No. 4-21CV-1310-O-BP
(AKA ROGER) SAHOTA; and RUSTIN	§	
BRUNSON,	§	
BRUNSON,	§	
BRUNSON, Defendants,		
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Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; BRIDY IKEY; ENCYPHER	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; BRIDY IKEY; ENCYPHER BASTION, LLC; IGROUP ENTERPRISES LLC;	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; BRIDY IKEY; ENCYPHER BASTION, LLC; IGROUP ENTERPRISES LLC; HARPRIT SAHOTA; MONROSE SAHOTA;	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; BRIDY IKEY; ENCYPHER BASTION, LLC; IGROUP ENTERPRISES LLC; HARPRIT SAHOTA; MONROSE SAHOTA; SUNNY SAHOTA; BARRON ENERGY	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
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Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; BRIDY IKEY; ENCYPHER BASTION, LLC; IGROUP ENTERPRISES LLC; HARPRIT SAHOTA; MONROSE SAHOTA; SUNNY SAHOTA; BARRON ENERGY CORPORATION; DALLAS RESOURCES INC.; LEADING EDGE ENERGY, LLC; SAHOTA	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
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Defendants, and DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC; PANTHER CITY ENERGY LLC; MURATORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; BRIDY IKEY; ENCYPHER BASTION, LLC; IGROUP ENTERPRISES LLC; HARPRIT SAHOTA; MONROSE SAHOTA; SUNNY SAHOTA; BARRON ENERGY CORPORATION; DALLAS RESOURCES INC.; LEADING EDGE ENERGY, LLC; SAHOTA CAPITAL LLC; and 1178137 B.C. LTD.,	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	

## NOTICE OF FILING PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT OF *THE ELDORADO SUCCESS* PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING MATTER:

Deborah D. Williamson, in her capacity as the Court-appointed Receiver (the "<u>Receiver</u>") for the Receivership Parties (as defined in the Receivership Order) and the receivership estates (collectively, the "<u>Receivership Estates</u>") in the above-captioned case (the "<u>Case</u>"), hereby files this *Notice of Filing Publisher's Affidavit of* The Eldorado Success (the "<u>Notice</u>"). Attached to this Notice as <u>Exhibit A</u> is a copy of the Publisher's Affidavit of *The Eldorado Success*.

Dated: December 7, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Danielle Rushing Behrends</u> Danielle Rushing Behrends State Bar No. 24086961 dbehrends@dykema.com **DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC** 112 East Pecan Street, Suite 1800 San Antonio, Texas 78205 Telephone: (210) 554-5500 Facsimile: (210) 226-8395

and

Rose L. Romero State Bar No. 17224700 Rose.Romero@RomeroKozub.com LAW OFFICES OF ROMERO | KOZUB 235 N.E. Loop 820, Suite 310 Hurst, Texas 76053 Telephone: (682) 267-1351

#### **COUNSEL TO RECEIVER**

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on December 7, 2023, the foregoing document was served via CM/ECF on all parties appearing in this case and on the following unrepresented parties on this Court's docket and interested person via email:

James Ikey james.ikeyrcg@gmail.com

Bridy Ikey bridydikey@gmail.com

John Muratore jmuratore6@gmail.com

Muratore Financial Services, Inc. c/o John Muratore jmuratore6@gmail.com

Thomas Brad Pearsey bradpearsey@aol.com

Manjit Singh (aka Roger) Sahota Harprit Sahota Monrose Sahota <u>rogersahota207@gmail.com</u>

Sunny Sahota sunnysanangelo@gmail.com

> <u>/s/ Danielle Rushing Behrends</u> Danielle Rushing Behrends

Case 4:21-cv-01310-O-BP Document 440 Filed 12/07/23 Page 4 of 9 PageID 11327

#### EXHIBIT A

# **PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT**

## STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Randy Mankin, who being by me duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Publisher of **The Eldorado Success;** that said newspaper having general circulation in **Schleicher County;** that the attached notice(s) was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit:

# November 16, 23 and 30th, 2023 December 7th, 2023 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission v. The Heartland Group Ventures, LLC,

Subscribed and sworn before me this the 7TH day of DECEMBER, 2023 to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Randy Mankin, Publisher

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas NOTARY ID 12880973-4



November 16, 2023 • Page 9 • The Eldorado Success

# **CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS:** Voter Turnout 14.4% in Amendment Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 University of North Texas, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston.

"We feel like we won the Super Bowl," Texas State University president Kelly Damphousse told the Statesman.

#### Texas Road Fatality Streak Surpasses 23 Years

On an average day for more than two decades, a dozen people have been killed on Texas roadways. That streak nearly ended in February on a day when Texas experienced just one traffic fatality, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The streak of daily deaths on Texas highways has continued since Nov. 7, 2000, despite the state investing \$17 billion in safety improvements through its 10-year plan.

"Each life lost means a family, neighborhood and community are impacted for a lifetime, and we take safety very seriously as we work to end this horrible streak," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "But it's going to take all of us working together to get this done."

Among those safety changes are wider pavement striping, rumble strips on centerlines to alert drivers when they cross over, and roundabout intersections. Drivers can make a difference as well by not operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and fastening their seatbelts. TxDOT reports 48% of deaths on Texas roads come from people not buckling up.

#### Texas Medicaid Recipients Were Victims of Data Breach

A data breach of a data file transfer company has exposed Texas Medicaid recipients, whose names and Social Security numbers were obtained in the hack. The breach occurred in late May when hackers obtained files being transferred using the MOVEit platform, The Dallas Morning News reported. A total of 67 million people in multiple countries had



## **BATTLE UNDER THE GOAL**

Minelly Montes steps in to block the path of a Rocksprings player as the Eldorado Lady Eagles hosted the Lady Angoras at Eagle Gym on November 7th as basketball season got underway. Rocksprings claimed the victory by a score of 55-33.

# San Antonio Food Bank Requests Donations of Wild Game to its 29-County Service Area

their personal information illegally obtained, including the Texas Medicaid recipients.

Anyone concerned about being affected by the hack can call UMass Chan, which was providing services directly to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, to find out. That number is 855-457-6006.

#### Millions Offered for Sustainable Community Forests

Texas A&M Forest Service is offering \$16.65 million in grant funding to boost urban and community forest initiatives in communities throughout the state.

"The initiatives supported by this grant funding will prioritize communities and neighborhoods in areas of greatest need based on environmental and social data," said Gretchen Riley of the forest service. "By focusing on these areas, we can ensure that the benefits of urban forestry are distributed where they can make the most impact."

The funding comes from the federal Inflation Reduction Act. It is intended to help the state "expand its urban forest canopy, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption and enhance the health and well-being of residents," according to the news release. Grant applications will be accepted from Dec. 11 through Feb. 16, 2024. More information can be found at this link: https:// texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/ CFG/.

#### October Rain Reduces Drought Conditions

About half the state received above-normal precipitation in October, which reduced drought conditions to 65%, down 16 percentage points, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Central Texas and much of Deep East Texas have the most severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. "El Niño conditions, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Equatorial Pacific, are in place and expected to persist into next year. El Niño typically brings Texas wetter and cooler-than-normal conditions during fall and winter. Those conditions are at least partially responsible for the improvements we saw in October," Wentzel wrote.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission v. The Heartland Group Ventures, LLC, et al. – Case No. 4-21cv-1310-O-BP. The Receivership Parties include 1178137 B.C. LTD.; Alternative Office Solutions, LLC; Arcooil Corp.; Barron Energy Corporation; Barron Petroleum LLC; Carson Oil Field Development Fund II, LP; Dallas Resources Inc.; Dodson Prairie Oil & Gas LLC; Encypher Bastion, LLC; The Heartland Group Ventures, LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery Fund LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery Fund LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery Fund II LLC; The Heartland Group Fund III, LLC; Heartland Drilling Fund I, LP; Leading Edge Energy, LLC; Panther City Energy LLC; and Sahota Capital LLC.

The deadline to submit proofs of claim asserting unpaid amounts owed by one and/or more of the Receivership Parties is February 5, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) (the "Bar Date"). Proofs of claim: (1) must be submitted to the Receiver's claims agent, Stretto, so as to be actually received on or prior to the Bar Date; (2) may be submitted via overnight mail, courier service, hand delivery or mail addressed to Heartland Receivership Claims c/o Stretto, 410 Exchange, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92602, and (3), may be submitted via e-portal by utilizing https://cases.stretto.com/heartland/file-a-claim.

Additional information and the proof of claim forms are available on the Receivership's website at https://heartlandreceivership.com/claims-process.

#### SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 5

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#### SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 6

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# "To Connect and Protect"

Peace of Mind 325-223-3000 During a Challenging Time.

The San Antonio Food Bank extends donations requests for deer to 29 counties. The San Antonio Food Bank is the only food bank in the country to operate its own wild game processing facility, called Casa Venado, as part of Texas's Hunters for the Hungry Program. Donated deer are processed, with meat finishing as 1.5 lb ground meat in vacuum sealed bags. This healthy, sustainable meat is then distributed to communities in need throughout the San Antonio Food Bank's 29 county service area. As a result, local wild game resources are used to feed local communities.

Interested hunters have several options to donate their deer:

Pick Up Option - This option is provided to ranches with a minimum of 15 deer and requires prescheduling with at least 72 hours lead time. Contact Dayna Robokowski at 210-431-8485 or 210-412-7425 (call or text both) or drobokowski@safoodbank.org for scheduling a pickup at your ranch.

**Trailer Option** - Donors can pick up a refrigerated bumper pull trailer at the San Antonio Food Bank free of charge. There are two available for reservation. These can be very useful to hunters when conducting hunts away from other cooling options. Donor must provide their own truck and proof of motor vehicle insurance is required.

**Drop off** - Donors can drop off their game directly at Casa Venado. This option offers 24 hour access to the food bank's drop off cooler located at 5200 Historic Old Hwy 90, San Antonio, TX 78227 (Entrance 4).

Donors can also drop off their game at any partner processors. Link to the list of processors will be provided online at https:// safoodbank.org/hunters/.

Among the counties served by the San Antonio Food Bank are: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Coke, Comal, Concho, Crockett, Edwards, Frio, Guadalupe, Irion, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, La Salle, McCulloch, Mason, Medina, Menard, Reagan, Real, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green, Uvalde, Wilson and Zavala

#### About the San Antonio Food Bank

The San Antonio Food Bank is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency that serves over 100,000 individuals each week in over 29 counties. Founded in 1980 as the first food bank in Texas, in addition to directly fighting hunger through food distributions, the food bank provides nutrition education, federal assistance resource connections, workforce training, culinary programs, and manages its own farm.

The Food Bank's Food for Today programs distribute food to the entire service region of South Texas. Last year more than 72 million pounds of food was distributed. The food bank's nutrition education programs teach over 100,000 participants annually. The client services program prepared over 26,000 federal benefits applications last year including SNAP and Medicaid.

# SUBSCRIBE TODAY 325-853-3125



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\* APY - Annual Percentage Yield. APY accurate as of 11/15/23. Dividends are compounded and credited monthly back in to the certificate on the last day of the month. No additional deposits may be made to the Certificate other than the dividends earned. Early withdrawal penalty - the forfeiture of 90 days dividends will be deducted from the principal whether earned or not. No partial withdrawals allowed. This certificate will not automatically renew at maturity. This is a limited time offer. Federally insured by NCUA.



November 23, 2023 • Page 9 • The Eldorado Success

# **ASU Receives Library of Congress Grant for West Texas History Project**

Angelo State University has been awarded a \$69,999 grant from the Library of Congress (LOC) in Washington, D.C., to fund a new project to create historical information resources for local and regional K-12 schools and ASU academic programs.

Awarded through the LOC's Connecting Communities Digital Initiative (CCDI), the grant will fund ASU's project titled "All History is Local: Celebrating the People of West Texas." Only minority serving, public colleges and universities are eligible for funding through the CCDI, and ASU's grant is one of only three awards slated by the LOC for this year.

The ASU project will bring together faculty and students in history, political science, and other arts and humanities disciplines to combine LOC digital collections with ASU collections to create teaching and learning tools, including an interactive map and informational stories. These digital resources will illuminate the lived experiences of communities of color, specifically weaving national and global themes and stories into the West Texas cultural narrative.

Additionally, the project will facilitate lesson planning for local and area K-12 teachers while helping them to weave these digital primary source materials into their curriculum. ASU students and faculty on the project will also host an outreach event and workshop to support the



## **HUFFIN' FOR THE STUFFIN'**

This group of runners came out on Saturday morning, November 18th, to burn away some calories ahead of this week's Thanksgiving feast. The 5K run was held as a fundraiser for the Schleicher County Wellness Center. Participants included (Front L-R) Levi Trevino, Lane Trevino, Cadence Hernandez, Sammie Luedecke, Maddie Luedecke, EJ Rudewick, Beau Henderson, Jennifer Henderson; (Back L-R) Tiffany Trevino, Marci Robles, Jenny Luedecke, Emma Luedecke, Clara Rudewick, Dash Rudewick, Andrew McGee, Susie Bybee, Kasey Adame, Emily Saldena, Eric Saldena, Melisa Elias and Estella Pina. (Not pictured Gwendolyn Cooper). Medalists in the various divisions were (Girls 8U) 1. Sammie Luedecke, 2. Gwendolyn Cooper, 3. Cadence Hernandez; (Boys 8U) 1. EJ Rudewick, 2. Levi Trevino, 3. Lane Trevino; (Girls 9-14) 1. Maddie Luedecke; 2. Emma Luedecke; (Boys 9-14) 1. Dash Rudewick, 2. Beau Henderson, 3. Eric Saldana; (Boys 15-19) 1. Andrew McGee; (Girls 20 - 29) 1. Kasey Adame; (Girls 30- 39) 1. Clara Rudewick, 2. Tiffany Trevino 2nd, 3. Marci Robles; (Girls 40-49) 1. Jenny Luedecke, 2. Emily Saldana, 3. Jennifer Henderson.

COURTESY PHOTO ap

#### K-12 teachers, as well as the faculty who teach courses in ASU's academic minor in Ethnic Studies.

Dr. Aubrey Madler, executive director of the ASU Porter Henderson Library (PHL), will be the primary director of the project.

"We are excited to bring to fruition this project that was conceptualized during a brainstorming session with various ASU faculty," Madler said. "Funding from the LOC will be the catalyst that builds a new digital tool to bring stories, images and geospatial design to the LOC's primary source materials and those of our region's citizens that have been generously donated throughout the years to the Dr. Ralph R. Chase West Texas Collection of the PHL."

Shannon Sturm, associate director of the library and head of the West Texas Collection, and Dr. Matthew Gritter, chair of the Department of Political Science and Philosophy, will be co-directors of the project.

Angelo State was eligible to apply for the CCDI grant due to its status as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), as designated by the U.S. Department of Education since 2010. ASU also recently earned the prestigious national Seal of Excelencia, further enhancing its HSI status for federal grant applications.

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# **Thanksgiving Leftovers:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 taste best if used within two to six months.

#### Bacteria Can't Thrive Over 165

No matter what method you use to reheat leftovers, from refrigerated or frozen, the food needs to reach at least 165 degrees before being consumed. Invest in a food thermometer if you don't already have one. website. If your feast is served buffet style, keep food hot in chafing dishes, slow cookers or warming trays. Keep cold-served food cold with nesting dishes in bowls of ice.

Keenan said another idea to avoid too many leftovers is to cook what you think your family and guests will actually eat. Just because a certain side is a "tradition" doesn't mean you can't trade it out for a new recipe.



## Use it or Lose it

As long as you follow proper safety protocols to thaw, reheat and refreeze food, you can pretty much keep it in your freezer indefinitely, Dittmar said. The texture and taste will start to go downhill after a few months and you probably won't want to eat it, but it isn't unsafe.

# Get Creative with Leftovers

If you cooked too much or your guests ate too little, you may want to get creative with leftovers.

"The fresher the food the better anything you make with it will taste," said Odessa Keenan, AgriLife Extension specialist with the Dinner Tonight program. "Being prepared with recipes and ideas in advance of how to get more meals out of your Thanksgiving feast means less waste. Just keep in mind that all food safety rules still apply."

From a curry turkey salad to a southwest turkey bake to turkey tacos, the Dinner Tonight website offers recipes and leftover inspiration.

"People should also keep in mind that pretty much anything you can use chicken in, turkey can be substituted," Keenan said.

For those families who celebrate Thanksgiving potluck style, additional food safety guidelines are also available on the

#### More Food Safety Tips to Keep in Mind Year-Round

The safest way to store food is to use small and shallow containers. Whether in the fridge or freezer, smaller containers help cool leftovers more quickly than storing them in large containers. It also allows to reheat just the amount you'll need.

When reheating in a microwave, first arrange food items evenly in a covered microwave safe glass or ceramic dish. Add some liquid if needed. If your microwave doesn't have a carousel, rotate the food during reheating to ensure even heating.

Since microwaves have cold spots, use a food thermometer to check the internal temperature of the food in several places with a food thermometer after allowing a brief resting period. Cooking continues for a longer time in dense foods such as a whole turkey or beef roast than in less dense foods like breads, small vegetables and fruits.

Keep your refrigerator at or below 40 degrees. Your freezer should be set to 0 degrees. Check temperatures periodically using an appliance thermometer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection website is a great additional resource for food safety.

Eldorado.net Eldorado www.myeldorado.net All the time OZ QUALITI GUNS

1 Long Range Scope, 1 Hunting Scope, 2 Suppressors Guns Include: Hand Guns, Bergeras, Sig, Remington, Rugers, Tikka, Savages, etc.

Raffle Tickets are on sale at Tater's House Liquor and from WGS Board Members Heath Holt, DJ Pitt, Tyler Rees, John Weatherby, Rusty Weatherby and Russ Vanicek

## GRAND PRIZE:

2023 Can-Am Defender MAX HD7 w/ProBox & Front Bumper

November 24th & 25th Reagan County 4-H Barns Meal Provided Awards & Scholarships (\$\$\$) in each age category. Awards given during the Wild Game Supper! Contestants will be in drawing for new 22.

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Do not have to be present to win. All prizes must be picked up no later than January 1, 2024. Proper Identification required to claim finearms. A physical address must be on your drivers license. If a physical address is not on your ID, then you must present your Voters Registration Card or your Hunting License with a 911 address with your drivers license.

The Eldorado Success • Page 8 • November 30, 2023

**SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 6** 

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# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission v. The Heartland Group Ventures, LLC, et al. – Case No. 4-21cv-1310-O-BP. The Receivership Parties include 1178137 B.C. LTD.; Alternative Office Solutions, LLC; Arcooil Corp.; Barron Energy Corporation; Barron Petroleum LLC; Carson Oil Field Development Fund II, LP; Dallas Resources Inc.; Dodson Prairie Oil & Gas LLC; Encypher Bastion, LLC; The Heartland Group Ventures, LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery Fund LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery Fund LLC; Heartland Production and Recovery Fund II LLC; The Heartland Group Fund III, LLC; Heartland Drilling Fund I, LP; Leading Edge Energy, LLC; Panther City Energy LLC; and Sahota Capital LLC.

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Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

Free Brochure: Call or Text 507-217-1326

# Trying to Get Attention? There's a Better Way!

# GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO GIVE SO MUCH!

1st Community Federal Credit Union made a \$1,000 donation this week to the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department. (L-R) Firefighter Esubio Esquivel and Fire Chief Joey Jones accepted the donation from local branch manager Kim-et Nelson.

KATHY MANKIN | THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



# **Governor Abbott Skydives with 106-Year-Old WWII Veteran**

**Texas Governor Greg** Abbott went skydiving on Monday, November 27th, with 106-year-old World War II veteran Al Blaschke at Skydive Spaceland in San Marcos. The dive was made to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. military veterans. Governor Abbott and Mr. Blaschke were flown in a de Havilland DHC-6-200-Twin Otter aircraft and jumped at 8,500 feet. This was Governor Abbott's first skydiving jump.

"Texans and Americans owe so much to the brave men and women who serve our nation and protect the freedoms that we enjoy each and every day," said Governor Abbott. "I am proud to share my first skydiving jump with Al Blaschke to honor veterans, like him, who helped safeguard the freedoms and promise of our country for generations of Americans."

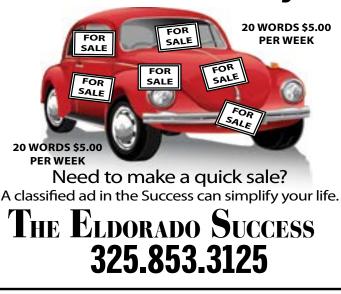
Abbott and Blaschke were joined for the jump by Texas National Guard soldiers, veteran advocate and Georgetown community leader Betty Schleder, and Skydive Spaceland professionals. Mr. Blaschke of Georgetown, a World War II aircraft engineer, first made headlines skydiving for the first time on his 100th birthday in 2017. In 2020, Mr. Blaschke broke the Guinness World Record for the world's oldest tandem parachute jump alongside his twin grandsons and longtime friend, Ms. Schleder, in 2020, and he again set the world record during today's jump with Governor Abbott. In addition to skydiving and being active in her community, Ms. Schleder is a small business owner in Texas and former finalist on "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race" television shows.

Video footage of Governor Abbott's skydiving jump is available online at: https://bit.ly/3T3Pb23



## **SAFELY BACK ON THE GROUND**

Governor Greg Abbott greets 106-year-old WWII veteran Al Blaschke after the pair made a successful skydive on Monday, November 27th at Skydive Spaceland in San Marcos. It was the governor's first-ever jump. Mr. Blaschke made his first jump at age 100.



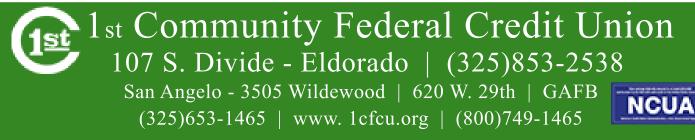
# **Real Texas Christmas Trees Boost Economy by \$397 Million**

More than four million real Christmas trees are sold annually in Texas, supporting farms and agriculture businesses throughout the state. As the holiday season nears, Texas A&M Forest Service encourages purchasing real Christmas trees to help boost the Texas economy.

Texas A&M Forest Service recently conducted an economic study showing how much value the real Christmas tree industry adds to the state. In 2022, the industry generated economic impacts amounting to more than \$714 million, including direct, indirect and induced impacts, while supporting nearly 6,000 jobs. Of \$714 million in total impacts, the Texas Christmas tree industry had a direct economic impact of \$397 million, employing 3,896 people with a payroll of



\* APY - Annual Percentage Yield. APY accurate as of 11/29/23. Dividends are compounded and credited monthly back in to the certificate on the last day of the month. No additional deposits may be made to the Certificate other than the dividends earned. Early withdrawal penalty - the forfeiture of 90 days dividends will be deducted from the principal whether earned or not. No partial withdrawals allowed. This certificate will not automatically renew at maturity. This is a limited time offer. Federally insured by NCUA.



more than \$97 million. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates for 2022 rank the Texas Christmas tree industry second in the U.S. South based on average annual employment and wages.

"It's a tradition in many households to have a real Christmas tree," said Dr. Aaron Stottlemyer, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Analytics Department Head. "The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state."

While many may not think of southern states as growing many Christmas trees, they are actually grown in all 50 states. The most widely grown Texas Christmas trees are the Virginia pine, Afghan pine, eastern redcedar shortleaf pine, Arizona cypress and Leyland cypress.

The first recorded Christmas tree planting in Texas was in 1935 in Jasper, Texas. Since the 1970s, institutions such as Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M University and Stephen F. Austin have worked toward optimizing the health and growth of Christmas tree species to enhance the State's Christmas tree industry.

"The Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association and Texas A&M Forest Service have been collaborating since the early 1980s," said Fred Raley, Texas A&M Forest Service Tree Improvement Coordinator. "The collaboration has worked to develop locally-adapted Virginia pines, especially hardy and adapted to the Texas climate, to ensure that those that prefer a live tree can continue to have that Christmas experience for a very long time."

In the U.S., the sale of real Christmas trees has decreased since 2018 and since 2020, the sale of artificial trees has been higher than real trees. But choosing a real Christmas tree should always be considered. Not only is cutting down Christmas trees good for our economy, but it is also essential for our ecosystem and forest sustainability.

After the holiday season, real Christmas trees can be repurposed and recycled for many uses. Real Christmas trees can be used as landscape mulch in yards and gardens as soil erosion prevention, nest-building materials for birds and natural water habitats for fish and wildlife in ponds or lakes.

Stottlemyer explains that the Christmas tree industry is crucial to fulfilling the trees' lifecycle, expanding trees' potential beyond their natural life and creating sustainable forests and economies.

Real Christmas tree shoppers can visit Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association website to explore the different Christmas tree farms in each Texas region. Here's To The Oldies But Goodies!





Mother Is 70

Son is 50

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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## **CARE PACKAGES FOR THE MILITARY**

Eldorado High School Athletic Department prepared 25 care packages for soldiers for the "2023 Adopt A Soldier" program. Schleicher County businesses and individuals donated the contents of the boxes. EHS athletes met in the middle school gym on Monday, December 4th to prepare the boxes for the mailing. Boxes are sent to all branches as long as they are deployed outside of the USA.

# **CWD Detected at Kerr WMA Deer Research Facility**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

programs, trainings and the development of antler regulations across the state.

The Kerr WMA has conducted CWD surveillance of its wild and captive deer herds since 2002. Surveillance efforts within the research facility totaled 242 regulatory tests since 2018. Wild deer harvested on the WMA through the public hunting program and field research since 2018 have provided an additional 259 regulatory tests with no detections.

TPWD has intensified its investigations within the facility for the presence of CWD prions since May 8, when the agency received conflicting results —from a presumptive positive RT-QuIC amplification test and not-detected regulatory tests— on a female deer euthanized in January of this year. Assessments

# That's a Real Diamond

The Glass family of Chino Hills, CA spent more than a year trying to recover Jana Glass' wedding ring. Somehow their five-year-old son had accidentally flushed it down the toilet. They sought help from plumbers to no avail.

Then, 14 months later,

a Chino Hills public works crew, working in the sewer near their home, stopped in their tracks when they came across the sparkling diamond ring. They remembered that Mrs. Glass had lost her ring in the sewer, cleaned it up and, to her grateful surprise, returned it to her.

Burn Ban Lifted in Schleicher County within the facility this summer included surveillance with swabs of equipment, water and feed sites paired with targeted euthanasia and tissue testing. Subsequent amplification and regulatory tests confirmed not-detected results on the 66 deer postmortem tested, as part of the investigation. Remaining individuals in the facility were screened with ante-mortem tonsil and rectal biopsies in October resulting in the positive detection from a tonsil biopsy on the 14-month-old male.

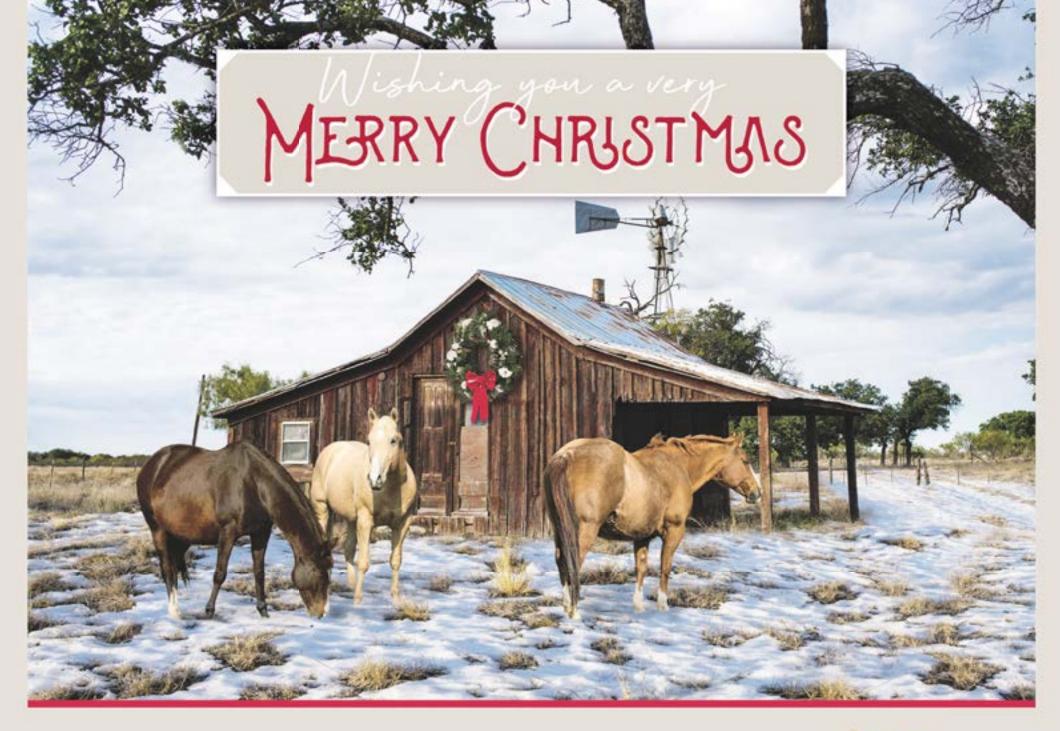
CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. This slow, progressive disease may not produce visible signs in susceptible species for several years after infection. As the disease process continues, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture

and/or drooping ears, and excessive thirst, salivation or urination.

CWD has an incubation period that can span years, so the first indication of the disease in a herd is often found through surveillance testing rather than observed clinical signs. Early detection and proactive monitoring improve the state's response time to the detection of CWD and can greatly reduce the risk of further disease spread.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border. CWD has since been detected in Texas captive and free-ranging cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk.

For more information on previous detections in Texas and CWD best management practices for hunters and landowners, visit TPWD's CWD page. For more information about the Kerr WMA and research projects visit Kerr WMA web page.



Our warmest wishes for peace, comfort, and joy throughout this Holiday season.

