

# THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 115 • Issue 1

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 2, 2003

## Rick Cearley Named Firefighter of the Year

submitted by SVFD reporter

1st Assistant Chief Rick Cearley was honored as Sonora Volunteer Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year during the Fire Department's Christmas celebration on December 14th.

The celebration, attended by firefighters and guests and their families, included a dinner, awards, announcement of officers for 2003, and an early visit from Santa Claus. Guests were mostly from City and County Governments, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services.

Honored for their service to Sonora as firefighters were: Kyle Donaldson for 35 years; Tim Thorp and Carl Teaff, 30 years; Pat Campbell, 15 years; and Billy Lippman and Ruben Samaniego, 5 years. Officers elected for 2003 were announced at the party: Chief, Russell Green; 1st Assistant Chief, Rick Cearley; and 2nd Assistant Chief, Charlie Alewine. Carl Johnson will be Captain, with 1st Lieutenant being Wayne Tylor and 2nd Lieutenant, Billy Lippman.

President for 2003 is John Snyder; Vice President, Robert Carl Teaff; Alta Alewine continues to be Secretary, and Kyle Donaldson will take over as Treasurer. Carl Teaff will continue as Fire Marshal, Reporter is Jacqui Bills, and Pastor Don



Fire Chief Russell Green presents Firefighter of the Year Award to Rick Cearley. Photo by J. Bills

Longoria has agreed to serve as Chaplain.

Donny Yocham and Wayford Taylor will continue their terms on the Pension Board and will be joined on the Board by Carl Johnson, Brian Hakes, and Jacqui Bills.

Santa had no trouble finding the brightly lit Fire Hall and his arrival was announced by the siren atop the building. Santa had a gift and a seat on his comfortable lap for each child and the celebration ended with much visiting, a gift exchange, and toy testing.

## Workforce Board Releases the Community Resource Directory for Sutton, Schleicher and Crockett Counties

Sonora - The Concho Valley Workforce Development Board has released the Community Resource Directory for Sutton, Schleicher and Crockett Counties. The Community Resource Directory includes listings for training, child care, services for the disabled, elderly, indigent, and other agencies and organizations that serve the community.

It can be accessed through the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board's Internet website at [www.cvworkforce.org](http://www.cvworkforce.org). Friends of Historic Sonora/Main Street Program, Sonora Chamber of

Commerce, Sutton County Public Library and many other local service providers also received copies of the Community resource Directory.

For more information, contact Mary Kay Kuss with the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board at (915)655-2005.

The Community Audit Demonstration Project is 35% federally funded by the Department of Labor in the amount of \$49,827, 30% funded by the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board, and 35% regional partners.

## Rangeland Workshops Set For January

Two workshops that will assist landowners in rangeland restoration and prescribed rangeland burning have been scheduled for January by the Academy for Ranch Management. Both workshops will be held at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station near Sonora.

The first workshop is set for Jan. 16-18, and will focus on rangeland restoration. The workshop will cater to those who have little practical knowledge of rangeland management.

"These individuals may, however, be eager to learn more about the natural resources of their ranch and how they can improve upon past management," said Ray Hinnant, one of the instructors for the academy and senior research associate with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The course starts with a history of grazing on the Edwards Plateau. Participants explore the resources available on the ranch in an outdoor environment, and are introduced to native plants, the way they grow and why management of grazing is so important. Also discussed are the different ani-

mals that graze the plants, including livestock and wildlife.

Participants learn to use tools that will help them evaluate the current condition and the trend (improving or degrading) of their pastures. They are also introduced to The Grazing Manager, a software program that helps managers plan and monitor the grazing on their ranches.

The participants are divided into groups for more interaction between the students' and the instructors. The groups develop a grazing and brush management plan for an example ranch and present the plan to the other participants.

A second workshop, on Jan. 23-25, will focus on rangeland burning. This course will provide the basics of identifying the purpose, providing fuel, developing a fire plan and conducting a burn on a ranch.

Registration for the courses is \$395 each, with early registration encouraged. To register for either workshop, or to learn more about the programs, go to <http://rangeweb.tamu.edu/arm>, or call Hinnant at (979)845-5580.



Emergency crews respond to 9-1-1 call at Rock Inn.

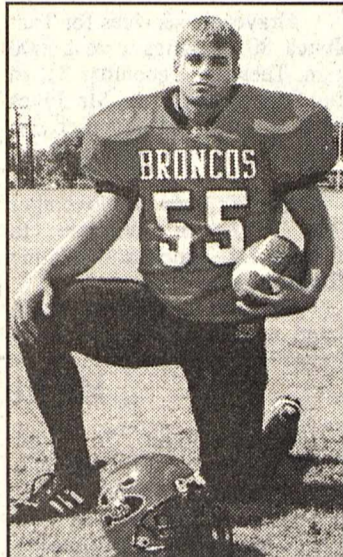
## Christmas Stabbing Leaves One In Intensive Care

by Storie Sharp

A Christmas night disagreement led to a female victim being taken to Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital with stab wounds to the chest.

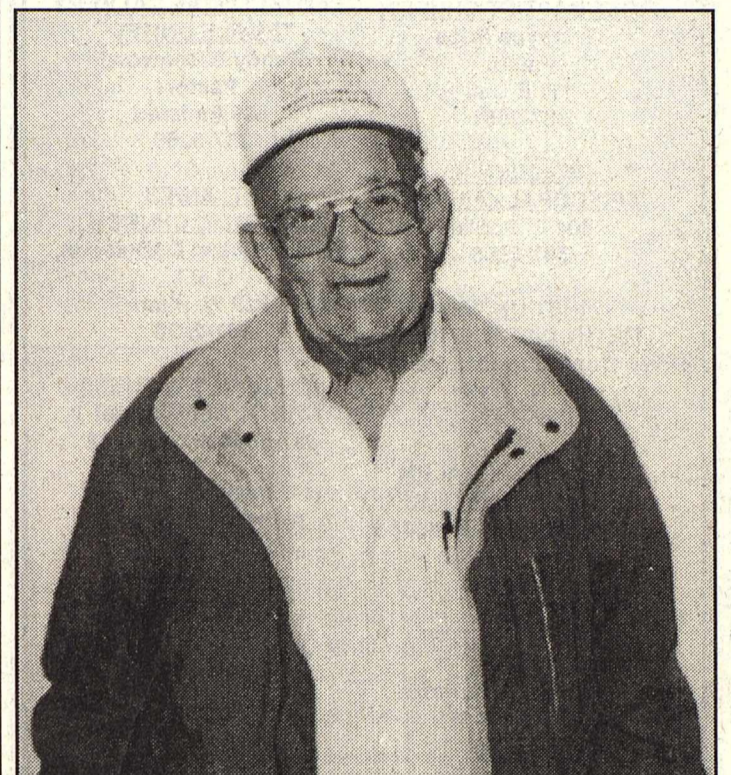
The Sutton County Sheriff's Dispatcher received a 9-1-1 call around 10:00 p.m. on the night of December 25, 2002 reporting that there had been a stabbing in the mobile home located behind the Rock Inn. Sonora City Police Officer Dick Dudley, Texas State Trooper Earle Williams and Sutton County Deputy Bob Hartman arrived at the scene, where a female victim was found

## Bloodworth Named To 2002 Standard-Times All-West Texas Football Team: Class 2A



Sonora Bronco Thomas Bloodworth was chosen as the 2002 Standard-Times All-West Texas Linebacker. The Senior is credited for 140 tackles this season, including five sacks. Thomas is the son of Lee and Darlette Bloodworth.

## Public Utilities Director Retires After 38 Years With The City of Sonora



submitted

James McLaughlin, Director of Public Utilities, has retired following 38 years of service for the City of Sonora.

James went to work for the City of Sonora on September 8, 1964 in the public utilities department and was promoted to Director of Public Utilities in 1985. To call James a rare breed would just make him laugh. It is rare; however, to be fortunate to have an employee stay as long as James has and it's also rare for someone to serve the community with the dedication and loyalty the residents of Sonora have received. He is a guy who served the community from the heart.

James has extensive knowledge about the city's utilities and will be missed. The City know that he is only a phone call away, but also knows he "deserves a rest."

In his civic life, James was involved with the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department, retired from the department in 1992.

James has lived in Sonora his whole life and plans to continue to stay here. He has been married to Phyllis for 44 years and they have raised three children, Wayne, Christl, Shawna and one grandson, Jeremiah. In retirement, he plans to enjoy having more free time to spend with his family.

## One Vehicle Roll-over Claims Life of Local Rancher

by Storie Sharp

Faulty evasive action is reported to be the cause of the one-vehicle rollover on Monday, December 23, 2002 that claimed the life of local rancher and businessman Walter C. Pope III.

Texas State Trooper Cody Cory, who was assisted at the scene by Mertzon Highway Patrolman, Steve Torres, reported that Pope's vehicle veered and fell off a lip on RR 2084. An apparent over-correction caused the Chevrolet Pick-up to roll one time, ejecting Pope, resulting in fatal injuries.

The ex-Marine was well known for strict conservation methods that kept his ranch extremely well tended and beautiful to look at. Walter was also known as one of the first area ranchers responsible for importing Boer Goats into West Texas. The industry caught on and has grown to be a large agri-

cultural market.

In addition to ranching, Walter owned and maintained properties in Sonora, including the Devil's River News office at one time and presently the Mercantile Building. He took much pride in the restoration and upkeep of the old building located at the end of Main Street, making it a complimentary piece of Sonora's history.

Walter was active in politics, as well as many community projects and enjoyed entertaining friends and family at his home with Dorothy, his wife of 53 years. He was a faithful and active member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Sonora. Walter's mischievous sense of humor will be missed by many. Walter and Dorothy raised three children, Janet, Cora and Walter C. Pope IV (Cades). A memorial service was held on Friday, December 27, 2002 (see obituary page 2.).

## Smallpox Vaccination Plans Raise Questions

by Linda Anderson

COLLEGE STATION - Smallpox, a highly contagious disease which was part of human history for thousands of years, hasn't been a fact of life for about 25 years. But now the threat of smallpox as a weapon of bioterrorism is in the news, and people are concerned. And with good reason.

Thanks to a worldwide vaccination program, the last naturally-occurring smallpox outbreak in the world was in 1977, in Somalia. The last time an outbreak occurred in the United States was in 1949. And the last time anyone received a routine smallpox vaccination in this country was in 1972.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have become more and more aware of the possibility of bioterrorism launched against this country. And one of the weapons most widely speculat-

ed to be used in these possible attacks is smallpox.

"Smallpox is highly contagious and easily spread, and in most of the world people are not immune," said Dr. John Quarles, department head, medical microbiology and immunology, College of Medicine, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center. For use as a weapon of mass destruction, "smallpox is a logical choice because it's a nasty thing."

Because of the successful immunization program, smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980 and all samples of the disease - except for samples held in Atlanta and in Moscow - were said to have been destroyed. However, according to a story published Dec. 12 on MSNBC.com, "Experts worry that some of the Russian sample could have made its way to hostile nations, a fear that is amplified as the United States faces

possible war with Iraq."

According to an article by Dr. William J. Binknell of the Boston University School of Public Health, and published in the New England Journal of Medicine (April 25 online issue <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/346/17/1323>), more than 119 million U.S. residents have been born since the last routine vaccination was given 25 years ago. And the 157 million residents who were born earlier than that and did receive the vaccination have no way of knowing if their immunization is still providing protection.

Earlier this month, President Bush announced a plan to begin smallpox vaccinations for military personnel, followed by vaccinations for emergency personnel such as police officers, firefighters and medical workers. Unless an emergency situation arises in the meantime, the vaccination is

scheduled for voluntary administration to the general public in 2004.

But over the past 25 years, the need to even consider smallpox and/or its vaccination has faded. And now many people are finding themselves confused - should they and their children even consider getting the vaccine when it becomes available, or is the vaccine itself too dangerous? Quarles offered some advice: First of all, he said, don't panic. This is the best time to "study about and learn about (the vaccine) and make a choice."

Currently somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 million doses of the smallpox vaccine are available - more than enough to inoculate the entire population of the United States, said Quarles - so earlier worries about not having enough

See Smallpox page 5



**Ask the Historical Society**

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

We didn't have any questions this week probably due to the Christmas rush. Speaking of Christmas, it seems that Santa Claus forgot us this year. The following items we desperately need didn't appear under the tree in the depot: a vacuum cleaner and a shop vac to use in all the buildings; a computer system for the office so that I can have mine back; a micro-wave to use in the office; shelves for the newspapers and archival items; money to paint the inside and outside of the John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building (Depot) and replace a 13 year old a/c unit that is in really bad shape; furniture for the waiting room; money to paint the exterior of the Miers Home Museum and to buy lots of windows to replace broken ones in our new property; the annual premium on insurance on all the buildings; picnic tables for the grounds; new lighting for the exterior and some rewiring to bypass the burned out timer and put things on switches for the outside lights.

Santa probably took one look at this list and threw his arms up in horror and ran away. It is too much to expect from one person but if everyone gave a little these things could be done. This is your history, if you don't give a little every year to support it we can't preserve it. With over 3,000 people in this county if everyone gave only \$10 a year we could have beautiful, well preserved buildings and grounds and even be able to have young people do tours of the museum and depot.

We get no money from the City or County or any Hotel/Motel Tax Money to preserve your history. The books we have published bring people into our historical district. They want to see where the history of your county took place. Your history is one of the biggest

tourist draws you have. None of our workers are paid employees, they are all volunteers. We keep expenses to the bare bones. Many people come to the Sutton County Historical Society properties to tour them, do research, or just to stroll around the grounds and relax from a long trip. Why do they stop here? Because it is a cool, shady, green spot after miles of semi-arid terrain. People that live nearby use the grounds regularly for walking or as a play area for their children.

A small group of us work very, very hard every year trying to keep things up, raise funds and plan improvements to properties. We can't do it alone and we can't do it without monetary support. Please send your donations or dues of \$10 per person, per year, to Al Elliott, treasurer, Sutton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885.

Devil's River News, January 8, 1943 - Major Roy Ward has been made executive officer of Randolph Field at San Antonio. He graduated with the first basic class ever graduated at Randolph, "West Point of the Air," in 1931, he has been serving as post operations officer. Major Ward attended the University of Texas, receiving degrees in advanced accounting and law there.

Cpl. Alfred Schwieng, Jr., Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, wrote "I sure wish I could have been there Christmas Day to help eat that turkey. I'm sorta homesick for you folks, because this weather and country here isn't to my taste. I'd like to be home, and have some fresh meat. It would taste pretty swell."

Seaman 2-c Pete Cook wrote from Pearl Harbor, "I still haven't finished school. Radio isn't too hard after all. Not as hard as I thought it was going to be. I guess life for me lately has been about the same. Eat chow in the morning, go to school until chow again, go back to school until chow

again, write a few letters, take a shower and go to bed."

Cpl. A. W. Awalt wrote from Camp Wolters "I'm really planning on a big celebration for seeing the New Year in tonight. I'm in charge of a quarters detail in a building full of men with severe colds and this light pneumonia epidemic that is in Camp. I'm on duty from 5:30 New Years Eve until 5:30 New Years Day. To top it off I think I will get guard duty over the week end. Louis Davis called me just before he left for California."

Pvt. Jessie Kring, U.S. Air Force, A.P.O. 603, C.P.M. Miami, Florida, states, "I am getting along fine I guess. I got busted back to a private. I went to sleep on duty. It's a wonder I didn't get shot. I'll have my sergeants rating back before long. I am working tonight. I have some music on the radio from London. I sure would like to have some lettuce. I haven't had any green vegetables since I have been here."

January 15, 1943 - The Reverend F. L. Meadow, was elected new Tail Twister, at the Lions Club luncheon Tuesday. G. G. Bennett was appointed jailer and he and Mrs. Bennett will move into the County Jail. Bennett has been caretaker of the Court House and grounds for several years.

January 22, 1943 - Miss Norma Lovelace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Lovelace, was one of twenty-three student nurses at the Shannon Memorial School of Nursing in San Angelo, who received their caps Friday night. Pinning on the caps signified that the nurses had completed the six months of preliminary nurses training.

Lt. Serena Trainer, Army Nurses Corp, Brooke General Hospital, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas writes, "The twenty-sixth of this month, I will have been in the Army three months. I am now working in an Isolation Ward, where we care for patients with pneumonia, mumps, scarlet fever, influenza, spinal meningitis, etc. It is

in an old wooden rambling building that was used during the last war. I am working 12 hour night duty and must close and look after my boys."

Staff Sgt. Tommy Thorp is in India and Pvt. Melvin "Buster" Shroyer is at gunnery school in Panama City, Florida January 29, 1943 - Mrs. Joel Shelton was re-elected chairman of the local Red Cross chapter

Mrs. D. L. Locklin, Red Cross sewing chairman, announced that the local chapter received 497 yards of material for men's nightshirts. The sewing room in the Woman's Club house will be open each week, Monday through Friday, from 2 o'clock until 6 o'clock and all who can are asked to assist with the sewing.

Sgt. J. H. Brasher wrote, "I'm in Myrtle Beach South Carolina where I took my final test to become a gunner. To pass we had to shoot for an hour and forty five minutes from a plane flying at a 45 degree angle. I qualified in 3 missions and did swell." Gayle Grant, Pharmacist Mate Third Class wrote, "I will try and keep awake by writing a letter. It surely is hard for me to keep awake. I really hate this night duty. I can't sleep in the daytime as we had several operations today. We gave the natives a dance on New Years. We pay them \$5.00 a month to do our laundry and they do a very poor job. They beat the clothes clean with a stick. We lost our first patient January 2nd with pneumonia. I will make second class this month. That is equivalent to a platoon sergeant in the Army." Sutton County had 123 men in the Army, 35 in the Navy, 9 in the Marines and 1 in the Coast Guard.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to The offices are open Mondays, Tuesday mornings and Fridays.

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**Happy Birthday**

- January 2- Betty E. Lopez, Keith Hudson, Gretta Smith, Alex Morrow
- January 3- Camille Marshall, Lance Haynes, Missy Longoria, Melissa Fisher, Mikey Galindo, Armando Noriega, Norma Williams
- January 4- James Alexander, Katelyn Lipham, Cyndye Batchelor, Wylie Wagoner, Linda Neff, Elyssa Prieto, Ebot Flores
- January 5 - Demetrio Castro, Jr., Colton Hooper, Nicole Aguirre, Randy Garcia, Renee Smith, Lloyd Rennels,
- January 6 - Glinda Gutierrez, Bill Savell Jr., Glinda Gutierrez
- January 7- Rosa Gutierrez, Bethany Deel, Beth Wallace, Rosa Tamez
- January 8 - Kathy Marshall, Will Allen, Whiskey Hill, Lisa Karnes

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**Texans' Voice Their Opinions By Responding To Questionnaire**

by Jeff Wentworth  
State Senator, District 25

Communication between elected officials and constituents is essential for effective representation.

To ensure that your concerns are reflected in new bills that I introduce or existing laws I might vote to repeal in the 78th Legislature, I included a questionnaire in my newsletter that was mailed to registered voters in Senate District 25. I appreciate the more than 8,000 of you who shared your opinions on issues that are important to you.

Adopting a budget is probably the most important and difficult thing we do in the Legislature. Because a budget shortfall could necessitate budget cuts, I asked what areas you would cut. More than 54 percent chose business and economic development.

The other choices were 47 percent environmental protection, 40 percent higher education and 30 percent health and human services. Public safety, highways and public transportation and public education were areas where the fewest of you wanted to see budgets cut.

Although constituents are overwhelmingly in favor of lowering school property taxes, you are not so united on ways to replace the resulting deficit. Forty-three percent favored an expanded or increased sales tax, 38 percent chose a business activity tax and 21 selected a statewide property tax. Only 12 percent favored a state income tax.

You were closely divided on taxing Internet sales. Forty-seven percent favor an Internet sales tax, while 42 percent oppose it.

Another issue that evoked an almost evenly divided response was life imprisonment without parole as an

alternative to the death penalty.

Forty-nine percent oppose that option, while 44 percent support it.

Fifty-two percent of you do not want the Legislature to further restrict abortion beyond the third trimester, which is current Texas law.

Your concerns about traffic safety are reflected by a 68 percent response in favor of the use of cameras at intersections to record license plate numbers of drivers who run red lights. Almost 70 percent of you want to require motorists to use only hands-free cell phones in moving motor vehicles.

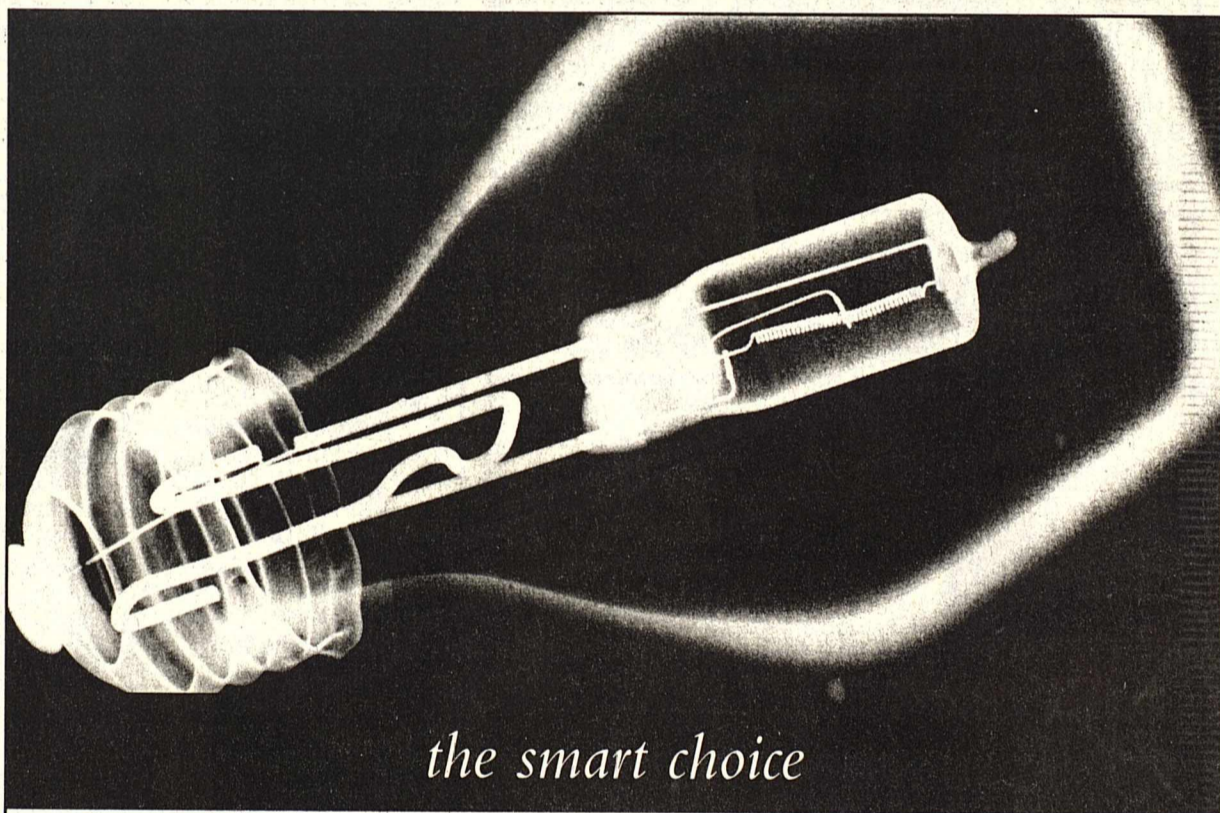
The 58 percent of you who favor requiring schools to set aside one minute each day for meditation, reflection or prayer may want to follow the progress of Senate Bill 83, which I have already pre-filed.

The bill tracks a recent United States Supreme Court decision that upholds a Virginia law which includes the word "prayer" in options offered to students.

Sixty-one percent of you favor the bill we passed in 2001 that prohibits schools from starting before the week in which August 21 falls.

The rising cost of health-insurance premiums will be a major issue this session. Fifty-three percent of you favor eliminating some required coverage, such as hearing screening for newborns, contraception and chemical dependence, if it would reduce health insurance premiums.

I encourage you to stay in touch with me on these and other state issues by calling my Capitol office toll-free at (888) 824-6984 or my San Antonio district office at (210) 826-7800.



**From Coal Lamps to Light Bulbs**

Most of our members are too young to remember when "lamp" meant "coal oil lamp." Heck, so are we. 1937 is the year most cooperatives started spreading the light. Before then, farms and ranches depended on wood stoves and coal oil and ice blocks for light and cooking and refrigeration. At the time, private power providers didn't see any profit in putting electricity in "the sticks."

So rural families got together and formed electric cooperatives, and with the help of government loans, did it themselves. Just ordinary people, many of them our grandparents and great-grandparents, but they spread the light in the dark land between the cities. All because they believed in the power of people working together: cooperation.



Electric deregulation is based on the belief that competition is better than cooperation. Put electricity on the market and it'll be cheaper. Maybe, maybe not. For now, Southwest Texas Electric Co-op has decided not to opt in to deregulation, at least till we're sure it's right for our members. We think the smart choice is to "wait and see." After sixty years, we've learned a little patience and that what's good for city folk doesn't necessarily apply out here. For more information, visit our web site or call your local Smart Choice Cooperative.

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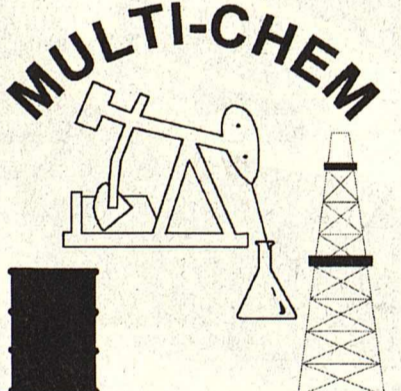
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 (R) (PG) 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:35 9:30  
 CRAZY NIGHTS (PG-13) 1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:35  
 ANALYZE THAT (R) (R) 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:35  
 MILE (R) 2:00 4:45 7:30 9:50  
 FRIDAY AFTER NEXT (R) 2:30 5:00 7:40 9:40  
 SANTA CLAUSE 2 (R) (G) 4:00 4:15 7:00 9:20  
 THE RING (R) (PG-13) 1:50 4:25 7:15 9:45  
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**Jan. 7**  
 Eldorado • There  
 6:30 p.m.  
  
**Jan. 3**  
 Reagan County • There  
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**Jan. 7**  
 Eldorado • There  
 5:00 p.m.  
  
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**Jan. 9, 10 & 11**  
 Wall Tournament  
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**Little Adkins Wins T&C Village Market Giant Stocking**



T&C Village Market Manager, Johnny Acuff announced Christopher Adkins, the son of Thomas and Dawn Adkins of Sonora, was the "big" winner of the overstocked Christmas stocking given away by T&C Village Market. The stocking, which Christopher could get lost in, is full of toys, books and other goodies. Congratulations Christopher.

**Ex-Sonora Lawyer Disbarred**

The December issue of the Texas Bar Journal reported the following Disbarment information regarding Leila Bouhassis. Bouhassis practiced law in Sonora for a short time. On Aug. 1, Leila M. Bouhassis [#24003386], 32, of Keller received a default judgment of disbarment. An evidentiary panel of the District 6-A Grievance Committee found that in one case, Bouhassis settled a legal malpractice case through mediation. She failed to inform her client of the receipt of a portion of the settlement proceeds, and failed to promptly disburse the funds. She also misrepresented to her client that she had not received funds from the defendant. Bouhassis failed to account for the funds and misappropriated the funds for her own use. In a second case, Bouhassis was hired to handle an uncontested divorce, but failed to perform any meaningful legal work on the matter, obtain a final hearing setting, or finalize the divorce. She also relocated her office without notifying her client of the new address and failed to respond to her client's requests for information. In a third case, Bouhassis was hired to represent a client in a medical malpractice matter. She failed to appear in court or inform her client of court dates. She also failed to respond to her client's reasonable requests for information, keep her client informed of the status of the matter, or notify the client of her new address or telephone number. Bouhassis failed to respond to the grievance committee. She violated Rules 1.01(b)(1) and (b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.04(d), 1.14(a), (b), and (c), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(8). She was ordered to pay \$17,820.58 in restitution, \$1,875 in attorney's fees, and \$841.68 in costs.

**Card of Thanks**

**A Note of Appreciation to the Sonora Merchants:**  
 The Friends of Historic Sonora/Main Street Program and the Chamber of Commerce would like to express our appreciation to the Sonora Merchants Association for their donations and support of the great community that we live in. The Christmas Promotion was a tremendous success and this would not have been possible without the support of everyone in our town. Thank you all for shopping Sonora! A special Thank you is extended to KHOS Radio, The Devil's River News, Alco, Dairy Queen, First National Bank of Sonora, The Bank & Trust of Sutton County, Pizza Hut, Taco Grill, La Mexicana, Gifts Galore & More, Corner Drug Store, T&C Village Market, Parker Lumber "Do It Best", Cellular One, Ol' Sonora Trading Co, Busy Bee Dept. Store, Tedford Jewelry, Team Graphics, Sonic Drive In, The Video Store, image apparel, Teaff Oil Co., Lisa's Flowers & Gifts, Flowers by Irene, Ronda's Styling Haus, Sutton County Steakhouse, Ronnie Cox (for donating the cost of cleaning up the Sutton County 4-H Civic Center) Preston Faris (auctioneer) and any and everyone that helped make the Santa Buck Silent and Live auctions possible. Happy New Year from the Sonora Merchants Association, Sonora Main Street Program and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

**F.Y.I.**

The Girl Scouts are collecting your used Christmas Cards! Please don't throw them out! You can leave them on the porch at the Girl Scout Hut. Or leave them at Busy Bees Daycare Center. If you prefer us to pick them up, call and leave a message with Nelda Tobias at 915-387-5390. Thanks for your help!

The next Grief Support Group will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m. at The Bank & Trust Community Room. If you have experienced the death of someone close to you, you are urged to attend. For more information contact Kathy Hearn at 387-2593 or 387-2096.

**Little Dribblers Practices**  
 3rd grade - 6th grade boys will practice from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on January 11th, 18th, & 25th. 3rd-6th grade girls will practice on the same days (1/11, 1/18 & 1/25) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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.

Parent information classes are being offered weekly at the Elementary auditorium. Classes are on Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Area agencies along with school staff will be presenting information on a wide range of topics such as positive behavior support, building self-esteem in your children, nutrition, and much more. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

The Depot may be rented by calling the Sutton Co. Historical Society at 387-5084. Open Mondays, Tuesdays until noon and Fridays.

**New Contests Added To San Angelo Creative Arts Show**

San Angelo - Imagine the smell of homemade bread, the taste of homemade pie, the beauty in an original artwork or the smile of a young man when his model car is awarded a blue ribbon. Experience this and much more during the Creative Arts Show at the 2003 San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo - February 15-23.

General superintendent for the creative arts show, Eva Lee Chatham, "wishes to extend a warm invitation to all area residents to participate. The creative arts division offers a way for everyone to take part in stock show activities."

Special culinary contests include: Mexican Food Entries, Italian Food Entries, a Tex-Mex Recipe Challenge and "Kids-R-Cooking". These special contests will be held Saturday, February 15 through Saturday, February 22 during stock show week. Visitors are welcome to watch the judging, even if they do not compete. DeCoty Coffee and Tabasco are special event sponsors.

Other competition categories include: clothing, hobbies and crafts, needlework, ceramics, porcelain dolls, art and photography. Special divisions are offered for youth, adult and senior citizens.

All entries require an entry fee. General divisions are \$1 per entry and in special contests entries are \$2 each.

Interested in pottery, whitening, painting, quilting, singing and dancing? It is all in one building, all nine days, during the Creative Arts Show. Carol Santry, special events superintendent, is seeking "local non-professionals to participate in the show. It is our desire to showcase our local talent, youth, visual, manual, ethnic and folk arts." Artists may contact Ms. Santry at (915)949-5524.

Entry forms for all categories must be received in the stock show office or postmarked no later than Saturday, January 11. Catalogs and entry forms may be picked up at the stock show office or by calling (915)653-7785. Additional information is available at www.sanangelorodeo.com

*Keeping an Eye on Texas*

**Mexico Water Debt**

The South Texas Border region would have gained more than 3,000 jobs and nearly \$80 million in personal income in 2002 if Mexico had delivered over the last 10 years the minimum amount of water required through a water-sharing treaty between Mexico and the United States.

Based on the treaty's guidelines, Mexico's failure to deliver an annual 350,000 acre feet of water to the U.S. has cost Texas some 448 billion gallons of water, resulting in more than 3,300 jobs and \$105.76 million in personal income not realized statewide in 2002.

Source: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**Oil & Agribusiness**

**Smallpox from page 1**

vaccine in an emergency have been relieved.

The vaccine does cause some side effects, he said. And for a small number of people, those side effects can be deadly. Some experts estimate the vaccine could be life-threatening for one or two out of a million for healthy adults.

In his article in the New England Journal of Medicine, Bicknell stated that figures for 1968, the last year for which such data is available, show that of the 14.2 million people who were vaccinated that year, nine died – six who had received their first vaccination and three who had been revaccinated. That is a death rate of less than one person per million, he wrote.

Using that information to estimate the death rate among today's population, Bicknell wrote, shows a possible 180 deaths if vaccinations were to be given across the nation. He also pointed out that it is about the same number of traffic fatalities that occur every day and a half. However, he went on, complication rates may be higher because more people today have compromised immune systems.

Quarles agreed. More people today are on anti-cancer chemotherapy than were 25 years ago, he said, and back then no one had HIV/AIDS. And of course, he added, "years ago, parents caring for children receiving the vaccination were already vaccinated themselves – (newly-vaccinated) children were not bringing it into a home where others were unvaccinated."

Because people with compromised immune systems are more likely to suffer serious reactions to the smallpox vaccination – and because these reactions can be caused by accidental exposure to the vaccine – the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp) advises these people who have these conditions and their care givers not to participate in the voluntary vaccination program:

- Eczema or atopic dermatitis, even if the condition isn't active, is a mild case or was a childhood condition.

- Burns, chickenpox, impetigo, severe acne, psoriasis, shingles or herpes. People with these conditions are advised to wait until healing is complete before receiving the vaccine.

- Compromised immune system from cancer treatment, organ transplant, medication or autoimmune condition.

- Pregnant or plan to become pregnant within a month of the time the vaccination is given.

- Allergies to the vaccine or any of its ingredients.

- Children younger than 12 months; in fact, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices also advises against anyone younger than 18 years receiving the vaccine except in an emergency.

- Anyone with a short-term illness. These people are advised to wait until they are well before getting vaccinated.

- Anyone who is breast-feeding.

But, the CDC warns: "People who have been directly exposed to the smallpox virus

should get the vaccine, regardless of their health status."

Healthy people who take the smallpox vaccination can expect some side effects. The CDC lists these normal reactions:

- Soreness and redness at the vaccination site (usually on the arm).

- Swollen glands in the armpit of whichever arm received the vaccination.

- Possible low fever.

- One-third of recipients may feel sick enough to stay home from work or school, limit recreation or have trouble sleeping.

The CDC also lists some possible serious reactions. While these reactions aren't life-threatening, the agency wrote, they may require medical attention:

- A vaccinia rash or outbreak of sores in one area. This is caused by an accidental spreading of the vaccinia virus, usually by touch. This accidental spreading also be given another person. If it occurs in the eyes, it can damage sight or cause blindness.

- Widespread vaccinia rash. Sores breaking out on parts of the body away from the site of the vaccination may mean the vaccinia virus is being spread through the blood.

- Toxic or allergic rash in response to the vaccine.

- Life-threatening reactions, as listed by the CDC, are:

- Eczema vaccinatum, which are serious skin rashes caused by widespread skin infection. People with eczema or atopic dermatitis are especially vulnerable to this condition.

- Progressive vaccinia. This ongoing skin infection with tissue destruction can lead to death.

- Postvaccinal encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain.

"People with certain medical conditions – including people with weakened immune systems or certain skin conditions – are more likely to have these reactions and should not get the smallpox vaccine unless they have been exposed to smallpox," the CDC wrote.

Because the vaccine can be spread by touch, Quarles advised, keep the vaccination sites covered. And "stay away from people with suppressed immune systems."

What about older people who were vaccinated before 1972? "Older people's immune systems decline with age," he said, so they may experience more side effects than younger people. However, because they have already been vaccinated at least once, the possibility exists that their immune systems retain some kind of "memory response" to the vaccination, and their reactions will be less severe.

Deciding whether or not to be vaccinated against smallpox isn't something to undertake lightly, Quarles said. "The real question in making the decision is, how great to you think the threat is? If it's just a possibility, that's one thing, but if you think the threat is imminent, that's another. The decision must be made on a personal basis."

But remember: Don't panic. And learn as much as possible about the disease and the vaccination before making the decision.

**Comptroller Rylander Gives Opinion on Energy Conservation**

We've had some early blasts of winter in Texas and the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects a winter price increase for homes heated with natural gas, propane and electricity. Unless you're using solar energy or wind power, this affects you.

To keep those bills from rising, energy savings will be necessary. An arm of the Texas Comptroller's office, The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) is the state agency charged with helping Texans use energy more efficiently. While SECO works primarily with cities, school districts and state agencies to create ways to save your tax dollars through more efficient energy use, it's energy saving guidelines can help you and your family save energy and dollars in your home or business as well.

You may be thinking energy savings means sitting in a cold house with the lights turned off. Turning off lights not in use and turning the thermostat down while you aren't home obviously are good ideas and will help, but there are ways to save energy and money without sacrifice.

I know it sounds like losing weight without diet and exercise, but the leading force in increasing energy efficiency is technology. And keeping up with technology can not only dampen your heating bills, but also ease the pain of those scorching electric bills that arrive with the onset of summer air conditioning.

Heating and air conditioning equipment purchased and installed 15 years ago may use twice the electricity of today's energy efficient equipment. This means you can make up for the cost of a new unit with lower utility bills, and with twice the efficiency those savings come sooner rather than later.

Since heating and cooling unit manufacturers are now required to provide information about the energy efficiency of their products, take a little extra time and ask about the unit's energy use. Remember, a few extra dollars for a more energy efficient heater/air conditioner can save you much money in the long run. Similar improvements have also occurred in portable units. And if your old air conditioner breaks on the hottest day of July (they always do), it might actually be cheaper to buy a new one rather than fix-

ing an old energy deficient dinosaur.

And speaking of technology's aid in your quest for energy savings, use the Internet before you go shopping. SECO's web page www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us contains a host of energy saving ideas and helpful links that will help you find the energy ratings of all sorts of products for home and office. And don't forget to look for the Energy Star logo on the products you buy.

Simple common sense can save energy and money as well. If you and your coworkers are trying to warm up your office with inefficient space heaters you may be making that cold office even worse and wasting energy at the same time. If your space heater is near the thermostat, the heating/cooling system may not be working for everyone else, so more people have to use those inefficient appliances rather than letting the central unit do its job. Are you using an old stove for something that can be reheated in a more energy efficient microwave? Taking a look at your every day energy use may help you find new ways to save energy and that means saving money.

Saving energy isn't limited to adults. As one tough Grandma watching out for Texas, I want to help your school get tough on energy savings. SECO's Watt Watchers program involves students in energy efficiency, promotes activities that instill an energy efficient ethic in all aspects of school operations, and educates our future leaders about energy issues.

SECO is helping state agencies, cities and school districts save money, but these energy savings principles can help you and every hard working Texan keep more of your hard earned money in your pockets. For state agencies we are projecting a 15-20% savings in energy costs if energy savings plans are implemented. I hope these suggestions help you save money as well. Technology is everywhere, and it is helping energy efficiency and that helps the environment. For more information on SECO and energy saving tips for your family or business, visit:

www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us and www.texasenergy partnership.org

**A National New Year's Message From The Departments Of Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services**

On behalf of all of the families of our dedicated employees at the Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services, we want to take this opportunity to wish you and all Americans a happy and healthy New Year. We especially want to invite you, along with our Nation's children, youths, families, educators, health practitioners, and faith-based leaders to make healthy new years resolutions along with us.

The beginning of a new year is a traditional time when we make promises anew to ourselves, our families, and especially our children. Preparing to return to school and work from a busy winter break, we often pledge to do something a bit healthier – spend more time with our children and families, read more for ourselves and to our children, finish homework on time, eat more sensibly, exercise more, get more rest, procrastinate less, be in touch with family and friends more often. As we reflect upon 2002, many of us think about what went right over the year especially for our children and in what areas we want to improve. In looking forward to 2003, New Year's Day will be a time to enjoy festivities, football, food, and family fun. It is also a time when we want to challenge ourselves to keep our new years resolutions that will help make our lives, and our children's futures brighter to learn, to grow, and to develop their full potential.

In June, President Bush unveiled his HealthierUS Initiative, a common-sense approach to healthy living designed to raise awareness about the steps individuals can take to improve their overall health and wellness, including healthy eating. The Initiative has identified four keys to a healthier America:

- \* Be physically active each day;
- \* Eat a nutritious, balanced diet;
- \* Get preventive health screenings; and
- \* Practice healthy behaviors and decision-making.

A good deal of the work we perform at our three departments focuses on achieving the President's goals. We do research to learn more about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, educate families and children on what we have identified as healthy behaviors and help meet the nutritional needs of our citizens – particularly our young people who will be tomorrow's leaders. We are a nation of abundance and opportunity, and have advantages no other nation or generation has enjoyed. A healthy lifestyle can improve our readiness to learn, our energy to perform day-to-day tasks and promote well-being and prevent disease and disability. All of us can take simple, effective steps to improve our health:

- \* Take the steps instead of the elevator;
- \* Bring a piece of fruit along for a snack, instead of stopping for something loaded with calories and little nutritional value;
- \* Get out and play with your children;
- \* Read to your children and enjoy a healthy snack;
- \* Eat only half of your dinner and save the rest for tomorrow's lunch;
- \* Check with your doctor for health promotion and prevention screening and guidance; and
- \* Remember to always buckle in, buckle on, and buckle up.

As we look to the new year, we want to encourage our children and young people, in fact all Americans to join us in promoting a healthier lifestyle. We encourage opportunities to engage in healthful eating, exercise and playing together with our children. Let us enjoy the fruits of our harvest albeit in moderation.

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**RigDATA** Rig Locations as of December 27, 2002  
**Sutton County**  
 Dominion; 8400' Simmons Ranch #46, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 9625' WH Karnes - C - #4, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8550' Mayfield - 45 - #16, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8550' Mayfield - 45 - #11, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8340' Simmons Ranch #30, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8000' Shannon - 51 - #14, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 6800' Lancaster - 32 - #5, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 6300' Meckel - A - #56, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 5850' Vanderstucken - 51 - #8, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 5700' Canyon Ranch - 106 - #165, Patterson Drilling.  
**Crockett County**  
 J. Cleo Thompson; 9000' Vaughn - 86 - #1, Patterson Drilling.  
 New RME Petro Co.; 7500' Roy Henderson - 19 - #6, Patterson Drilling.  
 New EOG Resources; 6500' Eagle Draw - 12 - #1, Patterson Drilling.  
**Terrell**  
 Tom Brown Inc.; 20000' Muleskinner #1 H, Grey Wolf Drilling.  
 Conoco; 16000' Culbertson - 9 - #1, H, Nabors Drilling.  
 Athanor; 7735' Pakenam - 51 - #14 Nabors Drilling.  
**Edwards**  
 EEXE & P Company; 10500' Newby Gas Unit - 2 - #2, Patterson Drilling.  
 New Dominion; 8000' Canyon Ranch #2142E, Patterson Drilling.  


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