

Preston Faris helps Sutton County 4-H participants get ready for the Showmanship competition at stock shows.

Golfers invited to chill at the 6th Annual Polar Bear Classic

The 6th Annual Polar Bear Classic, sponsored by the Sonora High School Golf Team will take place on Saturday, January 17, 2004 at the Sonora Golf Club. Tee time is at 12:30 p.m. and golfers are asked to please sign up early. The entry fee to play is only \$10 per person, but any extra donations will gladly be accepted for this golf team fund-raiser. Proceeds from the scramble help to fund golf events for the team, including out-of-town trips, meals, shirts and more.

The order of play will be a scramble of 18 holes of Par 3. Ties will be broken by a putt-off. You can sign up in the pro shop or call 387-3680. The Sonora Golf Club has waived green fees for all non-members.

In case of bad weather, the Classic will be postponed until the next Saturday.

The Sonora High School Golf Team appreciates all the support from the community!

Michael Ramos returns to remove his yellow ribbon



Another yellow ribbon is gone, leaving only a few left on the Old Oak Tree in the Sutton County Courthouse lawn. Michael Ramos, son of Sandy Gandar and George Ramos and the grandson of Teresa Zurita, was home for the holidays and removed his ribbon on Monday, December 29, 2003.

Ramos is a PFC in the United States Army. He was a tank leader in Baghdad and Fallujah for 10 months during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where



his tank was hit twice. Ramos is glad to be back in the states, where he will be stationed at Ft. Stewart in Georgia for the next 18 months.

Sutton County Junior Livestock Show starts Thursday

by Storie Sharp

The traffic at the Sutton County 4-H Civic Center, the Ag-Barn and the local feed stores confirm that Stock Show season is upon us once again. Sutton County 4-H participants and their parents have been busy walking, bathing, shearing and clipping all the livestock projects that will be a part of the 2004 Sutton County Jr. Livestock Show. These kids work hard for many months preparing for this event (see page 5 for more on preparing for stock shows). But this is just the beginning, the stock shows around Texas follow right behind Sutton County's. Kerrville, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston and more, are larger stock shows that offer great prize opportunities and scholarships, as well as continued education on showmanship, quality of animal composition, animal nutrition and the agriculture industry.

This year's stock show has over 65 entries, with projects in Market Lambs, Meat Goats, Angora Goats, Futurity Ewe Lambs, Swine and Cattle. The exhibitors range in age from 3rd through 12th grade. Come out and show your support of our local 4-H'ers this weekend.

Sutton Co. Jr. Livestock Show Schedule of Activities

- Thursday, January 8, 2004**
7:00 p.m. - Arrival and Weigh-in deadline for Meat and Angora Goats, Market Lambs and Swine
- Friday, January 9, 2004**
9:00 a.m. - Angora Goat Show
1:00 p.m. - Market Lamb Show
Meat Goat Show immediately after Market Lambs
- Saturday, January 10, 2004**
8:30 a.m. - Futurity Ewe Lamb judging and interview
Swine Show immediately after Futurity Ewe Lamb Show
Approx. 12:30 p.m. - Beef Cattle Show
6:00 p.m. - Buyer Appreciation Supper
6:45 p.m. - Premium Sale
8:00 p.m. - Awards Presented

Rogers to represent Texas Silver-Haired Legislature at Commissioners meeting

Brigitte Rogers, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature will be attending the Sutton County Commissioners Meeting on January 12, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. to request that the Commissioners adopt Proposition 13 (HJR 16) to freeze property taxes on all homesteads for citizens 65 and older and disabled persons.

Proposition 13 (HJR16) passed overwhelmingly by 81 percent statewide on September 13, 2003. The law went into affect on January 1, 2004.

The constitutional amendment permits counties, cities, and towns and junior college districts to establish a tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly (65 and older) and their spouses.

The vision of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature is that the applied wisdom, energy and experience of aging will improve the lives of all Texans through education, knowledge, advocacy and involvement in legislation and government

affairs. TSHL advocates for senior citizens to make legislators aware of issues facing the elderly.

The number one priority of the 9th TSHL resolutions were freezing homestead taxes for Seniors 65 and older for all taxing entities. Currently, only the school taxes are frozen for this

age seniors.

Rogers is just one of many TSHL representatives that will be approaching government entities in communities throughout Texas as part of this movement. She will also be visiting other taxing entities in Sutton County as well as the five other counties in this district.



Brigitte Rogers at the Texas Silver-haired Legislature meeting in Austin, Texas.

Filing period for Texas Silver Haired Legislature

The filing period for Texans age 60 years of age and older who want to run for the Tenth Texas Silver Haired Legislature (TSHL) began January 2, 2004.

Silver-Haired legislators work with the Texas Legislature on senior issues which may become law. If you are a person 60 or older and a registered voter, you may file as a candidate for election to the TSHL January 2 through February 27, 2004. Terms are for two years. TSHL members pay their own travel expenses.

Filing forms may be obtained from the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley Council of Governments located at 4850 Knickerbocker Road or by calling 325-223-5704 in San Angelo and 1-877-944-9666 outside San Angelo.

Four candidates will be elected from the Concho Valley. Currently serving as TSHL representatives are Gloria Henderson, Edith Clendennen, and Bonnie Hatch from San Angelo and Brigitte Rogers from Sonora.

Seniors warned to Beware of "Tax Reduction" Scams

By Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas

Protecting senior citizens is a top priority of my administration. We do not tolerate individuals or businesses that target senior Texans for financial exploitation. That is why we recently took legal action to halt alleged violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act by an outfit offering "tax reductions" to seniors for a fee.

In Texas, certain tax advantages are available to persons over the age of 65. Any homeowner, not just a senior, can apply for a homestead exemption on a primary place of residence. However, there are special, additional exemptions available to seniors. You can contact your local tax assessor/collector for more information.

There is no fee for making the application for a homestead exemption. However, certain companies offer to "process" the application for a fee. Generally, the company is simply filling out the application and filing it for you. You could easily save the fee by filling out this simple

application for yourself.

Some companies in the past have styled their advertising to make it appear that they are an official taxing authority, or that their fee must be paid in order for the homeowner to receive the exemption. In fact, the law requires the company to make it quite clear that they are not a governmental agency.

Our regional Consumer Protection Office in Dallas, acting on consumer complaints, filed a lawsuit and obtained a temporary restraining order on December 17, 2003, against a company that presented itself as a "tax processing center." The company mailed a solicitation to Collin County seniors, seeking a \$55 fee. In addition to taking immediate legal action, we issued a Senior Alert to inform homeowners that the reductions offered in the sales pitch were all available directly from their local taxing authority.

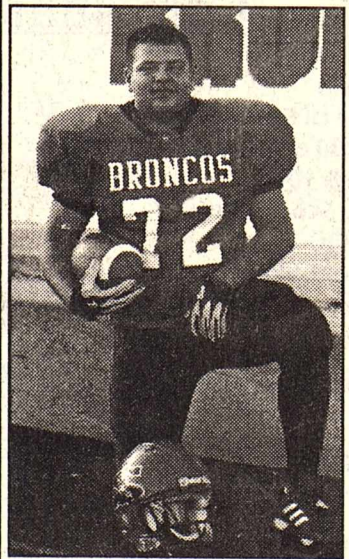
The solicitation also mentioned a tax "freeze" for the elderly. This is a reference to another option available to sen-

See Tax Scams page 5

Broncos named to "All" teams

Sonora Broncos are still making a showing, with 19 being named to the Academic All-District Football Team, nine on the Cross-Country Academic All-District Team, four to the All-West Texas Football Team and two making the All-State Football Team choices. The 2003 Bronco Cross-Country Academic All-District achievers are (9th grade) Jennifer Gonzales, Amanda Berry, Meghan Krieg, Jacob Ibarra, and Emily Butler; (10th grade) Mandy Brister and Ty Love; (11th grade) Amanda Word; and (12th grade) Megan Berry.

Making the 2003 Bronco Football Academic All-District list are: Scottie Moore, Austin Wagoner, Anthony Longoria, Hilton Bloodworth, Wilson Wallace, Steven Duhon, Embre Smith, Chris Perez, Brett McDaniel, Tom Valliant, Brian Payton, Laramie Hall, Roland Solis, Oscar Chavez, David Adkins, Zed Snodgrass, Mason Martinez, Boomer Galindo, and Devon Yearout. Keep up the good work!



2003 All-West Texas Football Team

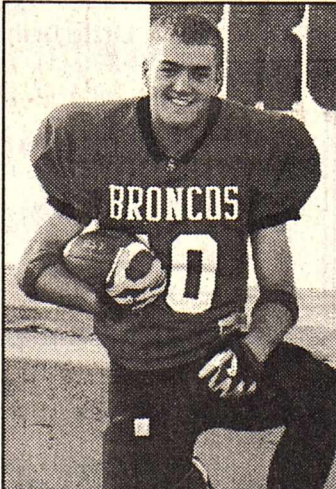
Oscar Chavez
Offensive Line

2003 AP All-State Football Team

Honorable Mention
Wide Receiver

2003 All-West Texas Football Team

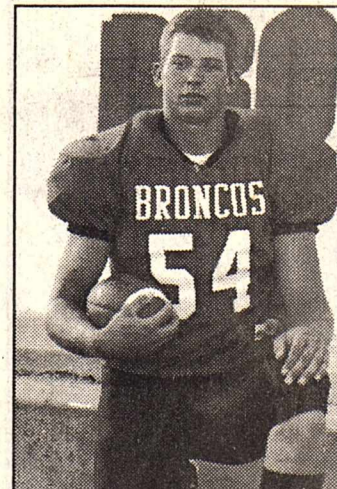
Defensive Back



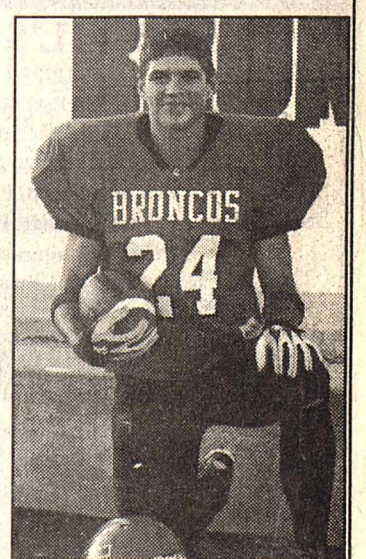
Chris Martin

Honorable Mention
Defensive Tackle

Defensive Tackle



Tom Valliant



2003 All-West Texas Football Team

Steven Duhon
Linebacker

Obituaries

Jerry L. Wood

Jerry L. Wood, Sr., age 69 years, of Sonora, died Monday, December 29, 2003, at Hendricks Medical Center in Abilene.

He was born April 21, 1934 in Post, Texas, to Lewis P. and Tennessee (Stanley) Wood. He married Nelda Joy Weiss on February 29, 1996 in Hope, Arkansas. He worked in management in the grocery store industry for most of his life and was manager for Village Market in Cross Plains for several years. He was a member of Living Waters Ministries.

He is survived by his wife, Nelda Joy Wood of Sonora; three sons, Jerry Lee Wood, Jr. of Hamby, James Wood of Abilene, Jason Wood of Hawley; a daughter, Christy Goodman of Clyde; step-sons, Kevin Weiss of Sonora and Chuck Weiss of Azle; step-daughter, Beverly Graves of Arlington; three sisters, Mary Byrd of Dennison, Sharon Morris of Post, Jean Talley of Snyder; 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at 2:00 p.m., graveside, Thursday, January 1, 2004. Burial was in the Pioneer Cemetery directed by Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains.

Gloria G. Guerra

Gloria Galindo Guerra, 55, passed away Sunday, January 4, 2004 in Sonora. Services were at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2004, at St. Ann's Catholic Church and burial followed in the Sonora Cemetery. Arrangements were by Kerbow Funeral Home.

Gloria was a homemaker and a Catholic, and was looking forward to the arrival of her 5th grandchild.

She is survived by her husband Trinidad Guerra; son, Trinidad Guerra, Jr. and his wife, Kathy, all of Sonora; a brother, Moses Galindo of Arlington; 2 sisters, Oralia Galindo of San Angelo and Anna Campian of Friona; 4 grandchildren, Trinidad Guerra III, Omega Guerra, Felix Ray Guerra, and Orion Guerra, all of Sonora; a niece that she raised, Carla Galindo of Sonora; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

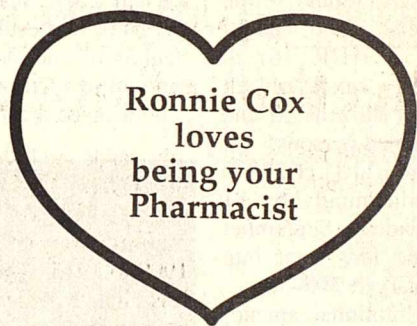


Card of Thanks

On behalf of the Sutton County 4-H Wildlife Class, I would like to thank Marvin F. and Wanda Shurley, James and Freddie Benson, and Daniel Vara and Tan Cade for all that they did to help with our deer counting course that was held on the Shurley Los Cuernos Ranch during the holidays. We picked one of the coldest nights to hayride and count deer, but the class participants and those parents that graciously assisted with the survey were real troopers to brave such a cold adventure. Thanks also to the Allison, Bristers, Campbells, and Inghams for helping out with the class.

Sincerely,
Mary H. Humphrey

Thank you for Reading The Devil's River News



Woodrow W. Mills

Woodrow W. Mills was born on his family ranch in Sterling City, Texas, on March 22, 1920. His parents were Herbert Moss Mills and Elva Jane Henry Mills. He graduated from Sterling City High School and spent his life ranching and helping children in 4-H and FFA activities. Woodrow's life-long commitment to youth in agricultural activities was recognized in 2001, when the Big Bend Livestock Show dedicated that year's show to him and Richard Powell.

Woodrow served in the Army Air Force during World War II in the 149th Service Squadron. He was a life member of the NRA, the First United Methodist Church of Marfa, and was on the Advisory Board of Sul Ross University for many years. A memorial service in celebration of his life was held December 29, 2003, at The First United Methodist Church of Marfa.

He is survived by his wife Jane, of 57 years; a son, Larry and his wife, Madeline, of San Angelo; 2 daughters, Janet and husband, Lowell Posey, of Mexia and Jeanne and husband Mem Hall, of Marfa. Survivors also include 4 grandchildren: Raine Mills Perdue and husband, Ryan, of Portland, Oregon; Justin Mills of Riverton, Wyoming; Julie Escamilla and husband, Joe, of Grand Prairie, Texas and Chelsea Hall of Marfa. Other survivors include: 2 great-grandchildren Dylan and Ryan Escamilla of Grand Prairie, Texas; brothers, George Mills of Alpine and Billy Mills of Ft. Stockton; sisters, Joy Alene Rogers of San Angelo, Nell Wallace and Jerry Wallace of Sonora, and Betty Bach of Minden, Nevada; a very special family friend, Shirley Newcomb, and husband, Rick, of Midland; and numerous nieces and nephews and many wonderful friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Herbert Mills and Arthur Mills, and sister, Elva Mae Roark.

*The old cowboy finishes his coffee,
Put his chewing tobacco in his pocket and stands up.
He takes his hat from the peg on the wall and opens the front door.
Stepping out on the front porch his eyes adjust to the Light.
In front of him is a long line*

*of mounted cowboys.
One cowboy with a big grin walks his horse over and holds the reins out.
This big guy is yours Woody, he's got the spirit and will be there for ya, all day long.*

*A small smile crosses Woody's face, then looks across the saddle,
He recognizes some of the cowboys, a lot he rode with, so stepping back he just checks the cinch.*

*A laugh comes from the cowboys.
We got a full day cowboy ya best mount up.
Woody with a handful of mane and the other on the horn, gives a hopjump,
Stabs the stirrup swinging a long leg across the butt of the big gelding slides into a saddle made only for him.*

*A smile and a gleam come into some tired old eyes as he sits up tall and straight.
Woody welcome, this is a good outfit, a good brand to ride for.
The Boss, He's a good man, hands on type when you need help, just call and He'll be there for ya.*

*The Boss owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and a herd of white horses.
Woody they look like snow geese on a new wheat field.*

*The Boss, He takes care of the sheep and goats, we look after the horses and the cattle.
Ya know that there's no fences to mend and no wind-mills to work on.*

*The grass, belly high to a tall horse and always green.
Water, plentiful, with springs that gush out and a River that runs through the middle of the valley.*

*Woody, it's a good outfit, a good brand to ride for.
With eyes bright and clear, the old cowboy turns around to look at the cabin he just came out of.*

*But it wasn't there, only green grass.
Patting his horse on the rump, he turns back around the cowboys are starting to head out.*

*Ya ready? Got a full day waiting
Eyes have not seen.
Ears have not heard.
The wonderful things... that God has for us.*

By: A loving Family Friend

Lighthouse Community Church
"Where Community is our Middle Name"
Sunday Services
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship • 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
1705 N. Crockett

SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

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. All contributions 100% tax deductible.

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
Enoc Elias Nunez
306 W. 4th St.
387-5713
387-3092

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

LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC.
Pastor Felipe Martinez
807 Orient

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

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Don Longoria, Pastor
1705 N. Crockett

PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED
509 Amistad

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

Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

Senior Center News

Jan. 12 - Bingo!
Jan. 13 - Exercise with video! Sign up now!
Jan. 14 - Kooking with Kelly! Nutrition Education at Noon!
Jan. 15 - Crafts after lunch! Need Ideas & Volunteers!

Senior Center Menu

Jan. 12 - Chicken supreme, herb new potatoes, broccoli, green salad, rolls, milk, cake.
Jan. 13 - Beef burrito, pinto beans, spinach, coleslaw, jello with pears, milk.
Jan. 14 - Meatloaf with tomatoes, blackeyed peas, okra, cornbread, banana pudding, milk.
Jan. 15 - Oven pork chops with gravy, noodles, carrots, tossed salad, bread, applesauce, milk.
Jan. 16 - Spanish meatballs, rice, green beans, sliced tomatoes, rolls, pineapple rings, 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.

School Lunch Menu • Jan. 12 - Jan. 16, 2004

Breakfast
Mon. - Cinnamon toast, applesauce.
Tues. - Breakfast pizza, assorted juice.
Wed. - French toast, syrup, assorted juice.
Thurs. - Biscuits, gravy or jelly, fruit.
Fri. - Breakfast burrito, assorted juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch
Mon. - Corn dogs, mustard, pork & beans, carrot sticks, trail mix cup.
Tues. - Fish nuggets, macaroni & cheese, green beans, fruit crisp.
Wed. - Soft taco with beef & cheese, pinto beans, salad, Jell-o/topping.
Thurs. - Steakfingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, English peas, mixed fruit, roll.
Fri. - Chicken patty on bun, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, tator tots, trail mix cookie.

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The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.

Member 2004
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Community Calendar

Jan. 8
Sonora Chamber of Commerce
General Meeting • 12:00 at Chamber Office
Jan. 9 & 10
Sutton County Stock Show
Jan. 10
Little Dribblers Sign-Up

Jan. 12
County Commissioners Meeting
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.
Jan. 20
City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m. • City Hall
Jan. 26
County Commissioners Meeting
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

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207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy
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Ask the Historical Society

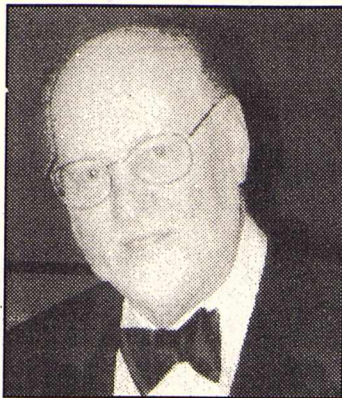
by Jo-Ann E. Palmer,
Secretary
Sutton County Historical Society

SYMPHONY QUESTIONS

Q. Why don't you sell tickets to the March 19, 2004 San Angelo Symphony performance to be held at the Sonora High School in different places around town?

A. Because table reservations come with requests to sit with or near certain other people and we need to have the diagrams to do this. Also many people have a certain area they prefer to sit in at a symphony performance in an auditorium. By coming by the office, or speaking with me on the phone either at the office or at home, I have the charts of the auditorium right at hand by the phone and can insure that they get seating in the area of their choice. If this were being done in several different places, someone could sell the same seats twice, and we don't want that to happen. One person handling reservations saves a lot of confusion in the long run. We want everyone to have a memorable evening on this our first, full symphony orchestra performance in Sonora. This is a fund-raiser for the Sutton County Historical Society to help us continue to preserve the history of our area as we have for over 30 years now. We are currently gutting the old WTU Ice House to turn it into the Sutton County Ice House Museum, a large building and grounds where we can display even more of the history of Sutton County and a wonderful addition to the 1890's Miers Home Museum and 1930's Sonora Depot (John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building).

Q. Is John Williams alive?
A. Very much so. I watched him on January 1st when he served as grand marshal at the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. The same day, he conducted both marching bands in his own arrangement of the National Anthem at the Rose



John Williams, Composer

Bowl. In October he helped inaugurate the Los Angeles Philharmonic's new Walt Disney Concert Hall by conducting the world premiere of a new five-movement orchestral work, "Soundings". He also joined with Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra music director Esa-Pekka Salonen to perform great music of Hollywood composers past and present.

John Williams is an extremely talented American/Modern composer who was born on February 8, 1932 at Long Island, New York. In 1948 his family moved to Los Angeles where he studied composition at UCLA. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to New York to study piano at the Juilliard School of Music. For a time he worked as a jazz pianist, even doing some recordings as Johnny Williams. He then moved back to Los Angeles to begin a career working in film studios, where he would compose music for approximately 80 films. Some of them are the most famous themes ever written for cinema. In 1980 he was named the 19th conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra and retired from that post in 1993. He has served as guest conductor at some of the top orchestras in the country.

John Williams has won the following Academy Awards: Best Original Score 1994 *Schindler's List*; Best Original Score 1982 *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*; Best Original Score 1977 *Star Wars*; Best Original Score 1975 *Jaws*;

Best Original Song Score and/or Adaptation 1972 *Fiddler on the Roof*. He was also nominated for his scores or songs in the following movies: 2001 *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*; 2001 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*; 2000 *The Patriot*; 1999 *Angela's Ashes*; 1998 *Saving Private Ryan*; 1997 *Amistad*; 1996 *Sleepers*; 1995 *Nixon*; 1995 *Sabrina* and "Moonlight" from *Sabrina*; 1991 "When You're Alone" from *Hook*; 1991 *JFK*; 1990 *Home Alone* and "Somewhere In My Memory" from *Home Alone*; 1989 *Born on the Fourth of July*; 1989 *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*; 1988 *The Accidental Tourist*; 1987 *Empire of the Sun*; 1987 *Witches of Eastwick*; 1984 *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*; 1984 *The River*; 1983 *Return of the Jedi*; 1982 "If We Were In Love" from *Yes Giorgio*; 1981 *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; 1980 *The Empire Strikes Back*; 1978 *Superman*; 1977 *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*; 1974 *The Towering Inferno*; 1973 *Cinderella Liberty*; 1973 Song Score/Adaptation *Tom Sawyer*; 1973 "Nice to Be Around" from *Cinderella Liberty*; 1972 *Images*; 1972 *The Poseidon Adventure*; 1969 *The Reivers*; 1969 *Goodbye Mr. Chips*; 1967 Score/Adaptation/Treatment *Valley of the Dolls*. One of the best loved pieces from his soundtrack albums is "The Cowboys".

Many people will say they don't know John Williams or have never heard of him until they hear a piece of his music played. Suddenly they will sit up and say whatever movie the piece was in. A lot of people may not know his name or face, but many people around the world know and appreciate his music.

Even in the days of silent film, there was always someone playing a large organ to help people understand what was happening on the large screen. They played music that could make you cry during sad parts and light and airy music during love scenes. People will

never forget the dum,dum, dum dum, played deep and loud to announce the entry of the villainous Black Bart. Movies just wouldn't be the same without their moving musical scores.

More than 2/3 of the tables, for the dinner before the symphony, have been sold and they are going very, very fast. We suggest you get your reservations in soon if you hope to have one. We are also selling half and quarter tables for groups that would like to sit together but just don't need a full table. More than half of the tickets for the symphony performance have been sold and again they are going very fast. At this rate we might be sold out and not have any tickets available at the door. We strongly suggest you get your reservations in ahead of time if you want to see the performance. Give me a call at 387-5084 on Monday or Friday mornings or call me at home at 387-2855 any day but Saturday.

Saturdays are work days at the Old Ice House. If you want to talk to me there, you have to bring a hammer, regular and phillips screw drivers, pliers, and a willingness to get dirty. We can use all the help we can get. We need some big strong men to help tear apart a lot of things that are beyond our young volunteers' expertise and strength and ladies to make sure they don't kill themselves in the process. We also need someone with a forklift to get some old motors down off the top of an old walk-in freezer so we can get rid of it. Anyone who wants anything that we are removing from the building, and not going to reuse, is welcome to come and get it on a work day when Rick or I are there. We are saving some items for display.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonorax.net. You may call me at 325-387-5084 Monday and Friday mornings or at home at 387-2855 any day but Saturday.

Annual Review

This time of year people make all kinds of New Year's resolutions. I do something a little different, and it is more of an annual spiritual review (Ephesians 5:15-21), and I use the Christmas Season (Celebration of Christ Jesus' birthday) and the beginning of a new year as a review time. I usually try to look back over the year and see my successes and failures. My plan of action (Psalms 37:5) always centers on my relationship to God. Many times I tend to focus on the failures and not the victories. Give thanks and praise God for the victories. In regard to the failures, after reviewing the past year, I may end up in great sorrow for my behavior. With deep sorrow I ask God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9) and ask Him for help in that area. I also review my Church-worship attendance, tithing- giving record, prayer and then service in my local Church (Hebrews 12:28). One area that I think that is a lot more important or that should come first is my personal relational to Christ Jesus. Do I really love Him and spend time with Him in personal quiet time and Bible study? I find that when I do spend time with Him I have a lot more joy and peace in my life (Galatians 5:22-26). See you in Church next Sunday.

Brother J

Tumbleweed Smith

A collection of antique motorcycles



Tumbleweed Smith

Jim Watson of Fredericksburg has some real treasures in a building behind his garage: some old motorized two-wheelers with brand names I didn't know existed. They're all road-worthy. Jim has gathered and restored all of them over a long period of time. He got his first one while he was in college.

He has three BMW's (two from the 1960's) which he doesn't include in his collection. Those are for running around the country. One has more than 100,000 miles on it. Another has 80,000 miles. Jim likes to ride. One has a sidecar on it. He uses that to run local errands.

He lists the items in his collection: "I have two Indian motorcycles, one a 1918 Power Plus that I've had since 1968, the other one is a 1948 Indian Chief, which I've only had about three years. There's also a 1927 Harley Davidson and a 1912 Pierce (which he worked on during his 26 years as a petroleum chemist). That's by far the rarest motorcycle I have. It was made by the same people

who made the Pierce motor cars in Buffalo, New York back in the 20's and 30's but they only built motorcycles 4 years, from 1909 to 1913. There's probably less than a dozen of those in existence worldwide. Finally I've got a 1922 Cleveland, a brand that was built in Cleveland, Ohio from the mid teens until about 1924. Today it seems like everybody has a Harley Davidson.

That company is over a hundred years old now. Indian was the largest manufacturer up to and through the first world war. They were made in Springfield, Massachusetts. The last Indians were made in 1953. Most of the other brands of motorcycles went out prior to the great depression of the late 20's. There have been more than 200 manufacturers of motorcycles in the U.S. I used to have a 1928 Henderson, but I sold that."

The first motorcycle was made of wood, built by Daimler-Benz in 1885.

Indian came into existence in 1901. Harley Davidson started in 1903. By 1910, Indian, Harley and Excelsior and others were selling in the tens of thousands a year. In the early days, motorcycles were transportation. They were not sport vehicles. Henry Ford diminished the use of motorcycles. In the early

1900's you could buy a Model T cheaper than you could buy an Indian.

The headlight on his 1918 Indian looks like a train light. It's actually an acetylene lighting system. Both the headlight and tail light are lighted with a match. At the time, the lighting system was optional.

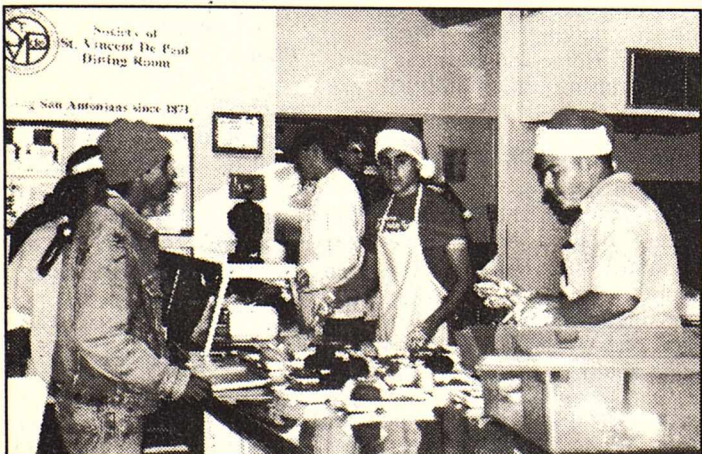
Swap meets are good places to find parts. The biggest motorcycle swap shop is in Davenport, Iowa over Labor Day.

Jim started riding motorcycles when he sold his 57 Chevy to pay college fees. He had some change left and he bought an old Italian scooter from a guy in the dorm. He's had some sort of motorcycle ever since. He says they tend to accumulate. His cycles are beautiful and attract attention when he rides them.

A sign on his wall reads: **WHY SPEND A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY ON A NEW MOTORCYCLE WHEN YOU COULD SPEND AN UNREASONABLE AMOUNT ON A USED ONE.**

Jim calls his hobby an addiction. "These old things have intrinsic value. I think we have an obligation to try to preserve some of this stuff for posterity."

St. Ann's Catholic Church youth serve Christmas cheer to homeless in San Antonio



Ernie Perez, Peter Duran and Oscar Chavez serve meals to the homeless.

submitted

On Monday, Dec. 22, 2003, a group of students from St. Ann's Catholic Church traveled to San Antonio to serve the homeless. The Sonora seniors, Evangelina Martinez, Nicki Samaniego, Leticia Leos, Peter Ryan Duran, and Oscar Chavez Jr. arrived at the San Antonio Metro Ministries (SAMM) Center at 11:00 A.M. to begin the lunch preparation for families living in the center. The SAMM Center houses homeless men, women and children in downtown San Antonio. The students prepared large salads, made and packaged dozens of sandwiches, prepared vegetables, lemonade, and washed dishes before working the food line. They humbly, but graciously, served 150 to 175 guests at the center. Before leaving, the group helped with the clean-up and with the set-up for the following meal.

The students were accompanied by Mary Sue Perez, Rachel Duran, and Ernie Perez.

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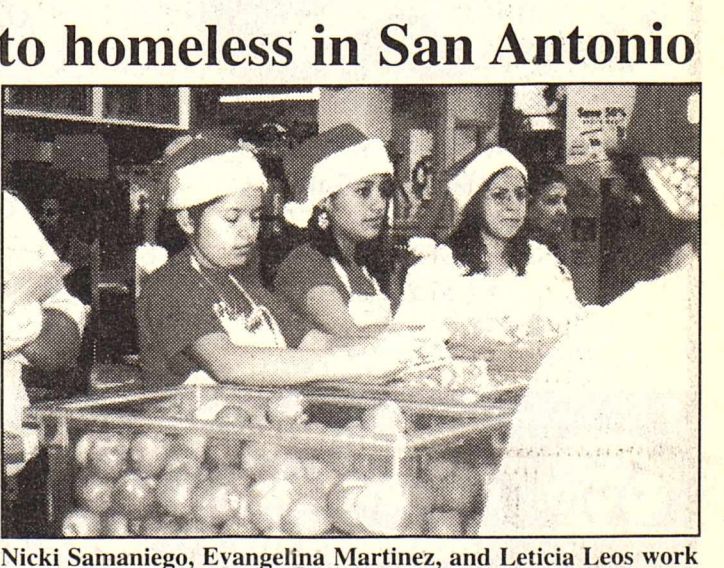
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Jack Smith celebrates 20 years with The Farm Credit System



On January 1, 2004, Jack B. Smith, Jr. celebrated 20 years with The Farm Credit System. He began as a loan officer trainee in Brady, Texas, and was promoted to vice president of the Brady office. Jack moved to Sonora in January, 1986 to become the president of the office in Sonora. Jack is primarily responsible for servicing the counties of Sutton, Schleicher, Crockett and Edwards. We congratulate Jack on this milestone in his career.

The year to come for the Sonora Main Street Program

by Mary Ann Kay, Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program Manager

Your friends at Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program have many exciting events planned for the community this year, to help celebrate 10 years of dedicated service to Sonora, Texas.

The past year was a successful one for the program, with many exciting events and traditions that we shared with this wonderful community. With the help of our website, www.friendsofsonora.org, we were able to get more of our information out. Our internet counter is sitting on 6500 hits, that is an average of 545 hits a month. We feel that this tool has been a key to our growing success.

Being located downtown has also helped, with so many visitors able to stop by. Our most recent record-breaking day was on December 29, 2003, with an average of 30 visitors to our downtown area. Wow! That was a busy day.

We hope that with the new events planned, and with keeping our traditional events, the community will keep putting their trust in Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program and will help us celebrate another 10 years.

The spring of 2004 holds many activities for the community. In January we will have our annual Community Art Show. This year we have teamed up with The Bank & Trust of Sonora to help display these wonderful works of art. The show will begin on January 21, and end on January 26. A reception honoring the local artists who participate will kick things off on January 21, at 4:30 p.m. in the lobby of The Bank & Trust. We hope that the community of Sonora will come out to view the talent of this community.

Another event for January will be an Historical World War II Seabee dedication of appreciation, with a plaque being placed on Eaton Hill honoring Carl J. Cahill.

In the "love" month, February, we are planning a quilt show. We want to encourage all the quilters of the community to come and share their quilts of love with us. Start digging out your quilts and be watching for a date, place and time in The Devil's River News.

In March we will be unveiling the new Historic Courthouse Banners that local families have purchased and made their own. There will also be the planting of the fresh flowers in the planter boxes and pocket park, in March. We hope that these fresh flowers will add color and help brighten up our town or someone's life.

This year, Easter is in April, and we will be helping the Easter Bunny celebrate this joyous holiday. On Saturday, April 10, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., we will have our traditional Easter Egg hunt on the lawn of our beautiful courthouse for the little ones, and the new tradition of the Treasure Hunt on Eaton Hill for our older ones. The Easter Egg hunt is another event that we have been doing for the 10 years that we have been of service to the community, and it is an annual event that we look forward to for another 10 years.

We will end the spring with the Memorial Day celebration. This is an important event because we get to thank those men and women who fought for our freedom and are still fighting today. We will also be removing the yellow ribbons from the Old Oak Tree as members of our community return safely home. The Memorial Day celebration will be on Monday, May 31, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. We will also be updating our Veterans of

All Wars Exhibit, so if you have any memorabilia you would like to share with the community, please let us know. We will also be having all school age students to our downtown area to learn about Historic Preservation and walk through the Veterans of All Wars Exhibit.

In the summer we are hoping to target our Fine Arts side of the community. We are looking at bringing some type of music, play or poetry to liven up our downtown area. During the summer, we will be having our 10-year Birthday Celebration with our Historic Preservation Awards Banquet. This banquet will honor those individuals who have given their time and talent to the Historic Preservation of Sonora.

To close out the "Dog Days of Summer", we will be helping where needed with Sutton County Days. This is a long-standing tradition for Sonora, and it is nice to see the community come alive each August.

The fall activities will start with Homecoming and Western Heritage Day. The two will be celebrated on the same weekend. After we see the Broncos bring in a victory on Friday night, we will celebrate Western Heritage Day on Saturday. The event will take place downtown and on the Sutton County Courthouse lawn. We will have a chuck wagon cook-off, cowboy poets, western music, and will spotlight two families that have contributed to the Western Heritage of Sonora and Sutton County. We are hoping that this new event that the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program is starting will help us kick off the fall season with a bang.

Other activities planned for the fall will include the September 11 Flag Retirement service. This is a service in which members of our community and the surrounding communities can properly dispose of their flags with members of our Boy Scout troops and service men helping with the ceremony.

In October, we will be having our annual Fall Festival and Pre-School Trick or Treating downtown. This is where the little angels and cowboys can go from business to business and show off their wonderful costumes.

In November, we will assist with the local Game Dinner, which is held the second weekend in November. The Community Thanksgiving Lunch, which is held the weekend before Thanksgiving, will also return. Look for more information on both of these annual events later in the year.

As for December, we are looking forward to starting a new tradition. In order to properly celebrate the meaning of the Christmas season, we are planning on having an evening of Christmas Celebration Downtown. We will be asking the surrounding churches to help us build a live Nativity Scene and fill the air with warm music of the season. We hope that everyone will come downtown to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and celebrate Christmas with Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program. Of course we will be having our "Best Decorated Home and Business" contest during the month of December.

I hope this has provided the community with information on what is in store for Sonora during the next year. The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program would like to thank Sonora for the last 10 years, and is looking forward to another 10 years, plus! If the program or I can be of any assistance through the year, please do not hesitate to call (325)387-2248 or come by the office, 232 Main Street, Suite 101. Let's make 2004 a GREAT year.

Chamber Chatter



by Ruthie Bounds, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

We want to remind everyone of some of Sonora's upcoming events. January is always the month for the Sutton County Livestock Show & Sale. This weekend Friday, January 9, and Saturday, the 10th, the Sutton County Civic Center and Langford Building will be full of 4-Hers and FFA students exhibiting their livestock. Friday beginning at 9:00 a.m. the Sutton County Livestock Show will begin. Angora goats, market lambs and meat goats will all be shown on Friday. On Saturday the ewe lambs, swine, and beef cattle shows will be held. As in years past, the Sutton County Livestock Show will end with the "Buyers Appreciation Supper" at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday with the Livestock Auction to follow at the Sutton County Civic Center. The Sutton County Livestock Show is one of the main events for our local 4-Hers and FFA students, and is a very important part of our heritage here in Sonora. Show your support to the youth of our community that are studying agriculture by coming to the Livestock Show & Sale this weekend. For more information you may call the Sutton County Extension Office at 387-3101.

February brings two great events: The Second Annual Daddy Daughter Date Nite and San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Devil's River Trail Ride. The Daddy Daughter Date Nite was very well received last year by the young ladies, not to mention their proud fathers. On Tuesday, February 10, at the Sutton County Civic Center young ladies from kindergarten through eighth grade and their Daddies can enjoy dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets please call the Sonora Chamber of Commerce office.

San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo will kick off here in Sonora this year with the Devils River Trail Ride from Sonora to San Angelo. The festivities will begin with Supper & entertainment on Tuesday evening February 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sutton County Park. Weather will determine whether supper will be served in the Civic Center or out on the County Slab. The trail riders will arrive in town on Tuesday. They ride out of Sonora to Eldorado on Wednesday morning with a sack lunch after being served breakfast. For more information on The Devils River Trail Ride contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce office.

In March, Sonora will be treated to a very exciting first. The San Angelo Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Hector Guzman and featuring guest artist violinist Motoi Pakeda will perform at the Sonora High School Auditorium on March 19th. The Sutton County Historical Society initiated this wonderful program entitled "Experience the Universal Language of Music" as a fund raiser. Sponsorship, donor and dinner with the performance packages are available. If you would like to reserve tickets to this performance or the dinner before the performance, or if you would like to become a sponsor for this truly magical event, please contact Jo-Ann Palmer, Secretary of The Sutton County Historical Society, at 387-5084 or 387-2855.

We are very blessed to have so many wonderful events coming up during the first three months of 2004, in a town the size of Sonora. Hope to see you all there!!

Sonora Chamber of Commerce
Phone: 325/387-2880
E-Mail: soncoc@sonoratlx.com or visit us on the web sonoratlx-chamber.com

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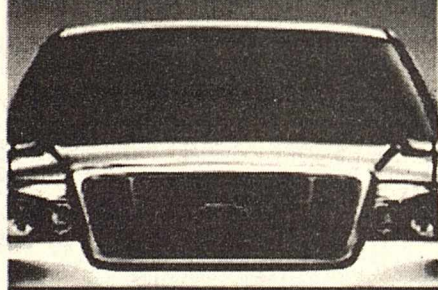


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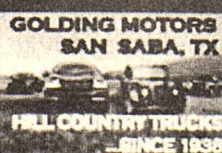


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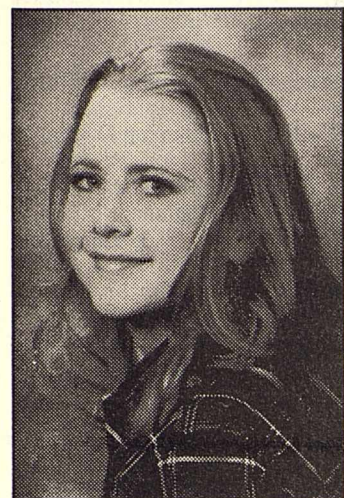


Financial Aid Night

Kay Friess, Sonora High School Counselor, would like to invite all interested high school students and their families to Financial Aid Night on Thursday, January 15, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sonora High School.

Jim Glossbrenner from the Panhandle-Plains Student Loan Center will present information on finding out how to get started in the financial aid process. Topics will include what kinds of financial aid are available, where and how to apply, and much more.

Don't miss this opportunity to get information on how to help pay for your education.



Stacey Becknell receives her Master of Physical Therapy

Stacey Lynn Becknell, SHS Class of '99, graduated from Angelo State University with a Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree on December 20, 2003. She and her 10 classmates are the 2nd MPT class to graduate from ASU. Stacey has completed a total of 197 semester credit hours, 90 undergraduate as a pre-med biology major and 107 graduate in the MPT program.

She was a member of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Alpha Chi Honor Society, Angelo State Physical Therapy Association, Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA), American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the Neurology Section of the APTA. She attended the TPTA Annual Conference/Student Conclave 2001. She was ASU MPT Class of 2003 Representative and recognized at a Graduate School banquet for her 4.0 GPA at that time.

Stacy completed three clinical rotations, two months each, at Concentra Medical Center in San Antonio (outpatient orthopedic), Baptist St. Anthony's Health System in Amarillo (inpatient neuro), and West Texas Rehabilitation Center in San Angelo (outpatient adult/pediatric neuro and ortho). She completed an advanced clinical practice in neurodevelopmental treatment (NDT) with an NDT certified PT for her independent study at Shannon Medical Center.

Stacey's research, "Effects of Resisted Leg Press and Plyometric Exercise in Combination with Swimming on Bone Densitometry in a Woman with Osteoporosis," mentored/co-authored by Mark Pape, MSPT and Trish Hutchison, EdD, FACS, was presented at ASU's Student Academic Showcase and submitted for presentation at the North American Spine Society 19th Annual Meeting to be held in Chicago, Illinois. As her administration and management group project, she participated in creating the Center for Motion Analysis at Angelo State University, the only one available in West Texas, with the project resulting in a \$220K grant from the San Angelo Health Foundation to purchase the equipment needed. Throughout college she participated in various volunteer activities through PT and with her fiancé Brandon through 4-H activities.

Little Dribblers starts soon; parents reminded to return enrollment forms and fees

Sonora City League would like to announce the beginning of its Little Dribblers program for 2004.

The program will have two divisions: 3rd and 4th grade girls and boys; 5th and 6th grade girls and boys. Any students interested in playing can pick up an enrollment form from the school or at the Devon Energy office in the Mercantile Building on Main St. The cost will be \$20 per player.

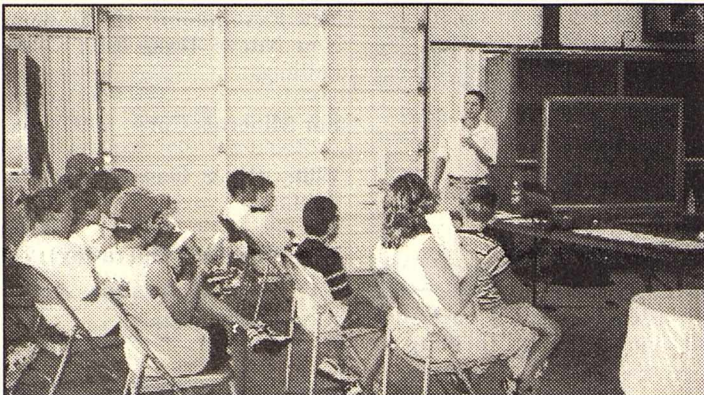
Enrollment form and money must be turned in before your child can participate.

Enrollment form and money may be turned in at the group practice on January 10. If you haven't signed up by the 10th, please accompany your child to the gym and fill out an enrollment form. We need a good turn out to have a successful program.

The first group practice will be held on Saturday, January 10, for both divisions. The 3rd and 4th grade group practice will be held at the High School practice gym with the girls beginning at 8:45 a.m. and boys beginning at 10:30 a.m. The 5th and 6th grade group practice will be held at the Jr. High gym with the girls beginning at 8:45 a.m. and the boys starting at 10:30 a.m.

Anyone interested in volunteering, or if you have any questions, contact Lynn Hinsley at 650-2223 or at home at 387-5276 or Nelda Tobias at 387-6527 work or 387-5390 home.

December a busy month for Sutton County 4-H Club



Kyle Eckert give an animal nutrition clinic.

by Bonnie Lou Campbell

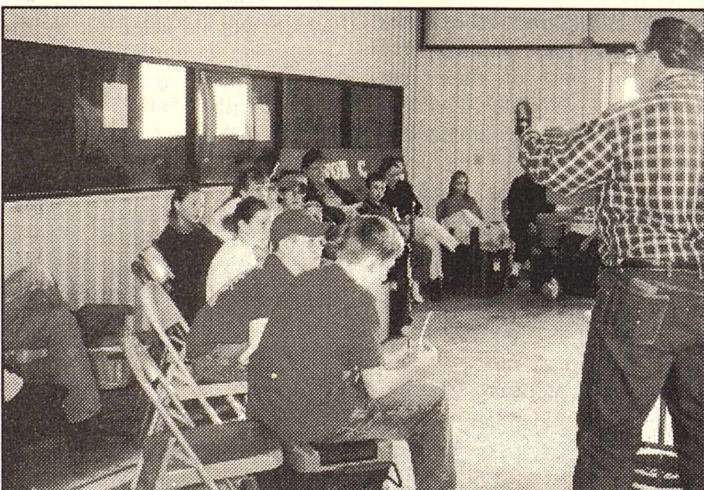
The month of December has been busy for local 4-H'ers as they prepare for the upcoming stock shows. Several workshops were planned for the kids and we had a great turn out for them all.

Kyle Eckert, assistant Sheep and Goat Specialist, of San Angelo Texas A&M Extension Service, talked about animal nutrition. He looked at many different types of feeds and supplements that 4-H'ers can use for their animals. He also talked briefly about exercise, and then gave the kids an opportunity to feel some goats to see the type of condition they need to work toward.

John Kearney, of San Angelo, talked about Winners Edge, a supplemental feed product that he sells. He also talked briefly about showmanship, exercise and feeding.

Russell Kott, extension agent from Rocksprings, gave an excellent workshop on equipping the show box. Each participant is expected to come prepared, so having all the necessary tools and equipment is most important to the success of their performance. To add some fun to the learning, Mr. Kott would call out an item and the first kid to pull it out of their box won a prize. No one went home empty handed.

Preston Faris, of Sonora, ended up the series of workshops with an in-depth Showmanship clinic. The kids brought some of their own animals to work with, and Preston gave each 4-H'er an opportunity to make mistakes, correct their mistakes, and learn the right ways be successful in the show ring.



4-H'ers learn what should be in their show boxes from Russell Kott.

Happy Birthday

January 8

Whiskey Hill, Lisa Karnes, Kathy Marshall, Will Allen, Bubba Crain, Michelle Lipham

January 9

Mark Holman, Sheryl Bawcom, Peter Perez, Mason Arispe, Anissa Reyes, Danny Ellison, Crispin Lira, Jr., Sue Smith

January 10

Adam Mirike, Delma Chavez, Cerissa Hedgecock, Amy Davenport, Myrna Murillo, Jacob Lopez

January 11

Barbara Urbanski, Nolan Kinder, Krystal Gibbens, Laura West, Ty Fincher, Michelle Lopez

January 12

Maria Zaragoza, Kaitlyn Leigh Lopez, Stephanie Hulsey, Marty Lipham

January 13

Tim Cole, Thomas Schenkel, Cheryl Lock, Amy Torres, Ralph Mayer

January 14

Japha Word, Christian Kesinger, Jody Braly

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Tax Scams from page 1

The option is better described as a ceiling, rather than a freeze, because it provides that their property taxes will not go up for that home so long as there are no new improvements, once they have registered as over-65 homeowners. If for some reason their property is reassessed at a lower value, their taxes may go down, but they may not go up. There is no fee for applying for this benefit.

Another tax provision that may benefit a senior homeowner is the property tax deferral. This is an arrangement that makes it so that seniors may defer, or delay, the payment of taxes. The tax must still eventually be paid, but it is allowed to simply accrue during the homeowner's lifetime. The unpaid taxes do accrue interest, however. The deferred taxes and interest are then eventually paid out of the estate after the homeowner's death.

The tax deferral can be a great benefit for certain homeowners with limited income. If the homeowner has applied for deferral, there are no penalties for delaying the payment of the taxes. However, a tax lien is placed on the property.

Seniors may choose not to use the deferral option, because it can significantly reduce the value of their estate and the amount their heirs will inherit. But for some senior homeowners, it may provide much needed relief.

Beware of any solicitation that involves a fee to apply or register you for tax reductions, freezes, ceilings or deferrals.

You can apply for any of those benefits yourself from your local taxing authority.

POINTS TO REMEMBER TAX BREAKS FOR SENIOR TEXANS

- No fee to apply for special homestead exemptions
- No fee to register for tax ceilings
- No fee to apply for deferrals
- Deferrals are recouped from the estate, with interest
- Tax deferral creates a tax lien on the property

Contact your local county tax assessor-collector for more information.

Sign up to receive our Senior Alerts in the Senior Texans section of our Web site at:

www.oag.state.tx.us

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging to inquire about programs and services for seniors at (800) 252-9240.

Legal Hotline for Older Texans free legal advice to Texans age 60+ - (800) 622-2520

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.



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January 13

Eldorado • Here
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January 16

Wall • There
6:30 p.m.

JVA

January 9

Reagan Co. • Here
5:00 p.m.

January 13

Eldorado • Here
5:00 p.m.

January 16

Wall • There
5:00 p.m.

JVB

January 12

Reagan Co. • Here
6:30 p.m.

January 19

Eldorado • Home
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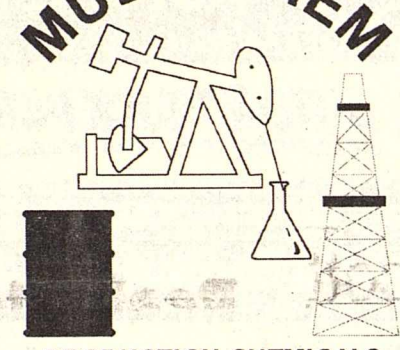
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Eaton Hill Holiday Guest List: Kestrels, Kinglets and Geocachers



The striking American kestrel can often be sighted on Eaton Hill. His remarkable coloring and agile flight are thrilling to observe.

by Delyse Jager

Eaton Hill has enjoyed a wide variety of visitors this holiday season. Perhaps it would be inaccurate to describe any Texas weather as "unusual", but the surprisingly warm days of Christmas encouraged travelers and Sonorans alike to hit the trails. Some were toting binoculars while others turned on their Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in search of hidden treasure. Apparently, the two caches hidden on Eaton Hill are gaining popularity with folks who participate in the world wide game known as "geocaching". "Caches" contain a sign-in sheet and little trinkets in the form of almost anything from software to figurine erasers. GPS enthusiasts hide the containers and publish the coordinates on the internet site: geocaching.com. Participants then use their GPS units to locate the cache, usually taking a treasure and leaving something in its place. Caches are hidden all over the world and the game provides a great outdoor activity for travelers of all ages. Other treasure hunters were seeking feathered booty and they too, were not disappointed. Numerous bird species winter in our area, and the comfortable temperatures offer excellent birding opportunities. I was delighted to hit the trails with my aunt (who introduced me to the joys of birding) and her friend, both of Tyler. The birds were everywhere! First to show up, crossing the path and lighting in a tree nearly close enough to touch, was a ruby-crowned kinglet. One of the smallest songbirds, this active little olive green bird flits about in constant search of bugs, although it will occasionally eat red cedar and other berries. The ruby crown is sported by the male but rarely seen because he remains hidden unless he is in the throws of an exuberant serenade or responding to a threat. Next to grace our sights was a black-throated sparrow. Now it may sound difficult to get too excited about a sparrow, but this little guy was a treat! Black-throated sparrows look like miniature masked raccoon-birds. None of the photos in my bird books did justice to the distinctive white "X" crisscrossing the little fellow's jet black face. Captivated by this plump and somewhat comical looking creature, I ranked the black-

throated sparrow as my personal favorite for the day. Other winter visitor sightings included goldfinches, bush-tits, a ladder-backed woodpecker and a field sparrow. Our enjoyment of nature's theatre culminated in a brief but impressive acrobatic air show performed by three high-flying hawks. Although Sonora is home to many species of raptors, they become more visible during the winter due to the arrival of some migratory populations and increased daytime predation. The most colorful of the predatory birds, Falco sparverius - the American kestrel has the added distinctions of being the smallest and most common raptor. The combination of slate blue, rusty orange and buff colors, splashed with black spots and head stripes make an enchanting display of divine artistry envious to the most accomplished human design. Not to mention the piercing dark eyes, rimmed in yellow, matching the lethal talon tipped feet. Because small birds are part of their diet, kestrels are also known as sparrow hawks, but they are actually falcons. The word falcon is derived from "falx", meaning sickle, and refers to the falcon's powerful curved claws designed to ensnare their prey. The term kestrel is from a French word and refers to the birds' call which is a high pitched "killy, killy killy". An interesting fact discovered on the internet is that the kestrel's keen eyesight allows the bird to spot a trail of urine left in the grass by a rodent. The black facial markings assist in blocking bright sunlight. Birds of prey are exceptionally majestic, and their antics in flight and the capture of prey is thrilling to witness.

New developments on the hill include additions to the Native American site and an especially beautiful water feature. Watch for more on these exciting new features next week! Bluebonnet plants are plentiful, so with a little moisture we may even exceed the spectacular display of wildflowers in 2003. Enjoy the ever-changing beauty of our diverse region on the trails of Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary. Best wishes to all throughout the New Year.

Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a project of the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation.

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New Dominion; 9150' Brown-Whitehead - 2 - #23, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8850' Duke Wilson - 187 - #12, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8800' Mayer #3402, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8800' Duke Wilson #1712, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8650' Mayfield - 41 - #6, Key Energy.

New Dominion; 8600' Duke Wilson #1715, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8600' Winnie R Aldwell Trust #11, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8500' Richardson - 138 - #11, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8225' Simmons Ranch #73, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 8200' Diebitsch - 70 - #10, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 7900' Ward #53, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 7700' JW Ward - 118 - #15, Patterson Drilling.

New KCS Resources; 6650' Genini #3808, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 6250' Askew - 42 - #6, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 6100' Cusenbary - 60 - #5, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; Simmons - 71 - #6, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett

New Chevron/Midland; 9500 J H Scheuber - B - #11, Nabors Drilling.

New Encore Operating; 7500' Bean #2703, Adobe Drilling Bronco.

J. Cleo Thompson; 7500' Todd WX - 10 - #1, Patterson Drilling.

Terrell

Nuevo Texas Inc.; 19000' Mitchell - 7 - #6, Nabors Drilling.

New Exxonmobil; 15700' Bassett Goode #5 H, Patterson UTI.

New Nuevo Texas Inc.; 8265' Pakenham - 51 - #13, Patterson Drilling.

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Par Minerals Corp; 8000' Four Square Ranch #10, Key Energy.

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Insurance bills could lower costs for small businesses

State Capital Highlights
Texas Press Association

by Mike Cox

AUSTIN - Whether you keep your appointments on an old-fashioned paper calendar, a leather-bound organizer or a state-of-the-art Personal Digital Assistant, here's a date to remember if you're a small business owner worried about the cost of health insurance: Feb. 6.

On that day, the Texas Department of Insurance will hold public hearings on proposed rules that could make health insurance coverage less expensive for both businesses and individuals. The rules, which will be acted on by the insurance commissioner after public input, will implement Senate Bills 10 and 541, passed during the last regular legislative session.

SB 10 allows small businesses to create what the legislation calls "Health Group Cooperatives" to improve buying power in shopping for group insurance benefits. These co-ops must have at least 10 different employers, a term which includes small businesses, associations, chambers of commerce or other organizations. SB 541 authorizes Health Maintenance Organizations and insurance companies to offer an assortment of health plans at reasonable prices.

Known as "Consumer Choice Plans," they provide consumers more choices on extent of coverage rather than traditional "one size fits all" policies.

The bills are law, but the hearings on the proposed set-up rules will be at 9:30 a.m., Feb. 6, for SB 541 and at 1:30 p.m. that day for SB 10.

Written comments on either measure can be received through 5 p.m. on Feb. 9.

For more details on the proposed rules, check TDI's Web site at www.tdi.state.tx.us.

About bad bugs...

A lot of state employees have been taking vacation time to enhance their holidays, but enough folks were on the job at the Texas Department of Health last week to report that flu is still widespread in Texas.

TDH reached its conclu-

sion on the prevalence of influenza based on the fact that the virus was reported in six of 11 of the state's public health regions. Types A/Panama and A/Fujian (and various varieties described as "Panama-like" and "Fujian-like") are making the rounds. A form of Type B flu also has been confirmed, though the strain has not yet been identified.

Knowledge being power, it's interesting to note in TDH news releases on flu in Texas that doctors and hospitals in Texas are not mandated by law to report flu cases to the health department. The agency is forced to get its information from a network of voluntary surveillance sites instead.

"Therefore," as the department said last week, "TDH does not have statewide flu case or flu death numbers." That last part was printed in bold.

The department apparently is not encumbered in regard to the reporting of West Nile virus cases, which accounted for 35 deaths in 2003 in Angelina, Burnet, Cameron, Castro, Cherokee, Crosby, Dallas (3), Denton, Ellis, El Paso (3), Hale, Harris (3), Hidalgo (2), Floyd, Lubbock (2), Montgomery, Parmer, Potter, Randall (2), San Patricio, Smith, Taylor, Travis, Wharton and Wichita (2) counties. In all, 408 human cases have been reported in 82 Texas counties.

Bottom line: Cover your mouth when you cough, wash your hands even when you don't think you need to and watch out for mosquitoes.

2004 travel packet available...

On a more pleasant note, if you're planning on enjoying some of the diversity of the Texas landscape and culture this year, the Texas Department of Transportation has its 2004 Travel Guide, Accommodations Guide and Official Travel Map available.

The new map, incidentally, has been digitized for the first time in the state's history. That, says TxDOT's Travel Division, makes it easier to read and more accurate than ever before.

A free travel packet containing all three publications can be ordered by calling 800-888-8TEX, Extension 2068, or bulk copies can be obtained by contacting Alice Sedberry at 512-486-5927.

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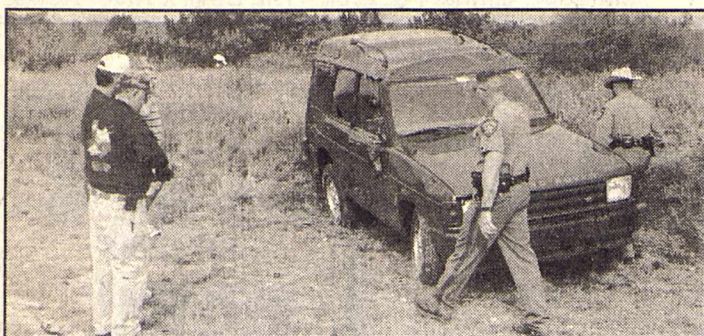
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The Land Rover is a tough little vehicle. Texas State Trooper Cody Cory responded to a one vehicle rollover at the 406 mile marker on I-H 10 on Sunday, January 4, 2004. The rear driver side tire blew, causing the driver to lose control. The ATV veered to the right and rolled one time. The two occupants were wearing seatbelts and were not injured and refused treatment. Sutton County EMS, Fire Dept., Deputy Jody Harris and Trooper Norbert Ortiz assisted at the scene.

Some good huntin' going on in and around Sutton County



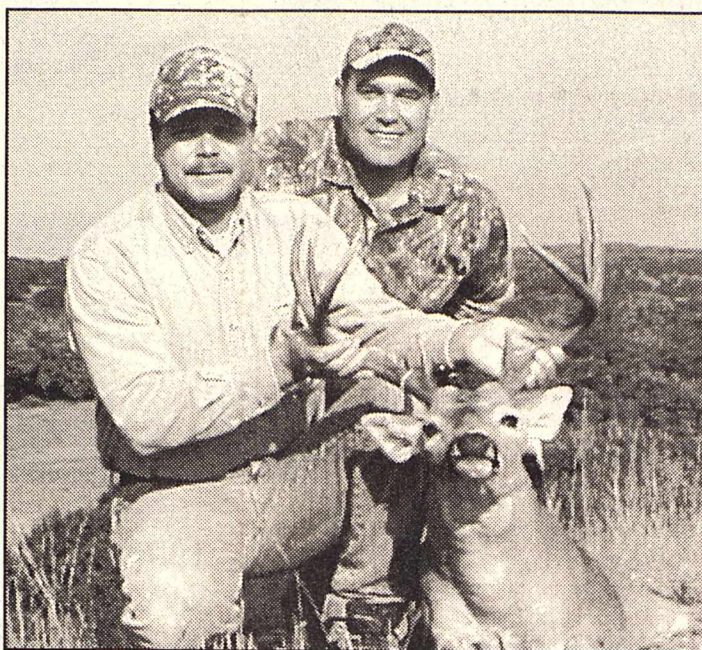
Stella, Steely and Sherry Ingham help Madison Myers (right) show off her big buck.

Madison Myers is proving to be a lucky young lady. First she won a drawing held at the December 4-H meeting, for a deer hunt on the Ben and Sherry Ingham Ranch. Then, not only did she shoot her first buck the weekend of January 3, she got this 10 point beauty with a 15" spread!

Madison would like to thank the Inghams for this opportunity and for being such gracious hosts.



Mr. Roy Petty of Seagoville, Texas, just couldn't stop smiling as he showed off this 23 point, 5 1/2 year old buck he killed in Sutton County on December 27, 2003. And who wouldn't be proud, the buck scored a gross score of 154 2/8 and a net score of 147 3/8.



Charles Stewart with guide, Smith White, hunting on the Lonesome Oak Ranch got this big buck in November.

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F.Y.I.

A representative of the San Angelo Social Security Office will be in Sonora, at the Courthouse, on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

AARP Tax-Aide - Free tax help for tax payers with middle and low income, with special attention to those age 60 and older, will be in Sonora on Saturday, February 21, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Sutton County Sr. Center. There needs to be at least 12 people sign up, or they can't come. Call ahead and make an appointment, please. 387-3941 or 387-5657.

Westside Lions Club meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Sutton County Library at 6:30 p.m.

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

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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
1306 N. Service Rd
387-3833

Taco Grill
232 Hwy. 277 N.
387-9127