

Happy New Year

Tim Thorp chosen as Sutton Co. EMT of the Year

During the annual EMS Christmas Party, Tim Thorp was given the Gene West Memorial EMT of the Year Award.

Tim is an EMT-Paramedic with the Sutton Co. EMS and is currently a training officer, helping teach EMT classes that are held in Sonora.

Tim has been with the Sutton Co. EMS since 1982 and is the only Senior Charter Member that started the Sutton Co. EMS organization who is still an active member.

Tim has held many offices through the years and this is his third time to receive this award.

Tim and his wife, Leslie, an EMT-I, are owners of Thorp's Laundry-Dry. They have two children, T.J. Thorp, a firefighter/Paramedic in Pflugerville, TX, and Joni Thorp an NREMT in Sonora.

U.S. meat supply safe; Disease Surveillance System works says Texas' State Veterinarian

by Texas Animal Health Commission

The presumptive diagnosis of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in one cow in the state of Washington has proven the U.S. disease surveillance system is working, resulting in a meat supply that is safe, reports Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. BSE is commonly nicknamed "mad cow disease," because infected cattle stumble, become unable to walk, develop head jerking and sensitivity to light as the fatal disease progresses. Dr. Hillman stressed that BSE is in no way related to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a fast-moving virus that causes cloven-hooved animals, such as cows, pigs or sheep, to develop blisters around their mouth, teats or hooves.

Dr. Hillman said the 4 1/2-year-old dairy cow in Washington was slaughtered Dec. 9, at a small processing plant near Yakima. Brain and nervous tissue samples were collected from the animal and tested for BSE, because the cow was unable to stand, a problem apparently resulting from recent calving. Positive presumptive test results on the cow were announced Dec. 23, and tissue samples were forwarded to the world's BSE reference laboratory in England for confirmatory testing, a process that should take about a week.

"At least 23 countries, including Canada, have had at least one confirmed case of BSE in domestic cattle since the disease was initially seen in the United Kingdom in 1986," said Dr. Hillman. "From all evidence, it appears the disease is transmitted through feed supplements comprised of rendered by-products from an infected animal. As knowledge about this emerging disease has been gained, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in concert with other food-related agencies, states and industry associations have implemented regulations and safeguards to protect our livestock and meat supply."

Dr. Hillman pointed out preventative and surveillance efforts:

* since 1989, the U.S. has prohibited the importation of live animals and products from countries that have had confirmed cases of the disease.

* banned the feeding of rendered by-products from ruminants (such as cattle and sheep) back to ruminants since August 1997.

* tested brain tissue of more than 57,000 cattle in the U.S. since 1990. More than 20,000 of these tests were con-

ducted in federal fiscal year 2003.

Until Dec. 23, 2003, when positive presumptive test results were completed on the Washington state cow, all tests have been negative.

Part of the national BSE plan includes targeted disease testing on cattle that exhibit central nervous system disorders or are unable to rise or walk normally.

"Our US surveillance testing is significantly greater than that recommended by the Office of International Epizootics, the organization that establishes international animal health standards," said Dr. Hillman.

Dr. Hillman said the U.S. is following its BSE plan, put in place and improved on since 1996. The herd of origin of the cow in Washington has been identified and quarantined. USDA and Washington animal health officials will determine the appropriate disposition of the herd upon completion of the disease investigation. Food officials are recalling products which may contain meat from the animal, although the BSE organism has never been detected in milk or beef muscle tissue. The exhaustive epidemiological investigation will examine all aspects of the disease occurrence, including feed sources, in order to gain insight on how the cow became infected and if other herds in Washington--or other states--may be at risk. Dr. Hillman said the TAHC will receive frequent updates on the investigation and will share information as quickly as possible.

"As difficult and unfortunate as this situation is, we do know the disease surveillance system is working," said Dr. Hillman. "In Texas, animals will continue to be monitored for BSE, and the USDA and TAHC will work with private veterinary practitioners and producers to investigate potential disease occurrences. For BSE, that would include cattle that exhibit central nervous system disorders, or those unable to rise or walk." Dr. Hillman explained that the TAHC operates a 24-hour hotline, which can be accessed by calling 1-800-550-8242.

"The U.S. meat supply remains safe for consumers, because agencies, producers and livestock associations are willing to address disease problems openly," said Dr. Hillman. "I encourage consumers to enjoy a steak, roast or tall glass of milk tonight, and know that every rational and scientifically based effort is being made to ensure the wholesomeness of our products."

This year's hottest Christmas item; Electric Scooters hit the streets

Remember safety first; everyone reminded to be alert and be aware

With the increasing popularity of electric scooters, we thought that we would share some information that outlines a few safety procedures to help electric scooter owners ride more safely and have an enjoyable experience.

The Texas law provides that electric scooters and gas scooters with engines less than 40ccs may be ridden on public thoroughfares provided that the speed limit does not exceed 35 mph. No license is required, but the scooters must follow the same regulations as those that apply to bicycles. Counties and municipalities are allowed to pass their own regulations.

Remember:

* Ride with the flow of the traffic, and keep as far to the side of the road as possible. If the motor scooter is licensed, keep in the right-hand lane.

* Obey all traffic laws, such as stopping at a stop light or sign, yielding to traffic, and so on.

* Do not underestimate the danger involved with riding a motor scooter. When pulling out of your driveway, check both ways and ride carefully. In addition, since a motor scooter can be much smaller than a car or even a motorcycle, you will need to ride defensively, as if other vehicles will have a difficult time seeing you.

* Never ride on sidewalks.

The single most important safety item that you can do, to avoid accident or injury, is to be an alert rider. Being alert means that while you are riding, you should not focus on talking to someone, but should be watching the road or environment you are riding in to avoid potholes, pedestrians, other riders, etc. If you stay alert, you can avoid many of the common causes of injury.

The next most important safety tip is to ride safely. Obviously engaging in risky riding behavior can increase your chances of getting in an accident or of getting hurt. Riders that attempt to do tricks or to go over dangerous terrain are more likely to get injured than other riders, all things

Bring in the New Year with lucky traditions and customs

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

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

There is a Southern saying that dictates eating habits in the Southern United States' New Year's: "Eat poor on New Year's, eat fat the rest of the



being equal. If you are a parent, you should also be sure that your child can handle riding an electric scooter and is familiar with the safety tips. If a child is not ready or capable of riding an electric or motorized scooter, then this can be classified as risky behavior. Also, make sure that the scooter that you have selected is appropriate for your child's abilities.

Another preventive safety procedure deals with riding habits and visibility. Make sure that when you are riding that you obey all applicable traffic rules and regulations. Often, if you do something on an electric scooter that drivers or pedestrians do not expect, you can get into trouble. Also be sure to wear visible clothing so that other riders and drivers can see you and adjust their driving style accordingly. Moreover, do not ride your scooter at night. Most electric scooters do not come with lights and reflectors that would equip the scooter for

night driving. If cars do not see you, you may be in danger of being hit.

The final type of preventive safety that you can do is to make sure that the scooter is in working order. A scooter that is functioning according to specification will generally be easier to control. Moreover, keeping your scooter adequately maintained can reduce the chances for injury and can provide you with a better riding experience. Make sure the tires are pumped up, and avoid all sharp objects that might damage the tires.

Safety gear is important!

Helmet: The helmet is an essential for the safe electric scooter rider. The helmet protects a rider against the worst kind of injury, an injury to the head. In many accidents, the use of a helmet has been the difference between life and death for a number of riders. Helmets protect against collision type accidents where an electric scooter rider collides with a car, truck or standing object. The helmet helps to cushion the blow. Moreover, helmets can also be helpful in falling types of accidents or incidents. These can occur if the riders is thrown from the electric scooter or falls off of the electric scooter. Do not think that you will not need one just because you are only riding two houses down to see a friend. Accidents, even serious ones, can happen anywhere,

including just outside your own driveway.

Helmets are usually made out of some type of plastic. Ideally, the helmet should be strapped on so that it will not fall off.

Appropriate Clothing: This is not an essential, but the main purpose of appropriate clothing is to provide the rider with a form of protection against rashes or scrapes. Long sleeve clothing is ideal and although it will not totally prevent scrapes, this type of clothing can do a lot to prevent serious scrapes. Ideally, thicker and more durable clothing is appropriate.

Gloves: these are optional, but often help to reduce scrapes and rashes. If you elect to use gloves, be sure not to select gloves that are too thick as those may impede your ability to steer or to navigate the electric scooter.

Wrist Pads, Knee Pads, and Elbow Pads: With these pads, you will have three key areas covered by protective gear. These are the three areas that a rider will typically fall on and can prevent injuries.

Shoes: the selection of shoes that the rider uses can be important. You should not ride the scooters using shoes that are slippery or lack appropriate treads, otherwise, it may be difficult to stay on the electric scooter.

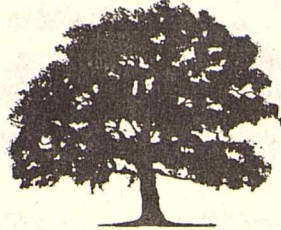
Sutton County prepares for Stock Show season



Parks Tucker, Ag-Science teacher from Lakeview High School gave a very informative and beneficial workshop to local 4-H kids on preparing all animal projects for the stock show circuit. He included tips on stress-free travel to and from shows, feed, exercise and conditioning. During the month of December, local 4-H'ers have been attending workshops geared toward preparing for the stock show season that is fast approaching.

Obituaries

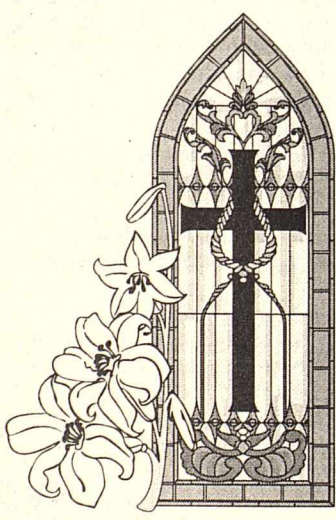
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Your memorial gift helps preserve access to quality healthcare for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, P.O. Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950.
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The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.

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Santana Noriega
Santana Noriega, 74, passed away Saturday, December 27, 2003, in a San Angelo hospital. Services were at 2:00 p.m., Monday, December 29, 2003 at Kerbow Funeral Home Chapel and burial followed in Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.
He is survived by his wife, Elida Noriega of Sonora; a son Hector Noriega of San Angelo; daughters Beatrice Gandar of Arlington, Susan Ramos of

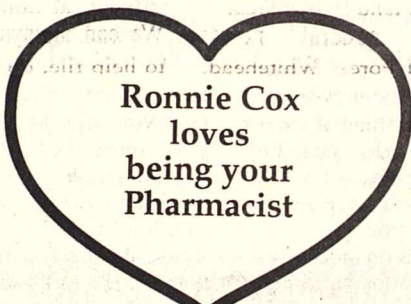
Woodrow Mills
Woodrow Mills, 83, died Thursday, December 25, 2003, at his residence. Services were at 11:00 a.m. Monday, December 29, 2003 at First United Methodist Church. Arrangements were by Memorial Funeral Home.
Survivors include his wife, Jane Mills; son, Larry Mills of San Angelo; daughters, Janet Posey of Mexia, Jeanne Hall of Marfa; brothers, George Mills of Alpine and Billy Mills of Fort Stockton; and sisters, Joy Alene Rogers of San Angelo, Nell Wallace of Sonora and Betty Bach of Minden, Nevada.

Ruth Taylor
Ruth Taylor passed away December 19, 2003 at her residence in Fort McKavett, Texas. She was born December 21, 1923 in Bowser, Texas to Oscar and Iva Woodward.
Memorial services were held December 20, 2003 at The First Baptist Church of Eldorado.
Ruth had numerous jobs in her lifetime, but her hardest and most important job was being the mother to her five boys.
She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Pauline Smith; two brothers, Jimmy Woodward and Burl Woodward; two sons, Billy Cash Taylor and Jerry Nolen.
She is survived by three sons, Kevin Taylor and wife Tina, of Fort McKavett, Texas, Frank Taylor and wife Patricia of Brackettville, Texas, and Keith Nolen and wife Mary of Eldorado, Texas; grandchildren, David Nolen and wife Brandi, Stephanie Wheeler and husband Cody, Jessica Pina and husband Roland, Arron Taylor and wife Vickie and Dusty Nolen; great-grandchildren Nicholas Pina, Madilynn Nolen, and Wyatt Nolen; a sister, Billie McAlpine of Christoval; and brother, M.H. Woodward of San Angelo.
The family would like to "thank" Kevin and Tina for the long hours, hard work, care, and special love they gave her the last months of her life.

Card of Thanks

We are truly grateful for the kindness and concern you've shown not only us but Eulojia throughout her life. We have been comforted by your visits, telephone calls, cards, thoughtfulness and most of all your prayers. We all know that we have truly been blessed to have her in our lives this long. Your love will always be cherished in our hearts. Thank you for rejoicing with us as we accept God's will in knowing that Eulojia is absent in body but present with the Lord.

The Flores Family



**Ronnie Cox
loves
being your
Pharmacist**

Happy Birthday

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

January 2
Alex Morrow, Keith Hudson, Gretta Smith, Betty Lopez

January 3
Missy Longoria, Melissa Fisher, Mikey Owen, Camille Marshall, Lance Haynes, Armando Noriega, Norma Williams

January 4
Wylie Wagoner, Linda Neff, James Alexander, Elyssa Prieto, Ebot Flores, Katelyn Lipham

January 5
Nicole Aguirre, Randy Garcia, Renee Smith, Demetrio Castro, Jr., Colton Hooper

January 6
Bill Savell, Jr., Loyed Rennels, Glinda Ann Gutierrez

January 7
Beth Wallace, Bethany Deel, Rosa Tamez

Senior Center News

Jan. 5 - Bingo!
Jan. 6 - Give someone a hug today!
Jan. 7 - Volunteer to deliver meals. We need your help!
387-5657 or 387-3941.
Jan. 9 - Run errands and pay bills!

Senior Center Menu

Jan. 5 - Beef stew with vegetables, green beans, pear half with cottage cheese, cornbread pudding.
Jan. 6 - Oven baked chicken, lima beans, broccoli, bread, chunky fruit mix, milk.
Jan. 7 - Salmon croquette, macaroni & cheese, turnip greens, coleslaw, roll, peach half.
Jan. 8 - Baked ham, candied yams, green beans, carrot raisin salad, roll, Jell-O with fruit, milk.
Jan. 9 - Beef tips with rice, carrots, cornbread, bananas with strawberries, lemon pie, milk.

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.*

Eulojia Favela Flores
Eulojia Favela Flores, 101 years of age, went to be with her Lord on December 23, 2003.
A Rosary was held on December 23, 24 and 25 at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services were on December 26, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church with burial following in Sonora Cemetery. Fr. William DuBuisson, OMI, officiated. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.
She was born on March 19, 1902. She was one of Sonora's oldest residents, putting down roots here during the mid 1940's. She was preceded in death by her husband Antonio Flores, daughter Gloria Cardona and grandson Gary West. Eulojia is survived by nine children: Ramon and Vivian Flores, Juan and Marlena Flores, Yolanda and Ernesto Ramirez, Reuben and Araminda Flores, Manuel and Teresa Flores, Maria and Robert Carlomagno, David Flores, Jaime and Amanda Flores, Lupe and Annabelle Flores.



Living grandchildren (thirty-seven total) include Ramon Flores Jr., Rodrigo Flores, Joseph Flores, Mary Ceballos, Rogelio Flores, Roberto Flores, Cynthia Jones, Gloria Jean Ramos, Paul Cardona, Jr., Melinda Garza, Anna Flores, Rene R. Cardona, Priscilla Flores, John Anthony Flores, Susan Tice, Deborah Flores, Laura Simmons, Ruben Flores, Jr., Edward Duane Flores, Gina Flores, Joyce Ann Ramirez, Josephine Gomez, Norma Hernandez, Allen Coopider, Allison Brown, Anna Moon, Monica Flores, Melinda Flores, Jamie Flores, Eleazar Flores, Elizabet Flores, Patricia Lopez, Emi Hines, Daniel Flores, Rachel Flores, Mark Anthony Flores and Melissa LaVan.
Seventy one great-grandchildren and twenty-seven great-great grandchildren, with another to be born on January 29. Two surviving nephews; Lupe and Tomas (Tiny) Favela, Jr.

Much gratitude goes to one surviving niece, Valentina Gallegos, whom cannot be thanked enough for the love and care she unselfishly gave to Eulojia within the last two years of her life. Valentina was devoted to Eulojia until she died on December 24, 2003.
Eulojia loved going and supporting the Senior Citizen Center. She loved to play bingo and could play many cards at one time. She had beautiful penmanship and always enjoyed writing letters, as well as receiving them, especially when they included recent family pictures. Her many friends and acquaintances admired her and wondered where her strength came from. She attributed her many blessings to her faith in God, which is evident throughout her home. She would hold and pray the rosary nightly before closing her eyes and place it under the pillow.
She looked forward to family celebrations, and would have been celebrating her 102nd birthday on March 11 with some of her family and friends. Her family was dear to her heart and was always first in her life. She enjoyed visits all through the year from her many family members. She also never forgot those who had passed on before her.
She enjoyed many evenings watching her Spanish soap operas on television or visiting friends and neighbors on her front porch. Most of her life would find her with a crochet needle in her hand working on her many projects. Caring for her numerous indoor plants was another love she enjoyed. Sundays were always "watering" day. Much of her time was spent out in her yard enjoying colorful flowers. Please plant a tree, shrub or plant of your choice in your yard in her honor.
Eulojia said she had no regrets in life, but her wish for her future grandchildren is that they get the best education they can. Eulojia always said that all things were possible "Si Dios Quiere."
Active pallbearers were Paul Cardona Jr., John Anthony Flores, Jr., Mark Anthony Flores, Rodrigo Flores, Eleazar Flores, Daniel David Flores, Ruben Flores, Jr., Edward Duane Flores.
Honorary pallbearers were Allen Coopider, Rene Ruben Cardona, Rogelio Flores, Frank Gallegos, Ramon Flores, Jr., Joseph Flores, Roberto Flores, Carlos Gallegos, Tomas (Tiny) Favela, Jr.

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

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Community Calendar

Jan. 5
Back to School

Happy New Year!

The Community Calendar is made possible by:

 
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Letters To The Editor Policy

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Ask the Historical Society

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

Q. When did Lester Archer die?

A. Lester Archer died on April 25, 1973 in Sonora. He was born on February 4, 1909 in Menard, the son of George Wesley and Ella Jeannette Burleson Archer. Lester married Lillian Vada Kring on July 24, 1937. He had resided in Sonora for 61 years and was a concrete contractor and brick mason. His obituary lists a daughter, Mrs. Vicky Powell, who resided in the Big Bend National Park in 1973. Mrs. Powell was buried in the Sonora Cemetery beside her father on Dec. 26, 2003. Other survivors are listed as brothers, Francis Archer who died in 1990; G. W. Archer a brother who resided in Marfa in 1973; Dorsey Archer who died in 1983 and a sister Mrs. Stella Mae Smith who died in 1993.

Lester Archer trained in rock work under his father G. W. Archer. They were well known for high quality work. G. W. built a concrete crossing at Elbow Lake, on the Juno Road that was 162 feet long and 16 feet wide for \$810 in 1919. We find he built Will Wilson's 50,000 gallon rock tank and the rock on the home of Hi Eastland in 1919. Many homes in Sutton County and many a rock tank are still standing as testament to the fine rock work of the Archer family.

Sonora Rodeo history is always of interest to our readers. In the January 8, 1921 issue of the Devil's River News, we found that the Sonora Park Association held it's first Rodeo during the Christmas Holidays. Visitors were delighted with the Grand Stand and Bull Pen area. The program was arranged in less than a month, primarily for the purpose of reviving interest in the "Old Home Town" of the Stockman's Paradise. Promoters hope to encourage the youth of the country to retain their interest in home affairs and for those who, for business reasons, have moved away to be entertained when they come to their old stamping grounds.

It was felt that roping of sheep and goats was then as necessary a qualification for the stockman as in the days of the

open range, when stock was herded. It was also felt that the contests were an incentive for proficiency and clean and harmless entertainment. The Association also paid out over \$600 to local people in prizes mostly from the gate receipts.

There were 20 contestants in the free for all goat roping contest that had a first prize of \$250. Listed are Lewis Jones of Christoval, Jap Holman of Edwards Co., Boy Crothers and Bill White of Brady, Big Holman of Del Rio, Olin Altizer of Comstock, Russell Martin of Del Rio, as well as the Cauthorn brothers, Dan, John and Mac, the Johnson brothers Lem and Cal, John Fields, Tommie Bond, Roy and Lee Aldwell, Willie Miers, Bryan Hunt, Marion Stokes and Noah Schrier. Lem Johnson and Noah Schrier tied for the first prize in the days roping with times of 12 and 1.5 seconds. Cal Johnson was second, Marion Stokes third and Will Miers fourth.

Those entering the broncho busting contest were Will Etheridge, John Fields, James Garvin, Frank McKee, Louis Cravey, Dud Cravey. They furnished good sport, and, by the time the meet was closed, all the outlaws were rideable. The purse for the day was divided between Etheridge, Fields and Garvin as the judges could see no differences in their riding. The second day the prize was won by Fields and the third by Etheridge and the fourth by Garvin.

All the steers were pretty well broken by Jack Hall, Louis Cravey, Jim Garvin, Lee Luxton, Dud Cravey and were ridden by Carl Morrow, Lea Aldwell, Boy Crothers, Big Holman and Bill White. Louis Jones won the purse in calf mugging in 23 2/5 seconds and Curry Brooks came in second in 31 and 1/5 seconds.

A bunch of mules were brought in for the third day and some of the boys showed they could ride anything that grew hair. The riding of the mules was greatly enjoyed when Forest and George Whitehead joined the ranks of contestants. Forest rode a wild horse and George rode a mule until it was time to get off. He had seen the professionals at the Del Rio rodeo get off by taking hold of the fence and thought he would



L.P. Bloodworth "spinning a yarn" in 1990

do the same stunt. The mule thought George was going after his ears again and made and quick turn and threw him off balance and to the ground. The crowd roared but George still was given a purse of \$4.70 for the delight furnished by his entertainment.

On the third day Mack Cauthorn was first in calf mugging and Willie Miers second. On the fourth, Olin Altizer was first and Willie Miers second in the free for all goat roping. On New Years Day Marion Stokes was first and Mack Cauthorn second in goat roping. For a little extra sport, tying pigs was added on New Years Day. Olin Altizer won first and Carl Morrow second. Tom Drennan won the sack race, Fields and Miers the three-legged race and A. B. Stokes got the decision in a boxing round with Willie Miers. Noah Schrier was declared the over-all winner for the opening of the Sonora Park.

Following the rodeo, the Buford Gamble Orchestra from Fort Worth played for dances, and people came from many neighboring towns for the entertainment. Dances were held on eight nights, from Christmas Eve to New Years, at the Club Hall.

Since most of our readers didn't attend this particular rodeo, we wanted to let you know that the new Rodeo grounds in 1919 were located in the about the area where the swimming pool now stands and spread out from the draw across all the open land in that area.

Under general news; George and Forest Whitehead, sons of Will and Willis B. and Francis Whitehead, sons of Walter, were here from Del Rio for the holidays. Sonora is home to the Whitehead boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Author Simmons became the proud parents of a baby boy. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Marion were in town for the holidays from the Mayfield-Wheat ranch in Edwards Co. John S. Allison, vice-president of the Wool Growers Central Storage Co., was in from San Angelo and said Texas fall wools sold for 19 cents a pound in Boston. Robert Murchison of Ozona was appointed State Sheep Inspector for Sutton Co., and he and Mrs. Murchison, the former Miss Louise Perner, have moved here and are residing at J. L. Cook's. Fred Hull struck a fine vein of water for G. P. Hill on his place in east Sonora, at a depth of 173 feet.

Miss Artie Belle Ory and Sam McKee, Jr., were married at the home of the brides mother, Mrs. Martha Ory, on the evening of Friday, December 21, 1920. Justice of the Peace H. B. Balch officiated. The groom is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. McKee. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mrs. Henry Ory. The young couple will make their home on the McKee ranch.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton Co. history, wish to rent the Depot, tour the museum, or make reservations for the March 19th San Angelo Symphony Orchestra performance and the Sonora High School or dinner at the Civic Center before the performance, give me a call at 387-5084 on Monday or Friday mornings or call me at home at 387-2855. We can always use volunteers to help file, do research, museum tours, clean buildings etc. If you have any spare time and would like to contribute to preservation of local history give us a call.

Chamber Chatter

Best wishes for the New Year

by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas! As we look ahead to the New Year, I find myself thinking of all the wonderful things that we have been blessed with. We live in what I think is the greatest community, in the greatest region, in the greatest state, of the greatest country in the world. The freedoms that we take for granted every day are a blessing that many in this world have never seen. This is the time of year that I like to evaluate and review the priorities in my life. I have never really believed that

New Year's resolutions were something worth making. I do, however, believe that resolving to be a better person is something that nearly all of us can aspire to. Not just on New Year's Day but on every day through out the year. We are working on many great projects for 2004, and hope that we can count on your support and help through out this coming year as we have been able to in the years past. The directors and staff and the Sonora Chamber Of Commerce would like to wish you all the happiest of times for the New Year.

The New Year

Two thousand three has gone by and two thousand four is here. It is my hope and prayer for you that last year was a good year for you and the New Year will even be better. May we be a people who call upon God and fear (obey) Him and love Him. May God's rich blessings flow down upon us just as He promised blessings to flow upon Jacob (Genesis 28:3) and upon the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 15:4-6 and 28:1-12). Two passages that I like are Psalms 67:1-3 and 115:13. May this New Year bring God's blessings in that we have peace in our land, prosperity in our homes and the presence of Christ Jesus in our hearts. If we start with Christ first all the other things will follow or fall in place (Romans 10:12&13) Your friend and brother in Christ. Oh yes, see you in Church next Sunday. *Brother J*

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And finally, it's been repeated often, but again, smoking is bad for your health. Tobacco use can lead to deadly diseases such as lung cancer, emphysema and stroke. When quitting, ask your doctor if nicotine replacement products are a good idea, get a friend to remind you of all the benefits of being smoke-free, and be patient - many people quit several times before they kick the habit for good.

"Make 2004 a year for positive behavioral change," Sanchez said. "You just may save your life."

Texas Department of Health offers five lifesavers for new year

It's that time of year when people make resolutions. You know the vows: clean out the garage, keep in better touch with friends and family, save money.

But there are some health and fitness resolutions that could save your life, according to Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez, M.D.

"If people would remember to do just five things, they could live longer, healthier lives," Sanchez said.

The five are: eat smart, get fit, get shots, get checkups and screens and don't smoke.

Each of these suggestions alone is good for anyone to consider, Sanchez said. But together they provide a solid plan to help a person get healthy and stay that way.

First, more than 60 percent of the people in Texas are overweight or obese. Preliminary analysis by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) suggests that overweight and obesity cost an estimated \$10.2 billion in 2001 in Texas.

Healthy benefits come, nutritionists say, if people eat five to nine servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Other good choices include eating whole grains; taking smaller portions; selecting lean meat, fish and poultry; and reducing or eliminating fat, fried foods, sugar and salt.

In addition to an improved immune system, people who eat smart may avoid or delay problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and triglycerides (fats in the blood) that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Next, are you having trouble getting moving? You are not alone. Urban sprawl means more time in the car for many, and busy schedules make getting fit a challenge.

Think about ways you can start slowly and build your activity level. Just 30 minutes of moderate to brisk exercise daily can strengthen your heart.

"Make it a family activity," Sanchez said. "Try fun runs,

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State Capital Highlights
 Texas Press Association

Super Bowl brings \$165 million to Houston

By Mike Cox
 AUSTIN — The National Football League playoff cycle is just starting, but a state bill that didn't get much if any attention during the legislative session last spring has generated some interesting numbers.

Senate Bill 275 tasks the comptroller's office with devising a forecast of expected tax gains associated with hosting a major sporting event in Texas. Such an event, Super Bowl XXXVIII, will be played at Reliant Stadium in Houston on Feb. 1.

What the comptroller's office found, as Carole Keeton Strayhorn said in the December issue of her agency's "Fiscal Notes," is that Texas will be the big winner, no matter which team has the highest score at the end of the game.

The estimate is that visitors will spend \$165.5 million in the Houston area. To break it down, that includes \$68.8 million for lodging, \$26.8 million at bars and restaurants, \$15.3 million on entertainment, \$13.7 million on transportation and \$41 million in general retail sales.

State and local government, of course, nets \$8.25 million of that.

"God Bless Texas" plates on sale...

The new specialty license plates proclaiming "God Bless Texas" already were available before word spread on Christmas Eve that a case of Mad Cow disease had been confirmed in Washington state, but for Texas ranchers, the plates might seem particularly appealing now.

A set of the plates costs \$40 annually, with \$32 of that going toward the Texas Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to Schools program. (The \$8 defrays administrative costs.)

"The responsibility to provide safe walkways and bicycle crossings for our school children is every bit as important as a quality education," Transportation Commission chairman John W. Johnson said when the new plate was

unveiled on Dec. 17 at Timmerman Elementary School in Pflugerville.

Students at that school will benefit from a sidewalk construction project set to begin in the first quarter and the new revenue source will make more projects possible elsewhere in the state, Johnson said.

Also available is a specialty "God Bless America" plate. It, too, helps to fund the school safety program TxDOT administers.

Texas is in tall cotton...

Cotton continues to be Texas' leading cash crop, though when the final 2003 numbers are in, production is expected to be down somewhat from the previous year.

But cotton still earns Texas growers some \$1.6 billion a year, with a statewide economic impact of \$5.2 billion.

The Texas A&M University Cotton Program says just one 500-pound bale of cotton can produce 215 pairs of jeans or 21,960 handkerchiefs, take your pick.

Rivers no longer "navigable" for motor vehicles...

Some Texans may wake up on New Year's Day with throbbing temples, but collectively, as of the first day of the year, the Texas environment has one less headache.

Effective Thursday, it is against the law to operate motor vehicles in most Texas river beds, the Canadian and Prairie Dog Fork of the Red River excepted.

Passed during the 78th Legislature, the new law is expected to reduce damage caused to stream beds by All-Terrain Vehicle enthusiasts.

The law still allows public access, and has a provision for local government to develop local access plans to allow vehicles in certain areas where they would not be harmful to the environment.

For detailed information on the new law, check the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Web site at www.pwd.state.tx.us.

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 Beach Expl; 7600' Meadows - 52 - #1, Rod Ric Corporation.
 J. Cleo Thompson; 7500' Todd WX - 10 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 New Patina O&G Corp.; 5500' Bagger - D - #1631, Key Energy.

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For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to www.rigdata.com.



Gov. Perry looks back on a year of accomplishments

Texas legislators headed to the capitol in January faced with a \$10 billion revenue shortfall, a turbulent homeowners insurance market, skyrocketing medical malpractice insurance rates driving doctors out of business, and grim economic predictions of a continuing recession.

By year's end, the Texas legislature had accomplished what no other major state could: a balanced budget that did not raise taxes, and a spending plan that for the first time since World War II spends less general revenue dollars than the previous year. "We viewed tough economic times as a unique opportunity to build government anew, to reshape priorities and to refocus its mission," Perry said in September in a speech to the Heritage Foundation.

Governor Perry cited as major achievements of 2003 the new economic development tools such as the Texas

Enterprise Fund that are already paying dividends to Texans in the form of new jobs and new opportunities and education advancements like the Texas High School Project that have laid the groundwork for true education reform next year.

Additionally, national opinion leaders sat up and took notice of the legislative efforts led by Governor Perry with the Wall Street Journal opining on an issue can change the political climate. Republicans in Washington, and especially in the filibustering Senate, need to display the same will as their state counterparts.

In October, the Wall Street Journal said Arnold Schwarzenegger could look to Perry and the Texas experience for models in successful governance.

Steve Forbes, economist and publisher of Forbes magazine, saluted Perry's leadership on tort reform and budget matters in a September column, calling Perry a "no-nonsense, get-it-done governor."

"Thankfully for Texans and the U.S. economy, this governor means business," Forbes wrote. This year, 2003, also closed with economic news that Texas is experiencing economic growth, and the outlook for 2004 looks promising.

Governor Perry has attended job announcements all across Texas that will lead to more than 11,000 new jobs because of employer expansions and relocations. "More economic growth means more jobs and more money for education and health care priorities in the years to come. As 2003 comes to a close Texas is in much better shape than it was when the year began," added Perry. "We set priorities and goals and we worked hard to achieve them. We did what we set out to do."

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Sutton County Hospital District will receive bids for depository of the District's funds for the period commencing February 1, 2004, and ending January 31, 2006. Any banking organization qualifying under the laws of the State of Texas as a depository of municipal funds, may submit a written application, sealed and marked on the outside "Depository Bid". Such applications shall be received in the Office of the Hospital District. Attention: Lewis Allen, President of the Board, P.O. Box 455, 308 Hudspeth Avenue, Sonora, Texas 76950, no later than 3:30 p.m. on January 7, 2004. Applications will be opened and reviewed at this time. The Board of Directors will review and take action on the bids on January 12, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. The Directors reserve the right to accept the bid that offers the most favorable terms and conditions for handling of the Hospital District funds and shall have the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

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

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Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 11739

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Dist/Div Office(s)

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THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG)	7:10 9:00
ELF (dts) PG	7:20 9:35
BAD SANTA (R)	7:15 9:30

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THE LAST SAMURAI dts (R)	4:30 7:45
MASTER AND COMMANDER	4:45 8:00
STUCK ON YOU (PG-13)	4:15 7:00 9:40
THE MISSING (R)	5:00 8:10
THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG)	5:10 7:10 9:00
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Location-Builders

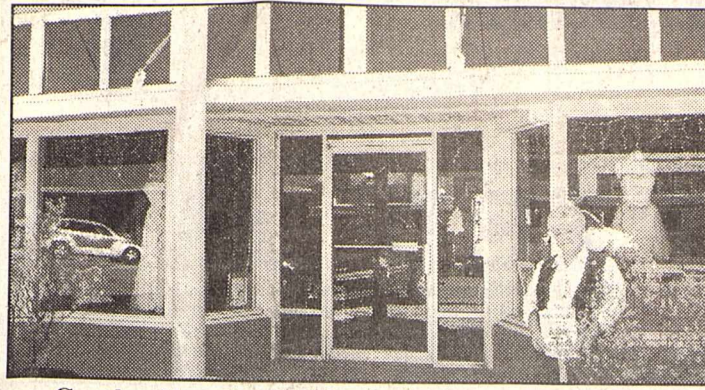
As of December 29, 2003

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TxDOT - Hwy 277 N



Santa's Little Helper - Gift wrapping shop



103 Plum - The Hernandez Family



J & B Trailer Park (Mrs. Holguin)



202 Glascock



Hilltop - Bill & Cynthia Keel



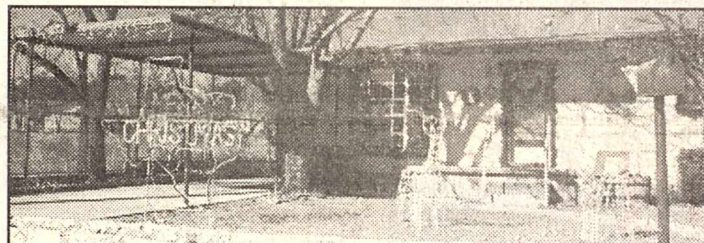
206 Chestnut - Fernando & Josie Emiliano



Orient Street



231 Castlehill - The Jackson Family



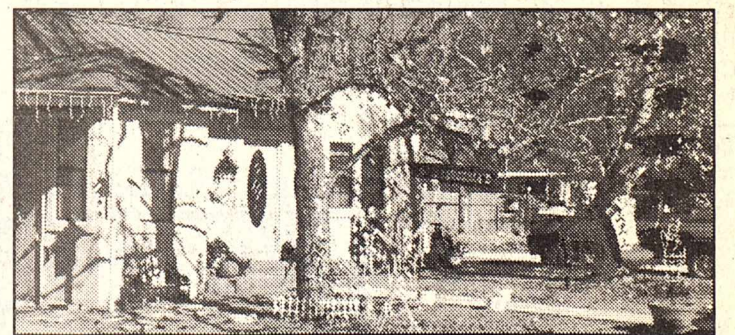
404 Hwy. 277 - The Samaniego Family



506 Tayloe Street - Dakota Daniels



206 Lorene - Johnny Solis



308 Wardlaw - The Longoria Family

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F.Y.I.
New Year's Eve Dance - December 31, 2003, Civic Center, 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., \$10 per person, music by "Conjunto S", Sponsored by St. Ann's Catholic Church
GED Classes are being offered once again, starting Jan. 6, 2004 at the Sonora Middle School. New students please phone 387-3736.

New Year's driving resolutions; Don't drink and drive in 2004

Let the confetti fly and welcome the New Year with good cheer, but resolve to drive responsibly this New Year's holiday. Anyone planning to con-

sume alcoholic beverages should have someone else--who hasn't been drinking--drive them home. Starting midnight on New

Year's Day, "Operation Holiday" will go into effect. Extra troopers will be on the lookout for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers

and drunk drivers from January 1st through January 4th to reduce the number of traffic accidents and traffic fatalities. Don't drink and drive!

Dining Out Directory

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1005 Crockett
387-3748
- Dairy Queen
134 Hwy. 277 N.
387-2118
- Los Cerritos Restaurant
605 S. Crockett
387-2838
- La Mexicana
240 N. Hwy 277
387-3401
- Pizza Hut
401 Hwy. 277 N.
387-3540
- Sutton County Steakhouse
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387-3833
- Taco Grill
232 Hwy. 277 N.
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