

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 115 • Issue 10

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Bronco Band Students Excel At U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble

Six members of the Mighty Bronco Band traveled to San Angelo on Saturday, March 1, 2003 to compete in the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contest at Angelo State University. The students did very well, bringing home three 1 ratings and three 2 ratings.

The students spent a month preparing a solo piece, which they played in front of a judge with a piano accompaniment.

Embre Smith and Will Crittendon, both playing the Trumpet and Bianca Lozano on the Baritone all received 1 ratings.

Kali Roberts playing the Flute, Mandy Brister on the Snare Drum and Christina Martinez on the French Horn each received a 2 rating.

The students are led by Mr. Thomas Bedwell.

Deer Round-Up Explores Deer Management



This deer flees census takers during a walking deer count at the Sonora Experiment Station. Photo by Bonnie Lou Campbell

by Bonnie Lou Campbell

The recent Deer Round-up held at the Sonora Experiment Station on Thursday, February 27th was sponsored by Edwards and Sutton County Texas Cooperative Extension Services and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. With nearly one hundred landowners and wildlife enthusiasts in attendance it was evident that the role deer management plays in Agriculture today is becoming more significant.

Russell Kott, County Extension Agent, Rocksprings, moderated the morning sessions. Participants were able to acquire 2 CEU's for this field day event.

Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor, Superintendent, Sonora Research Station, spoke about the economic importance of deer hunting. He explained that there were several factors that have influenced the importance and value of having a deer hunting enterprise, including the loss of the wool and mohair incentive, which resulted in reduced livestock income, landscape changes such as an increase in woody plants, and weather conditions such as drought. Taylor also mentioned that nearly 60% of the station's income is from their hunting enterprise.

Dr. Millard Calhoun, Professor, TAES, San Angelo, and Ben Taylor, Graduate Student, Angelo State University, both gave reports concerning the use of whole cottonseed as a supplement for deer in a study completed at the Sonora Experiment Station. This research was done to see how other animals i.e. hogs, raccoons, etc... (non-target species) would utilize the whole cottonseed. Their study concluded that the non-target animals would not consume the cottonseed.

However, the deer (target species) would be able to utilize the cottonseed as a supplement in their diet.

Ken Cearly, Research Associate, TAES, San Angelo, reported on the importance of monitoring aflatoxin levels in deer corn. Aflatoxin is a mold in corn that causes hemorrhages, and sometimes death in most wildlife species. Cearly stressed the importance of checking aflatoxin levels in the deer corn you purchase for your wildlife.

Dr. Dale Rollins, Professor, TCE, San Angelo, spoke about the use of fire as a tool for man-

aging the deer habitat. He stressed the importance of nutrition, age of deer and genetic sustainability as related to proper wildlife management.

Dr. Taylor gave an update on the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Association and its important role in fire management. Membership has grown over the past six years from 30 to 120 members today. Through fire management the burn association has helped to increase wildlife habitats throughout the Edwards Plateau region. Taylor gave an overview of the membership guidelines and shared some of the recent accomplishments of the association. The EPPBA has become yet another outlet for public awareness, using fire as a tool in the management of our deer habitat.

Dr. John Walker and Mark Alchin reported on the use of Surveillance Cameras for deer management. Alchin is from Australia and he is working on an internship with the University of Queensland. His research included a comparison of accuracy between Aerial, spotlight and remote-sensing cameras census techniques. His findings reflect the old adage "you get what you pay for". Alchin found that the Aerial census was fairly efficient but very expensive and that the brush cover was a hindrance. The spot light census was inexpensive but not totally accurate. The cameras increased the accuracy but proved to be time intense, involved more labor, and were also fairly expensive for cameras and film/disks. More data could be collected with the cameras and there were few limitations on the sites that could be surveyed. His studies were conducted over a six-week period.

Dr. Jim Cathey touched on some future deer studies to be researched on the Sonora Experiment Station.

After a catered lunch by the Sutton County Steakhouse the afternoon sessions, moderated by Preston Faris, began with an overview of the deer drive counts to be taken that afternoon. Participants were able to join in conducting a walking drive count through several high fenced areas on the Station. The first high fenced area to be counted was approximately 400 acres, containing 10 pastures

See Deer Count page 6

Sonora Students Advance To District Science Fair

by Storie Sharp

The Sonora Middle School 2003 Science Fair was held on Thursday, February 27th. All the students did a great job displaying their projects that they began working on in October. Each participant chooses a topic and then has to answer a question by designing and conducting an experiment to reach a logical conclusion.

There were many different projects in a vast array of topics, including Behavior and Social Science, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Gerontology, Mathematics, Medicine & Health, Microbiology, Physics and Zoology.

The students that placed in the top six advanced to the District competition in San Angelo on Wednesday, March 5th. If any of the young scientists place in the top 3 at District they will continue on to compete at the State Competition. Good luck to all the competitors and congratulations on a job well done.

Advancing from Sonora are:
Behavior and Social Science
1. Taylor Liverman



2003 Sonora Middle School Science Fair Winners

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2. Stacey Sanchez | 6. Tyler Edmondson | 5. Jacob Ibarra |
| 3. Marc Hernandez | Earth and Space Science | 6. Stephani Morriss |
| 4. Kimble Luna | 1. Colton Moore | Mathematics |
| 5. Kooper Liverman | 2. Madeline Higdoo | 1. John Duke Hudson |
| 6. Rick Lozano | 3. Travis Valliant | 2. Laura Martin |
| Biochemistry | 4. McKenzie Watkins | 3. Kaitlyn Henderson |
| 1. Monica Traylor | 5. Amanda Berry | Medicine & Health |
| 2. Stevie Pacheco | Engineering | 1. Cody Perez |
| 3. David Buitron | 1. Tony Torres | 2. Kyla Turney |
| 4. Maria Leos | 2. Emily Newton | 3. Jessica Snyder |
| Botany | 3. Emilly Butler | Microbiology |
| 1. Jamie Duran | 4. Michael Branch | 1. Brandy Neff |
| 2. Starlyn Chadwick | Environmental Sciences | Physics |
| 3. Aaron Nitsch | 1. Kaija Valkonen | 1. Steely Ingham |
| 4. Meghan Krieg | 2. Justin Zuniga | 2. J.T. Downing |
| 5. Rudy Charo | 3. (tie) Shane Love | 3. Elbe Samaniego |
| Chemistry | 3. (tie) Lauren Schaefer | 4. Mark Holman |
| 1. Mandie Castilleja | Gerontology | 5. Dalton Dover |
| 2. Nick Shurley | 1. Chealsey Daniels | 6. Maritza Garcia |
| 3. Allyse Edmondson | 2. Jennifer Gonzales | Zoology |
| 4. Pecos Roberts | 3. Mackenzie Perez | 1. Emily Earwood |
| 5. Samantha Tidwell | 4. Nathan Mungia | 2. Clayton Sahr |

Ag Mechanics Projects Win Big At Stock Shows

by Michael Kissire

The Sonora FFA Ag-Mechanics team completed their show season at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Saturday. They had a very successful and rewarding season in competition.

The team competed with metal projects built in the high school Ag shop. Wylie Wagoner, Josh Hopkins, Shane Benson, and Brandon West fabricated a 28-foot gooseneck stock trailer. David Cook and Shane Benson constructed a truck flat bed. The team showed their projects at San Angelo, San Antonio (400+ projects), and Houston (600+ projects). The shows are broken into four divisions. They are Ag Machinery and Equipment, Electrical Equipment, Livestock Equipment, and Trailers. Each division is then broken down into classes of similar projects.

During the judging process, the projects receive

white, red or blue ribbons for quality. Only the blue ribbons are judged for class placing and awards.

The truck bed received a blue ribbon at San Antonio, and a blue and purple ribbon at Houston, and was first place in its class at both shows. The project was third in its class at San Angelo.

The trailer received a blue ribbon at San Antonio and Houston. It placed second in its class at both shows. It won Reserve Champion at Houston in the trailer division behind the overall Grand Champion of Show. The trailer won first place in its class at San Angelo.

The team brought home approximately \$5000 worth of tools and equipment from all of the shows as awards.

The Sonora FFA would like to express its thanks to all of its supporters and to the students for all the hours of work and the late nights that it takes to be successful.



Ag Mechanics students, Brandon, Shane, Wylie and Josh (above) and David with Shane (below) had a "trailer" load of loot after winning big in San Antonio, San Angelo and Houston.



Local Troopers Assist In Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery

by Storie Sharp

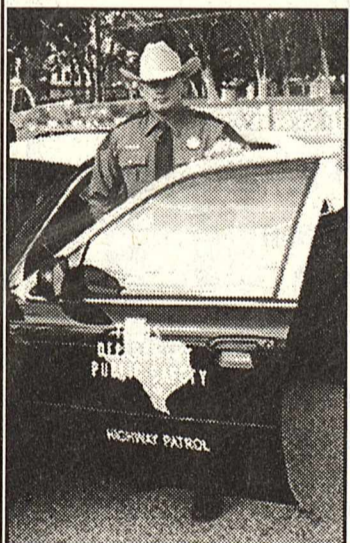
The search for Columbia shuttle debris continues, with more than 3,000 searchers representing 38 states having trekked daily through fields, forests and farm lands attempting to find any pieces that may help the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) determine the cause for the Columbia accident that occurred over Texas on February 1, 2003.

Some of Sonora's local law enforcement, State Troopers Cody Cory and Donald Van Zandt were a part of these search crews. The two were requested to assist in guarding the pieces that were found and were stationed in two different locations. Cody was in Nacogdoches and Van Zandt was in Lufkin. Our troopers

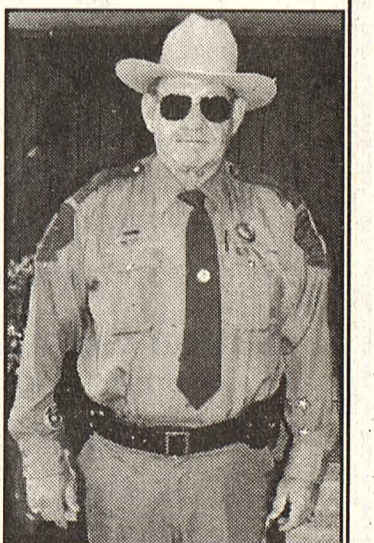
worked 16 hour shifts for two weeks, guarding the drop off point and assisting with pick-up when a piece was found. Each piece was numbered and GPS coordinates were taken of the location where it was found. The work was tedious, but necessary for officials to piece the shuttle back together to try to determine the cause of the explosion.

Van Zandt commented that the local people were remarkable with all that they did, supplying endless amounts of food, shelter, supplies, etc. for the searchers and volunteers.

The search is now intensifying based on initial success with grid-search techniques, and because spring vegetation growth is expected to make recovery efforts more difficult.



Trooper Cody Cory



Trooper Donald Van Zandt

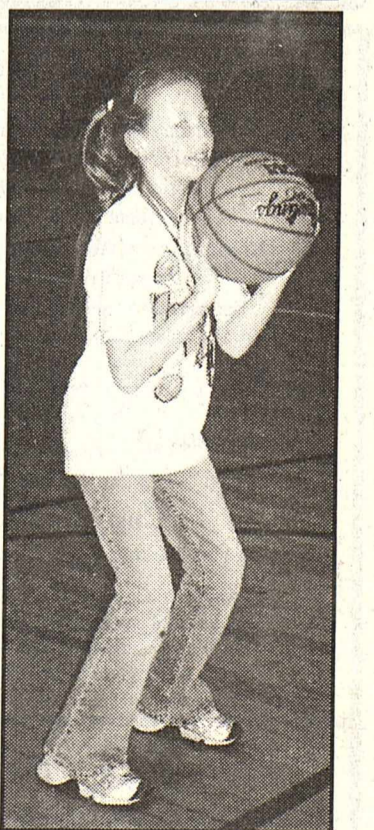
Smith Shoots For State

Morgan Smith is on her way to the Knights of Columbus State Competition in Austin after making 13 out of 25 Free Throws to win first place in her age division at the Regional Meet. The competition was held in Wall on February 23rd. Morgan, Riley Sanchez and Bianca Sepeda competed against shooters from Wall, San Angelo, Midland, Odessa, Brownwood, Eldorado and Ozona.

Riley Sanchez tied for first in his division, but lost in the shoot-out, earning a second place win. Riley sank 15 of the 25 shots.

Bianca Sepeda also tied for first in her age group, sinking 14 of 25, but she also lost in the shoot-out and ended up in second place.

The Knights of Columbus Free-Throw State Competition will be held in Austin, Texas on Saturday, March 8th at St. Edwards University at 10:00 a.m.





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**
Pastor Mike Dixon
1306 Savell St.
387-5215



Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

Diana Green, R.N. Begins P.A. Training

Diana Green, R.N., has just returned to Sonora after spending January 27 through February 28, 2003 at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, where she began advanced training as a physicians assistant student. Ms. Green is one of the 59 students from a 24 state area to be admitted to the 12-month UND Physicians Assistant Program. She will continue the educational program under the supervision and guidance of Charles R. Pajestka, M.D. and will return to the University for periods of formal didactic instruction in April, September and January. She will graduate on January 23, 2004, and will then be eligible to take a national examination to complete the certification process.

PA's are health professionals who practice medicine with physician guidance and supervision. In collaboration with Dr. Pajestka, Diana will be able to participate in assessment, diagnosis and management of patients. The Physicians Assistant Program is located within the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Department of Family Medicine. The Accreditation Review Commission of Education accredits this 12-month program for the Physicians Assistant, Inc. One thousand three hundred thirty nine physician assistants from 47 states, Canada and abroad have graduated from the program since 1970.

Obituaries

Sue Turner Garrett

Sue Turner Garrett, 79, of O'Donnell died Monday, February 24, 2003. Services were at 2:00 p.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church in O'Donnell. Graveside services were on Sunday in Santa Anna. Arrangements were by White Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, Shag Garrett of O'Donnell; son, Jimmy Garrett of Sonora; daughters, Sandy Ryan of Anchorage, Alaska, Katie Garrett of Waco and Susan Enloe of Del Rio; and sister, Becky Garrett of El Paso.

Cards of Thanks

As many of you know we are in the process of cleaning up and rebuilding the old theater for our future Lighthouse home. There have been so many people giving up time out of their busy schedules to help make this happen. I thank each and every one of you who diligently work each Saturday (and some during the week) tearing down, hauling off, picking up and even providing meals.

Thank you John and Rita Meador of Meador Construction for the use of the dump truck and backhoe. I want to say a special thank you to Jimmy and Sharon Holman for donating the waterline and fittings. These people saw a need and without hesitation made sure the need was met. For this, thank you seems so very small. May God bless each of you.

Sincerely,
Tamra Wolfe

For the past few months the 7th & 8th grade Lady Colts have been blessed to have the opportunity to have Erica Schooley as a students coach. Coach Schooley has been an inspiration to these girls. During their basketball games & first track meet she watched over them with expertise and support. We appreciate your kind and loving help and wish you well in your future of education. We want you to stay, but know you will excel wherever you end up.

The 7th & 8th grade Lady Colts and their parents!

Ronnie Cox
loves
being your
Pharmacist

Senior Center News

- Mar. 10 - Bingo after lunch.
- Mar. 12 - Blood pressure/sugar checks with Interlink Home Health. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Call Center. FMI 387-5657.
- Mar. 13 - Work on Easter Crafts.
- Mar. 14 - We need volunteers to deliver meals to our home bound seniors. Sign up with one of our staff.

Senior Menu

- Mar. 10 - Beef stew with veggies, sweet peas, cornbread, citrus mix fruit.
 - Mar. 11 - BBQ chicken, beans, beets, rolls, pears with pineapple, chocolate chip cookies.
 - Mar. 12 - Salisbury steak with gravy, mustard greens, beans, bread, peaches.
 - Mar. 13 - Fried fish, hominy, broccoli, corn muffins, bread pudding with raisins.
 - Mar. 14 - Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, coleslaw, carrot cake.
- 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.

Community

- Mar. 10
County Commissioners Meeting
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.
- Mar. 18
Annual Lion's Club Broom Sale
8:00 - 5:00 p.m.
City Hall • U.S. Post Office

The Community Calendar



Calendar

- Mar. 24
County Commissioners Meeting
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

is made possible by:



207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy

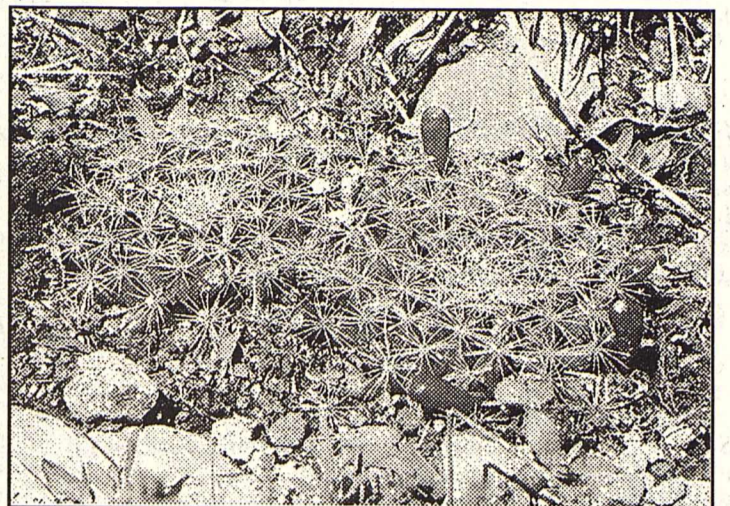
The Devil's River News encourages letters from its readers. Letters should be to the point, typed if at all possible and signed. Name, address and telephone number should be included for verification purposes. Letters will be printed on a space available basis. Letters should stick with issues, and not 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@sonorax.net

Eaton Hill News Signs of Spring on Eaton Hill



A *Mammillaria longimamma* (otherwise known as a nipple cactus) can be found when hiking on the trails of Eaton Hill.

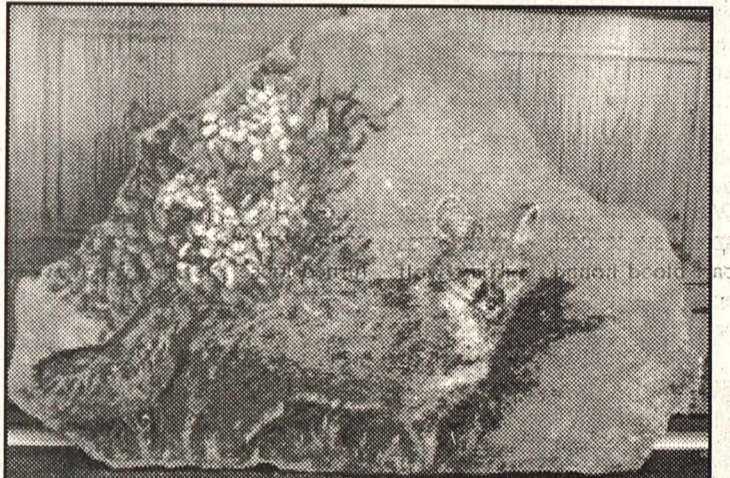
by Delyse Jaeger

Spring is bursting forth on Eaton Hill with early wildflowers, blooms, nesting birds and cactus fruit. Now, plant taxonomy is no simple endeavor but after much consideration, consultation and a few measurements, the cactus pictured above is believed to be *Mammillaria longimamma* or perhaps *Mammillaria heyderi*. In either case, it is commonly known as a nipple cactus, little chilis or *Biñaga de chilitos*. The club shaped fruit is sweet and tasty to birds, various mammals and humans alike. Native American shaman probably used the plant ceremoniously. This cactus can be difficult to spot because it grows flush with or just above ground level - that is until the fruit ripens to a bright red - easily catching a hikers downcast eye.

Recent rains should guarantee a magnificent display of wildflowers, especially bluebonnets this spring. In addition to the seeds broadcast by the Boy Scouts and several individuals, our local Soil and Water Conservation office recently secured a donation of ten pounds of wildflower seed from Turner Seed Co. in Breckenridge, TX.

Other sights to watch for on your next hike are the fragrant yellow agarita blooms, goldfinches at the feeders and the American flag once again adorning the night sky.

Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a project of the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation. We acknowledge recent volunteer efforts and donations by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Program, Historical Society, Kathleen Freeman, Phil and Lise Miller, Iris Garza, Tom Payton, Wayne Sawyer, Turner Seed and Ty Love. Thank you all for your support. Hit the trails and enjoy what nature has to offer on Eaton Hill!



New "Gray Fox and Texas Mountain Laurel" Trail Art can be found on Eaton Hill.

Two Car Accident Is No Child's Play



This 4-door Ford ended up in this yard after pulling in front of a Winnebago on Crockett Ave; Monday, March 3rd. The mobile home hit the car on the passenger side and sent it sliding into the yard, coming to a stop against the swing set. Both occupants in the car were sent to Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital where they were treated for minor injuries.

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

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Copy and Ad deadline
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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 2003
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Ask the Historical Society

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

We are searching for the location of the grave of Ysidora Hernandez, wife of Antonio Guardo. In the Devil's River News it states that she died on February 7, 1908 at the age of 113. This would make her the second oldest person ever buried in the Sonora Cemetery. If you know where her grave is please give us a call.

Q. Where did Pat Garrett, who killed Billie the Kid, die?

A. Devil's River News, Saturday, March 7, 1908-El Paso, Texas, Feb. 29-Pat Garrett, known the continent over as the man who killed "Billie the Kid" the notorious outlaw and one of the most prominent gun men of frontier days, was shot and killed today by J. Wayne Brazle, a youthful ranchman, near Las Cruces, New Mexico, in a dispute over a ranch lease.

Garrett had been on a visit to one of his ranches near the New Mexico town in a buckboard with a friend and was returning to Las Cruces when they were overtaken by Brazle. A quarrel between the principals followed, and Garrett is said to have reached for his shot gun. Brazle fired twice, both shots taking effect and Garrett fell dead.

The sole eyewitness to the shooting, Carl Adamson, told the story of the shooting in which Brazle was threatened by Garrett. Brazle declared the shooting was in self defense, but made no further statement. In the same issue it was reported that Mrs. D. Wallace was recovering nicely and returning to the ranch after being severely bitten by a dog at the ranch 16 miles south east of Sonora. The dog which had been raised on the ranch was in the chicken house and Mrs. Wallace tried to drive him out, he showed a surly mood and when she picked up a stick to make the beast obey her, the dog sprang at her biting Mrs. Wallace on the leg and both arms very severely. The dog was part blood hound and part wolf hound and while he would have protected Mrs. Wallace or the

children from anyone else, he would not submit to punishment.

Mrs. Wallace succeeded in getting away from the dog and sent her oldest son a chap of 6 years to the A. F. Clarkson ranch, 5 miles distant for assistance. The little fellow made the trip afoot and Mrs. Clarkson hurried with her buggy and team to the assistance of her neighbor. Mr. Wallace had been in town Saturday and was on is way home Sunday accompanied by his sister-in-law, Mrs. Joe Ross, when they met Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Clarkson. Mrs. Ross returned to town with Mrs. Clarkson and the injured Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Wallace continued to the ranch for the two children and arrived in Sonora less than two hours after the arrival of the ladies. Drs. J. S. Allison and F. H. White immediately proceeded to render the aid of their medical knowledge and on Tuesday Mrs. Wallace was doing nicely. Mr. Wallace had intended taking his wife to the Pasteur Institute at Austin Sunday night, but the physicians did not think it necessary under the circumstances.

Predators were a problem in the old days too as clearly illustrated by this story: Clement Bonterant, an Englishman, purchased a ranch in Texas a few years ago. He soon found that the coyotes were carrying off most of his calves and lambs. He employed Mexicans to capture half a dozen coyotes alive. He placed a sheep bell on each of these coyotes and turned them loose upon his ranch on the theory that the belled coyotes would frighten away all the other of the tribe off the place. Instead the belled varmints attracted other coyotes to them and in a few days each belled one had a big flock of followers, playing worse havoc than ever before. After many efforts the belled coyotes were recaptured and the bells removed from their necks. Mr. Bonterant then made the experiment of capturing a number of coyotes alive and placing them in a pen with mangy dogs. The coyotes soon contracted the mange and were turned loose. Nearly every coyote in that country is now afflicted with mange, but this is too slow a method of extermination.



Who had this beautiful rose garden?

Everyone is waiting to see what Mr. Bonterant will try for is next experiment.

Henry Ory is a "Water Witch" and will prove it to you for \$25. He has assisted the following ranches in getting water: G. W. Chesser, 218 and 224 full deep, W. Sulteymer 265 feet, E. R. Jackson 271, Bob Miers 375, Tom Deen 117 feet. Pay half down, balance when water is struck. If he fails, which may happen, he will return your money.

J. J. North is a candidate for the office of Sheriff and Tax Collector of Sutton Co. Joe North is known to nearly all the people of Sutton County, having been in the mercantile business for many years with the E. F. VanderStucken Co., and the Sonora Mercantile Co. But for the past three years has been engaged in the sheep business. For several years he has been solicited to make the race for Sheriff by his friends.

The Sonora & San Angelo Mail, Express and Passenger Line, E. R. Ames, Proprietor, has stage leaving Sonora at 10 o'clock p.m., making connections with the Santa Fe at San Angelo and leaves San Angelo upon arrival of the train and arrives in Sonora at 3 a.m. The fare is \$4 one way and \$7 round trip.

Advertisements: Fritz Huebner has taken over the blacksmith and machinist shop from Sam Merck that is located in the old Potter Shop. He does all kinds of iron and wood work and boilers can be refueled. B. F. Bellows is the undertaker and W. R. Clendennen is the proprietor of the Lower Feed and

Livery Stable. He has good teams for hire and large barns, good stalls with lots of room. He also has the only wagon yard in town and sells hay, oats, corn and bran. John Swinburn is a rock mason and does all kinds of stone and cement work in a first class style. R. Cruse is a reservoir and tank builder. Cooper and Savell have the Maverick Meat Market and would appreciate your orders.

If you have any questions, concerning Sutton Co. history or an old article that might be in the Devil's River News, send them to "Ask the Historical Society", P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to Or just stop by our offices at 307 Oak Street any Monday, Tuesday morning or Friday. The Office may be rented by calling the depot at 387-5084 the same days. If you stop in and ask we will be happy to take you on a tour of the Miers Home Museum the same days. The main purpose of the Sutton County Historical Society is to preserve the history of Sutton County and to make that history available for public use. If you want to look something up in the old files, tour the new building or the old ones on the grounds just stop in and we will be glad to help you. Our staff are volunteer workers who receive no pay for all the many hours of work they do but are very dedicated to preserving local history.

Notice: The public restrooms on the Sutton County Historical Society grounds will be closed for repairs. Like many here in town we have a broken pipe for the severely cold weather.

Gifts Galore & More
Bridal Registry
Christy O'Mealey bride elect of Levi Pool
www.giftsgaloreandmore-sonora.com
417 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2541

Tedford Jewelry
Bridal Registry
Christy O'Mealey bride elect of Levi Pool
Mrs. James Bradley Nicholls nee
Sandra Elaine Fuentes

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.


T-Saucer Ranch Country Retreat
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Cleve T. & Lolabeth Jones
915-387-5577
TOLL FREE • 1-877-901-5577
Email: ctjones@sonorax.net
Website: tsaucer.com
P.O. Box 986 • Sonora, Texas 76950

Happy 25th Anniversary

Felix & Espy Galvan

Love,
Felix & Emma
Roland & Leslie
Ricky & Cari,
your grandchildren
Caleb, Alize and the
Guerra Family

TEXAS TALKS TOLD BY
TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Mom & Pop Stores



Tumbleweed Smith
GOV-X.
That was the name of the first huge discount store I can recall. It was in Fort Worth and you had to have a membership card to shop there. I thought it was strange, something sinister and foreign, completely out of my experience. The name GOV-X sounded like something from another planet. It was scary. Little did I realize it was the future of shopping in America. The backbone of our economy used to be small, locally owned stores where the owners knew their customers personally and took a genuine interest in their lives. The stores created a strong sense of community. When you entered them, it was like going to a comfortable place, safe and secure. You saw the owner and his family and visited with them, exchanging information about nothing and everything.
I grew up in such a store in Fort Worth. My dad owned a grocery store at the corner of Yale and Notre Dame streets in River Oaks. He used to call it the most educated store in America. He worked hard. So did my mother. So did I. If your parents have a store, you work. It is the biggest thing in your life.
Our store had about a dozen employees. They all respected my dad. In addition to being an expert butcher, he was a philosopher who shared profound insight on current events. He constantly had a joke, story or poem about whatever subject was being discussed. He was pre-med in college, but quit to start his business.
State legislators from the Fort Worth area used to seek his advice on different issues.

Sentena/Garza Memorial Scholarship Fiesta Seeking Donations

It's time again for the Sentena/Garza Memorial Scholarship Fund Raiser. This is the 5th year the scholarship has been active, and since it was first started the committee has sought out "sponsors" for monetary donations.

The 5th Annual Benefit Dance for Sentena/Garza Memorial will be Saturday, March 29, 2003 at the Sutton County Civic Center, sponsored by Tedford Jewelry from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Music will be provided by "INDOMABLE", sponsored by David Creek and Creek Swabbing. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Extra drawings will be held during the dance with the purchase of dance tickets.

Sponsorship help pay for expenses incurred for the fundraiser, such as: music for the benefit dance, the rental use of the civic center, etc. All monies that are raised selling raffle and dance tickets are put directly into the fund, as well as all sponsorship unexpended

monies. The scholarship is used to assist in the education of one or more local High School Seniors seeking a degree at an accredited college, university, or trade school. No applicant is denied as a result of physical disability, age, race, religion or gender.

The Scholarship Committee started with (2) \$500 scholarship awards and now they award (3) \$500 scholarships. It is the hope of each committee member to have this scholarship fund continue as long as there is a dream and desire for the individual to continue their education.

We would very much appreciate your company/individual to be part of this scholarship fundraiser as a "sponsor". Any amount is more than appreciated.

For contact purposes, please call one of the following committee members; Gloria Noriega at 387-2558 or 387-5233 or Juanita Mesa at 387-5657 or 387-3410.

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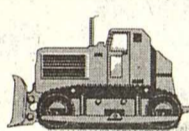
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Mobile 277-7832

F.Y.I.

Little Dribblers' pictures have arrived! Parents can contact Casey (387-5774) and go by and get the pictures from her. Cost \$24.

Sonora Little League and Pony League Try-outs will be as follows: Major League on Tuesday March 18 at 6:00 p.m., Pony League on March 18 at 6:30 p.m. (at the High School Field) and Minors on Thursday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m.

The Sonora City League will hold a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 6:00 PM at the Devon Energy Office in the Old Mercantile Building on Main Street. We will be discussing the Spring/Summer T-Ball/Baseball/Softball Season and all other aspects of City League business.

Daisy Troop #215 will be meeting as follows: 03/06/03 from 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. at the Girl Scout Hut; 03/20/03 from 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. at the Girl Scout Hut.

New Life Ministries Family will be visiting out of town this Sunday, March 9th at River City Fellowship in San Antonio, TX. Anyone interested in going please call 387-3241 to make arrangements.

Concerned Seniors will be kept up-to-date on all of the latest information available regarding Medicare and its continual changes. In addition, there are prescription drug plans recently enacted which will help pay for all or part of an individual's prescription drugs. Forms will also be given out for the Canadian Drug Program. This information will be provided by senior solutions on Thursday, March 13th at 12:00 p.m. at the the Sonora Senior Center. All Seniors are welcome.

The Sonora Ministerial Alliance Lenten Luncheon hosted by St. Ann Catholic Church will be at the St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall (404 NE Poplar) on March 12, 2003 at noon. Everyone is invited

The Chance Armke Memorial Fund is being administered through the Sutton County Community Trust. Any donations can be made in care of Joann Jones at the First National Bank, PO Box 798, Sonora, TX 76950.

The next Grief Support Group will meet Tuesday, March 11, 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.

The Annual Lions Club Broom Sale will be held on March 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in front of the Post Office and City Hall.

Beginning Wednesday, March 5, 2003, Thunderbird Transit will begin making scheduled trips to San Angelo for Medical appointments and/or shopping. The trips are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. The bus will start picking up passengers at 8:00 a.m. and plan to return from San Angelo at 2:00 p.m. This time schedule might change from month to month. Please call now at 387-2509 to make reservations, seating is limited. Don't forget this includes Medicaid and Medicare appointments.

GED classes are meeting at the Middle School building every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you've come before, come on back any time! If you would like to register as a new student, please come on Tuesday! For more information, call Laura Bedwell at 387-7190.

The 2003 Yearbooks are on sale for \$35. Come to the high school or send your payment to the following address: S.H.S. Yearbook Department, 807 SE Concho, Sonora, TX 76950. You can also call Kristin Keel at 387-6533 ext. 315 for more details.

More Winning Results From San Angelo Stock Show

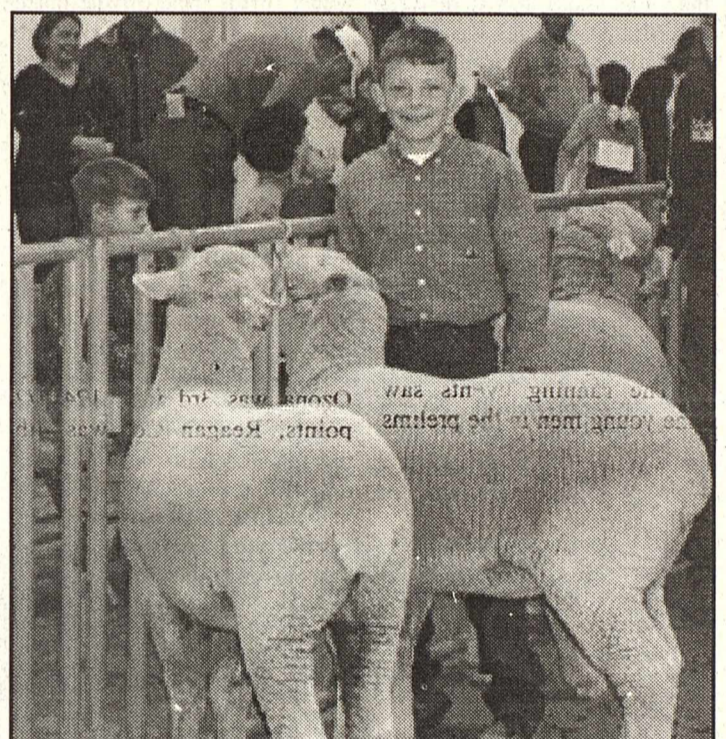
Last week's results from the San Angelo Stock Show were not complete, so we want to congratulate all the winners and share some more with our readers.

In the Wool and Mohair Fleece Show Thia McKissack showed for 3rd in the Yearling Ewe Wool Division and took 2nd and 3rd in the Ram Division of the Junior Wool Show. Thia also brought home a 2nd place ribbon in the Senior High Oils and Acrylics Show, with a painting she did of her mother and a friend.

Not a 4-H'er, but still representing Sutton County, Hensel Matthews was the Reserve Grand Champion in the Open Division of the Wool Show. Hensel also won 2nd and 3rd in the Yearling Ewe Open Division, 2nd and 3rd in the Yearling Ram Open Division and 1st in the Aged Ram Open Division.




103 exhibitors divided into 10 classes showed meat goats in San Angelo. Hunter Jennings, the 9 year-old daughter of Kate and Larry Jennings, showed her Class 1 meat goat to a first place win. This blue ribbon win took her to the San Angelo Premium Sale on February 22nd, where her 71 pound goat brought the fifth highest price, \$2300, of the 28 goats sold. The money will be put in savings for Hunter's future education.








Sutton County 4-Hers and their finewool ewe lamb pairs placed very well at the San Angelo Stock Show's Junior Lamb Futurity. Exhibitor scores were comprised of results from several areas including live animal evaluation, wool evaluation and a written test. Overall results were 4th Bailey Joe Pennington, 8th Steely Ingham, 9th Chelsey Lou Campbell, 11th Mandy Brister, 12th Colton Moore, and 15th Pecos Roberts.

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Chiropractic Care Questions & Answers

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Back Talk
Chiropractic Care Questions & Answers

Dr. Rico Forlano
Forlano Chiropractic Family Health Center
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Eldorado, Texas 76936

Lady Broncos Take Fourth At Buffalo Relays

The Sonora High School Lady Bronco Track Team opened their season Saturday, March 1st at the Stanton Buffalo Relays, finishing 4th out of 10 teams. Crane was 1st with 112 points, followed by Seminole with 90, Colorado City with 78 1/2, Sonora with 70, Reagan Co. with 67 1/2 and Denver City with 56.

Courtney Caruthers took 1st in the Pole Vault, clearing 6'6".

Elizabeth Elliott was 1st in the High Jump with a leap of 5'2", followed by Morgan Hobbs, 2nd, with a jump of 5'.

In the Long Jump, Elliott finished 2nd, jumping 16'8 3/4" and Megan Berry was 5th with a

15'2 1/2".

Erika McClintock ran the 3200m in 15:14 to finish 5th.

The 400m Relay team of Lauren Smith, Elizabeth Elliott, Danielle Matthews, and Megan Berry finished 2nd with a time of 53.27.

Cady Taylor, Courtney Caruthers, Lauren Smith and Danielle Matthews took 5th in the 800m Relay with a time of 2:01.06.

Morgan Hobbs finished 2nd in the 300m Hurdles, with a time of 51.16.

Megan Berry was 5th in the 200 with a time of 29.46.

The next meet for the Ladies will be on Saturday, March 8th at Reagan Co.

Lady Bronco Golf Team Prevails On Home Course



The Lady Broncos teed off on their own turf Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at the Sonora Girls Golf Tournament, driving and putting their way to first place. Four of the top ten medals were awarded to Lady Broncos, with Kayla McBride taking 2nd, Tamika Marshall 4th, Candise Martin 5th and Sarah Gutierrez 6th. Congratulations to all these ladies, keep up the good work.

Bronco Track Takes Off In Stanton

by Coach Favila

The spring has started and all the spring sports are in full swing. The Varsity Boy's track team competed in Stanton last week and placed seventh overall. The team competed with half the team because of the baseball tournament that was held her in Sonora. The team was able to see what kind of condition they were in and what needs to be done to get better.

In the field events, the team was led by **Scottie Moore** and **Anthony Longoria** as they placed second and third in the **High Jump** and **Long Jump**. Scottie, a state qualifier last year, jumped 5'10" to score eight points. Anthony, a freshman competing on Varsity, jumped a 19' 04 1/4" to place third. In the **Pole Vault** **Laramie Hall** and **Steven Duhon** placed fourth and fifth to help on the field events scoring.

Laramie vaulted 10' even to score four points and Steven vaulted 9'6" to score two points.

The running events saw some young men in the prelims but they were unable to compete in the finals due to them having to leave for the baseball tournament. **Dustin Martin** finished in fourth place in the **100 meters** with a time of 11.51 and **Hilton Bloodworth**, a freshman, scored a point in his first varsity meet with a time of 11.77 in the **100 meters**. The new event for the boys is the **800-meter Relay** and the team of **Cameron Cox**, **Juan Rodriguez**, **Wilson Wallace**, and **Dustin Martin** ran a time of 1:36.49 to place fourth. **Juan Rodriguez** was the only athlete to place first as he won the **300 Hurdles** with a time of 42.26.

The team will compete in Reagan County next week, with the 3200-meter run @ 9:00, field events at 10:00, prelims at 12:00 and finals at 2:00. I hope you can come support these young men.

The JV placed in 8th place overall with a total of 27 1/2 points.

High Jump
Miguel Vaquera - 5'2" sixth place

Pole Vault
Lance Roberts - 8'6" fifth place

Shot Put
Travis Heard - 35'8 1/2" fourth place

3200 Meter Run
Nick Favila - 12:30.30 fourth place

400 meter relay
Uril Santana, Diego Cardona, Brian Payton, Austin Wagoner - 49.11 sixth place

110 Hurdles
Boomer Galindo - 18.63 fourth place

100 Meters
Uril Santana - 12.69 fifth place

300 M. Hurdles
Nash Traylor - 47.53 fifth place

Embry Smith - 48.20 sixth place

1600 M. Run
Nick Favila - 5:44.97 sixth place

Middle School Track Season Starts With Colt Relays



Abraham Rivera keeps pushing to the finish line at the Colt Relays.

The 2003 Colt Relays were held on Friday, February 28, 2003. Sonora finished 2nd overall with 155 1/2 points. Wall was 1st with 180 points, Ozona was 3rd with 124 1/2 points, Reagan Co. was 4th with 86 and Junction was 5th with 29 points.

For the 7th grade boys, **Zadrian McGee** was first in the **Shot Put**, throwing it 34'3 1/2" and **Aaron Gaytan** was 4th, throwing the shot 28'11".

Alonzo Peña was 1st in the **Long Jump**, with a jump of 15'11 1/2". **Peña** also won 1st in the **Triple Jump**, with a 29'11 1/2" and **Hunter Lawson** finished 6th in the **Triple Jump**, with a 27'7".

Victor Vaquera finished 3rd in the **High Jump**, clearing 4'6" and **Colton Moore** tied for 5th, clearing 4'4".

In the **2400m Run** **Clayton Sahr** took top honors, winning with a time of 9:29.64. **Toby Ramsey** finished 6th in the 2400m, with a time of 11:30.09.

Sonora finished 2nd in the **400m Relay** with a time of 52.28 and 2nd in the **800m Relay** with a time of 1:51.53. They finished 4th in the **1600m Relay** with a time of 4:59.05.

Colton Moore took 2nd in the **800m**, running a time of 2:39.46.

In the **100m Dash**, **Peña** was 1st with a time of 12.10 and **Vaquera** was 5th with a 13.94.

Felipe Silva was first in the

400m Dash with a time of 1:08.34, followed by **Lucio Rodriguez** with a 1:09.17 for 2nd. **Zenon Acosta** finished 5th with a time of 1:11.20.

In the **200m Dash**, **Peña** was 2nd with a time of 28.58 and **Lawson** was 4th with 30.29.

Clayton Sahr took his second 1st in the **1600m Run**, finishing in 6:02.99.

The 8th grade boys had a team total of 51 points, putting them in 4th place behind Wall with 227 points, Ozona with 166 and Reagan County with 88. **Junction** finished 5th with 48 points.

J.J. Galindo finished 5th in the **Shot Put** with a throw of 36'5".

In the **Discus** **Augustin Vaquera** was 5th with 104'6 1/2".

Antonio Torres was 4th in the **2400m Run** with a 9:25.94. **Sonora** finished 4th in the **400m Relay** with a 51.48, 3rd in the **800m Relay** with a 1:49.77 and 4th in the **1600m Relay** with a 4:21.99.

Lito Trevino finished 6th in the **100m Dash** with a time of 13.14.

In the **200m Dash** **Alex Perez** was 3rd with a 26.62 and **J.J. Galindo** was 4th with a 26.66.

Jacob Ibarra finished the **1600m Run** in 5:46.53 for 4th.



Amanda Berry and Kayla Fields pass the baton in the Sprint Relay. The Sonora Lady Colts competed in the Colt Relays on Friday, February 28, 2003. Results were unavailable as of press time, please look for the Lady Colt results next week.

Happy Birthday

March 6 - Rachel Lira, Michaela Moore, Makayla Galindo, Lisa Herring, Jarrett Jackson, Matthew Young
March 7 - Felicia Sentena, Billy Bob Galbreath
March 8 - Kindra Bounds
March 9 - Jamayra Ramirez
March 10 - Lonnie Fox, Jane Rushing, Meghan Krieg, Kara Eaton, Jeannie Lozano, Dufonzo Villanueva
March 11 - Nelda Tobias, Jesse Crain, Word Hudson, Herbie Seaton, Estevan Chavez, Bonnie Chavez, Trudy Dell Williamson, John Wilson
March 12 - Jennifer Surber, Dora Gonzalez, Lesa Harris, Dominique About

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Spotlight On Sonora Bronco Baseball

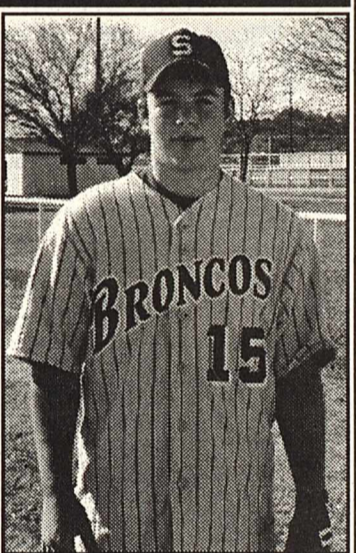
This week's "Spotlight" shines on:

Lance Roberts

Lance is the 16 year old son of Terry & Shanna Roberts. He is a Sophomore and can be found at Second Base this year.

Lance's favorite food is pizza and his favorite song is "Carry On" by Pat Green. He says he wants to be a coach when he "grows up" and his motto for life is "don't quit what you start!"

Ken Griffey, Jr. is Lance's favorite Professional Baseball Player.



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DARKNESS FALLS
 dtc (PG-13)..... 2:20 4:50
 • CHICAGO dtc (PG-13)..... 1:50 4:20
 • ADAPTATION (R)..... 1:30
 • JUNGLE BOOK (G)..... 1:20 3:20 5:20
 • FINAL DESTINATION 2 dtc (R)..... 1:45 4:15
 • BIKER BOYZ (PG-13)..... 4:40
 • KANGAROO JACK (PG) 1:40 4:10
 • JUST MARRIED-dtc(PG-13) 2:10 4:45

Times good for the week of 3/07 thru 3/13

\$5.00 Evenings Friday-Thursday

DARKNESS FALLS
 dtc (PG-13)..... 7:20 9:30
 • CHICAGO dtc (PG-13)..... 7:10 9:40
 • ADAPTATION (R)..... 7:05
 • JUNGLE BOOK (G)..... 7:25 9:15
 • FINAL DESTINATION 2 dtc (R)..... 7:15 9:35
 • BIKER BOYZ (PG-13)..... 9:50
 • KANGAROO JACK (PG) 7:00 9:20
 • JUST MARRIED-dtc(PG-13) 7:30 9:45

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2003 SHS Golf Schedule

Varsity Boys
 Fri./Sat. Mar. 7/8
 San Angelo
 Wed. Mar. 12
 Llano
 Wed. Mar. 19
 Iraan
Varsity Girls
 Tues. Mar. 18
 Iraan
 * Wed. Mar. 26
 San Angelo
JV Boys
 * Wed. Mar. 26
 San Angelo (Quicksand)
 * District

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2003 Track Schedule

Mar. 1
 Stanton • VB, VG, JVB

Mar. 8
 Reagan Co. • VB, VG, JVB

Mar. 15
 Sonora • VB, VG, JVB

Feb. 28
 Sonora

Mar. 7
 Reagan County

Mar. 14
 Open

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2003 Sonora Bronco Baseball

Varsity
Mar. 7
 Del Rio (DH) • There 5:00/7:00 p.m.
Mar. 13
 Miles • There 4:00 p.m.

J. Varsity
Mar. 14
 Brady • Here • 12:00

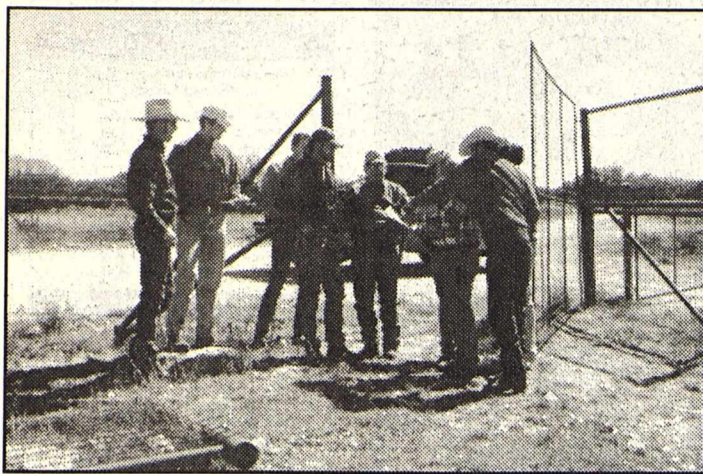
Mar. 17
 Miles • Here 4:30 p.m.

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Oil & Agribusiness

Deer Round-Up from page 1



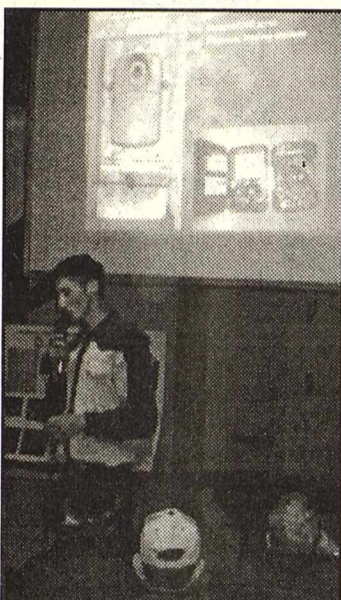
Maps with directions are handed out to the participants before they begin the walking deer count.

averaging 40 acres apiece. The second area was about 420 acres with 8 pastures being counted.

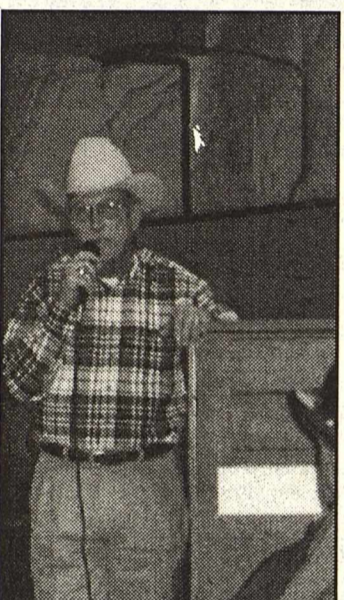
Dr. Taylor commented that the deer count went very well and he felt satisfied that the data collected was probably more accurate than any of the other census techniques discussed earlier. In comparison, for example, the camera data probably over represented the buck population, and the walk through probably underestimated the buck population, but in the time between both censuses there is a large possibility that many bucks had already shed

their antlers.

At the close of the field day, participants turned in census results and discussed the events of the deer count. This reporter enjoyed taking part in this field day, and had the opportunity to be on the front lines of the walk through, pushing deer back off the high fences and taking advantage of some great photography opportunities. One of the front linesmen saw a bobcat jump over the fence. Others reported seeing a variety of beautiful wildlife on the front line, as well as from inside the actual deer count.

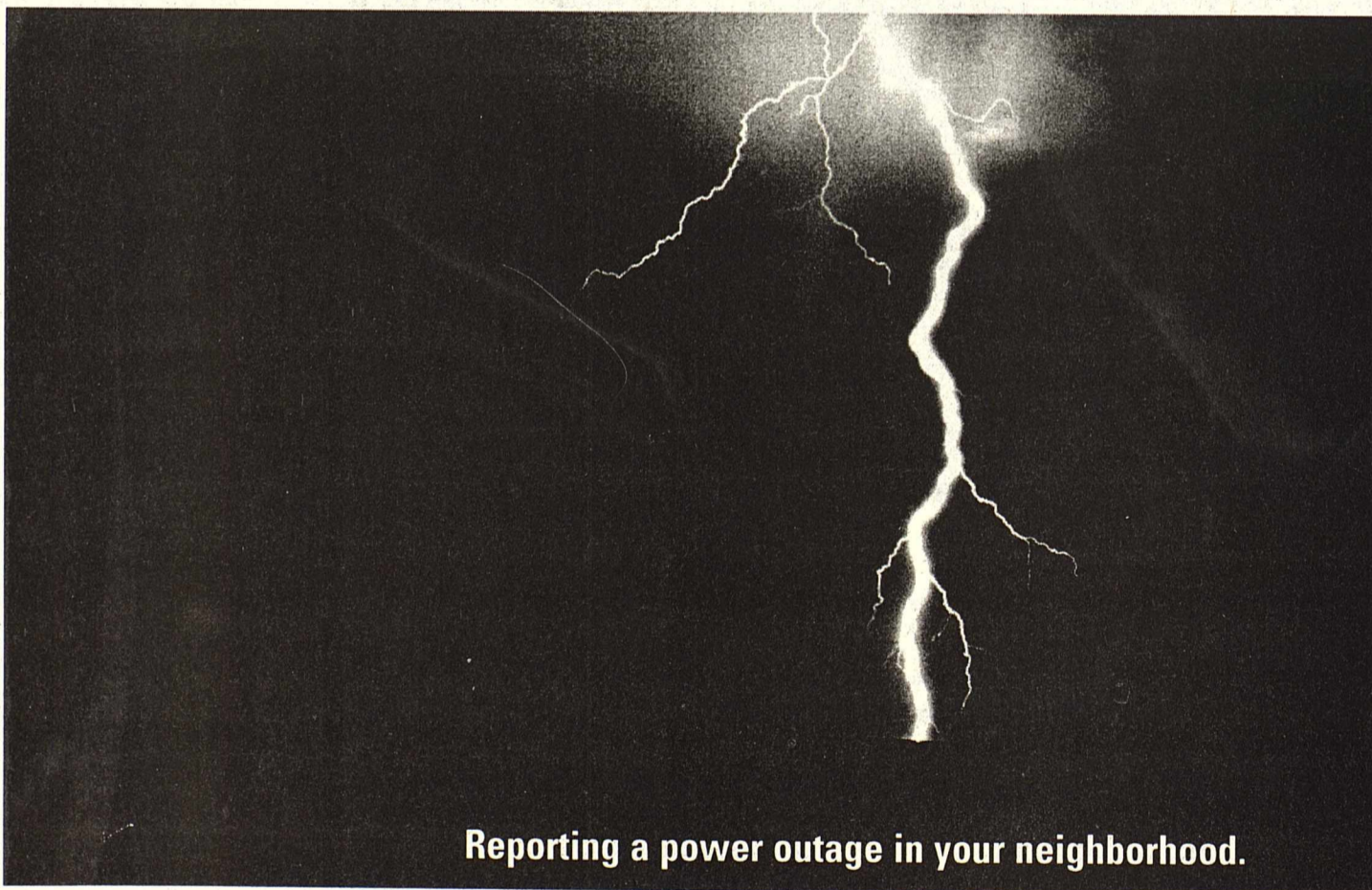


Mark Alchin from Australia speaks to ranchers and wildlife enthusiasts about Surveillance Cameras for deer management.



Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor, Superintendent, Sonora Research Station, spoke about the economic importance of deer hunting.

2:45 a.m. Monday



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New Dominion; 8550' Hudspeth - 1 - #3, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8450' Duke Wilson #1727, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8400' Simmons Ranch #34, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8250' Simmons Ranch #40, Patterson Drilling.
New Great Western Drlg.; 7500' Sawyer-Jones #1902, Key Energy.
New Dominion; 7000' Mack Cauthorn - 129 - #9, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6900' Duke Wilson - 136 - #10, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6100' Meckel #65, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6100' Fields - 55 - #11, Patterson Drilling.
Crockett County
New Harrison Interests; 10000' Norman Dudley Johnson #10, Patterson Drilling.
New Pioneer Natural; 9550' JL Henderson Jr #11, Patterson Drilling.
New Chevron; 9500' Scheuber-Wilkins #50, Nabors Drilling.
New RME Petro Co.; 7500' Robertson - 4 - #8, Patterson Drilling.
New Beach Exp.; 7000' Baldrige #2, Rod Ric Corporation.
Terrell
Tom Brown Inc.; 20000' Muleskinner #1 H, Grey Wolf Drilling.
Exxonmobile Dev.; 15000' Banner Estate #30HR, Patterson UTI/LV.
New Nuevo Texas Inc.; 13000' Mitchell - 8 - #7, Nabors Drilling.
EOG Resources; 11600' Allison - 22 - #1, H, Patterson Drilling.
New Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Monroe SW - 187-#8, Patterson Drilling.
Val Verde
Paramount Energy; 16800' Foote-Whitehead - S74 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
EEX E&P Co.; 15000' Whitehead - A - #6301, Patterson Drilling.
Phillips Pet.; 9875' Cauthorn - B - #3 H, Patterson Drilling.
Edwards
Par Minerals Corp.; 8000' Richardson #1, Key Energy.
New Dominion; 7750' Canyon Ranch #401E, Patterson Drilling.
Schleicher
TXP, Inc.; 6800' Case - B - #3, Heart Land Drilling.

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Town Hall Meetings Cancelled

AUSTIN — Because of budget cuts required of all state agencies, the Texas Department of Agriculture has cancelled the Town Hall meetings scheduled in March.

The meetings were scheduled for March 6 in Dell City, Rocksprings and Crystal City; March 13 in Quitman, Gainesville, Vernon and Booker; and March 19 in Pleasanton, Columbus and Yoakum.

Recently, Gov. Perry requested a 7 percent budget cut of all state agencies, and TDA immediately put a freeze on travel, major capital expenditures, salaries and new hires.

"Texas government must do its part to cut expenses, and TDA is exploring all options to

meet its budget reduction," Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs said. "Travel cuts were one item we had to implement.

"I have been hosting Town Hall meetings since 1999 as a way to get out and talk face to face with Texas producers and community leaders about local issues important to them. The meetings are an excellent way to develop shirtsleeve solutions to challenges and problems facing our rural communities," Combs said.

"I still want to hear from producers and rural community leaders, so they are welcome to e-mail me at commissioner@agr.state.tx.us or they can call TDA at 1-800-TELL-TDA," Combs said.

Veneman Announces Ag Assistance Sign-up Dates

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 2003 — In the first phase of agriculture assistance implementation authorized under the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that sign-up for the expanded Livestock Compensation Program will begin April 1, 2003. The Tobacco Payment Program benefit sign-up will begin March 17, 2003. Veneman said the implementation team is working on details regarding other program benefits and said information about these other sign-up dates will be announced in the near future.

USDA has also launched a website, located at www.usda.gov, that provides producers one location for details on these programs, questions and answers, allows for

comments and suggestions on program implementation, as well as other information on USDA agriculture assistance.

"USDA is committed to providing these disaster program benefits to producers as quickly as possible and today's announcement is the first step in meeting those expectations," said Veneman. "Our implementation team is examining ways to cut the red tape and expedite the process where possible and the new website provides the ability for producers to make suggestions on how we might work more efficiently in meeting that goal."

Both the LCP and the TOPP programs can begin quickly because program systems are in place and the programs are relatively easy to administer.

Farm Legislation Offers Environmental Benefits For All Americans

Offering the largest boost in natural resources conservation programs in the history of farm legislation, the 2002 Farm Bill expands the opportunities for U.S. farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that benefit all Americans, according to James Moore, Executive Director of the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

The new programs emphasize conservation on working lands, which allow farmers and ranchers to continue producing food and fiber while improving the nation's natural resources. They also introduce new opportunities for local stakeholders to help establish conservation priorities.

"This is the most significant piece of conservation and environmental legislation in over a decade, and the benefits are great for anyone who eats, breathes air, drinks water and enjoys the quality of life we are blessed with in America," Moore said. "Our local soil and water conservation districts and our partners at USDA are also pleased that this new legislation provides unprecedented opportunities for local citizens to get involved in local work groups that will help determine and direct local conservation efforts."

Because conservation practices often require significant investments of time and capital by farmers and ranchers, many of the Farm Bill conservation

programs have been designed to provide incentive payments of agricultural producers who establish conservation practices and systems under the direction of local conservation leaders and technical service providers. These measures not only help stabilize the agricultural economy, they also provide important public benefits in the form of cleaner water and air, productive soils and increased wildlife habitat.

An array of conservation programs in the new Farm Bill offers incentives to agricultural producers, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Wetlands Reserve Program and the Farmland Protection Program. Two new programs are the Conservation Security Program and the Grassland Reserve Program.

"There has never been a better time to implement conservation practices on working lands," Moore said. "We encourage farmers and ranchers to contact us to learn about the programs that could help them improve their farming operations and at the same time protect soil, water, air and habitat. It's a great opportunity to get involved locally to set priorities for future conservation efforts."

For more information about these conservation programs and how to become involved, contact the TSSWCB at 254-773-2250 or visit our website at www.tsswcb.state.tx.us.

As of March 4, 2003

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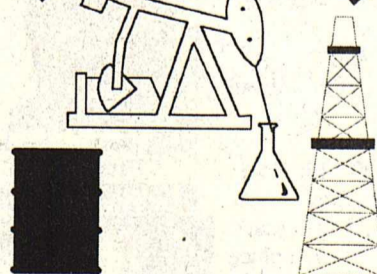
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The Glory of Texas Beware of Rabid Skunks In Town



Henry Bonilla
Last Sunday marked a special occasion for our great state. It was the anniversary of our state's independence from Mexico. On March 2, 1836 a convention of 54 men met in the small settlement of Washington-on-the-Brazos to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence.

The Texas Declaration of Independence was produced, literally, overnight. Its urgency was paramount. While the founding fathers of Texas prepared the document, the Alamo in San Antonio was under siege by Santa Anna's army of Mexico. In near-freezing weather, in an unfinished building, the convention voted in the early morning hours of March 2nd to unanimously accept the resolution. Ultimately, fifty-eight members signed the document. And thus was born the Republic of Texas.

The declaration sent a sign to Mexico that Texans would no longer live under what many of them regarded as a tyrannical rule from a distant source. It was testimony that Texans were ready and willing to fight for their freedom. And fight they did.

Four days after signing the document, William Barret Travis and 184 brave men concluded their gruesome battle against more than five thousand Mexican troops. The odds were against the Texas volunteers, but they were determined to stay the course and fight until the end. When the battle was over, only 15 people - mostly women and children - were spared. Familiar names like Davey Crockett, James Bowie and Juan Badillo lost their lives that fateful day. These brave souls did not give their lives in vain. The casualties that the Texas forces mounted against Mexico, and the time lost in reducing the Alamo cut short Mexico's campaign. It gave Sam Houston just enough time to perfect his plans for the defense of Texas and enabled him to win the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. This victory spelled a final freedom for Texas.

In the saga of Texas history, there is no period as distinctive as Texas' struggle for independence. The period's heroes are remembered in the names of cities and towns, streets, plazas and public buildings. The Lone Star flag, inherited from the original Texas Republic, still flies proudly throughout our state.

I'd like to leave you with a quote by Sam Houston just before the Battle of San Jacinto.

"We view ourselves on the eve of battle. We are nerved for the contest, and must conquer or perish. It is vain to look for present aid: none is at hand. We must now act or abandon all hope! Rally to the standard, and be no longer the scoff of mercenary tongues! Be men, be free men, that your children may bless their father's name."

Texas Independence Day is an occasion for all Texans to stand proud and remember the men who stood up for their rights and fought for their freedom. God Bless Texas!



Photo by Patti Strauch

by Patti Strauch, D.V.M.

There are high numbers of varmint around right now. Since a certain percentage of the wild population has rabies, higher numbers means more cases of rabies. With an unusually large number of wild animals being seen around town, particularly skunks, it is important that everyone be aware of what a rabid animal looks like. One sick skunk was killed two block from the Elementary School. Parents are encouraged to remind children not to pet or go up to wild animals, especially those out in the daytime. If a usually wild animal acts tame or

friendly, BE CAREFUL! This is not their normal behavior, so most likely something is wrong with them, possibly rabies.

It is also important to keep pets away from these wild critters and to vaccinate pets every year. Any warm-blooded animal can get rabies, even livestock. Six people are currently taking post-exposure rabies treatments after being exposed to a rabid calf. Two people have taken the preventive vaccine, which costs approximately \$125.00 per person. The post-exposure treatment will run about \$1,800 per adult. Be careful.

News from the Neighbors

Eldorado to Draw History Buffs

History buffs from Houston, Hico, Fredericksburg, Odessa, Stonewall, Kerrville, Uvalde, San Angelo, Christoval, Menard and Llano will descend on Eldorado this March 6 to do something conventional in an unconventional manner. While the Daughters of the Republic of Texas plant and dedicate Stephen F. Austin oak trees all over Texas on courthouse lawns, none have been done the "Eldorado" way.

Not only will the ceremonies be attended by Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett, William Travis, R. R. Royall, Henry Millard, David G. Burnet, James Fannin, James Bonham, Judge Roy Bean, Gustave Schleicher, Col. William L. Black, Tom Green, Ben Milam, Juan Seguin, Lorenzo de Zavala, John "Rip" Ford, Deaf Smith, Elizabeth Roberts, the San Jacinto Field Band and the Black Powder Brigade from San Jacinto, but the Texas Army will also be present in the form of denizens of Schleicher County ISD students and local residents, dressed in proper fashion.

Probably the highlight of the event, which begins at 12:30 PM, will be the firing of the cannon which is an exact replica of one of the twin sister cannons from San Jacinto. The Fredericksburg Chapter of the SRT accompany the gigantic gun and form the Black Powder Brigade. Attendees will see the cannon up close and hear of it's history and construction process.

The tree has been grown from an acorn harvested from the live oak under which the "Father of Texas" died in 1836, under a program carried out by the DRT. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas will dedicate the tree, and both the DRT and

SRT will be on hand to answer questions about their respective Republic of Texas organizations at the conclusion of the event.

Of course, residents and history buffs from surrounding communities are encouraged to attend in period costumes and participate in this historic event. The ceremony will take place at the northeast corner of the Schleicher County courthouse square, where the tree has been planted. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved into the adjacent Memorial Building. For more information concerning attendance or participation, contact Jim Runge at 915-853-2434, or eldoradotexas@hotmail.com.

Public Notices

On January 22, 2003, AEP Texas Central Company ("AEP Central") and AEP Texas North Company ("AEP North"), and Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("PEC") filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas a joint application regarding a proposed transaction whereby PEC will acquire a portion of the transmission and distribution facilities and service territories of AEP Central and AEP North. The transmission and distribution facilities and service areas to be transferred are located in and around the cities of Junction, Menard, and Rocksprings, as well as in certain unincorporated areas of southern Mason County, northeastern Gillespie County and the Friess Ranch area of Sutton County. The purchase price for this transaction is approximately \$9,450,000. Although ownership and operation of these facilities will transfer to PEC under the transaction, retail customers will continue to be served by their current retail electric provider unless they choose to switch to another retail electric provider offering service in the area under the Texas Electric Choice Program. This application has been assigned Docket No. 27261, *Joint Application of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc., AEP Texas Central Company, and AEP Texas North Company to Transfer Certain Distribution and Transmission Facilities and Service Areas*. Persons with questions about the application should contact Bennie Fuelberg of PEC at (830)868-7155 or Ron Ford of AEP at (512) 481-4558. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326 or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7135. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is April 11, 2003, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the commission by that date. A map showing the service areas to be transferred may be reviewed at PEC's office in Johnson City or AEP's office in Austin. Arrangements to view these maps may be made by contacting Bennie Fuelberg of PEC at (830)868-7155 or Ron Ford of AEP at (512) 481-4558.

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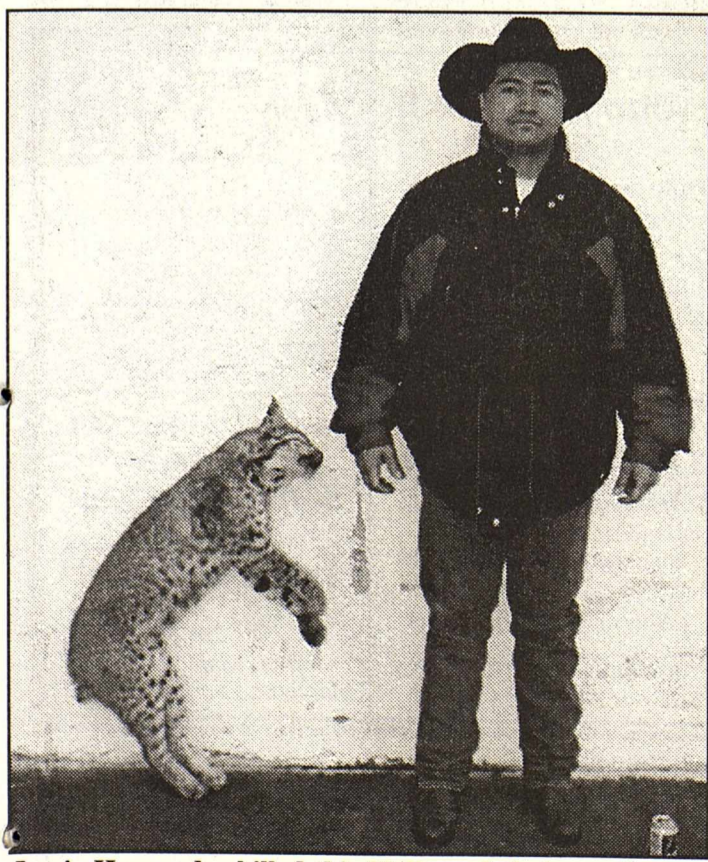
Seven principles. They guide us when we have to make difficult decisions, like taking part in electric deregulation. For now, Southwest Texas Electric Co-op has decided not to opt in to deregulation. We think the smart choice is to "wait and see." We don't know what the future will bring, but we figure we can't go wrong if we stick to our principles. For more information, visit our web site or call your local Smart Choice Cooperative.

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"Cat"ch of the Week...



Jamie Hernandez killed this 70 lb. male bobcat Sunday, March 2, 2003 on Gerry Ingham's ranch on Caverns Road.

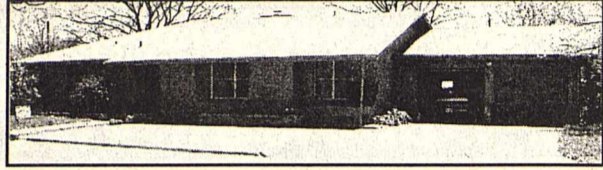
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