

NEWS OF THE
WEIRD

Texas man tracking
pricey boot thief

SAINT JO, Texas — One of the most renowned boot makers in Texas said “a varmint,” a “low-life scum” or “a filthy thief” is responsible for swiping a pair of award-winning cowboy boots worth \$10,000.

Featuring scenes of busting broncos and a cattle drive, with green full-quill ostrich bottoms, the hand-tooled leather boots were most valuable pair in the store until someone walked away with them.

A man in his 20s came into Trail Town Custom Leather last week wearing a pair of tennis shoes but left in the valuable boots, said John Glaze, an apprentice to craftsman Carl Chappell, who made the boots.

Glaze said he answered some of the man’s questions about having his boots repaired, but got distracted by a phone call. Then he noticed the man exiting the store, tennis shoes in hand and the custom-made boots on his feet.

“By the time I made it to the door, he was already going around the corner,” Glaze said. “And by the time I got to the corner, he was in his white pickup driving away.”

As boots go, the missing pair is well known. They won an award at the 2003 Boot and Saddle Makers Trade Show Roundup, appeared in boot books, magazines and on the cover of the specialty publication Shop Talk.

— The Associated Press

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

Knitting Group 7 p.m. The Vacaville Public Library welcomes knitters to join the monthly knitting club. 1150 Kentucky St., Fairfield. Info: 449-6290.

Baby Bounce 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Songs, stories and finger plays for infants to 18 months. 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. Info: 784-2680.

Preschool Story Time 10:30 a.m., stories, songs and crafts, Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky St. Info: 421-6503 or www.solanolib.org.

Black Chamber of Commerce

WEDNESDAY



▲ **Order of Daedalians Meeting, 6-8:30 p.m. today, open to all current and former military pilots, Travis Air Force Base Info: Lt. Col. Matt Lloyd, 290-6448.**

the Vacaville Public Library Cultural Center and led by the Master Gardeners of Solano County. This is a free program. Info: 449-6290.

Moose Lodge Bingo 5:30 p.m. Quickies, 6:30 p.m. Early bird, 7 p.m. Regular bingo. \$10 pack games with a half-time prize drawing, Fairfield Moose Lodge, 623 Taylor St. Info: 422-3245.

Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Fairfield-Cordelia Library has story time for active toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years old. Songs, stories and finger plays. There is no charge, and no registration is necessary. 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. Info: 784-2680.

Spanish Story Time 11 a.m. to noon. Spanish story time with stories and songs. Two age groups, 2 and younger or 3 and older. Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky St. Info: 421-6503 or www.solanolib.org.

COMING UP

Master Gardeners Workshop 7 p.m. Thursday. The Vacaville Public Library Cultural Center and the Master Gardeners of Solano County will hold a free workshop on honeydew producing insects. Storyhour Room, Vacaville Public Library Cultural Center, 1021 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville. Info: 449-6290.

Fairfield Farmer's Market 4-8 p.m. Thursday. The market operates on the corner of Jefferson and Texas streets.

“Back to School Night” 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Grange Middle School will have its back to school night for seventh- and eighth-graders

in the school gym. Student schedules will be available as well as P.E. uniforms, year books, ID photos and school portraits. 1975 Blossom Ave., Fairfield. Info: 399-5000.

Vanden High Orientation 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Seniors M-Z: 8:30 a.m. Seniors: A-L: 9:45. Juniors A-L: 1 p.m. Juniors M-Z: 2:15. 2951 Markley Lane, Fairfield. Info: 437-7333 or www.travis.k12.ca.us/vanden/counseling.

LapSit Story time 11 a.m. Thursday. Songs, finger plays and stories for infants to 18 months. Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky St. Info: 421-6503, www.solanolib.org.

“Cuentos y Cantos” 11 a.m. Thursday. Weekly Spanish story time for children. Fairfield-Cordelia Library, 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. Info: 784-2680.

Girls Empowering Girls After School Group 4 p.m. Thursday. A group where girls can talk openly to other girls about the issues and pressures of their lives. This is a free group that meets every Thursday. 1530 Webster St., Fairfield. Facilitated by Leslie Gay Solana, LCSW. Info: 425-6065.

Supper Cruise on Lake Berryessa 6-10 p.m. Friday. The Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy will host a boat cruise on Lake Berryessa featuring buffet dinner, fine wines and, for those interested, a short hike on the north tip of the Quail Ridge Reserve. Donations of \$45 per person cover the cost of the boat, gas and other expenses with the remainder supporting the Quail Ridge Reserve. Info: 530-758-1387.

Vanden High Orientation 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Friday. Sophomores G-M: 7:45 a.m. Sophomores N-Z: 9:05 a.m.

Keep us in the know

“Community Calendar” runs daily and includes meetings of interest to the general public as well as community events, fund-raisers, and activities. Write “Community Calendar” on your submission and e-mail it to community@dailyrepublic.net, fax it to 425-5924, or mail it to the Daily Republic, P.O. Box 47, Fairfield, Calif., 94533.

Sophomores A-F: 10:25 a.m. Freshmen G-M: 12:15 p.m. Freshmen N-Z: 1:25 p.m. Freshmen A-F: 2:35 p.m. 2951 Markley Lane, Fairfield. Info: 437-7333 or www.travis.k12.ca.us/vanden/counseling.

Toddler Story Time 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Friday, stories, activities, songs and more. Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky St. Info: 421-6503 or www.solanolib.org.

3-4-5 Jump 'n' Jive 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Friday, interactive program with stories, music, movement and crafts for children ages 3 and older. There is no charge, and no registration is necessary. Fairfield-Cordelia Library, 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. Info: 784-2680.

Food Addicts Anonymous Meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Friday. Meetings for individuals recovering from addictive eating, bulimia and undereating. Meetings are held every Friday. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. Kaiser Permanente, 3700 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville. Info: (800) 600-6028.

Rove: Pushed idea of using 9/11 as a political tool

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ed 5-4 to end the state’s recount.

In the first summer of the presidency, Rove’s polling showed that Bush was adrift politically – that is until the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks galvanized the nation. It was Rove’s idea to use 9/11 to sharpen the differences between Republicans and Democrats on national security, a hard-knuckled strategy that helped Republican gain seats in the 2002 elections despite a history of midterm losses by a president’s party.

Rove stuck to his script in

the 2004 re-election campaign, using the latest technologies to target and communicate with Republican-leaning voters who might otherwise stay home on Election Day or consider backing Democrats.

Bush, a disciplined candidate with a clear vision for his presidency, defeated Democrat John Kerry, a weak candidate with a fractious campaign.

In the days after the 2004 election, Rove laid claim to a durable Republican majority – comparing the Bush-Kerry race to the elections of 1800, 1860, 1896 and 1932

when presidents leading during eras of great transition created new, lasting coalitions. Rove hoped to use Bush’s policies on education, immigration, health care and Social Security to draw traditionally Democratic voters into the Republican fold.

Having already persuaded Congress to approve new education standards and expand the availability of health-savings accounts, Bush heeded Rove’s advice and gambled second-term political capital on a plan to partially privatize Social Security.

It was a hugely unpopular

idea that Rove kept pushing despite objections from Republicans in Congress – a fierce display of the with-us-or-against-us mentality that the White House habitually deployed against friends and foes alike.

The fight over Social Security sapped Bush’s political strength at a time when voters were growing sour on the Iraq war.

By now, Rove was both chief political strategist and deputy White House chief of staff in charge of both policy and politics, perhaps the most powerful White House aide ever.

Transit: Open Monday

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transit facility, which will be located near Ulatis Community Center. The facility would be similar to the one Fairfield has on West Texas Street, McLean said.

“We are working on getting funding for that,” McLean said of the project he hopes will be completed by 2009.

Reach Ian Thompson at 427-6976 or at ithompson@dailyrepublic.net.

Festivals: Community support makes or breaks events

From Page One

The same can be said for Fiesta Days, which has thrived for 50 years.

“It seems to pick up fresh support every year,” Vacaville Chamber of Commerce Director Gary Tatum said. “Festivals such as Fiesta Days are only going to work in a community that is very involved and very cohesive.”

Fiesta Days organizers can count on support from community businesses and groups, as well as a legion of volunteers.

“Everybody is a volunteer,” said Judy DeGennaro who has been involved in Fiesta Days since 2002. “We have been real lucky the last few years, and the volunteers have had a good time doing it. It just amazes me that we do so well.”

Work usually starts in earnest in January for the Fiesta Days in May. DeGennaro said organizers get a little nervous every year about how much support they can expect.

“People start calling me in the middle of January about how they can get involved,” DeGennaro said of volunteers and sponsors. “So many of the

people have been here a long time. They were in the parade when they were little kids and now and they are a part of making it happen. The new people who come to town call and ask about Fiesta Days.”

The Tomato Festival has slowly grown during the past 14 years with plenty of support from Texas Street businesses and City Hall.

That support has translated to the success of the Candy Festival, which began in 2001.

“It is funding from the city and because we have developed a very close relationship with the public works department and police,” Low said. “Those two departments absorb their cost in helping us. It’s part of their community outreach.”

In-kind sponsorships, donations of time and effort, are also essential. Travis Air Force Base military members “always come out in droves for these events,” Low said.

“If it weren’t for the volunteers, we would not be anywhere on this,” Low said.

The Tomato Festival not only attracts, but it also draws competitors for the barbecue cook-off.

“The barbecue competition (part of the Tomato Festival)

is phenomenally successful because its a good venue and Fairfield rolls out the welcome mat, going out of their way to make them feel welcome,” Price said.

That welcome mat includes businesses and organizations such as the city’s hotel association and the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, Price said.

The 2006 Lambtown Festival nearly became the last in a 20-year tradition. Efforts to organize Lambtown this year show just how thin the ice is under such events, but they also illustrate how organizers’ perseverance and community support can prevail.

The first blow came when Lambtown left the Dixon May Fairgrounds because Lambtown organizers felt they could no longer afford to hold the festival there.

When Lambtown asked the city to use Hall Park next to Dixon City Hall, city staff countered that the festival was not an appropriate use of the park.

Frustration and media criticism prompted all but two organizing committee members to drop out.

The Dixon City Council allowed Lambtown to be held in Hall Park on July, but organizers were told they would have to find a new home in 2008.

tee. Everyone pulled their weight,” said organizer Dana Foss. “It shows that we have got staying power and a lot of people were surprised that we were able to bring forward as much of the festival as possible.

“We had enough success that we have seed money for next year. Lambtown will happen, but we are not sure where and we hope that it can stay in Dixon.”

No one in Rio Vista knows whether there will be another Bass Festival, which was canceled this year because of the lack of contributions from Rio Vista businesses and a lack of volunteers. City Hall delivered another blow when it told organizers that they would have to pay for some city services.

The committee nixed the festival instead of taking the chance of running it at a deficit.

“This is the kind of event where we needed the entire community to support it, and we didn’t have it,” Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Linda Lannon said. “The festival itself has changed over the years. At this point, we are discussing restructuring the vision to benefit the entire community.”

Lannon’s vision is to “see a festival that will include the Boy Scouts, the 4-H Club, the Rotary Club and bring together more people. That’s when it really brings together the entire community.”

Reach Ian Thompson at 427-6976 or at ithompson@dailyrepublic.net.

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And they intend to take full advantage of the generous tax benefits available to investors under the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, or GO Zone, according to Associated Press interviews with buyers and real estate officials.

The GO Zone contains a variety of tax breaks designed to stimulate construction in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. It offers tax-free bonds to developers to finance big commercial projects like shopping centers or hotels. It also allows real estate investors who buy condos or other properties in the GO Zone to take accelerated depreciation on their purchases when they file their taxes.

The GO Zone was drawn to include the Tuscaloosa area even though it is about 200 miles from the coast and got

only heavy rain and scattered wind damage from Katrina.

The condo deals are perfectly legal, and the tax breaks do not take money away from Katrina victims closer to the coast because the depreciation is wide open, with no limits per state.

Defenders of the GO Zone said the Tuscaloosa area needed the aid because of the hundreds of evacuees who remained here for weeks after the hurricane.

“The senator believes that the GO Zone program, and others enacted since then to assist with the rebuilding efforts following the devastating 2005 hurricane season, have been extremely successful in accomplishing their goal,” said Shelby spokeswoman Laura Henderson.

The GO Zone investor tax breaks are credited with contributing to the condo boom in Tuscaloosa.

Guilty: Rejected plea deal

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Moss, 37, was found guilty Monday of assault with a firearm on a police officer. Moss had faced an attempted murder charge for using the gun during a traffic stop by Fairfield police for a broken brake light in July 2005.

Jurors opted against a guilty verdict on the attempted murder charge, which could have resulted in a life sentence.

After being stopped by police on Clay Bank Road two years ago, Moss tussled with one officer after getting out of the car. Another officer used a Taser on Moss, who was then handcuffed.

While on the ground, Moss managed to get his cuffed hands from behind his back to the gun stashed in his waistband. The officer testified in Moss’ trial last week that he could briefly see down the barrel of the gun as Moss fum-

bled with it.

The officer managed to fire the stun gun and kicked Moss, who then dropped the gun.

In his closing argument, Moss’ lawyer, John Rodriguez, labeled his client as “courageous” for having testified he never intended to use the gun. Rodriguez also accused the police officer, Paul Augusto, of simply “wanting attention” that night because he was “just the cover officer” on the traffic stop.

Rodriguez also told jurors the semi-automatic .25 caliber handgun was “a tiny gun with a tiny barrel.”

Moss, who has five fire felony convictions and two previous prison stints for dealing drugs and robbery, will remain in jail until he is sentenced Sept. 25.

Reach Jess Sullivan at 427-6919 or jsullivan@dailyrepublic.net

California Lottery	
Daily 3/Monday	
Afternoon numbers picked	9, 6, 3
Night numbers picked	8, 6, 4
Match three in order for top prize; combinations for other prizes.	
Fantasy 5/Monday	
Numbers picked	3, 8, 26, 28, 39
Match all five for top prize. Match at least three for other prizes.	
On the Web: www.calottery.com	

Daily Derby/Monday	
1st place	9, Winning Spirit
2nd place	5, California Classic
3rd place	11, Money Bags
Race time	1:41.70
Match winners and time for top prize. Match either for other prizes.	