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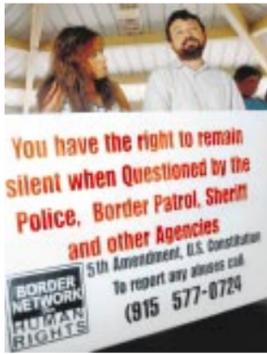
THURSDAY
SEPT. 20, 2007

El Paso **Times**

elpasotimes.com

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- The five most-viewed stories on elpasotimes.com as of 9 p.m. Wednesday:
- ▶ **1. Eastwood grad**, 21, slain while away at college.
 - ▶ **2. Grieving family** warns victims of dating violence.
 - ▶ **3. One killed** in motorcycle accident overnight.
 - ▶ **4. Roadrunner** knocks KROD-AM off the air.
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Texas Tech dean fired

By Brandi Grissom
 El Paso Times

Dr. Robert Suskind was abruptly fired Wednesday as the founding dean of El Paso's medical school, and he will be replaced by vice dean Dr. Jose Manuel de la Rosa.

"I am very disappointed; it came as a shock. I have no idea why this happened," said Suskind, who was hired in January as founding dean to lead the Texas Tech University Health



Suskind Sciences Center at El Paso. Suskind said Dr. John Baldwin, president of Texas Tech's health sciences center, told him Wednesday he could either resign or be dismissed. Suskind said he declined to resign. Baldwin provided no reason for the decision, Suskind said. Baldwin, who became presi-

dent three weeks ago, could not be reached for comment. Rick Francis, member of the Texas Tech University System board of regents, said Baldwin decided to change leadership at the El Paso campus. Francis would not comment on whether the decision came as a surprise, and said he did not know why Baldwin made the change. The change occurs just nine months after Suskind was hired and as officials work to get the

school accredited so it can open in fall 2009. "He's (Baldwin) looking for a different skills set," Francis said. The development also comes just two months before officials from the national accreditation board make their first visit to the El Paso campus. "The timing of it couldn't have been worse," said Suskind, an international expert in child nutrition who oversaw accreditation efforts at Chicago Medical School before moving to El Paso.

He said the decision demonstrates leadership instability to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which is responsible for accrediting the university, and said it could scare off scientists and professors who might be recruited to help launch the four-year program. Suskind, 69, came to El Paso from Chicago in January. Francis then called him "the perfect guy at the perfect time" to lead ac-

Please see **Dean 2A**

Pups saved from concrete fate



Adriane Jaekle / El Paso Times

Loretta Hyde, founder and kennel manager of the Animal Rescue League, holds two of the three puppies she helped to pull from a pipe

on a construction site. The puppies, all female, will be ready for adoption in 6 to 8 weeks. Crews held up work two days to allow the rescue.

Animal rescuer, building crew team up

By Darren Meritz
 El Paso Times

Three puppies, about 10 days old and almost entombed in a drainage pipe in East El Paso, were rescued Wednesday by an advocate for animal adoption and a construction chief who stopped work on a residential housing project.

Loretta Hyde, kennel manager of the Animal Rescue League of El Paso, climbed a horizontal length of drainage pipe at the construction site near Saul Kleinfeld Drive and U.S. 54 and used a pole with a rope looped through its center to rescue the three pups.

Hyde said the puppies' mother had made a den for them in a difficult-to-reach hole beside the

drainage pipe, which was about to be encased in concrete.

"I got onto my stomach, crawled into the hole, and the puppies were all piled on top of one another," Hyde said. "People were holding my feet, pulling me out of the hole, while I'm pulling the puppies out of the hole."

She said a construction crew was ready to encase the pipe in concrete — and entomb the puppies — before a crew chief stopped construction for two days to find a way to rescue the tiny dogs.

The crew chief, whom Hyde credited as instrumental in helping rescue the pups, could not be reached for comment.

"It was scary," Hyde said, "but this was more important than being scared."

The little dogs are believed to be shepherd mixes that are in perfect health. Hyde said the league plans to bottle-feed them until they are old enough for solid food, then eventually have the three female dogs spayed and microchipped and adopted into good homes.

She added that the mother of the rescued pups was seen in the area, so Animal Rescue volunteers have begun feeding her to gain her trust, rescue her and eventually find her a home.

The puppies, still without names, will be available for adoption in about six to eight weeks.

"They're very healthy. They're little butterballs," Hyde said. "I want the public to name them."

Darren Meritz may be reached at dmeritz@elpasotimes.com; 546-6127.

Puppy scoop

More about the three puppies rescued Wednesday at a construction site:

- ▶ **The three rescued** puppies, about 10 days old, will be bottle-fed until about 4 weeks old, then introduced to solid food.
- ▶ **The Animal Rescue League** of El Paso plans to spay, microchip and vaccinate the three female puppies, then find them permanent homes.
- ▶ **Interested** in adopting these puppies or other dogs, or donating to the Animal Rescue League? Call 877-5002.

'Generous' Fort Bliss soldier, 20, killed in Iraq

By Chris Roberts
 El Paso Times

A Fort Bliss cavalry soldier who died Tuesday in northwest Iraq knew the dangers he faced when he joined the Army in 2005, and told his brother in their last conversation not to worry about him.

Spc. Matthew J. Emerson, 20, of Grandview, Wash., was an infantryman with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"He took it on full-bore," the soldier's older brother Joe Emerson said in a phone interview from his parents' Grandview home. "He was doing what had to be done."

Although the Defense Department news release said the soldier died of noncombat injuries, his brother said the family was told he was a gunner on a Humvee that was hit by some kind of explosive. Emerson was thrown from the Humvee's turret and died of injuries he received when he hit the ground, Joe Emerson said.

"He was a small-town kid. Everybody loved him. He didn't have too much to say, but when he did, it was either funny and it was needed at the time or it needed to be said."

Emerson said his brother was generous to a fault. Once when Matthew Emerson visited his brother at school, he commented on a rather pitiful 13-inch television — the remote control long lost — they were watching in his brother's room.

"The next day he handed me a receipt. He had gotten me a 22-inch television with a DVD player," Joe Emerson said. "I asked him why he did it, and he said, 'Because I can.'"

Emerson said he had witnessed many other acts of kindness. "He didn't think twice about helping anybody out. He was just that kind of guy."



Emerson
 ▶ **Soldiers honor three who died 2A**

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Reyes calls subpoenas 'fishing expedition' to get intel documents

By Chris Roberts
 El Paso Times

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes said Wednesday that the only reason he was subpoenaed in a corruption case involving former San Diego-area U.S. Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham is that he now controls a committee in

possession of documents that might be relevant to the case.

Cunningham, a California Republican who formerly belonged to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, is serving an eight-year prison term after pleading guilty to taking \$2.4 million in bribes from defense contractor Brent Wilkes.

Wilkes is scheduled for trial Oct. 2.

The subpoenas were requested by Wilkes' lawyer, Mark Geragos. Geragos has defended such high-profile clients as singer Michael Jackson and Scott Peterson, who was convicted of killing his pregnant wife.

Geragos could not be reached

by phone at his Los Angeles office for comment Wednesday.

Reyes said the alleged wrongdoing took place before he was selected chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He is among 12 other lawmakers — mostly current or former committee chairmen — who have been subpoenaed.

"As chairman, I am custodian of all the documents in possession of the committee," Reyes said Wednesday in a telephone interview from Washington. He characterized the subpoenas as a "fishing expedition."

"I don't even know this guy,"

Please see **Reyes 2A**