

# Dew

Cont. from p1-a

decision to file complaints.

He suggests the school attendance committee be consulted before complaints are filed with a court—the attendance committee is charged with reviewing records of students with a high number of absences, and determine if those students should advance to the next grade.

Noland also questions whether a student should be counted absent if sent home by staff for illness.

“We have no nurse at the school. The secretary is the nurse,” Noland says. “My child was sent home three times because she was sick.”

He notes that he received a truancy warning letter, but would like to have had a conference with teachers or the superintendent before a complaint was filed.

“You have a lot of parents upset. It seems to me a lot of things are going wrong in this school, in communication between parents and the administration,” Noland says.

Venting anger was Dale Hergett, who reports that he has withdrawn his son from DISD and enrolled him in Fairfield ISD.

Hergett admits that he took his son out of school early, 15-30 minutes, several times but questions whether the school had already taken the daily mandatory roll call used for state funding.

If the mandatory roll call was taken the days his son left school early, and state funding was received by the school, Hergett accuses Weeaks of committing fraud.

The father also declares that

his son will not attend Dew school as long as Weeaks is superintendent.

Parent Monique Adams, who was served with a truancy summons, and other parents claim that they receive conflicting information on the number of absences their children have, and reports she has met 5-6 times with the superintendent.

“Every meeting I have had with him, he has said something different,” Mrs. Adams says.

She says that Texas Education Policy states that only unexcused or voluntary absences can be counted in truancy cases, and that absences by her daughter, a first grade student, were excused because of illness and attendance at a funeral.

The mother also claims that Weeaks told her if she didn't like Dew ISD policies, she was welcome to enroll her daughter in Fairfield ISD, the district in which she lives.

Parent Tammy McElroy, who was served a truancy summons, says her fourth grade son has missed eight days of school this year and points out that the maximum number of absences allowed in a semester is 10.

The mother says she has sent either doctor's notes or personal notes to the school for all her son's absences, and that she thought they were all excused.

However, in court last week school records showed her son with four unexcused absences.

Mrs. McElroy says she tried to meet with Weeaks on a Friday, but the superintendent was out of town, and that she was served with a truancy summons two days later.

Parent Fred Olivera, who has two children attending Dew school, admits that his children have been tardy this year, and that they are scared to go to school when they may be tardy.

“We have a good school here. I would love for my kids to continue to go to school here, and they will. But, something is messing things up, and it is fear,” Olivera says.

In response, Simpson declares: “I assure you the goal of this board and the superintendent is not to run anyone off.”

At the end of the board meeting last week, trustees agreed to set a special meeting for Dec. 4 to provide answers to absentee and truancy questions.

The board meeting started with administration of oaths of office for returning trustees Kim Massey and Clyde Allen, and new trustee Lisa Webb.

DISD trustees elected officers for the 2008-09 school year, who will assume their duties in December. Elected are: president David Fowler, vice president Chuck Lopez and secretary Kim Massey.

THE FAIRFIELD RECORDER (USPS 457980)

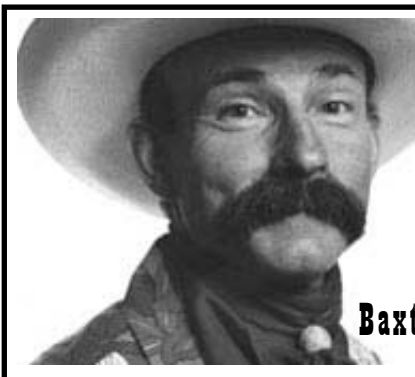
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Baxter Black, D.V.M.

## On the Edge of Common Sense

### CATCHING THE BULL BY THE TAIL

When I say Alvin was a cowboy, I mean in the most basic sense. With a horse and a rope, a box of matches and a cinch ring, a pocket knife and a piggin' string, he could do the job!

Dick ran cows on some pretty rough country in southern Arizona. Every year he'd gather his herd off the Galliueros. Every year he'd miss some.

So after shipping in the fall he and Alvin would ride back to the mountains to gather cutbacks, strays and wild cattle. Up on a high ridge they spotted a rangy black bull they'd missed last year as well. He was a renegade.

The two men traversed the canyon and started up the ridge. The ground was rocky, festooned with ocotillo, prickly pear, cat claw, greasewood, bunch grass, evergreens and scrubby cedar. The desert horses picked their way along. Alvin navigated past a twenty foot drop-off. Once he successfully made the crossing he looked back to see that Dick had dropped behind. Alvin rode on till he reached a tree covered plateau where the bull waited. While allowing his horse to blow he shook out his rope, dropped the knot over the horn and ran a piggin' string through his belt.

It takes a good horse to do what he had planned, and Alvin was well mounted. They eased into a slow walk at an angle to the bull who watched them warily. The plan was to get as close as he could before the bull spooked. It didn't take long! The bull broke for the high country and Alvin

kicked into high gear! It is a sweet pleasure to ride a good horse with the skill, heart and nimbleness to chase wild cattle. In less than sixty seconds Alvin had roped the steer,

thrown his trip, knocked the bull down, jumped off and hog-tied him!

As the critter lay there Alvin built a small fire out of dead sticks, threw in his cinch

ring-runnin' iron and whittled a couple of handles.

Next came the ear mark, castration and hand-drawn brand. Satisfied he released the beast.

Later back down the mountain Alvin related his accomplishment.

“Yer kiddin’!” said Dick, “You didn’t catch that black bull! You couldn’t have! That’s the same one we’ve missed twice now! I don’t believe it.”

Alvin reached in his pocket and pulled out two cojones, each the size of a Bartlett Pear and plopped them in Dick’s lap. “Here’s yer bull,” he said.

# ROB'S FOOD STORE

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## Community Calendar

To add a listing for your organization's meetings or events please call THE FAIRFIELD RECORDER at 903-389-3334 or fax to 903-389-8255.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

►VFW Bingo, 7:30 pm, VFW Post 5872

►GED Class, 6-9:00 pm, FHS, 903-389-5680 for more info

►Freestone Quilt Guild, 6:30 pm, Fairfield Harmony Presbyterian Church

►Freestone County Commissioners Court, 9:00 am, Commissioners Courtroom

►Butler Community Improvement Coordinating Council, 1:00 pm, E.E. Wheat Memorial Community Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

►Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous, Fairfield-Trinity Lutheran Church, 8:00 pm; Teague, 512 Main St., 6:30 pm

►Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00 pm, Lakeside United Methodist Church-Annex Bldg., 515 FM 416 (across from September Sound)

►Rotary Club, noon, Big Cedar County Club

►Freestone County Historical Commission, 7:00 pm, Whitaker Sessions Training Center

►Freestone County Horse Club, 7:00 pm, Fairfield Rodeo Arena

►Wortham Garden Club, 4:00 pm, Strange Community Center

►Freestone County Cancer Support Group, 5:30 pm, Fairfield Harmony Presbyterian Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

►Weight Watchers, 5:00 pm, Calvary Baptist Church

►VFW Bingo, 7:30 pm, VFW Post 587

►GED Class, 6-9:00 pm, FHS, 903-389-5680 for more info

►Fairfield Industrial Development Corporation, noon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

►Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous, Fairfield-Trinity Lutheran Church, 8:00 pm; Teague, 512 Main St., 6:30 pm

►Children's Story Time, 10:30 am-11:00 am, Mary Moody Northern Library

►Out & About Christian Singles, 6:30 pm, First Baptist Church of Wortham

►Fairfield History Club, 3:30 pm, Moody Bradley House

►Fairfield Masonic Lodge No. 103 A.F. and A.M., Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30, Masonic Lodge Bldg.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

►Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00 pm, Lakeside United Methodist Church Annex, 515 FM 416

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

►Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous 6:30 pm 512 Main St, Teague

►Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous 8pm Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairfield

### HEAD START TAKING APPLICATIONS

Fairfield Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. Head Start is a pre-school offering excellent educational opportunities along with medical, dental, developmental, and nutritional benefits at no cost. The Head Start approach of individualized care and guidance is well suited to helping children with disabilities. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 may be eligible. There is **no charge** for participation in Head Start. Pick up your application now at the Head Start Center at 920 S. Bateman Street. For more information, call your local center at 903/389-2022 or Hill Country Community Action Association at 325/372-5167.

### HEAD START ESTA ACEPTANDO APLICACIONES

Fairfield Head Start esta aceptando aplicaciones para el año 2008-2009. Head Start es una escuela para niños de edad 3-5 años que califican. Head Start ofrece oportunidades excelentes para educación y también beneficios de médico, dental, desarrollo, y de alimentación. Head Start ofrece mucha ayuda para niños y familias. **No cuesta nada** para que su niño atienda el programa de Head Start. Puede usted recojer ahora una aplicacion para solicitar un puesto en Head Start. Para mas informacion llame a la Head Start, 920 S. Bateman Street, # del telefono: 903/389-2022 or Hill Country Community Action Association at 325/372-5167.