

## Mornings hectic for family of 12

Associated Press

SACHSE — After a dozen showers, two dozen eggs and a vat-full of orange juice, the McCauley household was almost ready for the day kids dread and some parents live for.

"We've got to get cracking here," Mike McCauley, 41, urged his family of 12 as the first day of school dawned Tuesday.

Mike, 17, a high school senior, gulped down his juice as he waited for 12-year-old David, a 7th grader, to finish dressing. They were heading to school early for football practice, and Tami, a 16-year-old sophomore, was riding with them so she could visit with friends before school.

In the kitchen, Meagan, 7, and Shannan, 10, quietly argued over who was going to stir the scrambled eggs.

In addition to eight school-aged children, the McCauleys have two pre-schoolers, Meredith, 18 months, and Jonathan, 4. The family lives in a six-bedroom house near Dallas and keeps one horse and a very large dog in the back yard.

Prepping all the kids ready for school requires a well-tested and tightly woven schedule, said Linda McCauley, who ferries the kids to jobs and assorted practices.

"The kids make the lunches the night before and they shower in the morning. We have a shower schedule. They each know just how long they have and that's it, because Mike (her husband, a lawyer) is the last to shower and he better have hot water," Mrs. McCauley said.

The first morning of the school year usually goes well, Mrs. McCauley said. It is the preceding weeks that are hectic.

Friday, for example, the last business day before the start of school, was filled with errands. Mrs. McCauley packed nine of the 10 kids into the family van and zoomed off to a plethora of destinations.

By 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, all eight of the school-age children had either driven to school or climbed on the bus.



**Finger Lickin' Good**

This squirrel enjoys a treat specially prepared by Mother Nature near Texas A&M's Legget Hall. For more another squirrel shot, see page 6.

Photo by KYLE HAWKINS

## Today's social concerns influence revolutionary investment decisions

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As they choose investments these days, more and more people are thinking about the social, political and ethical issues involved.

"Investing with a conscience" is by no means a new idea. But circumstances like the turmoil over apartheid in South Africa, concern over the international arms race and controversy over nuclear power plants have given it fresh impetus in the past few years.

One trade group, the Boston-based Social Investment Forum, has said that as of the end of 1984 about

\$40 billion was invested in professionally managed portfolios operating with social as well as financial standards.

Several mutual funds are available to the public that pick stocks and other investments according to a set of political and social criteria.

The Dreyfus Third Century Fund, for example, looks at companies' records in protecting consumers and the environment and in providing for equality in employment and health and safety on the job.

Others shun companies that make

weapons, alcoholic beverages or tobacco products, businesses that operate in "socially repressive" countries, or those that are involved in the casino gambling industry. A new fund has been organized to invest under the tenets of the Moslem faith.

This kind of approach is widely regarded as revolutionary in the supposedly amoral world of interest, dividends and capital gains.

When you stop to think about it, however, most of us manage our money with an active conscience.

## Dowser finds wells with wood, metal and inheritance

Associated Press

SAN ANGELO — Each time water with Barbara Leathers finds water, she feels a charge of excitement.

"I love to find water for people," she says. "Water in West Texas is so rare. When that pole pulls down, there's no way you can stop it. Can you imagine all that magnetism?"

Leathers has been finding water for customers of water well driller Henry Curtis, friends and neighbors for a year and a half. She has found, with 100 percent success, more than a dozen wells.

Unlike some dowers, Leathers cares little about what kind of wood or metal she uses to find water deep in the ground.

"I use mesquite, a peach branch or a coat hanger," she says. "It doesn't matter."

Indeed, there seems to be no preference in Leathers' case.

In her back yard in Grape Creek, Leathers approaches a peach tree with a pair of pruning shears.

"This thing needs trimming anyway," she says as she snips off a slim, forked branch. "A peach branch is easier than a mesquite. I don't have to cut the thorns off."

Leathers walks deliberately toward a vein of water she knows was flowing underground through her back yard. Her steps are slow and measured. Her expression is intent as she concentrates on the ground.

The point of the peach fork begins to move in a barely discernible downward progression. Leathers walks a little further and stops.

The peach fork continues in a downward arc. Incredibly, after it reaches the low point, it turns upward on itself, the point moves toward Leathers' waist. Leathers hangs onto the branch, refusing to allow it to turn in her hand.

"Sometimes it will turn completely over," she says softly. "There is a lot of water down there."

Leathers backs away from the site and begins again. As the peach fork bends once again, she stops.

"This is where the well should be dug," she says. "It is so much

stronger here than my first well. We will put a well here someday."

Leathers says her father dowsed for water for his neighbors. She learned to look for certain signs before she began dowsing.

"You need a horse or a pickup to ride around in," she says. "You find the largest healthy trees, either mesquite or oak. Their roots go deep in find water."

"Near the trees, look for the largest red ant hill. They always make a bed not far from water."

After squaring off the area in about an acre, Leathers says she begins walking with her stick, crossing the area several times.

When the stick begins its pull, she walks until it stops pulling. Then she walks slowly backwards and begins again. She marks the spot where the pull is strongest.

On either side of that mark, Leathers finds an area of strong pull to establish the flow direction of the underground stream.

Finally, she walks along the stream until she finds the strongest pull and says "drill here."

Although she does not remember having dowsed as a child, Leathers is certain she inherited the ability from her father.

She believes the trait is passed from father to daughter or from mother to son. Of her five children, only her son Bill Leathers can find water with a divining rod.

Ten years ago, Leathers dowsed water for the first time on property she and her husband purchased.

She did not witch for water again until about a year and a half ago.

One day Leathers looked out the window and saw a drilling company dig for water on her neighbor's land. The hole was dry.

"I went over and told them I was a witcher and I would find water for them," she says. "I found a spot and the next day the driller found water at 80 feet running 55 gallons a minute. The word spread. Next, I found water for another neighbor at 85 feet with 65 gallons per minute."

Since then, Leathers has worked in Carlsbad, Spring Creek, Wall and Robert Lee, finding water each time.

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