

# THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

Volume 116 • Issue 8

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, February 19, 2004

## City elections to be conducted May 15

February 17 was the first day to file an application for a place on the ballot and the first day a write-in candidate could file a declaration for the May 15 city election. The last day to file an application for a place on the ballot is March 15, by 5 p.m., and the last day for a regular write-in candidate to declare candidacy is March 22, by 5 p.m.

Early voting by personal appearance will begin on April 28 and will continue until May 11. March 16 is the first day to accept applications for voting by mail ballot and application for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 27.

Three aldermen positions will be on the 2004 ballot. Terms will expire for Alderman Virgil Poloccek, Ward 1, Alderman Smith Neal, an unexpired term, and Alderman James Blackman, Ward 2. The Mayor position is also up for election.

Terms are for two years, and candidates can pick up application packets at City Hall during regular business hours.

Voting on May 15, 2004, will be at City Hall for Ward 1 and the Sonora/Sutton County Senior Center for Ward 2.

It is very important for voters to have either their voter registration card or a photo i.d. to make the vote count!

## Cavaness announces candidacy for Commissioner



Precinct 3 Commissioner, Milton Cavaness, has announced his candidacy for re-election.

I appreciate the support of Sutton County the past three years and will continue to represent Pct. 3 and work for the good of all Sutton County if re-elected.

We have worked through several large projects during this time. There are still many ahead for the county and the departments of the county government. I look forward to serving during this time.

I therefore ask for your continued support for re-election for Commissioner, Pct. 3.

Early voting begins February 23 and continues through March 5.

March 9 is voting day for

## What is the function of a County Commissioner

Four commissioners, each elected from a quarter of the county's population, serve along with the county judge on the commissioners court. Among other responsibilities, the commissioners court:

- Sets the yearly property tax rate and approves the budget and employment level for the county;
- Sets commissioners and justice of the peace precinct

See Commissioner page 7



## Lady Broncos make the Playoffs

by Nancy Glasscock  
The Lady Broncos took care of business last Tuesday night on their home court and defeated the Lady Grape Creek Eagles 61-41 to enter the District 2-2A playoffs. Brea Hughes led Sonora with 16 points including three, three-pointers.

Although the Lady Eagles led at the end of the first quarter, 12-10, the rest of the game was never in doubt for the Lady Broncos.

Sonora scored 22 points,

many from offensive rebounds, in the second quarter alone. In the third quarter more than two minutes went off the clock before Grape Creek scored a point due to tough, opportunistic defensive plays by Tamika Marshall, Lauren Smith, Missy Longoria, and Amanda Word coming off the bench. Sonora led by 22 points at the end of the third quarter.

With the game in hand, Coach Marshall substituted in seniors

Megan Berry, Hannah

Scott-Allison, and Laura Word. The Lady Broncos advance as the third place team and play Tornillo in Alpine, Monday February 16th.

### Editors note:

The Lady Broncos traveled to Alpine on Monday, February 16, 2004, where they continued their playoff run with a win against Tornillo. The Lady Broncos will play Shallowater in Odessa on Friday, February 20, at 8:00 p.m.

## Transportation officials look to the future

### TxDOT to hold public hearing at Sutton Co. Annex

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials will invite Sutton County residents to look ahead to the future of transportation in Texas at a Trans-Texas Corridor public hearing next Wednesday (Feb. 25) at 9:30 a.m. at the Sutton County Courthouse Annex, located at 300 E. Oak St.

Public involvement at hearings conducted in each county in the state by March will allow citizens to help determine if Texas needs the Trans-Texas Corridor, according to Patsy Rainwater-Maddux, the San Angelo District Public Information Officer. Sutton County residents will have the opportunity to either speak at the hearing or submit written comments that will be sent to the Austin headquarters.

The proposed Trans-Texas Corridor, a network of roads, rail and a dedicated utility zone, will be able to move people, goods, utilities, and even ideas through the state safely and faster than ever before.

Eventual features could include separate lanes for cars and trucks as well as passenger, commuter, and freight rail lines.

While Texas continues to grow, the state's population growth adds additional strain on aging roadways. However, last year Governor Rick Perry signed into law House Bill 3588, the most significant transportation legislation in state history. This law allows more control and new funding tools for local transportation planners. As a result, bonds and toll roads will allow new roads to be built at a faster rate than the former pay-as-you go method of financing construction.

Potential routes and these new funding tools will be presented during the public hearings.

## Hospital Board calls for election of Directors

### submitted

The regular meeting of the Sutton County Hospital District Board of Directors was held on Monday, February 9, 2004, in the annex of the hospital. Board members present were Lewis Allen, President; Sherrill Dannheim, Vice President; Virginia Epps, Maria Carrasco, and Lenora Pool. Also present were Keith Butler, Administrator/CEO; Michelle Schaefer, Board Secretary/CFO; Kathy Knight, and Carolyn Lara.

Lewis Allen called the meeting to order and the board approved the minutes from the regular meeting held January 12, 2004.

There was no report from the Sutton County Appraisal District.

Sherill Dannheim made a motion to call for the election of directors for Precinct 1, 3 and two at-large, on May 15, 2004. Virginia Epps seconded and the motion carried.

Epps made the motion, with a second by Maria Carrasco, to approve Dr. Greg Johnson as Chief of Medical Staff.

A motion was then made by Carrasco, seconded by Dannheim, to approve all appointments to the active and consultant staff.

Keith Butler reported on some possible future changes to

See Hospital Board page 7



## "Heeyyy Macarena!"

Kaitlyn Gibbens teaches her daddy, Gene Gibbens, DVM, how to do the Macarena at the Chamber of Commerce Daddy/Daughter Date Night "Valentine Ball". For more "Date Night" fun, see page 4.

## Stolen identity found in routine traffic stop

### by Storie Sharp

It was mid-afternoon, on Thursday, February 12, 2004, when a routine traffic stop on Interstate 10 led to the arrest of two subjects for possession of a controlled substance and identity theft.

Texas State Trooper Earlie

Williams IV was working west bound on I-10, when he clocked a 2004 Expedition traveling 95 m.p.h. in a 75 m.p.h. speed zone. After stopping the vehicle, Earlie was joined by Deputy Sheriff Michelle Villanueva at the scene. Suspicious behavior from the occupants of the vehi-

## School Equity, Chapter 41, and Sonora ISD

### submitted

Texas has gradually evolved its present school finance system over a period of almost two centuries. Equity was of interest as far back as the early 1900s. The debate then was centered on disparities in educational resources between urban schools and their rural counterparts. In 1971, the Rodriguez v. San Antonio ISD court case focused attention on inequalities between rich and poor districts. The Rodriguez case initiated a series of efforts at school finance reform, the most notable of which was House Bill 72 in 1984.

In 1993, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 7, which provided all districts with substantially equal access to revenue for equal tax effort. Senate Bill 7 ultimately was accepted as constitutional by the Texas Supreme Court.

A key "equity" chapter in the Texas Education Code (TEC) is Chapter 41 (subsequently referred to as just 'Chapter 41'). This chapter is devoted to wealth equalization through the mechanism of recapture (Robin Hood), the recovery of financial resources from districts defined by the state as high property wealth. Resources are recovered for the purpose of sharing them with low-wealth districts. District that are subject to the provisions of Chapter 41 must make a choice among several options (5) in order to reduced their property wealth and share financial resources.

Chapter 41 implicitly defines a high wealth district as a district with a tax base that

exceeds the equalized wealth level of \$305,000 in property value per student in weighted average daily attendance (the equalized wealth level was \$280,000 in property value per weighted student from 1993-94 through 1998-99, \$295,000 in 1999-2000 and 2000-01, \$300,000 in 2001-02, and \$305,000 in 2002-03). For the purposes of this chapter, a low-wealth district is one that has a wealth per weighted student below the equalized level.

Sonora ISD is classified as a Chapter 41 school district. Because of this classification, Sonora ISD has part of its revenues recaptured by the State of Texas. This is currently carried out in the actions of Option 3, which was voted in to effect in 1993 by Sonora ISD voters. At the time that seemed like the best way to educate students from other districts with the dollars the state was making Sonora ISD send in. Since then other options have become more popular. Option 4 allows Chapter 41 schools to partner with Chapter 42 schools (low wealth districts) to help educate their specific students and in many instances save the Chapter 41 school money.

OPTION 4, which was voted down in September of 2003 in Sutton County, would have saved Sonora ISD approximately \$80,000. The community will be voting on this issue again May 15th. It is not a matter of whether or not Sonora ISD is going to have to give money back to the state due to equity, but what option the school district is allowed to use as determined by the voters. By using Option 4, Sonora ISD could

## Rogers honored for tireless advocacy for senior citizens

The Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments in 13 counties organized in 1967 under authority granted by the Texas Legislature in 1965.

At a special Area Agency on Aging Recognition Banquet on Friday, February 13, 2004, in San Angelo, Texas, Sonora's own Brigitte Rogers was honored with the *Tireless Advocate Award for 2004*.

Area Agency on Aging Director, Betty Ford, presented Rogers with a special engraved glass award for her tireless and eager advocacy on behalf of the residents of the Concho Valley.

Brigitte has been a Certified Benefits Counselor since 1995, and is now a level II Counselor. She is a Regional Advisory Committee Representative, a member of the Sutton County Committee on Aging, has been a Sonora Downtown Lion member since 1992, is a Western Texas Lions Eye Bank Alliance and is a 2A-1 Lions District Cabinet member. Brigitte is currently a Silver Haired Legislature, representing the Concho Valley and is on the Executive Committee. She has been very busy lately, working on freezing homestead taxes for seniors. She is also a Lifeline Manager.

"She has a love for seniors in her heart and she is indeed an advocate for seniors and, as



Brigitte Rogers receives the Tireless Advocate Award.

such, it is my pleasure to honor Brigitte Rogers with our Tireless Advocate Award for 2004," said Betty Ford.

Concho Valley Council of Governments service area includes the counties of: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton and Tom Green. Membership includes all thirteen counties and fifteen cities in the service area.

Located within the COG are the different divisions which provide the various services to the Concho Valley.

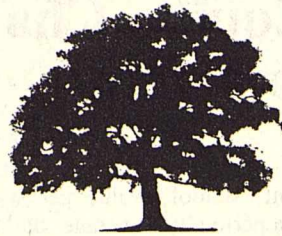
The suspects were arrested and taken to the Sutton County Jail.

Texas Ranger Brooks Long was called in to assist, and with the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of

See Identity Theft page 8

## Lighthouse Community Church

A Love Relationship  
that is real, personal and practical  
**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**  
Rev. Milton Black  
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

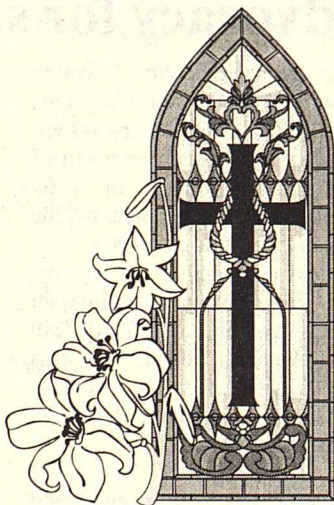
**THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN**  
Lewis Allen, Pastor  
319 E. Mulberry  
387-2616

**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



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**Kerbow Funeral Home**  
387-2266

## Engagement



### Cramer - Spillman

Bob and Dorothy Cramer of Sonora, Texas, are proud to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Michele Cramer of Sonora, Texas, and Dr. Travis Spillman of Dallas, Texas. He is the son of Patti Spillman and Jim Spillman, both of Rockwall, Texas.

Ms. Cramer is a 1997 graduate of Sonora High School. She received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Baylor University in 2000. She is currently attending Baylor Law School where she is a candidate for May Graduation.

Mr. Spillman is a 1995 graduate of Rockwall High School. He is a 1999 graduate of Baylor University where he received his bachelor of science degree in Biology. He received a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from The University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston, Texas, in 2003 and is currently practicing dentistry with Garland Dental Group.

The wedding is planned for May 15, 2004, at Travis Park United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Ronnie Cox  
loves  
being your  
Pharmacist

### School Lunch Menu • Feb. 23 - 27, 2004

#### Breakfast

**Mon.** - Biscuits/Gravy, assorted juice.  
**Tues.** - Banana nut muffin, assorted juice.  
**Wed.** - Pancake on stick, syrup, assorted juice.  
**Thurs.** - Toast, peanut butter/jelly, assorted juice.  
**Fri.** - Breakfast burrito, assorted juice.

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

#### Lunch

**Mon.** - Sub sandwiches, deli turkey, lettuce, pickles, fruit, cookie.  
**Tues.** - Sloppy Joe on bun, pinto beans, pickle spear, orange wedges.  
**Wed.** - Chicken pot pie, broccoli & cheese, rosy applesauce, biscuits.  
**Thurs.** - Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, English peas, Jell-O with fruit, roll.  
**Fri.** - Grilled cheese, French fries, carrot sticks, dressing, peaches.

## Senior Center News

**Feb. 23** - Bingo!  
**Feb. 24** - Exercise...join us after lunch or in the morning! Call or come by center.  
**Feb. 25** - Ash Wednesday, Birthday party for February babies!  
**Feb. 26** - Crafts...need new ideas & volunteers!  
**Feb. 27** - Run errands & pay bills after lunch.

## Senior Center Menu

**Feb. 23** - BBQ pork chops, baked beans, peas, cornbread, fruit salad, milk.  
**Feb. 24** - Smothered steak with gravy, onions, mashed potatoes, green beans, juice, roll, apple crisp, milk.  
**Feb. 25** - Salmon croquettes, macaroni & cheese, spinach, coleslaw, roll, milk, peach half.  
**Feb. 26** - Chicken fried steak with gravy, oven potatoes, carrots, roll, milk, vanilla pudding with fruit.  
**Feb. 27** - Cheese enchiladas, pinto beans, rice, tossed salad, crackers, cake, 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.\*

## Cards of Thanks

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors would like to thank Ruthie Bounds, Mickey Sharp, Tony Torres and Sue Moore for volunteering their Sunday afternoon to take down and replace the banners on the streets of Sonora. Inclement weather and busy schedules had prevented the replacements earlier, but these four bailed in and got the job done! Thank you again!

The Sutton Co. ACS Relay for Life Committee would like to thank the interested participants that attended the 2004 Relay Kick-Off Baked Potato Lunch. Though the crowd was small the enthusiasm remains big! We look forward to working with all of you as Relay draws nearer and hope that you can help spread the word and get more people involved.

Thanks again,  
ACS RLF Committee

Eight years ago, Jerry and I began a new life in Sonora. Everyone of you in this area who interacted with us at Village Market Food Center, Hudspeth Nursing Home, New Life Ministries, Inspirations, Adkins' Septic Services, Corner Drug, Gifts Galore & More or just "in town" will always be remembered and appreciated. Thank you all for participating in the best years of our lives! God bless you!

Joy Wood

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to everyone who helped make the 2004 Fling Ding successful.

Thank you to all the officers and the directors for their guidance in planning and producing this year's event. Many thanks to the employees of Sonora Wool & Mohair Company for their diligence in the preparation and the aftermath of the evening. Thank you to the law enforcement officers for providing the security. Many, many thanks to the decorating crew for sharing their talents, their experience, and their time. Hats off to the bar staff for making the transition of the building work by providing a bar set up that was user friendly. The Fling Ding was successful because of the extraordinary dedication of this community to keep this tradition as one that is unique to Sonora.

Thank you,  
Michael and Rita Hale

The family of Primitivo Gonzalez (rip) wishes to express their heartfelt thanks, for your presence and comforting words, for your phone calls, cards, food, flower arrangements, for the food that was donated for the meal after the funeral and to the ladies at St. Ann's Church who served the meal. May God bless you always.

"Grieving is among the most sacred and the most human things we will ever do. It will plummet us into the mystery of life and death and resurrection."

## Texas Tales Told By Tumbleweed Smith

### 58 years of marriage and still holding hands



**Tumbleweed Smith**  
Louise and Andrew Williams live in an attractive and well-kept home on one of Rotan's main streets. A graceful mesquite tree shades the driveway. Their home looks like a honeymoon cottage. Two sweethearts live inside.

"The reason I fell in love with him was because he bought me a coke," says Louise. "We had nothing much and lived way off out in the country, and I went to this little country school. We were out by the football field one day and he asked me could he buy me a coke. I was really impressed. I decided right then and there that's the man I want to marry."

It is not unusual to see Louise and Andrew Williams holding hands while walking down the street in Rotan. "We met at school in Hobbs when we were thirteen years old," says Louise. Hobbs is a little place just outside Rotan. "There's not much at Hobbs now, but Andrew says it used to be quite a place. "It's unbelievable to drive through out there now. At one time there was actually 350 of us going to school in Hobbs."

Andrew says he and Louise had fun on dates. "We'd come to Rotan to come to the show. Them days, everybody went to the show. There used to be three movie theaters here in

Rotan."

Louise says after graduation, Andrew went to college, then was drafted and had to go to the service. "And I cried so much."

Andrew was in Italy during World War II. They got married when he returned. "He had to call his mother," says Louise. "to see if it was all right to marry me. After going overseas and fighting for two years, he still asked his mother if he could get married. I tell you, I have had a dream life. He has always been the nicest husband you ever saw. We've been married 58 years."

I asked both of them how they had managed to keep the romance alive and fresh.

"Gosh, that's not hard," says Louise. "When you have somebody so nice to you. I just couldn't ever tell anybody how wonderful he is to me. We do nearly everything together. It's just always been that way. Even when we were tending some mother cows and had to go see about them at 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. I went with him. He always opens doors for me, and everybody laughs about that. I really don't expect it or even want him to especially, but he does it, he really spoils me." Andrew replied, "I just loved her so much when we married and never got over being in love with her."

"I just wish everybody could have this kind of life," says Louise. "Every day is exciting and fun and full of love."

Thank you for reading  
The Devil's River News

## THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

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\$25 per year out of county

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Copy and Ad deadline

Monday, 5:00 p.m.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication.

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



Member 2004

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Community Calendar

**Feb. 23**  
County Commissioner's Meeting  
9:00 a.m. • Annex Bldg.

Early Voting Begins

Community Forum

7:00 p.m. • Civic Center

Al-Anon Family Meetings

Every Monday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room  
Call 387-2521 ext. 170

The Community Calendar



P.O. BOX 738 - SONORA, TEXAS 76950

(325) 387-9861

Member FDIC

**Feb. 25**

World War II Plaque Ceremony honoring  
Carl J. Cahill • 3:30 p.m. • Eaton Hill

**Feb. 26**

SHS Golf Tournament

Feb. 26 - 28

Dry Devil's River Baseball Tournament

**Feb. 27**

Sonora Colt Relays

is made possible by:



Member FDIC

207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593

Letters To The Editor Policy

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A sweet smile  
to brighten our day.  
A small hand  
to hold along the way.  
**Emma Katherine  
Balentine**  
**January 14, 2004**  
**Nine Pounds**  
**Two Ounces**  
**Twenty inches long.**  
**Proud parents are**  
**Rob and Angie Balentine.**  
**Happy Grandparents are**  
**Claburn and Ilene Stewart;**  
**Jim and Del Balentine**



**B & H Catering**  
**SPECIAL**

Wed., February 25th • Ash Wednesday

**Fried Catfish**  
*with all the trimmings!*

Enjoy our delicious Catfish every Friday!  
**207 W. Chestnut**  
**387-2528 • 206-1268**

**O & M Gonzales**  
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**New at La Mexicana Restaurante**

**99¢ Breakfast  
 Burrito Special**

Breakfast Burritos  
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 Any two items only 99¢  
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**La Mexicana Restaurante**  
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**Chamber Chatter**

**Daddy's and daughters dance the night away;  
 look for Chamber Award ballots coming soon**

**SONORA**

Chamber of Commerce  
 by **Ruthie Bounds,**  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Executive Director

The Daddy Daughter Date Night "Valentine Ball" was a great success! We want to thank all the participants and the volunteers. It was a wonderful sight to see all those dads, granddads, uncles, big brothers and friends escorting the beautiful young ladies. I'm not sure, but I think some of the escorts had as much fun as the young ladies. The Daddy Daughter Date Night is a fundraising event for the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, so many of the board of directors for the chamber were there to help, and a couple of them were there to take their daughters dancing. There were many volunteers and helpers. We want to thank, Rosie Butler, Ann Morriss, Emily Butler, Yvette Samaniego, Alexi Ortiz and Miss Sutton County, Kelly Kearney. Kelly had the difficult task of judging the jitterbug contest. I'm not sure who won the contest, but all the couples on the dance floor were winners in my opinion. We also want to say a big "Thank You" to First National Bank of Sonora for the beautiful flower arrangement they provided for the event. The photographs that were taken at the "Valentine Ball" will be sent to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office and Welcome Center, and you will be able to pick them up there. Watch for notice in the Devil's River News and listen to KHOS to find out when your photographs will be ready.

We want to let all the Sonora Chamber of Commerce members know to be watching the mail for the ballots to elect new directors to the Board of Directors for the Chamber. Each year new board members are needed to replace those who rotate off the board when their terms are complete and to replace any board members who have had to resign. You will also be receiving along with your ballot, a nominee form for the awards given at the annual Sonora Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held April 8, 2004. The awards given by the chamber are: Citizen of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Educator of the Year, Employee of the Year, and Organization of the Year. A list of past recipients of these awards will be included to help you with your nominations. Sonora is a wonderful community and there are so many deserving people and organizations, I know that it will be hard for you to choose. This is your opportunity, as a member of Sonora Chamber of Commerce, to speak up and be heard. If you are not yet a member of the chamber and would like to become a member, we would love to have you join us.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce  
 Phone: 325/387-2880  
 E-Mail: [soncoc@sonoratrax.net](mailto:soncoc@sonoratrax.net)  
[www.sonoratrax-chamber.com](http://www.sonoratrax-chamber.com)



The dancers take to the floor.



If Dad can't dance, just grab a pal!



"Come on ride the train!"



Learning how to two-step.



Slow dancing with Dad.

**Angelo State  
 University  
 awards degrees  
 and announces  
 Dean's List**

Angelo State University conferred 324 bachelor's and master's degrees upon 322 graduates during 2003 Fall commencement exercises Dec. 20 in San Angelo, Texas.

Degree recipients from the Sonora area were: **Stacey Lynn Becknell, M.P.T.**; **Linda Michelle Villanueva, B.A.**; and **Johnna Elizabeth Wade, B.B.A.**

Students achieving the Dean's List for the 2003 Fall semester have also been announced by Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time at ASU and must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Students making the honor roll from the Sonora area are listed with their majors: **Allison Arlene Benson**, interdisciplinary child development and learning; **Shaylyn Rhae Burnham**, interdisciplinary child development and learning; **Kara L. Eaton**, interdisciplinary child development and learning; **Amanda Walker Golson**, kinesiology/teacher certification; **Thomas Ray Jacoby**, mathematics/secondary certification; **Zane Shurley Martin**, biology and psychology; **Linda Michelle Villanueva**, psychology; and **Johnna Elizabeth Wade**, marketing.

**Local students  
 inducted into  
 the National  
 Honor Roll**

The National Honor Roll recognizes high school and middle school students who have achieved exceptional academic success. Induction in the National Honor Roll is an honor shared by a very small percentage of students nationwide. National Honor Roll also offers services that encourage the further success of its student members.

Making the National Honor Roll from Sonora are: **Desirae Boldt**, **Tina Covey**, **Steven Duhon**, **Kesha Frasier**, **Paola Garcia**, **Evangelina Martinez**, **Magdalena Ramirez**, **Embre Smith**, **Roland Solis**, **Cady Taylor**, **Maria Vaquera**, **Warren Wallace**, **Wilson Wallace**.

**REP. BONILLA  
 ANNOUNCES  
 'ACADEMY  
 DAY'**



WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Representative **Henry Bonilla** is proud to announce an "Academy Day"

orientation for all high school students interested in educational opportunities available through the U.S. Service Academies. The seminar will be held in San Antonio, TX on March 7, 2004.

"Academy Days provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the many options available through our armed services," said Mr. Bonilla. "We are always proud of the students we meet and nominate to the military academies through these events."

Students and parents will meet with Mr. Bonilla's Academy Liaison who will assist them through the nomination process. The service academies that will be represented are the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. The U.S. Coast Guard and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) will also be represented.

Interested students, who are unable to attend the event, may visit Mr. Bonilla's web site at [www.house.gov/bonilla](http://www.house.gov/bonilla) or call 210 697-9055 for more information regarding the nomination process.

Please remember to bring your photo identification so you may be admitted to the event

**Let's keep Laurie English  
 working for us**



**L**aurie English currently serves as our First Assistant District Attorney. She is a respected member of the 112th District Attorney's team, trying tough cases and earning the respect of law enforcement, court officials, and other attorneys.

We can count on Laurie's fairness, experience, and legal skills to continue to serve us well when we elect her 112th District Attorney.

Vote for Laurie English in the Democratic Primary. Keep her working for us.



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## Butler gets poetry published

Emily Butler, the 13 year old daughter of Keith and Rose Butler, was recently published with the following original poem.

### The Bravest People I Know

The bravest people I know aren't celebrities  
They aren't rich and famous  
No, they didn't win the lottery or cure polio

The bravest people I know are paramedics and EMTs  
It takes bravery to save lives  
It takes courage not to break down in the midst of tragedy

They've seen children's dying hearts stop beating,  
And grandmothers saying goodbye to their grandchildren in their last breath

It takes love to hold a sick elderly woman's hand or pat a frightened child on the head  
It takes intelligence to know how much and what type of medicine to give

I admire these people for what they do  
They've saved many a person's life  
Hey, who knows, they might save yours too

So let's show some respect for those men and women in blue

*Dedicated to Mom, Dad, and the rest of Sutton County's EMS*

Emily Rose Butler (future Paramedic), Age 13, Sonora, TX

### Correction

In last week's County Commissioner's story I named the Sutton County Auditor as Maura Chavez instead of Maura Weingart. I apologize for the mistake.

## Broncos win close one against Grape Creek

by Maray Cearley

With the playoffs looming in the very near future, every win is important to the Broncos. In District 2-2A Wall has clinched a playoff spot with two spots remaining. Reagan County, Grape Creek and Sonora are all within one game of each other.

On Tuesday, February 10, 2004, against Grape Creek, Sonora won a close one 60-52. At

the half, Sonora trailed by three, but out shot the Eagles in the third, 19 to 10.

Chris Martin led the Broncos with 16 points and six steals. Brett McDaniel followed closely with 15 points, and Trapper Valliant had 11.

Clint Cearley and Steven Duhon each had seven and Austin Wagoner had four. Cearley and Valliant were leading rebounders with 12 and nine, respectively. Valliant also had three blocked shots.

## Broncos lose to Owls

by Ray Glasscock

If this had been a game of golf, it would have been a drive into the rough, a beautiful second shot just short of the green, a clip that hits two feet from the hole but rolls into a bunker, followed by a great out to 10 feet, and then a three putt.

The Broncos controlled the opening tip and missed their first shot. To set the stage for the game, an Owl rebounded and went the entire length of the court for an easy lay up. The Broncos played great defense in the first quarter, and the Owls appeared to be getting into foul trouble. The score was tied most of the first quarter until right at the end when the Owls took a four point lead at 10 to 6.

In the second quarter, the Broncos reached the bonus first and sent several players to the line. As it turned out, the opportunity to win the game vanished at the free throw line. The Broncos hit only 10 of 23 from the line while Reagan County hit 70% of theirs. As happens to all teams at some point or another, the ball just would not fall for the Broncos.

In the third quarter, Clint Cearley opened the quarter with a three pointer to cut the lead to two. Tom Valliant and Brett McDaniel made basket after basket from inside the paint. They contributed 13 of the Broncos 17 points in the third. Each time they would get the score back to even, the Owls would answer with a three point play or an easy steal and a lay up. The third quarter ended at 40 to 38 in favor of the Owls as McDaniel hit a three to keep it close. The Broncos appeared to have moved close enough at the end of the third to win the game in the fourth.

## Main Street Traffic

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

Great Volunteers!  
The Friends of Historic Sonora Inc., Main Street Program have the best volunteer Board of Directors in all Sonora. They work hard to make downtown Sonora the best place to work and play by bringing in festivals and events that spotlight the downtown area and all of Sonora.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers in our community by sharing this poem that was read at the appreciation luncheon for Volunteers of Texas.

### "Volunteers, God Bless Them"

Many will be shocked to find,  
When the Day of Judgement nears,  
That there's a special place in heaven,  
Set aside for Volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,  
Satin couches and foot stools,  
Where there's no committee chairman,  
No group leaders or car pools.

No eager team that needs a Coach,  
No bazaar and no bake sale.  
There will be nothing to staple,  
Not one thing to type or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed  
But a finger snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners  
And treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve the privileged few  
and work for all they're worth?"  
Why, all those who reaped the benefits  
And not once volunteered on Earth!

We would like to add to this that volunteers are what make the programs, events, committees, festival and our community a great place to live and raise our children. Have you hugged your volunteer today! Thank you Sonora.

Don't forget to take the "Quilt & Needle Work Walk". The quilt show will end February 27, 2004.

The unveiling of the World



Sonora Middle School students practice spinning wool with Patti Strauch at The Bank & Trust as part of the spinning and weaving demonstration.



Nadine Eby weaves wool for middle school students, explaining the history and art of the craft.

War II plaque in appreciation and honor of Carl J. Cahill will take place on Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary under the

American Flag, on February 25, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. A reception will follow at the Sutton County Library.

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Brett McDaniel keeps the ball away from the owls. Photo by Ray Glasscock



Chris Martin goes up for the shot against Reagan County. Photo by Ray Glasscock

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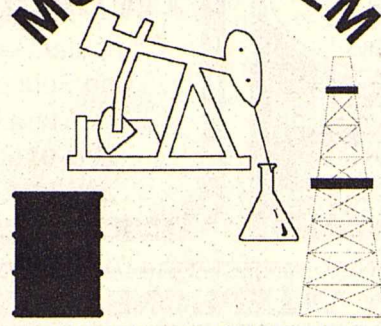
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Please visit [www.NickiHarle.net](http://www.NickiHarle.net)

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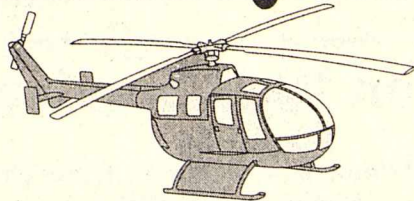
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## TPWD To Host 2004 Texas Land Trust Conference

AUSTIN, Texas - With each passing year, Texans trade in open ranges, grasslands and rivers for strip shopping malls and concrete parking lots. But landowners have other choices for the use of their wide-open spaces, even in a slow economy. The 2004 Statewide Land Trust Conference hopes to offer a few more conservation-friendly options for open lands.

Common Ground, Gaining Ground: Tools for Shaping the Texas Landscape on Feb. 27-28 in Austin will offer participants training for land conservation, networking opportunities and meetings with state and federal agencies. Carolyn Vogel, with the Texas Land Trust Council at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, encourages attorneys, appraisers, private landowners, and those involved in land trusts to attend.

Vogel said when land is passed down through a family, it often is split up through fences or partitions, which can harm the natural movement of wildlife. Sometimes the inherited property is too small to live off of, and parcels are sold off. Development affects water quality and the ecosystem.

"A lot of landowners feel they are backed against a wall," Vogel said. "The only thing they can do is sell since the land can

no longer support them. Texas loses more farmland every year, (about 283 square miles), than any other state in the country."

Landowners, their advisors and the conservation community will come together at the 2004 conference to learn about the range of assistance available to them. This includes technical and financial assistance programs and potential tax incentives. These tax incentives will be discussed as part of an all-day conservation easement workshop on Friday, Feb. 27. Another topic will be a recent study by the American Farmland Trust and Texas A&M University called Texas Rural Lands: Trends and Conservation Implications for the 21st Century. A session and workshop will discuss findings about how and why open land is disappearing and what the future may look like.

Continuing education credits in several fields are pending. Early registration by Feb. 6 is \$65 for Texas Land Trust Council members and \$85 for non-members. After that date, the fee is \$100.

For more information about the conference, contact Susan Harris at (512) 389-4961 or by e-mail at susan.harris@tpwd.state.tx.us

## Sales tax revenues increase again

State Capital Highlights  
Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox

AUSTIN - The good economic news continues for Texas. January sales tax receipts were up compared to a year before, the fifth straight increase in revenue to state coffers.

Earlier this month, the Legislature Budget Board was briefed by economists who predicted this would be a much better year for the state's economy.

Texas may gain as many as 150,000 jobs this year,

University of North Texas economist Bernard Weinstein told the LBB.

One problem: Jobs lost during the recent economic downturn tended to be of the higher paying variety. Many of the newly-created jobs, and anticipated positions, are in the service industry and government. Both categories are lower paying than many of the jobs lost, a factor that translates into lower consumer spending. That, of course, means less in sales tax revenue.

## Special session in April?

The buzz around the Capitol is that early April, possibly April 10, is D-Day for the special session on school finance.

That would be a month after the primaries and six months before the November general elections.

Believe this or not, but another component of the buzz is that one of the school funding considerations that ranks fairly high up the list is an increase in the sales tax.

New Main Street communities...

Since 1981, the Texas Historical Commission's Main Street program has helped 145 communities in the state revitalize their historic downtown areas.

The cities selected for Main Street funding this year are Grand Saline, Pecos, Pharr and McKinney. Architectural renderings for downtown renovations in each of these cities will be unveiled by First Lady Anita Perry in ceremonies set for March 30 in Pharr and Pecos and the following day in McKinney and Grand Saline.

Beam up all the cell phones?

If you watched the original "Star Trek" on television back in the '60s, or caught the series on syndication, you know that Captain Kirk and the other members of the Enterprise crew had a communication device that looked remarkably like today's small cell phone.

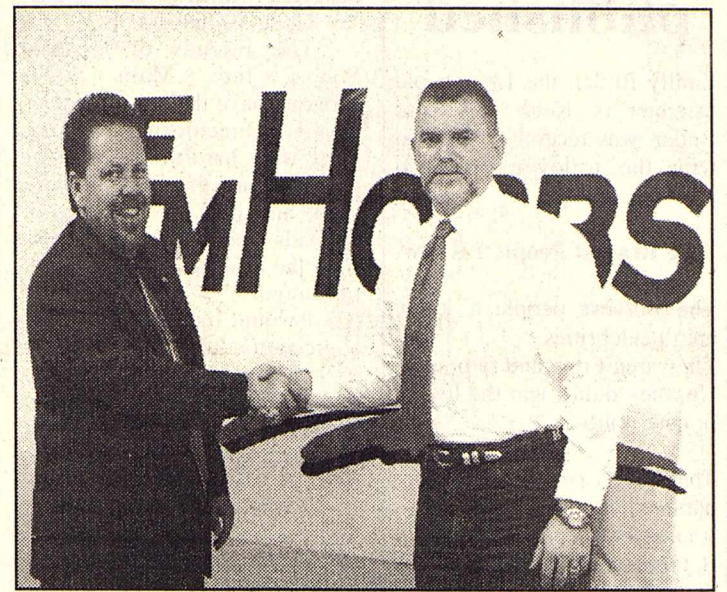
These days, according to the Department of Public Safety, cell phones are becoming almost as dangerous as entering Klingon territory. Traffic crashes related to cell phone use (because of the driver distraction they cause) jumped 44 percent from 2000 to 2001. And if data from 2002-03 were available, which it isn't, the percent of increase probably is even greater.

In real numbers, reported cell phone-related crashes jumped to 1,032 from 716. Seven people died in cell phone-related crashes in 2000 and eight deaths were reported the following year.

A more traditional problem, road rage, was blamed on 219 crashes in 2001. That represents an increase of 143 percent from the 90 crashes attributed to road rage the year before.

The solution: Don't use your cell phone when you're driving.

## E.M. Hobbs opens new service center in Midland



Clay Bomer, Vice President, Operations &amp; Sales, with company founder Mike Hobbs, President. (L - R)

(Sonora) E.M. Hobbs, a cased hole wireline services company with headquarters in Sonora, recently opened a service center in Midland at 3201 East Loop 250 North. The company's range of services includes cased hole logging, perforating, mechanical services, pipe recovery, pressure control, tubing conveyed perforating, and slick line services.

Mike Hobbs, President, announced the appointment of Clay Bomer of Midland as Vice President, Operations & Sales. "Clay brings more than 24 years' experience in multi-stage completions and workover services to our firm. He learned the business from the ground up, starting his career working on field crews. He knows what our customers need and how to provide it in an efficient and economical manner."

Bomer joined E.M. Hobbs in April 2003 as Sales Manager. He and Hobbs formerly worked for rival major wireline service companies, gaining an appreciation for each other's successful way of doing business.

Bomer cited the company slogan, "Our People Make the Difference," in explaining the E.M. Hobbs business model. "Our focus is on good service. We take pride in the fact that, because of the way we are structured, we can offer prompt, expert service and save our customers time and money," he said.

Hobbs started the business in 1998 after working with a major wireline service compa-

ny. He built a successful company at Sonora, attracting the attention of W-H Energy of Houston, which bought E.M. Hobbs in November 2002. Hobbs now manages the company and since last spring has opened field service centers in Midland, Bridgeport and Artesia, New Mexico.

"The acquisition has enabled us to grow at even a faster rate," Hobbs stated. The company has grown from three original employees in Sonora to more than 60 at its four locations.

The company acquired the Bridgeport location from HydraCoil, Inc., which serves the North Texas area. The Bridgeport facility employs the original 14 workers, including its former owner, Philip Nivens and former manager, Adney Stowe.

Randy Mooring is operations manager of the Midland office. Eddie Perez is operations manager in Sonora, and Wally Hill is operations manager in Artesia.

Hobbs said that in its early stages, the company grew without benefit of having a salesman, "which says a lot for the type of people that we employ. I know that from day one, to be successful, we had to have people that could make a difference."

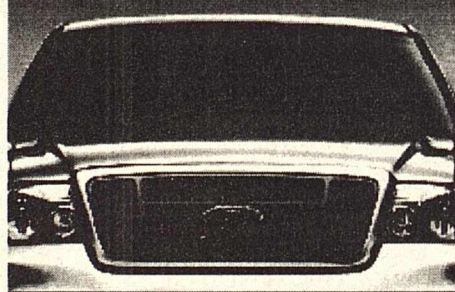
E.M. Hobbs continues to expand its customer base throughout the Permian Basin, Eastern New Mexico and North Central Texas.

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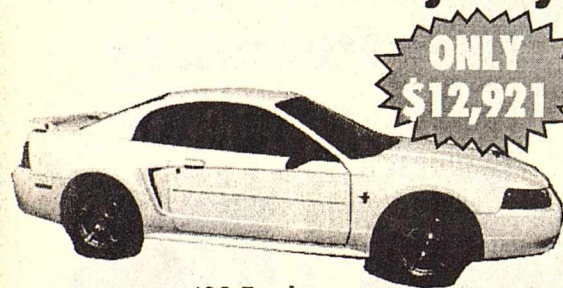
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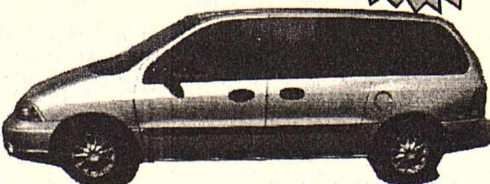
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## Sutton County shows well in San Antonio



Emily Earwood, John Duke Hudson pictured with Judge Justin Steiler showing Champion & Reserve Champion in the Junior Show.

The San Antonio Livestock Show 2004 Angora Goat show was Tuesday, February 10th, and it was Sutton County all the way.

In the Junior Show, **Emily Earwood exhibited the Champion Buck and John Duke Hudson exhibited the Reserve Champion Buck.**

Class winnings were:  
**Buck Kids:** Laura Martin 2nd, Mark Holman 7th

**Yearling Buck:** Emily Earwood 1st, John Duke Hudson 2nd & 3rd, Word B. Hudson 4th

**Aged Buck:** Meredith Earwood 1st

In the Does, class winners were:

**Doe Kid:** Meredith Earwood 2nd, Laura Martin 4th  
**Yearling Doe:** Laura Martin 3rd, Meredith Earwood 9th

**Aged Doe:** Meredith Earwood 1st

Other exhibitors in the Junior Show were Cash & Hunter Jennings, Kelsey & Garrett Watkins and Dustin Neff.

In the Open Show, **Meredith Earwood exhibited**

**the Champion Buck and the Champion Doe.**

Class winnings were:

**Buck Kid:** Meredith Earwood 3rd

**Yearling Buck:** Meredith Earwood 1st

**Aged Buck:** Meredith Earwood 2nd

**Doe Kid:** Meredith Earwood 1st & 4th

**Yearling Doe:** Meredith Earwood 2nd & 4th

**Aged Doe:** Meredith Earwood 1st & 3rd

## Hospital Board from page 1

the hospital construction plans. Butler also reported he and Lewis Allen had attended the Hudspeth Ranch Board meeting in January and requested their financial support for the construction of the hospital, wellness center and completion of Dr. Johnson's side of the medical clinic.

Changes in the 2004 budget to accommodate items that were approximated when the budget was instated were noted by Keith Butler.

Butler reported A/R was up due to an increase in revenue for January. He also reported the A/R aging report was being closely watched.

The clinic completion is taking more time than previously reported in January by Keith Butler. The general contractors believe work should be completed by the end of February with weather permitting.

Michelle Schaefer gave the financial report for December 2003.

Dannheim made the motion, seconded by Epps, to approve the expenditures for January 2004.

Board members were advised Henry Ramos had returned to Sonora as Lab Director.

With no further action, Pool moved, seconded by Carrasco, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.



Nelda Tobias presents David Creek with a plaque from the Boy Scouts of America, acknowledging his support of the Scouting program in Sutton county.

## Creek recognized for being a friend to Scouting

In February 2004, the Boy Scouts of America celebrate their 94th anniversary. Nearly five million youths had the opportunity to participate in the programs of the BSA during 2003, thanks to the efforts of countless volunteers and community support like that given by David Creek and Creek Swabbing.

Scouting is a values-based program designed to instill self-discipline, self-confidence, self-reliance, and self-worth, qualities that will last a lifetime.

In order to provide these high quality programs, a strong base of financial strength is needed. A solid source of income serves as the foundation for the quality Scouting programs. Friends of Scouting, and contributors such as Creek, help provide some of these funds needed to teach Scouting principles that will result in a positive influence on character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The youth of today are America's future leaders.

If you would like more information or would like to make a pledge, please call Nelda Tobias at (325) 387-6527 or our Local Unit-Serving Executive, Michael Mitchell, at (800) 321-7107.



Emily & Meredith Earwood, Kelsey & Garrett Watkins with Emily's Champion Buck in the Junior Show and Meredith's Champion Buck & Doe from the Open Show.

## Budweiser Clydesdales to appear in San Angelo

San Angelo, Texas- The world famous Budweiser Clydesdales, the symbol of quality and tradition for Anheuser-Busch since 1933, are scheduled to make several appearances in the Concho Valley the week of February 25th-28th. The horses will be on display at Fort Concho, Sunset Mall and will wrap up their visit with an appearance in Ballinger, Texas.

The eight-horse Hitch will be harnessed and hitched to the famous red beer wagon at Fort Concho on Thursday, February 26th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and February 27th the "Gentle Giants," as they are often referred to, will be on display at Sunset Mall from 3:00-6:00 p.m. In addition to their stop in San Angelo, the Clydesdales will make an appearance in Ballinger, Texas February 28th 12:00-3:00 p.m. Stable viewing will be available Wednesday, February 25th- 28th from 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at Fort Concho except during scheduled performances.

The Clydesdales' appearance in the Concho Valley is one of 300 made annually by the five traveling hitches. Canadians of Scottish descent brought the first Clydesdales to America in the mid-1800's. Today, the giant draft horses are used primarily for breeding and show.

A single Clydesdale hitch

horse will consume as much as 20-25 quarts of feed, 40-50 pounds of hay and 30 gallons of water per day.

Each hitch travels with a Dalmatian dog. In the early days of brewing, Dalmatians were bred and trained to protect the horses and guard the wagon when the driver went inside to make deliveries.

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- YOU GOT SERVED (PG-13)  
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## Eldorado to Host Sadie Hawkins Day Festivities

Al Capp would be proud! The Eldorado Olympic Bid Organizing Committee is taking a page from the famous cartoonist's strip and sponsoring "Sadie Hawkins Days" in downtown Eldorado, Texas this February 29. Originally established as a way for the mayor of Dogpatch to unload his daughter, it grew to an American institution during the twentieth century, but to be held only on February 29.

The fun filled Eldorado festivities will begin at 1 PM with a pot luck reception in the historic 1907 bank building on Main Street. Lots of fun is planned for the day - with a "Protest" parade, tours, and more Just as the Sadie Hawkins concept of women chasing men is topsy turvy, this whole day in Eldorado will be devoted to things done in a backwards, reverse and crazy sort of way. report any possible breaches.

single men being given a head start before the single women begin the chase. Captured men will be the date for their captors at the dance and reception to be held at 7 PM in the old bank building. In the intervening time, women may treat their captive to supper at one of the many fine restaurants in Eldorado, or simply primp and get ready for the big event.

At 4 PM the actual Sadie Hawkins Race will begin, with

For further information, Jim Runge at 325-853-2434 or eldoradotexas@hotmail.com

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# Identity theft from page 1

Investigation and the Atlanta Police Department, it was confirmed that Identity Theft had occurred.

The stolen I.D.'s belonged to a doctor in Atlanta, as well as several other residents in the Atlanta area.

Trooper Williams says it is important that everyone be aware that identity theft is on the rise and can happen to anyone.

"It is important for everyone to be aware of what information they put out there," Williams said. "It is not a good thing to have your driver's license number and your date of birth or your social security number on your checks. You can put one or the other, but not both. This is one way that the thieves assume your identity," he added.

It can take years to straighten out a stolen identity and it is important that people be careful and be aware. "One suggestion is to shred any personal documents before disposing of them," said Trooper Williams.

"I want to say a special thank you to Deputy Michelle Villanueva for her thorough investigating that led to the discovery of the stolen I.D.'s," said Trooper Williams. "I also want to thank Texas Ranger Brooks Long for his assistance in this case."

The DPS recently held in-service training on identity theft, making sure that all Troopers are aware of the rise and how to detect it.

What is identity theft? Identity theft occurs when someone uses your name, address, Social Security number (SSN), bank or credit card account number, or other identifying information without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes.

Identity thieves may use a variety of low- and high-tech methods to gain access to your personally identifying information. For example:

They get information from businesses or institutions by: stealing records from their employer, bribing an employee who has access to the records, conning information out of employees, or hacking into the organization's computers.

They rummage through your trash, the trash of businesses, or dumps in a practice known as "dumpster diving."

They obtain credit reports by abusing their employer's authorized access to credit reports or by posing as a landlord, employer or someone else who may have a legitimate need for and a legal right to the information.

They steal credit and debit card account numbers as your card is processed by using a spe-

cial information storage device in a practice known as "skimming."

They steal wallets and purses containing identification and credit and bank cards.

They steal mail, including bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit offers, new checks, or tax information.

They complete a "change of address form" to divert mail to another location.

They steal personal information from your home.

They scam information from you by posing as a legitimate business person or government official.

Once identity thieves have your personal information, they may:

\* Go on spending sprees using your credit and debit card account numbers to buy "big-ticket" items like computers that they can easily sell.

\* Open a new credit card account, using your name, date of birth and SSN. When they don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on your credit report.

\* Change the mailing address on your credit card account. The imposter then runs up charges on the account. Because the bills are being sent to the new address, it may take some time before you realize there's a problem.

\* Take out auto loans in your name.

\* Establish phone or wireless service in your name.

\* Counterfeit checks or debit cards, and drain your bank account.

\* Open a bank account in your name and write bad checks on that account.

\* File for bankruptcy under your name to avoid paying debts they've incurred, or to avoid eviction.

\* Give your name to the police during an arrest. If they are released and don't show up for their court date, an arrest warrant could be issued in your name.

Keep in mind that some information about you may be a matter of public record, such as whether you own a home, pay your real estate taxes, or have ever filed for bankruptcy.

By law, it's illegal for anyone to: use false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or documents to get customer information from a financial institution or directly from a customer of a financial institution; use forged, counterfeit, lost, or stolen documents to get customer information from a financial institution or directly from a customer of a financial institution; ask another person to get someone else's customer information using false, fictitious or fraudulent

statements or using false, fictitious or fraudulent documents or forged, counterfeit, lost, or stolen documents.

It's difficult to predict how long the effects of identity theft may linger. That's because it depends on many factors including the type of theft, whether the thief sold or passed your information on to other thieves, whether the thief is caught, and problems related to correcting your credit report.

Victims of identity theft should monitor their credit reports and other financial records for several months after they discover the crime. Credit reports should be checked once every three months in the first year of the theft, and once a year thereafter. Keep alert for other signs of identity theft. See How can I tell if I'm a victim of identity theft?

Victims should not delay in correcting their records and contacting all companies that opened fraudulent accounts. The longer the inaccurate information goes uncorrected, the longer it will take to resolve the problem.

How can you tell if you're a victim of identity theft?

\* Monitor the balances of your financial accounts. Look for unexplained charges or withdrawals.

Other indications of identity theft include:

\* failing to receive bills or other mail, which may signal an address change by the identity thief,

\* receiving credit cards for which you did not apply,

\* being denied credit for no apparent reason, or

\* receiving calls or letters from debt collectors or businesses about merchandise or services you did not buy.

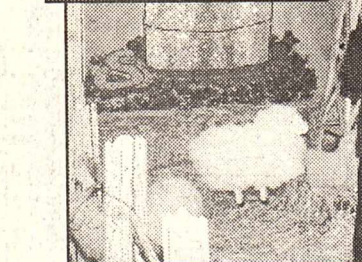
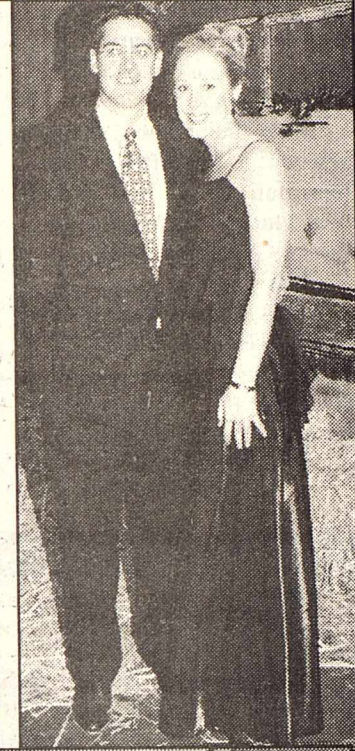
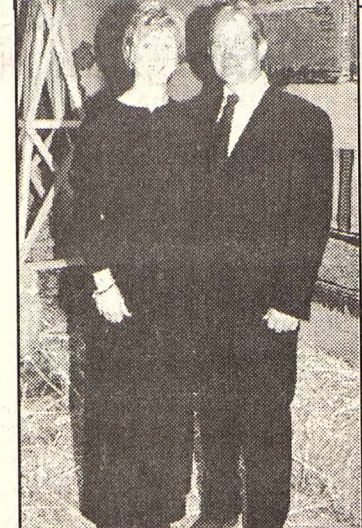
Although any of these indications could be a result of a simple error, you should not assume that there's been a mistake and do nothing. Always follow up with the business or institution to find out.

If an identity thief is opening new credit accounts in your name, these accounts are likely to show up on your credit report. You can find out by ordering a copy of your credit report from any of three major credit bureaus. Check your report carefully to make sure it is accurate. See What should I look for on a credit report to indicate identity theft? If you do find any inaccurate information, you should check your reports from the other two credit bureaus. Note: If your personal information has been lost or stolen, you should check all of your reports more frequently for the first year.

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## Repossessed & Off-Lease Vehicles To Be Sold To The Public

### Some Vehicles For \$79/mo. & Up\*\*

Over 90 Vehicles Will be Available at Mitchell Toyota Kia

SAN ANGELO, TX- Bank repossessed cars and trucks are among the most hunted-for bargains in the automotive industry. Unfortunately for John Q. Public, they're also the hardest to come by.

Banks often unload repossessed vehicles to car dealers at rock-bottom prices - allowing dealers to re-sell them for retail value. But bargain-seekers can take heart: This week, Mitchell Toyota Kia is going to change that.

This Wednesday, February 18th through Saturday, February 21st, over 90 repossessed, off-lease and other pre-owned vehicles will be offered at Mitchell Toyota Kia for up to thousands below normal values, and pass the savings on to their customers.

"These vehicles have been acquired at incredible savings from banks (repos), auctions, and other sources," Mike Griffin of Mitchell Toyota

Kia said. "We will sacrifice this inventory immediately - regardless of loss of profit. And if that means selling these vehicles for up to thousands below normal values, then that's what we'll do."

Every repossessed, off-lease and other pre-owned vehicle will be available, some for a \$59 down payment\* then start

pre-owned inventory near an all-time high, chances are we have what you're looking for in stock and ready to drive home," said Mr. Griffin.

Extra sales and finance staff will be on hand to assure customers prompt, quality service and the best finance terms possible. Mr. Griffin said, "We'll have over \$3 million in financing available for this event."

"The opportunity Texas bargain-hunters have been waiting for happens this Wednesday through Saturday at Mitchell Toyota Kia. Customers may never see savings like this again," said Mr. Griffin.

After the Prior Bank Asset \$59 Down\* MegaSale ends at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21st, many of these vehicles will be sent to auction. Questions can be directed toll free: 1-800-451-8281. Mitchell Toyota Kia is located at 1500 Knickerbocker Rd. in San Angelo.

"This is the opportunity Texas bargain hunters have been waiting for! Customers may never see savings like this again."  
MIKE GRIFFIN, MITCHELL TOYOTA KIA

making payments. "It's that simple," said Mr. Griffin. "To make these bargains even easier, we'll mark the payments right on the windshield. Just pick your vehicle and pick your payment. You won't find a faster, easier way to get a great deal on a used vehicle."

Almost every type of vehicle and price range will be available, from luxury 4x4s to basic transportation. Many are still under warranty. "With our

\*All offers with approved credit. Vehicles subject to prior sale. Negative trade equity will be added to amount financed. Amount of down payment may vary with credit worthiness. \$59 down plus tax, title & fees. \*\*Example: 2000 Ford Focus stk#U5542, Sale Price \$3731, \$79/mo for 48 mos. @ 10.5% APR. \$59 down payment plus tax. Total amount financed \$3,672 plus tax. Financing through TMCC. Subject to credit approval, prior sale & lenders final approval. Copyright G&A Marketing, Inc. 2003.



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**Lariat Services, Inc.** is seeking an experienced Air Driller. Wage ranges between \$20.00 to \$24.00 an hour depending on experience. Will pay \$30.00 per diem and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include 401K Plan and Dental Plan and company paid Medical Insurance. Fax resume to 325-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 325-336-7821.

**I-10 Exxon** is looking for reliable candidates to join our team. The following positions are available: Full and Part-Time cashiers. Retirees welcome. Come by the corner of I-10 and Hwy. 277 N. EOE.

**Best Western Sonora Inn** Now taking applications for several positions:

**Maintenance:** Must have reliable transportation and clean driving record. Requires flexible hours, weekends and must be available from 7 a.m. till 4 p.m.  
**Housekeeping:** Weekends and flexible hours with reliable transportation required.  
**Front Desk:** P/T Floater. Requires Evening, Nights and Weekend flexibility.

**DQ of Sonora** is looking for day/night help and shift managers. Full and part-time positions available. Non-smoking, drug free environment. Drug test required. Apply in person today, with Manager, Joana Wuest.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY.** South Texas/Hill Country Supermarket Chain looking for experienced Meat Market Managers and Meat Cutters. Must be willing to relocate. Call Alan Buxkemper (800) 279-1149 or fax resume to (210) 341-6326 or email to alanb@superfoods.com

Immediate opening for **Sales Counter Help.** Experience helpful, must be willing to learn. Stable work history, good work ethics. Pay depending on experience. Salary plus commission. Email resume vic-sautoparts@aol.com or fax resume to 325-387-2598. Pick up resume at 246 Hwy. 277 N.

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We are looking for **Certified Nursing Assistants** to do the job. If you are a CNA looking for a good working environment that genuinely cares about the elderly, please call Benny or Vicki at 392-2671. Crockett County Care Center is an EOE. Mileage included. Health insurance available after 90 days.

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**Help Wanted:** Must be reliable, self-motivated and willing to work. Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CDL and Bilingual a PLUS! Job includes heavy lifting, working outdoors. Please apply at Rafter W Feed, 201 Cedar St. or call 387-3042.

**Need Welders Helper.** Must live in Sonora, have valid driver's license. Top pay. Equal opportunity employer. Call 387-5454.

### Real Estate

**For Sale by Owner:** 117 Deerwood Dr., 4 bedroom, 2 bath, central heat and air, fireplace, 2 car garage. Call 325-387-5474.

**House for Sale:** 301 S. Water. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors. Nice yard. Must see! Call (325) 387-5801.

**For Sale:** Great buy with warehouse, large shed, 2 houses in excess of 1 acre in city. 3 blks. from 277 S., zoned light industrial, needs repairs. Can finance. Call 972-296-3238.

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**Mobile Homes**  
**For Sale:** Mobile Home 16 x 76, 3 BR, 2 BA, central air & heat. Call 650-2089.

**Mobile Home for Sale.** \$5,000.00 Call 387-5255.

**For Sale:** 1403 Glasscock. Mobile Home with 1 and 1/2 lots. House has an add-on family room, carport, storage building, large pecan trees. Must see to appreciate. Call after 7:00 p.m. Ask for Gloria 325-392-3430.

### Mary Kay Cosmetics

Mary Kay Cosmetics available. Please contact Storie Sharp at 387-2507.

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**Large Round Bales of Hay Grazer,** near Eldorado. \$35.00 per bale. Excellent quality. Call Martin Valis at 325-949-6541 daytime or 325-835-2199 after 7:30 p.m.

### Pizza Wagon

**Texas Pizza Wagon** will be here every Monday from 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with fresh, hot, hand tossed pizza baked to your order. We are located at The Video Store 809 N. Crockett Ave. Order ahead 325-456-8106.

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Shaylynn Kresta, age 14 would like to take care of your pets. Call 325-387-5649 for more information. References provided.

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**For Sale:** Legend Golf Cart. New batteries, tires and canopy. \$1,000.00 Call 392-8106 after 5:00 p.m.

**For Sale:** Brand new 18 volt battery drill. Never used. 2 yr. manufacturer's warranty. 109 Draw St.

### Estate Sale

**Estate Sale:** 2002 Dodge Dakota SXT, Club Cab, V-6, 5 speed, only 4,500 miles. Garaged. Like new, gets great mileage. NADA 15,300.00, will take 12,500.00. 1404 Mesquite. 387-5773 leave message.

### Appliances

**FREE** Need to get rid of. Must pick up! Maytag Washer - workable, refrigerator - workable and Recliner. 109 Draw St.

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**Skid Steer Loader for Sale.** Mustang 2060. Low hours, new tires, ready to work. \$9,000.00 Call 325-387-3222.

### Gun Show

**Gun Show - Ozona Fair Park Convention Civic Center.** 1301 Ave. AA, Ozona, Texas. Feb. 28 & 29th, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Buy/Sell/Trade. Info. @ 361-364-3637, 361-548-2325 or 830-444-9673.

**Knives Wanted:** Will pay top price for older Case, Puma and other collectible knives. See Bill Barnard at the Ozona Gun Show. For more information call 830-755-9056 hm, or 210-863-2191 cell.

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### Public Notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SONORA

The City of Sonora has proclaimed the month of February 2004 as "Fair Housing Month" City of Sonora endorses and supports the principle of fair housing and encourages all citizens to support the law of the land in regard to the right of every person to have access to adequate housing of his choice. Copies of the City's Proclamation are available free of charge to any interested person or groups at the City Hall.

### Employment Notice

Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is now accepting applications for two (2) full-time positions for the Road & Bridge Department. **CDL required.**

Applications may be obtained at the Auditor's office and **must be returned** to the Auditor's office. The deadline for applications is February 27, 2004. For additional information on positions, please contact the Auditor's Office. Sutton County is an equal opportunity employer.

### Automobiles

**For Sale:** 1998 Mercury Villager. Daytime 325-206-1107 or 650-2742. Night 325-387-3426.

### For Rent

**For Rent:** Office Space available in the Historic Mercantile Building on Main Street in Sonora. For more information contact Main Street Realty at 325-387-6115.

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**Back on the Market!**  
1103 S. Concho Ave.  
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Great Investment Property!

This spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is ideally located within 1 block of the elementary school. This home has hardwood floors, high ceilings, two wood-burning fireplaces and walk-in closets. It is situated on a huge lot with abundant storage and lots of trees. A special income-producing feature is a separate apartment located behind the dwelling. Other amenities include an automatic sprinkler system and a 1-car carport.

2493 SCR 104  
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Nestled among many live oak trees and ideally located approximately 5 1/2 miles west of Sonora on 11.4 acres, you will find this 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath frame home. It features a large open floor plan, fireplace, triple French doors and tiled flooring throughout. Other amenities include a 3-stall barn, several storage buildings, a large covered patio and covered parking for 6 vehicles.

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**Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate**  
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2 bedroom, 2 bath stucco home on 1.208 acres, with adjoining 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchenette apt. Property has FP, ceiling fans, large trees, patio & swimming pool, work shop, located on hillside adjoining Wildlife Sanctuary, facing Hwy. 277 near IH-10. Offers commercial opportunities.

**For Sale: 205 East 1st Street** 2 BR/2 Bath, wood floors, tile bathrooms, central heat/cool, fireplace, wood blinds, sprinkler system. Vinyl fencing around backyard. Garage storage and basement. All appliances included.  
Sharon Holman 325-387-7046

**Urgent news for people who have used WELDING RODS**  
Scientists report that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinsonism (like Parkinson's disease) and manganese. Symptoms include shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors. If you have experienced any of these problems, call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.  
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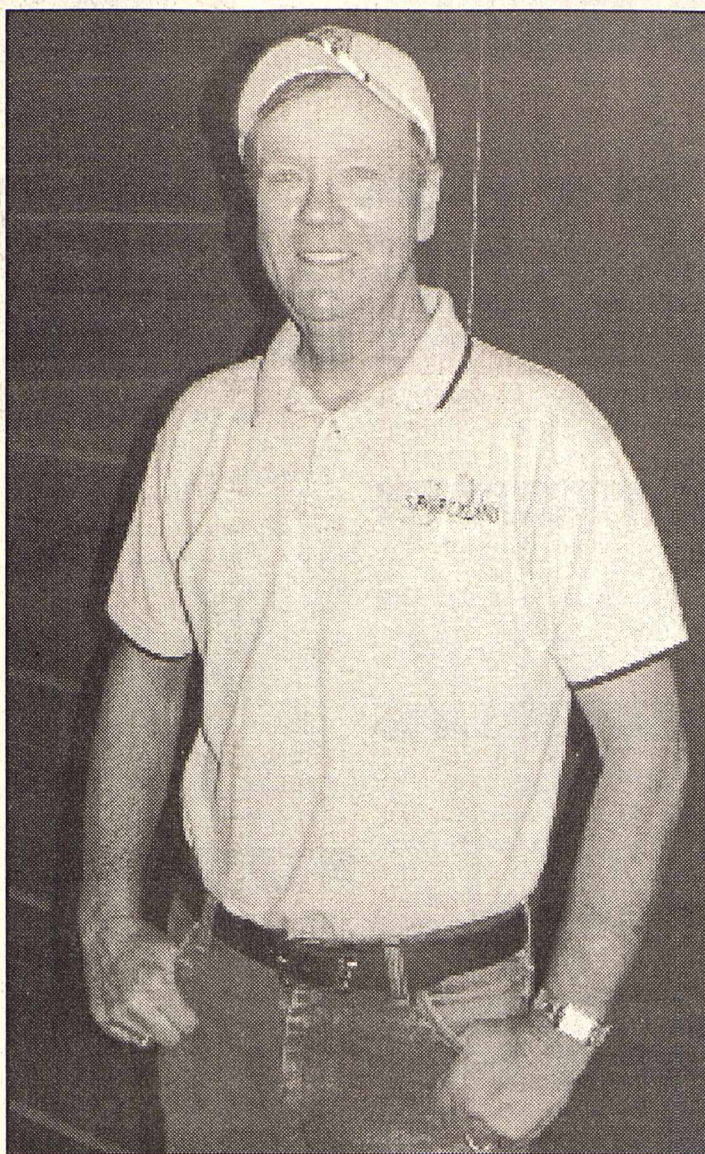
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**John Banks leaves UPS, says good-bye to Sonora friends**



UPS driver and delivery friend, John Banks, retires.

After 28 years of serving Sutton County as a UPS driver and delivery man, John Banks has retired. John started making deliveries in Sonora in January of 1976. His last day to make his rounds in town was December 29, 2003. He has become more than just a delivery person to everyone around town; he has become a friend with a familiar smile.

John said that he got to know almost everyone and will really miss visiting with his many friends in Sonora. He didn't get a chance to personally say "Good-bye" to all his customers, but he wants them all to know that he will miss them.

When he put the pen to the paper to get an estimate of how many times he visited our community, John said he guesses he made about 6,000 trips to and from here.

"That truck knew the way," said John. That's a lot of miles, delivering packages and surprises to the many residents of Sonora and Sutton County.

Since he left in December, John and his wife have been remodeling their house to sell. They are planning on eventually moving up around Weatherford, Texas, where they will be closer to their daughter.

We will miss him here in Sonora and wish him well in all his future endeavors. Take care John, and stop by and visit whenever you are in town.

**F.Y.I.**

Tickets are now on sale for chances to win a guided turkey hunt, led by Rodney Knight, at the Encino Ranch on April 3, 2004, to benefit the Sutton County Health Foundation. Only 250 \$5 tickets will be sold and can be purchased at Rafter W Feed Store, Teaff Oil and Mr. D's. The drawing will be held on March 27, 2004.

All local residents who are interested in a better future for themselves, their families and our community are invited to participate in the Texas Community Futures Forum at 7:00 p.m. on February 23, at the Civic Center.

The ASU Small Business Development Center is hosting a seminar titled: **Hiring, Managing and Maintaining Healthy Employees.** The seminar is free and will be held on Thursday, February 19th, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the University Center's Theatre on the ASU campus. CEU credit available. Call 942-2098 to register today.

"Three on Three Basketball Tournament" Anyone interested in playing in a Three on Three Basketball Tournament, please contact Ray Glasscock at 387-9333 or 206-1127. Top three teams receive prizes and the remainder of the proceeds will go to the Sonora Bronco Booster Club.

**Alcohol Education for Minors, Friday, February 20, 2004.** Registration 4:15 p.m., class 5:00 p.m. Courthouse Annex, 902 W. Ave. D. Ozona, Texas.

**Defensive Driving Course, Saturday, February 21, 2004, Crockett Co. National Bank, Hwy 163 & First St., Ozona, Texas, 8:30 a.m.** All persons wishing to attend must pre-register prior to class dates. For more information call 325-223-9149.

The San Angelo PRCA Rodeo is slated to be the largest in its history. Approx. 1007 cowboys and cowgirls will compete for \$421,800 in prize money. Coliseum rodeo performances begin Friday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m. There will be seven perfs, Friday, Feb. 20 - Sunday, Feb. 22 and Thursday, Feb. 26 - Sat. Feb. 28. Tickets can be purchased at the Stock Show Office, 200 W. 43rd St., Blair's Western Wear and the Convention Center. FMI call 325-653-5622.

**TxDOT Trans-Texas Corridor public hearing, Wednesday, February 25, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., in the Sutton County Courthouse Annex, located at 300 E. Oak Street.**

**AARP will do E-filing so you can get your refund much faster. 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. We still need more people to sign up, or they can't come. Call ahead and make an appointment, please. 387-3941 or 387-5657.**

**Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp.** The camp is by invitation only and boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American team. For a free brochure, call (704)373-0873.

**The Foster Grandparent Program of the Concho Valley** needs persons age 60 and older throughout the Concho Valley region to serve as mentors and/or tutors to children in their communities. For more information call 325-223-5704 or toll free at 877-944-9666.

**Commissioners from page 1**

- boundaries;
- Calls, conducts and certifies elections, including bond elections;
- Sets employment and benefit policy;
- Establishes long-range thoroughfare, open space, land use, financial and law enforcement/jail needs plans;
- Acquires property for rights-of-way or other uses determined to be in the public's best interest;
- Reviews and approve subdivision platting and wastewater treatment for rural areas;
- Provides rural ambulance services and subsidizes rural fire protection;
- Oversees the construction, maintenance and improvement of county roads and bridges;
- Appoints non-elected department heads and standing committees;
- Supervises and controls the county courthouse, county buildings and facilities;
- Adopts a county budget;
- Determines county tax rates;
- Fills vacancies in elective and appointive positions; and
- Has exclusive authority to authorize contracts in the name of the county.

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387-2528 or 206-1268

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