

Jerrod Citizen

"Where cotton is king"

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Espinoza sworn in

Texas Ranger Federic "Freddy" Espinoza was officially sworn in as Holden County's interim sheriff Dec. 3 by County Judge Jimmy Akers. Governor Greg Abbott appointed Espinoza after former Sheriff Mose Britain and two deputies were jailed Nov. 30 following a drug investigation.

"I was humbled at this appointment, Espinoza said. "It's an awesome responsibility, but I've gotten to know the people of Holden County, especially Jerrod very well over the last few months, and I know we can work together to make this area a safe place for everyone," he told *The Citizen* last week. He emphasized he was on leave of absence from the Texas Rangers. He's been with the organization for a decade.

Espinoza was adamant about the nature of his appointment. "I plan to do all I can to assure that the office

functions professionally," he said, "but I will only serve until a special election can be called."

He said he was confident in the abilities of the remaining staff, but would be interviewing potential replacements for former deputies "Punky" Houston and Alvin Monk, who were also arrested. He has named current day dispatcher Larry "Skeet" Archer chief deputy and is looking for a night dispatcher to replace Houston.

He would not discuss details of the former sheriff's arrest and arraign-



ment on charges of possession and sale of dangerous drugs, emphasizing that the investigation was ongoing.

Britain was arrested on the Garrin Ranch east of Jerrod after a brief pursuit over open country. An anonymous source told *The Citizen* that British journalist Charles Wilson was present during the chase and offered

TW&CB RR leaving Jerrod?

Despite repeated denials from the Fort Worth headquarters, rumors persist that the fabled 80-year old Texas Western and Cotton Belt Rail Line may be discontinuing service to Jerrod and west to Sweetwater. Several businesses which rely on the rail line to move large quantities of lubricants and herbicides have complained about increased delays or outright discontinuing of service.

F.W. Lafferty, the company's spokesman, offered luke-warm assurance when he told a number of news outlets Dec. 2 that "no decision had been at this time to eliminate service west of the Ft. Worth interconnect." He continued that the decision to scale back last spring came from a need to eliminate some "underutilized rights of way and auxiliary services in order to assure that service continues to all major customers."

Blades for wind generators in the four-county area were shipped via TW&CB through May. All of the companies have indicated in news releases that future replacements would be trucked in. The wind generators have been the major source of income for the rail line in Holman and adjoining counties.

Don't forget:



**Santa's Farm
Bazaar
12/14
High School Gym**

Jerrod
CITY LIMIT
POP. 3434

MONDAY MORNING, I SAW the incredibly beautiful engagement ring given to **Mariela Ascencio** by Freddy Espinoza . . . **Charlie Weathers**, Galaxy Farms boss, loading giant tractor tires on his truck at Baker Tires . . . **Lamar Wester** assuring me we're in for an early winter because he'd never seen so much fire wood sold this time of year at the Zip In . . . high school principal **Mark Shievers** looking at pictures of **Pug Doggett's** brand-new twin grand daughters . . . boys basketball coach **Mike Stauffer**, still carrying that basketball everywhere he goes.