

"Soaring Dreams", *The Deming Headlight*, 12 May, 2005

The bright-colored Ameriquest Soaring Dreams Airship floated over Deming Monday afternoon as part of the mortgage company's program geared toward inspiring children to "go for their dreams."

A line of vehicles followed the eye-catching blimp to the Deming Airport, many stopping outside the airport's fence to catch a glimpse and take a picture - and even film it. Ameriquest Mortgage Company's airship landed just before 3 p.m. with a crew waiting to secure it to the ground.

"Soaring Dreams" is the largest flying public art project ever created. The airship was hand-painted by more than 5,000 children. The blimp is currently on a national tour with its next stop on Sunday in Houston to fly over an Astros game at Minute Maid Park.

"Children from across the country came together through the Soaring Dreams program, sponsored by Ameriquest, to paint 40,000 square feet of canvas. In March, it was enveloped onto the world's largest passenger blimp," said Lauren Kulberg, public relations representative for Ameriquest. "It was launched in April over Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

"It's about inspiring kids, encouraging them to be all they can be... to think big, dream big. In addition Ameriquest has announced a short essay contest, and six kids will win a ride on the airship. The kids write about what their biggest dream is and their plan for reaching it. The winners will be able to take one person on the airship with them," she added.

For more information on the essay contest, people can visit www.soaringdreams.org.

The non-rigid blimp measures 206 feet in dynamic length, measures in at two-thirds the length of a football field, and employs a crew big enough to fill all positions in a football game.

"Soaring Dreams" includes panoramic windows, restrooms, a full galley and seats the pilot, a co-pilot, and up to eight passengers in leather seats. The blimp is capable of flying up to 58 miles per hour, but the airship typically flies at 35-45 mph. It takes approximately two to three weeks for it to fly from coast to coast. The Web site states the Soaring Dreams Airship can fly without refueling for up to 13 hours. If all power were lost, the pilot can descend the airship as if he were flying a balloon.



The multi-colored airship touches down at the Deming Airport just before 3 p.m. Monday, as a crew hustles to secure it.



Ameriquest Soaring Dreams Airship flies over Deming's abandoned airplane hangars Monday afternoon while preparing