

THE Devil's River NEWS

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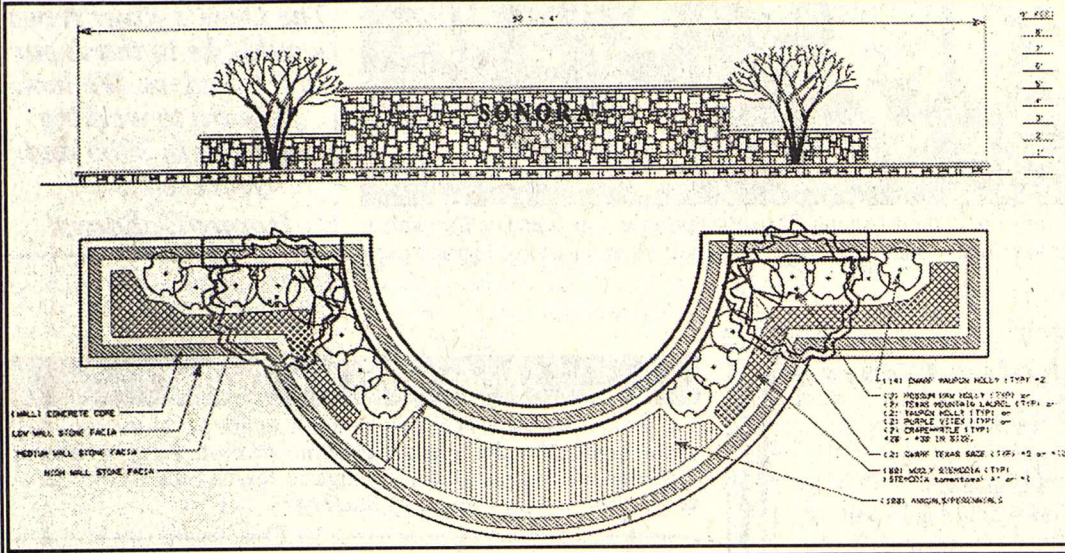
Since 1890

Volume 114 • Issue 52

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 26, 2002

Wall To Welcome Visitors To Sonora



Is it driving you crazy wondering who is doing what to the little plot of land at the corner of Hwy 277 N. and Crockett Ave. Well, The Friends of Historic Sonora Inc./Main Street Program has teamed up with the Texas Department of Transportation to help beautify our town. The Friends of Historic Sonora Inc. applied for and received a grant to be used for landscaping and beautification of the community. They then decided to build a rock wall welcoming visitors to our



community. The blueprint above shows the view from the front, as well as an aerial view of what the completed wall will look like. The area will be landscaped with many attractive plants and flowers, including

Possum Haw Holly, Texas Mountain Laurel, Purple Vitex, Crapemyrtle, annuals, perennials and more. Look for the completion of the wall in the very near future.

Shoppers Snag Last Minute Gifts At Santa Auction

The 2002 "Santa Buck" Silent and Live Auctions were held on December 18th. The program was kicked off with the Sonora Middle School Choir and Band students performing for the guests. Following the music, 6th graders entertained guests by showing off their many different "talents".

The bidding began and the fight was on for those last minute Christmas gifts that shoppers had been saving their Santa Bucks for. Preston Faris called the items and took bids, acting as auctioneer for the evening. Friends of Historic, Inc., Manager Ann Kay and Chamber of Commerce Manager Ladonna Wardlaw helped keep things rolling, keeping a watchful eye on the crowd for tentative bidders. About 275 people showed up for the promotional event held to encourage Sonora shoppers to buy locally.

Winners were as follows:
Brigitte Rogers - KHOS Gift Pack - 10,000 Santa Bucks
Pat Villanueva - KHOS Gift Pack - 7,500 Santa Bucks
Tyler Smith - KHOS Gift Pack - 11,500 Santa Bucks
Emily Newton - KHOS Gift Pack - 7500 Santa Bucks
Sonja Romero - DVD Player donated by The Bank & Trust - 190,000 Santa Bucks
Christina Rendon - Christopher Radko Ornament donated by Gifts Galore & More - 15,500 Santa Bucks
Christina Rendon - 13" Color TV donated by Alco - 125,000 Santa Bucks
Joyce Ridgeway - Mr. Heater donated by Parker Lumber "Do It Best" - 95,000 Santa Bucks
Armando Noriega - Toast Master Toaster Oven donated by T&C Village Market - 200,000 Santa Bucks
Jenny Sue Trainer - 1 Free month service donated by Cellular One - 27,000 Santa Bucks
Gracie Lopez - Merle Norman Skin Care Kit donated by OI Sonora Trading Co. - 30,000 Santa Bucks
Julia Jones - Shopping Spree in Sonora donated by First National Bank of Sonora - 90,000 Santa Bucks
Armando Noriega - Shopping Spree in Sonora donated by First National Bank of Sonora - 66,000 Santa Bucks
Rachel Escalante - Prize Filled Balloon donated by Busy Bee Dept. Store - 13,000 Santa Bucks



Preston Faris auctioneers the Santa Bucks Auction on December 18th.

Evangelina Rodriguez - Floral Arrangement donated by Flowers by Irene - 13,000 Santa Bucks
Tibba Edmondson - Circle E Candle donated by Lisa's Flowers & Gifts - 12,500 Santa Bucks
Cindy Teasley - Circle E Candle donated by Lisa's Flowers & Gifts - 112,000 Santa Bucks
Gracie Lopez - Cowboy Angel Necklace donated by image apparel - 10,000 Santa Bucks
Nicole Hernandez - Cowgirl Trail Kit donated by image apparel - 62,000 Santa Bucks
Nelda Tobias - 1 Gift Certificate for a meal at Taco Grill - 250,000 Santa Bucks
Maggie Levario - 1 Gift Certificate for a meal at Taco Grill - 12,000 Santa Bucks
Eric Baker - Waterford Heirloom Christmas Tree Ornament donated by Tedford Jewelry - 10,000 Santa Bucks
John Duke Hudson - One boxed set of four Towle Wood-handled Steak Knives donated by Tedford Jewelry - 46,000 Santa Bucks
Leslie Levario - Little Girls Hand-painted Dresser Lamp donated by Tedford Jewelry - 92,000 Santa Bucks
Cipriana Tobias - Santa Bear donated by Team Graphics - 25,000 Santa Bucks
Jenny Sykes - Christmas Reindeer Card Holder donated by Team Graphics - 85,000 Santa Bucks
Cathy Covey - 2 value meals donated by Sonic - (1) 7,000 Santa Bucks (2) 5,000 Santa Bucks
Carmen Sanchez - Throw from Team Graphics donated by Teaff Oil Co. - 56,000 Santa Bucks
Jim Brisbin - 1 nacho and drink donated by La Mexicana -

15,000 Santa Bucks
John Duke Hudson - 1 Cheeseburger & drink donated by La Mexicana - 24,500 Santa Bucks
Eric Baker - 1 Pocahontas Tape donated by The Video Store - 20,000 Santa Bucks
Trini Banda - One (1) \$20 Gift Certificate donated by The Video Store - 17,500 Santa Bucks
Julia Jones - One (1) \$20 Gift Certificate donated by The Video Store - 40,000 Santa Bucks
Armando Noriega - Two (2) Lunch Buffet Gift Certificated donated by The Sutton County Steakhouse - (1) 15,000 Santa Bucks (2) 25,000 Santa Bucks
Brigitte Rogers - One (1) Lunch Buffet Gift Certificate donated by The Sutton County Steakhouse - 10,000 Santa Bucks
Ms. Prieto - Dinner for 2 Gift Certificate donated by The Sutton County Steakhouse - 370,000 Santa Bucks
Irene Santana - 1 Meal Gift Certificate donated by Dairy Queen - 9,000 Santa Bucks
Mela San Miguel - 1 Meal Gift Certificate donated by Dairy Queen - 15,000 Santa Bucks
Pat Villanueva - 1 Meal Gift Certificate donated by Dairy Queen - 31,000 Santa Bucks
Allison Freeman - 1 Meal Gift Certificate donated by Dairy Queen - 62,000 Santa Bucks
Stephanie Coronado - 1 large pizza donated by Pizza Hut - 36,000 Santa Bucks
Julia Jones - 1 large pizza donated by Pizza Hut - 10,000 Santa Bucks
Thank you to everyone that attended the "Santa Bucks" Auction and helped support our community by Shopping Sonora!

All About New Year's

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New

Year's Day was no different.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California.

Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus.

The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have

throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man.

Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," playing in the background, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

"Best Dressed-Up" Christmas House Winners For Week 2



109 Kisselburg



206 Rock Ave.



206 Lorene St.

Due to technical problems with the camera and one house not having their lights on, we will run the final two winners in next week's addition of The Devil's River News.

The Devil's River News will be closed January 1st, 2003. Deadline for print for next week's issue will be Friday, December 27th at 12:00 p.m. Have a safe Holiday!

New Year's Resolutions

In the next week or so, about 100 million Americans will venture down a well-traveled path paved with bold and sometimes hastily conceived New Year's resolutions. It is a route covered with promises to exercise more, lose weight, stop smoking, cut down on alcohol, eat a healthier diet and make new friends. All of these are not necessarily broken promises.

Remember these tips when making resolutions:

- Make only one or two resolutions.
- Choose resolutions that you've been thinking about for some time
- Choose to adopt a new good behavior rather than trying to shake an engrained bad habit
- Choose realistic goals, that you feel confident you can meet
- If you don't succeed, determine the barriers that blocked you and try again.
- Sure-fire ingredients for setting yourself up for resolution failure include:
 - Not thinking about making resolutions until the last minute.
 - Making your resolutions based on what's bothering you or is on your mind at that time.
 - Framing your resolutions as absolutes by saying, "I will never do X again."

Good luck in 2003!

Sonora Church Directory

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr.
504 Santa Clara
387-2035

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Jerry Jackson
304 N. Water
387-3190

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
T. Wayne Price
Pastor
111 E Oak
387-2951

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
404 E. Poplar
387-2955

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Conrad Archer, Pastor
201 N. Water
387-2466

TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS
Rev. Santos Beserra, Jr.
306 W. 4th St.
387-5713

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Charles Huffman
417 E. 2nd St.
387-5366

NEW LIFE MINISTRY CENTER
Jerry & Joy Wood
205 E. Main
387-3241

LA IGLESIA HISPANA PENTECOSTAL DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC.
387-6072

IGLESIA PENTECOSTAL UNIDA HISPANA
Pastor Isai Oviedo
509 Amistad
650-3121

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN
Lewis Allen, Pastor
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616

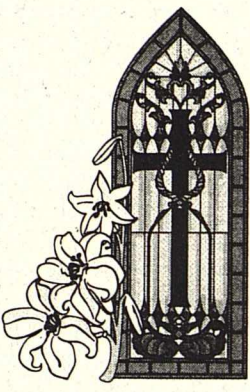
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH
Don Longoria, Pastor
707 Glasscock
387-5886

PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED
Randy Greenwood
Pastor
509 Amistad
387-5266

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I.
229 W. Plum
387-2278

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
310 St. Ann's Street
387-5658 or 387-5518

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
Interim Mike Dixon
511 Cornell
387-5207



Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

"Visions of Sugarplums Danced..."



Carolyn Earwood's School of Dance held their Annual Christmas program on Tuesday, December 17th. The young dancers performed to holiday tunes showing off some of what they have learned over the last few months.

Card of Thanks

Card of Thanks to the Son Seekers and Faith Seekers youth groups of the Light House Baptist Church for the baskets of homemade cookies delivered to Hudspeth Hospital. For the third year in a row Lighthouse Baptist Church has sent us baskets of one kind of kindness or another and for that we are greatly thankful.
God Bless You,
Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Staff

The Devil's River News would like to thank our 2002 readers. We look forward to working with you in 2003 and years to come!
Happy Holidays!

Saint Ann Catholic Church Holiday Schedule

Dec. 28
Confessions - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Vigil Mass - 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 29
Sunday Mass - 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass - 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 31
Vigil Mass - 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 1
New Year's Mass - 10:00 a.m.

311 W. Plum St. • Sonora, Texas 76950

Note from the Editor

Last week one of the Letters to Santa got put in the mail bags and shipped off to the North Pole before we made a copy of it to put in the paper. Santa was nice enough to fax us back a copy so we could share it with you. Sorry Madison!

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been a great girl this year. I've had a really good year. I have not gotten in trouble at school and I have made straight A's all year long.

- Some Brats and I don't mean my brothers.
- Harry Potter games.
- A Cowgirl hat and some black boots.
- A new belt.
- The DVD movie "Spirit"
- Some clothes
- Shania Twain, Keith Urban, and Billy Gillman music CD's and Santa you can pick which ones
- Socks and underwear
- 2002 Holiday Celebration Barbie
- An alarm clock

My Dad said not to be greedy and to think about the rest of the little kids in the world. Santa please make sure that everyone gets something so they can play and have a happy Christmas.

The sweetest Sister in the Myers' house.

I Love You,
Madison
Madison

A Recipe for Good Luck

Black-Eyed Pea Salsa

Ingredients
1 cup white rice
2 cups water
2 (15.5 ounce) cans black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed
1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers

Directions
1 Bring a small pot of rice and water to a boil. Cover pot, reduce heat to simmer and let cook 20 minutes or until rice is tender.
2 In a large saucepan, combine rice, peas, tomatoes and chili. Stir the mixture over a medium heat until it is heated through.

Folklore says that the eating of black-eyed peas brings prosperity to you throughout the new year! Enjoy! And be prosperous! Serve warm with tortilla chips.

**Ronnie Cox
loves
being your
Pharmacist**

Lighthouse Baptist Church
Family Life Center 707 Glasscock • 387-5886
Listen to our Radio program on KHOS 92.1 every Sunday Morning at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 10:00 a.m
Worship 11:00 a.m.

Dining Out Directory

Dairy Queen
134 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2118

La Mexicana
240 N. Hwy 277
387-3401

Pizza Hut
401 Hwy. 277 N.
387-3540

Stagecoach BBQ & Catering
109 W. Main
387-0623

Sutton County Steakhouse
1306 N. Service Rd
387-3833

Taco Grill
232 Hwy. 277 N.
387-9127

Pastor Tony Gonzales invites you to come worship at Primera Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.
Sermon Message 10:50 a.m.

510 Santa Clara
387-2035

Senior Center News

Dec. 30 - Bingo!
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve. Center will be closed!
Jan. 1 - Happy New Year. Center will be closed.
Jan. 3 - AAA Reports due.

Senior Menu

Dec. 30 - Hamburgers with mustard, oven French fries, buns, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, carrot salad, fruit cocktail.
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve. Center closed!
Jan. 1 - Happy New Year. Center will be closed.
Jan. 2 - Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, broccoli with cheese, rolls, apple slice.
Jan. 3 - Baked ham, sweet potatoes, green peas, wheat bread, pudding.

*Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 Noon.
\$1.50 donation is suggested for those 60+ and \$4.00 for others.*

Menu is subject to change.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

USPS (155-920)
every Thursday at 228 East Main Street Sonora, Texas 76950
Phone: (915) 387-2507 FAX (915) 387-5691
Periodical postage paid at Sonora, Texas
Storie Sharp, Publishing Editor
Erica Morriss, Advertising • Danni Price, Financial
Guest Columnist: Jo-Ann Palmer
Email: General Information: editor@sonoratr.net
Advertising: sales@sonoratr.net, Financial: danni@sonoratr.net,
Owner: Cam Longley Campbell.
\$20 per year in county • Seniors \$18.00 per year (in & out of county)
\$25 per year out of county
Attn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Devil's River News,
228 East Main St., Sonora, TX 76950

**Copy and Ad deadline -
Monday, 5:00 p.m.**

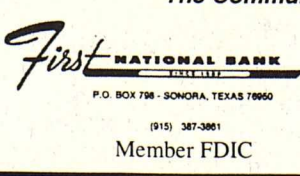
Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication.
The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.

Member 2002
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Community

Dec. 31
New Year's Eve
Tejano Mix D.J. y Esperanza
Civic Center 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.


The Community Calendar


Member FDIC

Calendar

**Have a Safe and Prosperous
New Year!**

is made possible by:


Member FDIC
207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy

The Devil's River News encourages letters from its readers. Letters should be to the point, typed if at all possible and signed. Name, address and telephone number should be included for verification purposes. Letters will be printed on a space available basis. Letters should stick with issues, and not simply be personal attacks. Letters endorsing a particular position on issues of local interest will be accepted, however letters endorsing a candidate for political office will not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit for length, content, and potentially libelous statements.

Letters to the Editor published in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the position of this publication on any subject. Correspondence should be mailed to: The Devil's River News-Letters to the Editor, 228 East Main, Sonora TX. 76950.
Email us at editor@sonoratr.net

Ask the Historical Society

by Jo-Ann E. Palmer,
Secretary
Sutton County Historical
Society

Q. Do you have much information on Juno?

A. We have some information taken from the Devil's River News but the best source on old time residents I have found is a book called "Comstock Friends and Neighbors" compiled by the Comstock Study Club, Comstock, Texas some time during the bi-centennial years. It covers not only Comstock but Pandale and Juno residents and some of the stories are really fun reading.

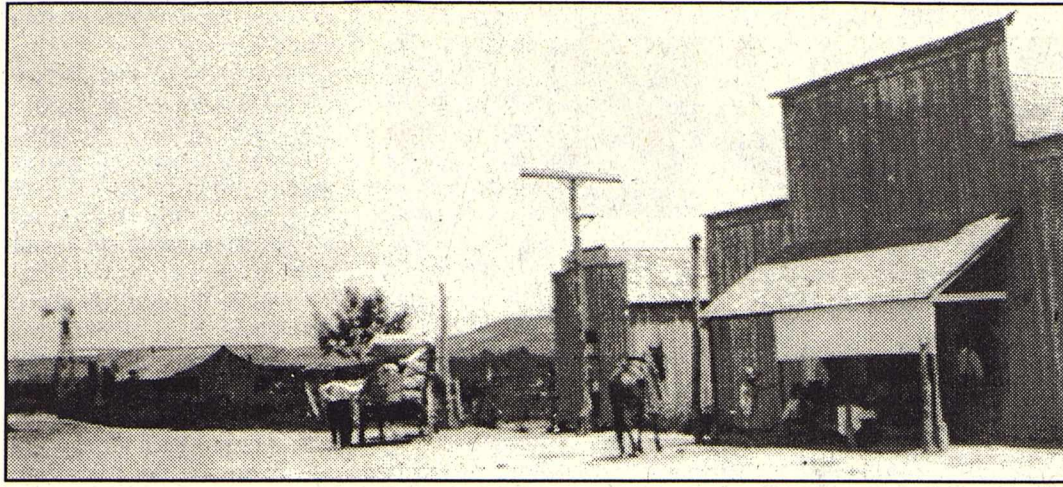
On page 197 There is a "History of Juno, Texas and the Drisdale Family History" The Drisdales bought the ranch from Mr. McDonald in 1899. (This is the same McDonald family that later owned the McDonald Hotel in Sonora.)

The person telling the story states he was born in 1902 in Fayette County and was brought to the ranch when three weeks old. The first trip fishing at Dolan Falls was taken when six weeks old. He was told that he cried all the next day and Mr. McMullen, a neighbor, said, "Well, I expect he's sore from riding in the wagon." Well over the years he fished there many times and even went there to an REA pole to shave with an electric razor.

He started to school in Juno when he was eight years old. He lived at the Juno hotel, which was run by Grandma Ratliff. Lots of bedbugs there. His mother called him on the phone every night and they both would cry. Grandma Ratliff would come to the phone and say, "Don't cry Mrs. Drisdale, I'll tuck him in." She did and was very good to me. Every Friday afternoon his parents would come and take him to the ranch for the weekend. They would have to open and close 6 to 8 gates on the way. If the river was up and they couldn't get to Juno he could be two weeks late getting back to school.

A Mr. Pauley from Coleman was the teacher. When I walked into the room I could tell trouble was in the air.

Herman Bendele and Elvin Earwood told me the teacher and a big boy named Barney Bradbury had had words. Barney was eighteen, I was eight and we were both in first



Old Juno, Texas

grade. All went fine until after lunch. The teacher and the boy had words again. Pauley hit Barney with a broom handle and Barney stabbed the teacher in the stomach. I ran, the teacher right behind me. My father and Dick Brotherton saw me. They thought I was running away from school.

As the teacher turned off the school road into the main road he fell. Intestines falling out and ground into dirt and gravel. The men carried him into the telephone office where Mr. and Mrs. Schnaubert lived. They phoned for Dr. Clayton to come from Ozona - fifty miles. He got to Juno about twelve that night. He cleaned Pauley up as well as he could, but Pauley was so swollen the doctor said he couldn't get intestines back. My father said, "I can, first cut the holes bigger." They did, sewed him back up and he was back teaching in two weeks. Barney went to jail for six months.

He does say later that "Bradburys were good people. They built lots of fence in this country. They drove little Spanish mules. Would use a trace chain for a whip. If they wanted them to go fast they would rattle the chain and off they would go. That is where I think General Motors got the idea of the automatic clutch."

At Spring term, my first year of school, I stayed with the Frank Taylors at Beaver Lake. Mrs. Taylor was good to me, a wonderful cook and I fared much better. The next year I went to school in San Antonio and stayed with my Grandmother Drisdale.

Doctors in Juno at different times were: Utes, Rath and Adams. Teachers were: Pauley, Notley, Effie Ewing, Pearl Laird and R. T. Wilson. Pastors were Mathews and Briggs. Every

year there would be a camp meeting and lots of people were baptized. Afterwards, Risto Strickland, a school mate would play preacher and baptize us every day.

Stein and Linn ran the Juno Store in the 1880's. Other Juno store owners were: Joe Schrafel, Lawrence Peterson, Charlie Stavelly, Freeman Smith, Dick Brotherton, Steve Coose, R. G. Nance and Bill Greenwood. Charlie Stavelly had gasoline freighted to Juno in barrels. It was poured into 1 and 5 gallon cans, then poured into tank of car with funnel. Some claimed Juno had the highest price gas in the world.

Ben Bendele operated the first mail line from Comstock to Juno and to Ozona. At one time there was a mail line from Juno to Sonora. Ben also freighted groceries, salt and mohair.

John Bennett built the first telephone line from Comstock to Juno - Juno to Ozona. Jimmy Lowrey was Comstock operator and Postmaster. Belle Dunnagan was Juno operator. A Mr. Moore was the operator in Sonora. Later the Juno switchboard was taken out. It was a straight line from Juno to Comstock with fourteen boxes on a party line. You can imagine the eavesdropping.

Sonora Students Graduate From ASU

Angelo State University conferred degrees upon 371 students during 2002 Fall commencement exercises December 13 in San Angelo, Texas

The 2002 Fall graduates include Lori Ann Galindo, B.A.; Daisy Marie Mireles, B.A., cum laude; and Kari J. Purvis, B.S.. All these students are graduates of Sonora High School.

Happy Birthday

December 26 - Oscar Perez, Jr., Donny Deel, Claire Richards, Scott Gonzales

December 27 - Charlie Alewine, Al Elliott, Melinda Crain

December 28 - Amy Gann

December 29 - Ruth Ramos, Donna Benson

December 30 - Justin Northcott, Mary Jean Sims, Carol Pope, Mario Lira, Jr., Erica Olson, Jeannette Thompson, Jeb Hunt

December 31 - Jerri Martin, Patsy Samaniego, Nathan Longoria, Ron Morris

January 1 - Joe Michael Campos, Brianna Kesinger, Amy Harris, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Dorothy Jiminez, Missy Longoria, Shirley Hall, Becky Collins

Thorp's Laun-Dry • 107 Plum St. • 387-2666

Our Game

Early Christmas day I would try to hide a small special gift for each loved one. I would try to hide it in the branches of the Christmas tree where it was hard to see. Sometimes I would even hide it at the very top. When we were exchanging gifts I would say, "That's not all!" Many times they would look and look and still not be able to find it. It was so much fun to see their face when they finally found their gift and even more exciting when they opened it. That little game reminds me of something that God did for us one night around two thousand years ago. You see he sent us something very special and very small. It was His only Son (John 3:16). His gift, upon arrival, was not put on a mountaintop. It was delivered to a small out of the way place (Bethlehem, Luke 2:1-20). One thing about that gift was it could be overlooked or not found. It could even be totally rejected if someone so desired (1 John 2:23). God loves us very much and he sent the most precious thing he had to us. Let's open our hearts and receive that special gift (His son, 1 John 4:8, 10, 14, 5:11, 5:20). That gift can bring a whole lot of love, joy, peace and happiness like nothing else can do. See you in Church this Sunday.

Brother J

Gifts Galore & More
Bridal Registry
Erin Walsh bride elect of Josh Burnham

417 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2541

Tedford Jewelry
Bridal Registry
Sandra Elaine Fuentes
bride elect of James Bradley Nicholls

Leslie Ann Carrasco
bride elect of James Daniel Kassahn

SALE!

50% Off
ALL WINTER APPAREL

30% Off
Root Candles
Rosey Bud
Art Candles

50-75% Off
All Christmas Items

Ol' Sonora Trading Co.
121 N. Hwy 277 • 387-5507

UPS
Shipping

\$\$\$super sale

FINAL SALE
Everything Must Go!

FLING DING

PROM

ALL OCCASSION DRESSES
Victoria Richardson

For more information call Victoria
at 915-387-5280 • victoria@sonoratax.net
Se habla espanol!

AFTER CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS!
50% OFF
With very few exceptions!

Great in Store Specials
Gifts Galore & More
417 Hwy 277 N. • 387-2541

New Year's Eve Dance
Tejano Mix D.J.

y
Esperanza

December 31, 2002
Civic Center
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
For more info. OR Tickets

CONTACT
Chavarría's Grocery.
Fred's Tiendita
Mike Villanueva 387-5300
Florie Gonzales 387-5335
Maria Mesa 387-2287

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus
Sonora, Texas

DPS Wants Texas Drivers In Christmas Spirit

The DPS is asking Texas drivers to exhibit a little Christmas spirit on the roadways over the holidays.

"You can play the grinch or you can spread a little joy on the roadways by giving your fellow travelers a break," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS.

DPS troopers and other law enforcement officials will be out in force for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, looking for speeders, drunk drivers and seat belt violators.

"Alcohol is always a concern this time of year and we will do everything in our power to put drunk drivers behind bars where they belong," said Davis.

DPS will be participating in Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort)-a nationwide effort maximizing enforcement on major interstate highways to reduce fatalities commonly associated with holiday weekends.

DPS will have all available

troopers patrolling Texas roadways from Tuesday, December 24 through Sunday, December 29.

Before your trip, check out road conditions in the event of bad weather. Consult local news stations or the Texas Department of Transportation for road closures at 1-800-452-9292 or on the Internet at www.dot.state.tx.us. Always slow down in bad weather, construction zones and on unfamiliar roads.

Avoid talking on your cell phone and other distractions, but a wireless phone can be an invaluable tool in case of trouble. For non-emergency situations, motorists can call the DPS Roadside Assistance Hotline, 1-800-525-5555, to request assistance. The number is on the back of most driver licenses. *DPS can be used by participating cellular customers to reach the same number. In case of emergency, always call 911.

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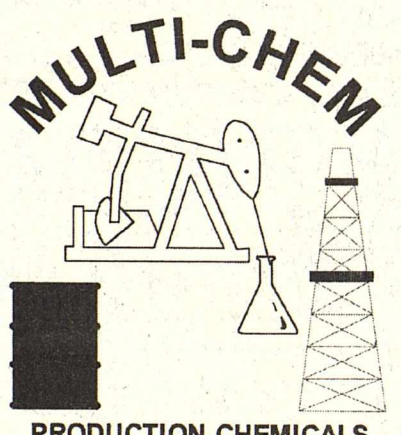
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Hunt Graduates From Basic Training



Air Force Airman Jenny L. Hunt has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Hunt is the daughter of Gene Hunt of Sonora, Texas. The airman is a 2002 graduate of Sonora High School.

Something For Everyone At West Texas Rehab Auction

A boat, camper trailer, four-wheelers, a car and a full-size pickup truck. Baseball, golf, auto racing passes and Emmitt Smith collectibles.

Hand-made quilts, artwork, diamonds, furniture and weekend getaways.

Whatever your passion or past-time, chances are good it's up for bid now on West Texas Rehabilitation Center's website and during the Rehab 2003 Telethon Saturday, January 18.

Previewing and bidding is currently available at the Rehab Center's site at www.WestTexasRehab.org. Also, on January 18 items will be on display at the Abilene Civic Center, featured

in a special pull-out section of the San Angelo Standard-Times and Abilene Reporter-News and also may be viewed during a special one-hour showing from 6-7 p.m. on KLST, KTAB, KRBC and KTXS. Bidding ends at midnight on the 18th.

Approximately 350 items valued at \$300 or more are donated by San Angelo, Abilene and West Texas are businesses and individuals and will be up for bid via internet access or by toll-free telephone during the evening's show.

Among other auction items are boots and bronzes, livestock feed and a front end loader, a saddle and stirrups, plus tires, tools, trees and a tub.

The auction is a popular segment of the Rehab Telethon which will feature live entertain-

ment from the Abilene Civic Center. Country music star Tanya Tucker will headline the five-hour show which will air in 12 television markets in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Other talent includes co-hosts Charlie Chase and Peter Marshall along with Bill and Susan Hay, Jay Michael, Anacani, Florence LaRue and Brad Maule.

As Rehab's largest annual fundraiser, the Telethon's goal is to raise awareness and more than a million dollars in support of the Center's mission which is to improve the quality of life for those served regardless of their financial circumstances. Major underwriters for Rehab 2003 are AEP-West Texas Utilities and Associated Publishing/Area Wide Phone Book.

Trying to squash a rumor is like trying to unring a bell.

-Shana Alexander

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A New Year's Resolution



Congressman Henry Bonilla

The new year is upon us and once again I find myself wondering where time has gone. It seems just days ago I sat on my couch, watching football and regretting my second-helping of pecan pie on Thanksgiving. The holiday season seems to pass so quickly. It's already time to consider New Year's resolutions. So much has changed in the last two years. I find myself contemplating what New Year's really means.

Unlike many of our traditional holidays, the meaning of New Year's is unclear. Although it is the world's most celebrated holiday, it lacks a single central theme. It is a collection of good intentions. Perhaps, New Year's is simply a yearly detour on the road to self-improvement, enlightenment and finding happiness. A new beginning we are allowed each year.

This year, New Year's finds us at our absolute greatest. Americans have bound together to show their pride and patriotism for our amazing country. Let's ring in this New Year's with an unconquerable will. Let's continue to support our servicemen and women; let's boast our unwavering patriotism; and let's continue to proclaim confidence in our President.

Here are a few suggestions

to keep your New Year's resolution on track:

#1 Don't try everything at once. Odds are in your favor, if you begin small. Consider sending an encouraging message to troops deployed away from home. Or perhaps scheduling more frequent phone calls to friends and family.

#2 Be flexible. Allow your resolution to grow with you throughout the year. Don't make a specific resolution, that does not allow for change. Less specific wording such as "this year I will express my patriotism," provides room to challenge yourself to be creative with your resolution throughout the year.

#3 Make a plan. Search for ways you can volunteer. Help by filling-in roles left behind by those deployed away from home. Devote a specific amount of time to any causes you choose. And ask friends and family to join in the act.

There's no reason why we shouldn't continue to make the traditional resolutions to lose weight and get organized. But it is my hope that we will also focus our resolutions on developing the true spirit of America. Remember to smile and laugh every chance you get. The soul needs to be balanced, as well as the scale. Don't pass up an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. And most importantly, don't leave anything unsaid. Let's ring 2003 as a nation united and rebuilding together.

A New Star in the Sky

Centuries ago a new star appeared in the sky—a mysterious star that baffled the wise men of the day. No, I'm not talking about the Star of Bethlehem—that's still a mystery.

In 1054 AD, Oriental astronomers reported seeing an extremely bright new star in the constellation Taurus—a star that grew brighter than Venus and was visible even during the day. Within a few weeks, however, it faded and disappeared.

Astronomers now know it was a supernova explosion—the final, cataclysmic death throes of a star. Under dark skies and with optical aids, we can still see the cloudy supernova remnant, called the Crab Nebula. In most telescopes it appears as a faint, wispy smudge of light, but astrophotography reveals eerie-looking lines within the nebula, giving it its name.

In most amateur scopes, it's not exactly dazzling, and its faintness makes it difficult to see at all. The awe is in the realization of what one is seeing—the outer remains of a now dead star. Adding to the fascination is a rapidly rotating neutron star, called a pulsar, embedded within the cloud. Only a few miles in diameter and not visible in most scopes, this pulsar is the corpse of the collapsed and now dead star.

Jan. 4 Saturn will be directly in front of the Crab Nebula. While this might be a good viewing opportunity, Saturn's glare could wash out the faint nebula. If you have a telescope, now is a good time to look for the elusive, faint nebula, currently a little more than a moon-width to Saturn's upper right. Even if can't see the Crab Nebula, Saturn is quite dazzling by itself.

Texas Workforce Network Is Working For Texans

by Jeff Wentworth
State Senator, District 25

The holidays will be brighter for more than 11,000 Texans who are either employed or who improved their job skills and are now earning better wages as a result of training they received this year in programs provided by the Texas Workforce Network.

Many of the newly employed Texans had never worked before. At a recent presentation of a \$262,000 welfare-to-work grant from the Alamo Workforce Development Board to the Alpha & Omega Career Training Center, one center graduate described how learning a skill had impacted his life.

A convicted felon who had never held a job or had a place to live, the man now is employed as an electrician's helper. Using the skills he learned in the center's apprentice program, he is now a productive citizen who, in his own words, "is happy to be paying taxes."

In addition to electricians' helpers, the center trains personnel for the apartment-leasing industry, including maintenance and make-ready workers and leasing consultants.

A man and wife and their one-year-old child left behind a hand-to-mouth existence after they received training in apartment maintenance and leasing. She is an assistant manager of a complex where they live rent free, and he works as a maintenance man.

Alpha & Omega is just one of the more than 1,000 contracts that the network has with faith-based and community-based organizations statewide. The network is composed of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and 28 local workforce development boards.

The network, together with faith-based, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, colleges and universities, designs skills-training programs which, in 2001, resulted in 100 percent of apprentice graduates finding employment in their chosen fields.

Because employers are one of the network's principal customers, training programs have been designed to meet employers' needs. Texas workers must have transferable and flexible skills so employers may remain competitive in today's global market.

In 2002, TWC awarded 11 Self-Sufficiency grants, such as Alpha & Omega's. These grants created more than 953 jobs with an average hourly wage of \$9.80. The grants totaled more than \$2.5 million and benefitted 61 Texas employers.

TWC also issued 33 Skills Development Fund grants which help create or upgrade 11,004 jobs paying an average of \$14.43 per hour.

Twelve consortia and 160 Texas employers benefitted from more than \$11.7 million in grants. The Texas Legislature appropriated \$25 million for the Skills Development Fund grants.

More information about the Skills Development Fund or Self-Sufficiency Fund is available at the TWC web site at www.texasworkforce.org. Information about Texas Business Conferences for owners and managers is available toll-free at (800) 832-9394.

Helping employers train Texans and move them from welfare to work is a win-win situation for the business community, the state of Texas and thousands of formerly unemployed but now productive Texans.

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Little Dribblers Practices
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A representative of the San Angelo Social Security Office will be in Sonora on Tuesday January 28, February 25, and March 25 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Your Social Security business can be handled just as quickly by telephone. Call toll free by dialing 1-800-772-1213 Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Dance - Tejano Mix D.J. y Esperanza - December 31, 2002 at Sutton County Civic Center from 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - \$8.00 advance - \$10.00 at door. For more information or tickets call Chavarria's Grocery, Fred's Tiendita, Mike Villanueva at 387-5300, Florie Gonzales at 387-5335 or Maria Mesa at 387-2287. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

SKY CALENDAR

- * **26 Thu.** The Moon is at 3rd quarter.
- * **28 Sat.** (morning): The Moon is to the left of Virgo's brightest star, Spica, in the southeast.
- * **29 Sun.** (morning): The Moon is above Mars and Venus in the southeast, then below them the next morning.
- * **31 Tue.** (morning): A thin crescent Moon is to the left of Scorpius' brightest star, Antares, near the southeastern horizon.
- * **2 Thu.** The Moon is new.
- * **3 Fri.** (evening): A very thin crescent Moon is to the lower left of Mercury near the west-southwestern horizon soon after sunset, and will be to the planet's upper left the next evening.
- * **3 Fri.** Earth is at perihelion—nearest the Sun (91 million miles) in its elliptical orbit.

PLANETS.
MERCURY is low in the west-southwest after sunset, reaching its maximum distance from the setting Sun Dec. 26, then gradually sinking into the Sun in early January. VENUS is the "morning star" in the southeast with MARS to its upper right. JUPITER rises at 9 p.m. in the east. SATURN, which rises before sunset, is high in the east in the early evening.

[Stargazer appears every other week. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707. (254) 753-6920 or pjderick@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at www.stargazerpaul.com.]

Oil & Agribusiness

Scrapie Program Record Keeping

New compliance guidelines to simplify record-keeping for sheep and goat dealers and markets have been issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Veterinary Services (USDA-VS) as part of the national scrapie eradication program.

The new record-keeping compliance guidelines require only standard business practices of recording buyer, seller, the number of animals, date, species and breed or class of animal. No longer will dealers and/or market operators be expected to record individual identification information unless individual "IDs" are inserted or replaced by a dealer or market.

The record-keeping change is important to all segments of the sheep and goat industries, according to Dr. Cindy Wolfs, Sheep Health Committee Chairperson for the National Institute of Animal Agriculture. "It allows market channels to

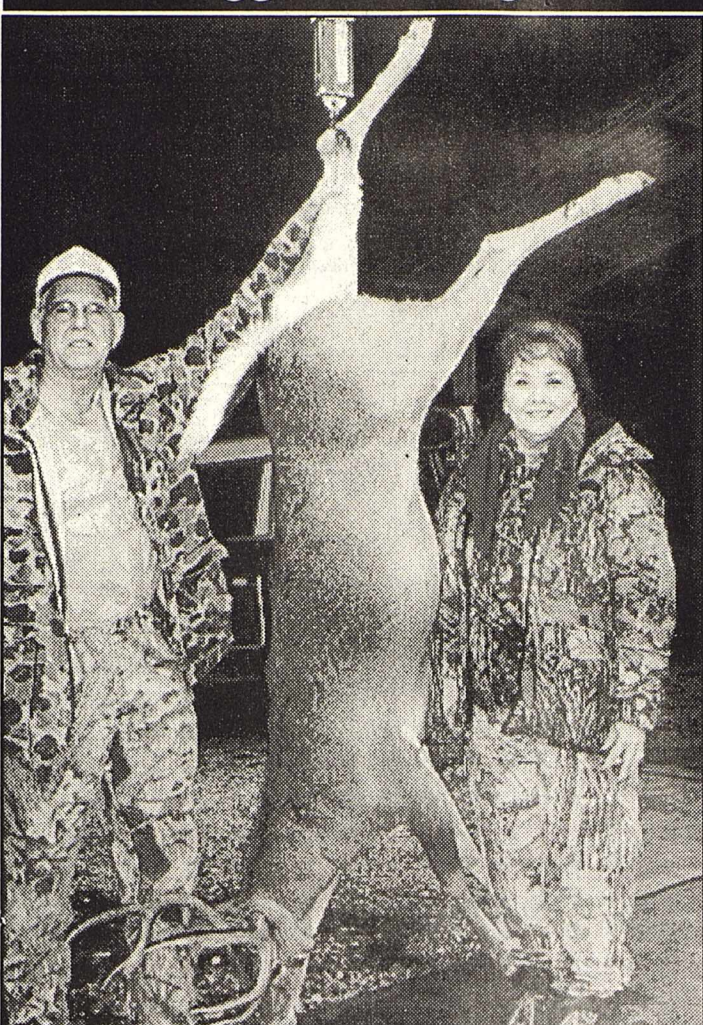
operate normally and still be in compliance with the scrapie eradication program."

The new guidelines will not affect existing ID and record-keeping requirements for most products. The exceptions are for owners of low-risk commercial sheep and owners of goats that have been commingled with low-risk commercial sheep. These producers may now identify their sheep and goats with an official premises ear tag rather than a registered brand or ear notch.

USDA-APHIS-VS is also expected to issue soon a new national clean-up strategy for scrapie infected or source flocks based on genotyping to determine which individuals can be retained and which must be removed from the flock.

More information on these and other topics relating to the scrapie eradication program is available on the Internet at www.animalagriculture/scrapie or call toll-free 866-873-2824.

Who's Baggin' The Big Bucks?



Gene and Nita Brandenberger of Ravenna, Texas were hunting on the Schenkel Ranch in November when Nita killed this 11 point buck. The buck field dressed at 164 lbs!

Sign-Up for Wool, Mohair Deficiency Payment Begins

by Sandy Whitley, TSGRA Secretary

Texas wool and mohair producers can sign up for wool and mohair loan deficiency payments (LDP) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA). On November 6, 2002, the agency made available Notice LP-1878, which addresses the 2002 through 2007 Crop-Year Marketing Assistance Loan and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Program for wool and mohair.

Producers must complete FSA Form 633 to apply for the LDP. For 2002 wool or mohair sold before Oct. 11, 2002, producers must complete the form by Jan. 31, 2003.

Producers who sold 2002 wool or mohair between Oct. 11, 2002, and Nov. 4, 2002, must sign up by December 6, 2002.

Producers who still own 2002 wool or mohair must sign up before they see the wool or mohair and by the Jan. 21, 2003 deadline.

The payment software and instructional handbook should be available to the FSA offices by early December. Both loans and unshorn lamb payment should be addressed in the handbook.

Program details can be accessed through the FSA portion of the USDA web site.

Rig Locations as of December 20, 2002

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 Dominion; 5700' Thomson - D - #11, Patterson Drilling.

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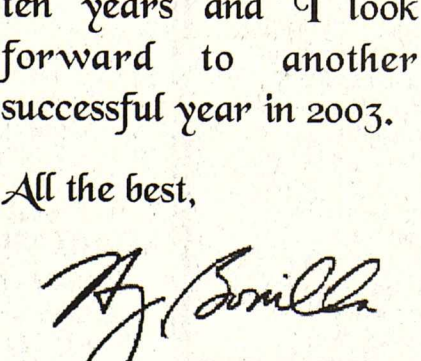
Dear Friends,

I hope that this holiday season brings you and yours all the joy on earth.

It has been my honor to represent you for the last ten years and I look forward to another successful year in 2003.

All the best,

Henry Bonilla



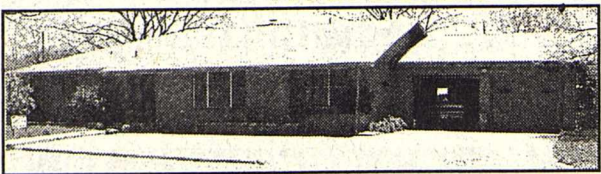
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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Hooper Trucking Co. is taking applications for experienced oil-field truck drivers with a good driving record. CDL required. Pick up applications at Gully & Son, Inc. 600 Crockett St., Sonora, TX. 915-387-2613.

Rent or Lease

Office for Rent. 900 sq. ft. with Hwy. 277 N. frontage. Call Sharon or Jimmy Holman 915-387-7046 or 915-387-3122.

Commercial Building for Rent. Located in the Historic Downtown District at 204 N. Main St. Contact Main Street Realty at 915-387-6115.

Office Space for Rent. 707 N. Crockett St. Approximately 550 sq. ft. Call 387-2880.

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: San Angelo
Contract 6092-62-001 for LENGTHEN AND INSTALL SET AT VARIOUS LOCA in SUTTON County, etc. will be opened on February 05, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at the District Office for an estimate of \$388,604.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below: Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO:8511

State Office
Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)
San Angelo District
District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd.
San Angelo, Texas 76904
Phone: 915-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

NOTICE

Re: Property located at 203 N. Crockett Street, Sonora, Texas. On December 17, 2002, the City Council of the City of Sonora, Texas held a public hearing to determine if the building located at 203 N. Crockett Street, Sonora, Texas is an unsafe building. The City Council determined that said building is an unsafe building and ordered that it should be removed or demolished on or before March 17, 2003. A complete copy of said order is on file in the office of the City Secretary.

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Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

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Carl J. Cahill, Inc.
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GREAT OPPORTUNITY. Texas Department of Health is recruiting for a Human Services Technician III, headquartered in Sonora. Under the supervision of the Field Office Nurse Manager, provides clerical support to the Sonora Field Office and the satellite clinic in Junction. Provides general information to the public, schedules appointments for all programs. Assists in out reach for the two sites. Prepares end of the month reports. Orders office, clinical and pharmacy supplies. Must be able to translate Spanish to English for non-English speaking client. Maintains all records for the field office. Travel Requirements 25% day & 5% overnight. Salary \$1461/mo. Bilingual & Biliterate (English/Spanish) & must have a current Texas Class C driver's license. Applications are available at 1005 Eaton St., Ste. B, (915) 387-2234 or for additional information contact Nancy Vassar @ (915) 387-2234. PRN #030111.
Closing date: 1/06/03. EEO/ADA

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