

Cruelty

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"It had cut through the flesh, causing it to rot," said Graham. "It looked like the dog's throat had been cut."

Barnett-Green asked to take the dog into her care and the owners consented. Almost three weeks later, the puppy, Emma, is doing well and the owners are facing one count of cruelty to animals.

"It was very obvious the owners had neglected the animal to the point of being criminal," Graham said.

"My first reaction was, 'Oh, my goodness,'" Barnett-Green said. "I just couldn't believe that this was happening to (the puppy)."

Graham said the owners face a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to a year in jail. The owners' case has not been heard in Magistrate Court yet, and in the meantime Barnett-Green is looking for a home for

Emma, a German shepherd, pit bull cross.

"She is a very thankful dog. She loves people," she said. "She really holds no emotional scars from what she suffered."

ANOTHER HOBBBS RESIDENT faces two charges of cruelty to animals after police found six emaciated dogs living in the owner's backyard. A citizen called in the complaint, and according to police reports, the two male dogs were without food and water. The female had recently birthed a litter of six puppies that were also underfed because of the mother's condition, Graham said.

"Our officers said the male dog should have weighed 40-50 pounds if he was nourished, but he probably weighed only 10-15 pounds," he said. "He was chained to a very large chain and he was barely able to walk and move the chain."

The animals had no food or water when officers found

them and all eight were taken into custody by Animal Control. The two adult dogs had to be euthanized, Graham said.

"They were already past that point and were in too bad of health," he said.

Barnett-Green said she believes state laws for animal cruelty need to be tougher. Graham said in some cases a person just shouldn't have a pet. "It is like having a kid," he said. "If you don't have the means and responsibility to care for an animal, you don't need an animal."

Anyone interested in adopting Emma can contact Amanda Barnett-Green at 392-3458.

Anyone who knows of any cases of animal cruelty should contact the Hobbs Police Department at 397-9265 or Hobbs Animal Control at 397-9323. Outside the Hobbs city limits, contact the Lea County Sheriff's Department at 396-3611.

Museum

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space, but not all at once," McCleery said.

The recent downturn in the economy may make getting expansions approved difficult.

"My only regret is I wasn't here a year earlier," Smith said. "It would have been easier to get an expansion

approved a year ago."

Smith said the expansion is important for two reasons: it would provide space for volunteers to help catalog artifacts and provide an office for the curator, and it would help Smith get the Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Hall of Fame accredited through the American Association of Museums. Having adequate storage and

office space is a condition for accreditation.

"We are in the position to be able to look at what it is going to take to accredit the museum and develop the plan around that," McCleery said.

If accredited, the museum would be listed in national travel guides and be eligible for more grant funds.

Central Texas fire nearly out

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters have nearly contained a 1,000-acre wildfire in Central Texas that continued to burn Thursday, one of about a dozen blazes around the state.

There were no injuries reported.

The Coleman County fire, the largest of the day, destroyed a cabin and a jeep and threatened five homes and an out-

building. It was about 90 percent contained by Thursday evening, according to the Texas Forest Service. The fire's cause was unknown.

A blaze caused by three fires in Kleberg County in South Texas burned about 350 acres on the King Ranch. It threatened two homes and two barns, but the buildings were saved and the fire was put out by late afternoon.

Lottery numbers

N.M. PICK 3
0-1-8
ROADRUNNER CASH
6-9-18-29-30; Bonus: 7
TEXAS PICK 3
9-4-4 (day); 0-6-3 (night)
CASH FIVE TEXAS
2-8-11-18-19
DAILY 4
1-7-1-9 (day); 5-0-7-1(night)
TEXAS TWO STEP
6-21-22-34 BB: 33



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