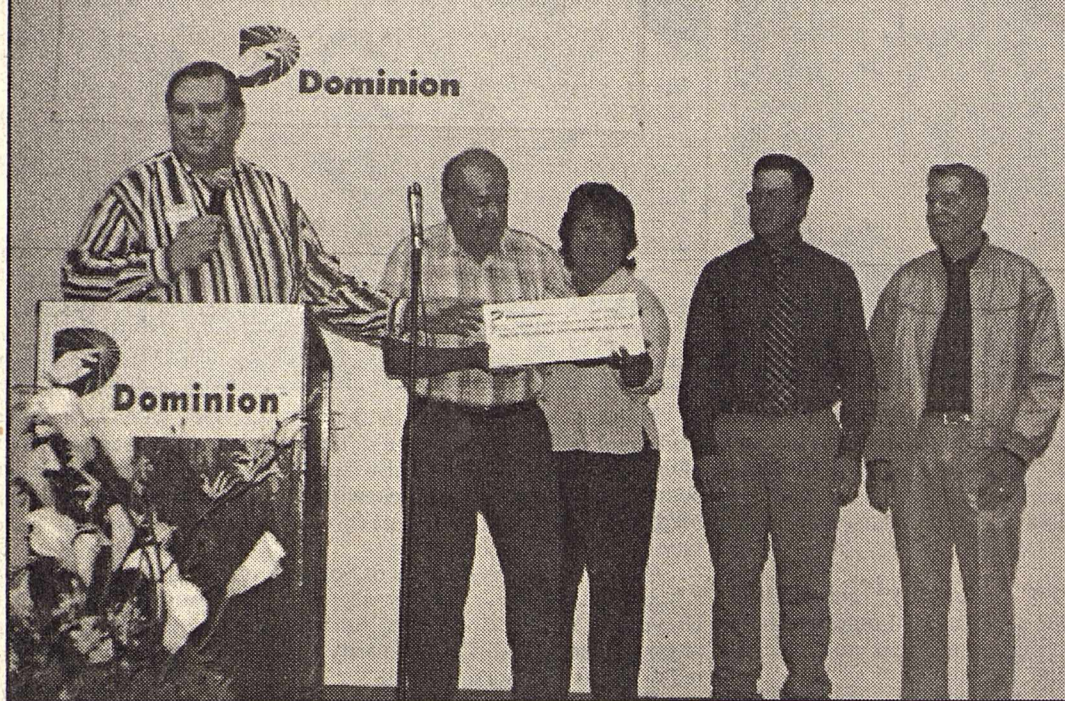


Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc.



Dominion District Operations Manager, Barry Limbocker, presented the Sutton County Commissioners, Mike Villanueva, Belia Castaneda, John Wade and Milton Cavaness with a check for \$12,500 for playground equipment at the Sutton County Park at the 2000th well completion celebration.

Dominion Commemorates 2000th Well Completion in Sonora Field

Houston - On Thursday, April 15, 2004, Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc. (Dominion E&P), a subsidiary of Dominion (NYSE:D), celebrated the drilling of the 2000th well within the Sonora Field in west Texas. The celebration also marked Dominion E&P's surpassing the field's production target of 200 million cubic feet per day. A luncheon was held at the Sutton County 4-H Center in Sonora for Dominion

executives and employees, industry partners, state and county officials and representatives, royalty and mineral owners.

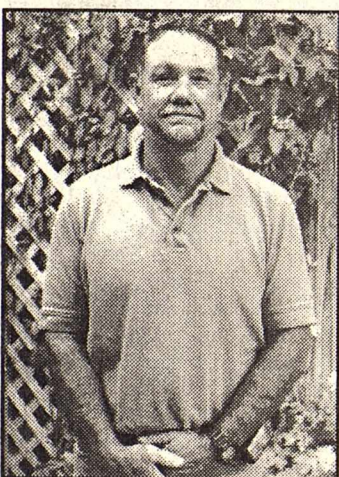
"Our Sonora asset base is an integral component of the company's long lived onshore reserve development strategy. We have been very active in this field since 1994 and I look forward to continuing our successful operations for many more years," noted Duane Radtke,

president and chief executive officer of Dominion E&P.

Dominion E&P's drilling and acquisition activity in the Sonora area has been steadily growing during the past ten years. The company controls more than 95 percent working interest in 4000 wells across 600,000 acres. The company plans to drill more than 500 wells in this field in 2004, and that is expected to increase in 2005.

For more Dominion celebration fun see page 4.

Fields announces School Board candidacy



Tryon Fields has announced his entrance in the race for the Precinct 2 spot on the Sonora I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Fields has had two sons graduate from Sonora and currently has one daughter attending Sonora High School. His wife, Cindy, is employed by the Sonora I.S.D., teaching 4th grade at Sonora Elementary. A lifelong resident of Sutton County, Tryon has been active in many civic organizations, always working for what is best for our community.

"I have served on the S.I.S.D. Board for five years, where I and the others I have served with have strived to improve our academics overall in Sonora. If elected I will continue to fight to make S.I.S.D. one of the strongest academic schools in the State of Texas."

"It is important for us to prepare the students of Sonora for whatever they are going to do in the future, be it college or joining the work force. I want to make sure that all our kids are prepared and ready for what they choose for their future."

"I would appreciate everyone's support and vote."

Early voting is from April 28 - May 11, 2004. Election Day is May 15, 2004.

Tryon Fields is listed second on the ballot. Please get out and vote.

Softball team makes Lady Bronco history, brings home District Championship

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!!!
Sonora High School history was made last week, as the Lady Broncos clinched their first ever softball District Title. At this writing, the Lady Broncos are at the top of District 2-2A with a perfect 5 and 0 record. Sonora finished district play this past Tuesday in Grape Creek.

The game last week took place in Wall America. Not ever having beat Wall at their house in any sport, a high amount of tension was being experienced by not only the Lady Broncos, but by every one in attendance. The tension was very evident in the first inning; as the Lady Hawks were able to load the bases with no outs! Meghan Krieg, the Lady Bronco Ace, was able to work herself out of the jam with excellent pitching and defensive plays to keep the score tied at zero runs apiece. In the top of the second, Denerya Gloria (Lady Bronco right fielder) drew a lead off walk. Gloria would steal second and third and score the Lady Bronco's first run on a passed ball. Beginning in the bottom of the second, Krieg along with her defense would retire the next nine Lady Hawks in order. In the top of the third, three singles in a row, one each by Kayla Fields, Debra Martinez, and Meghan Krieg, along with a fielder's choice by Tamika Marshall would add two more runs to the Lady Broncos total. In the fourth, fifth, an sixth, the Lady Broncos would fare no better than the Lady Hawks, as they would go in order also. In the bottom of the fifth inning, the Lady Hawks would threaten again. With runners in scoring position and two outs, Lady Bronco short-stop, Kayla Fields would make a ballerina catch to end the inning and thwart the

scoring threat. In the bottom of the sixth, the Lady Hawks once again would load the bases. Excellent pitching by Meghan Krieg (2 strike outs) and an excellent fielding play by Fields would once again stop the Lady Hawks. Brea Hughes would get things going for the Lady Broncos in the top of the seventh. Hughes would lead off with a solid single, Jamie Duran would follow with a shot to left field, and Desiree Alvarado would drive in Hughes. Kayla Fields would reach on a fielder's choice and an error on the throw would score Jamie Duran. The score at the end of six and a half innings of play stood at: Sonora 5 - Wall 0. Having played error free to this point; the wheels began to fall off for the Lady Broncos. Two errors in a row plus a single by the Lady Hawks would load the bases. Two more errors by the Lady Broncos plus a single by the Lady Hawks would lead to the three runs that Wall would score in the bottom of the seventh. Excellent defensive plays by Lady Bronco catcher, Debra Martinez (a pick off of a runner at first), Kayla Fields throwing to third (Brandy Neff) for the second out, and first baseman, Brea Hughes, would flip to her second baseman (Jamie Duran) covering first base for the third out to preserve the 5 to 3 victory.

With this victory, the Lady Broncos clinched their first ever District Championship. Congratulations!!! The Lady Broncos will receive a bye in the first round of the play-offs and will not play until April 30 or May 1.

CONGRATULATIONS LADY BRONCOS!!!

Chamber of Commerce Banquet promises a jackpot evening honoring Sonora's high rollers

by Storie Sharp

It's not too late to get your tickets for the 2004 Chamber of Commerce "Casino Night" Awards Banquet. High rollers looking for a "sure thing" of a good time are encouraged to attend the banquet on Thursday, April 22, 2004. The fun will start at 6:00 p.m., with blackjack, craps, a roulette wheel, slot machines and a special visitor will be "in the building". A buffet meal will be served starting at 6:30 p.m., with the Sutton County Steakhouse providing a meal of roast beef, grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert. Some tasty "mocktails" will be on hand to enjoy while betting the odds and making your bets.

The entertainment takes to the stage at 7:00 p.m. when Sonora's unsung heroes will be honored for their continued service to Sonora and Sutton County. The Sonora Chamber of

Commerce members have voted on their choices for "Business Person of the Year", "Educator of the Year", "Organization of the Year", "Employee of the Year" and "Citizen of the Year". Each year the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors also honors a special "Chamber Member of the Year", someone that has rolled the dice for the Chamber every time they were asked and never squelched on a bet.

A special "Conservation Rancher of the Year" award will also be given by the Sutton County Underground Water District.

Special prizes will be awarded to the big winners for the evening, being the person with the most chips from the tables or tickets from the slots. Your ticket will get you 100 "Chamber" dollars to purchase poker chips. So your \$15 ticket is a sure thing for a great time.



Tables of ten can also be purchased for \$150.

If you really want to play the odds, take part in the table decorating contest for a chance at another great prize.

Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center on 277 N., 387-2880 or at The Devil's River News Office, 228 E. Main St., 387-2507.

Place your bets today - don't gamble on missing a great night of fun at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce "Casino Night".



The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital staff, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, staff and visitors celebrated the opening of Dr. Pajestka and Diana Green, PA-C office in the renovated Medical Clinic with a special ribbon cutting on Wednesday, April 15, 2004.

Sonora Medical Clinic expansion complete

Submitted

Expansion and renovation of Dr. Pajestka's office is complete. The 1600 square foot addition includes three new exam rooms; and ADA accessible restroom; expanded business office space; secure file room and a physician's office. Renovation of the existing office space includes a nurse's station, a procedure room and cosmetic changes to the existing exam rooms and addition of much needed storage areas. The project also included new HVAC systems, interior and exterior lighting and new clinical equipment.

The expansion also provided a 1600 square foot space behind Dr. Johnson's office that will allow for expansion and renovation of his suite a later date.

The project was a much needed facelift for the circa 1970 structure. The expanded facility will allow for Dr. Pajestka and Diana Green, PA-C to see many more patients.

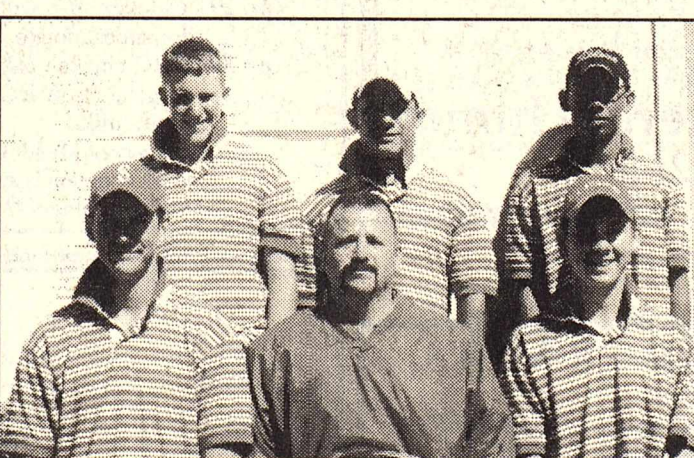
The addition of three exam rooms and a procedure room, bringing the total to six exam rooms, which will allow for additional services to be provided to include some women services not before offered in Sonora.

"The facility is not only beautiful, but well designed for efficient delivery of health care services", Mr. Keith Butler, CEO said. "The completion of this project coupled with the construction of the hospital and wellness center reflects the commitment of the Sutton County Hospital District Board of Directors and the Sonora medical community to provide excellent services to our patients."

The majority of funding for the clinic expansion came from the Hudspeth Ranch Board and a generous grant from the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation.

You can see more Medical Clinic renovations on page 8.

Bronco Golf dominates District



District golfers: (Front) Embre Smith, Coach Drew Cox, Cullen Parker. (Back) Trent Reiner, Stetson Perez and A.J. Hernandez by Coach Drew Cox

The Boys Golf team ran away with the District 2-AA Golf Title winning by 68 strokes. Combining scores of 308 in Ozona, 302 in Big Lake and 302 Wednesday at Quick Sand in San Angelo, they shoot a team score of 912. Wall#1 finished in second with a team score of 980 and Ozona was third with a total of 999. Reagan County was next with a 1063, Grape Creek had a 1098, Eldorado shot a 1112 and Wall #2 finished with a 1196. Individually Stetson Perez shot a 76, 71 and 76 for a three round total of 223. He finished in third place in a very close medalist race behind Michael Brenham of Wall who had a 220 and Arron Garza of Ozona who had a 222 total. Cullen Paker claimed fourth medalist with a 228 total shooting rounds of 75, 77 and 76. A. J. Hernandez was fifth medalist with a 234 has he shot rounds of 79, 82 and 73. Embre Smith ended up sixth with a 237 total with rounds of 78, 77 and 82. Trent Reiner tied for eighth medalist total of 241 thanks to rounds of 87, 77 and 77. In the medalist action Mason Martinez shot a 257 total with rounds of 83, 86 and 88 and Swade Draper shot a 262 with rounds of 81, 87 and 94. They will compete in the Regional Golf Tournament on Wednesday and Thursday at Shady Oaks Golf Course in Baird.

Sutton County Junior Livestock Show starts planning

Monday, April 26, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. at the Sutton County Civic Center.

See Back Page!

ADHD, to medicate or not to medicate

by Jerry Jackson, President, Concho Valley FPA


Increasingly, parents are called upon to make the decision relative to medication for their children for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. This is no easy decision.


Parents need to accumulate all the information available in order to make the best decision. But medication is not the only solution. In some cases better methods of dealing with the child will be the solution, and in all cases those methods will be beneficial.

The Concho Valley Foster Parent Association, joined with

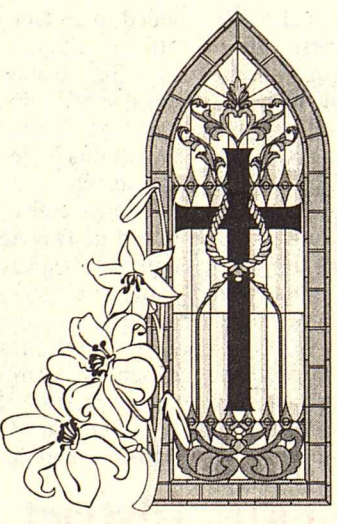
See ADHD page 9

**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


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HEALTH FOUNDATION**
Your memorial gift helps preserve access
to quality healthcare for generations to come.
Please consider the Sutton County Health
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**Sonora Church
Directory**

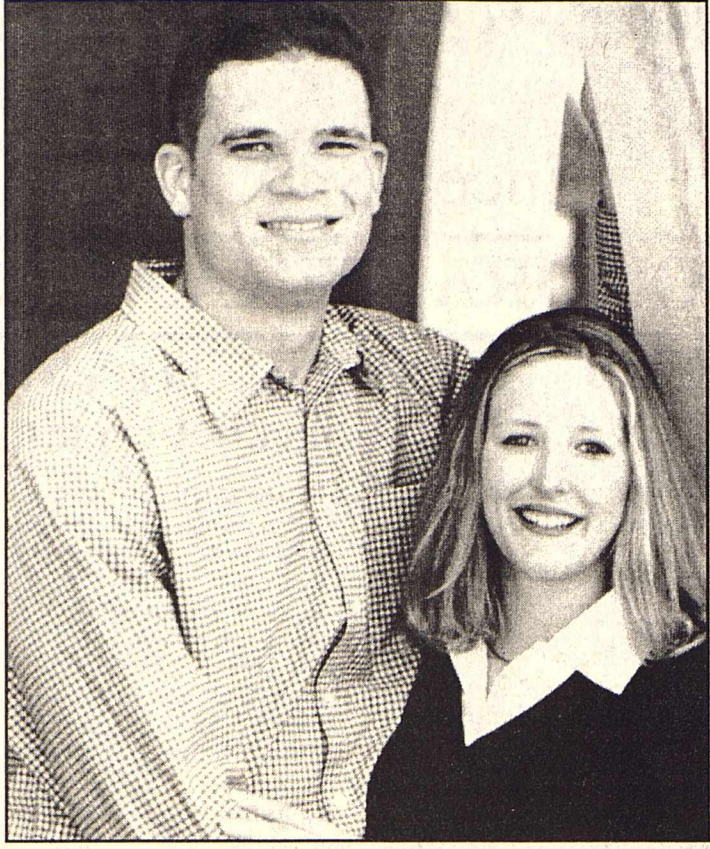
<p>PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr. 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST Jerry Jackson 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH T. Wayne Price Pastor 111 E Oak 387-2951</p> <p>ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Rev. Milton Black 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Conrad Archer, Pastor 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p>TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS Enoc Elias Nunez 306 W. 4th St. 387-5713 387-3092</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Charles Huffman 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p> <p>LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC. Pastor Felipe Martinez 807 Orient</p>	<p>THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN Lewis Allen, Pastor 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 N. Crockett</p> <p>PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED 509 Amistad</p> <p>ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I. 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p>JEHOVAH'S WITNESS 310 St. Ann's Street 387-5658 or 387-5518</p>
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Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
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Wedding Announcements

Eaton, Chaumont to wed in July



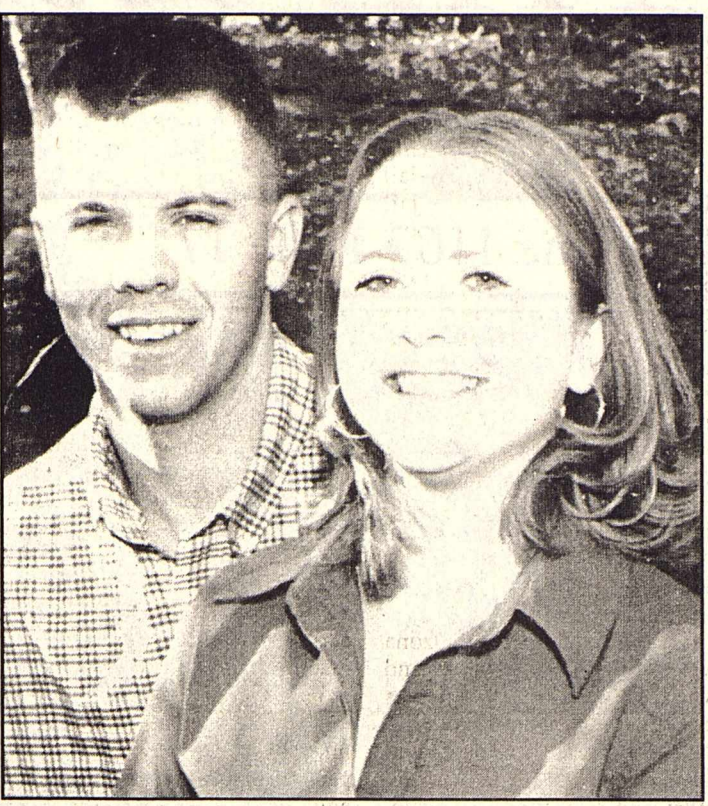
Danny and Darlene Eaton, of Sonora, are proud to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Kara Eaton, to Terry Chaumont, Jr., son of Linda and Terry Chaumont, Sr., of El Paso, TX.

The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of Sonora High School and will graduate from Angelo State University in May 2004 with a major in Elementary Education.

The prospective groom is a 1998 graduate of Franklin High School in El Paso, TX. He is a 2003 graduate of Louisiana State University with a Petroleum Engineering degree. He is employed by Enco Offshore Company in Lafayette, Louisiana.

The couple will exchange vows July 10, 2004, at the First

Becknell, Asbill announce July wedding plans



Howard and Rebecca Becknell of Sonora, and Jack and Dorothy Asbill of Mason, would like to announce the engagement of their children, Stacey Lynn Becknell and Brandon Aubrey Asbill, both of San Angelo. The couple will be married at the First United Methodist Church of Sonora on July 3, 2004, the six year anniversary of the day they first met.

Stacey is a 1999 graduate of Sonora High School and received a Master of Physical Therapy degree in 2003 from Angelo State University. She is employed by Shannon Medical Center as a staff physical therapist working primarily in acute care, in addition to the rehab and skilled nursing units.

Brandon is a 1996 graduate of Mason High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science in 2000 from Angelo State University. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Animal Science from Angelo State University. Brandon is employed by Texas Cooperative Extension as a Tom Green County Extension Agent - 4-H & Youth Development.

Card of Thanks

The Family of Bonnie Garmon would like to say thank-you to everyone who supported us during our loss. The cards, calls, flowers, food and prayers were a great comfort.

God bless you all!!
Linda and Steve Dansby
Debbie and Dan McWhorter
Pat and Charles Frye
Becky Garmon
Quincy and Loretta Garmon

It's hard to believe that it has been thirteen years since our family came to Sonora. No place has seemed more like home.

It's an emotional time, leaving our friends and neighbors. We would like to extend our heartfelt "Thank-You" to Sonora. You will all be missed.

Special thanks to John Adams, Royce and Gloria Mearns, Deedie McIntire and Wayne Sawyer.

Sincerely,
Lonnie, Cathy and Danielle

The Sonora Elementary PTO wishes to send a very special thank-you to Chasey Duncan for her organization and production of the 3rd grade music program that was performed for our PTO meeting last Sunday. The children did a wonderful job, and we are so very proud to have such talented students in our school system and community.

We also want to thank Coach Dukes and his PALS students for entertaining all the children at the PTO meeting while we conducted our business. We especially thank Crystal Guerra, Tara Green and Kelly Kearney for their assistance.

Senior Center News

- Apr. 26 - Bingo! Blood pressure checks with TDHS 11:00 a.m.
- Apr. 27 - Exercise with video.
- Apr. 29 - Crafts
- Apr. 30 - Birthday Party for April Babies! Run errands & pay bills.

Senior Center Menu

- Apr. 26 - Polish sausage, baked sweet potatoes, steamed cabbage, cornbread, milk, pears.
 - Apr. 27 - Tuna noodle casserole, mixed vegetables, tossed salad, roll, milk, applesauce, cookie.
 - Apr. 28 - Chopped steak with gravy & onions, roll, parsley potatoes, cucumber/tomato salad, pudding.
 - Apr. 29 - Chicken strip with gravy, zucchini squash with tomatoes, potato wedges, roll, peaches, milk.
 - Apr. 30 - BBQ chicken baked beans, California mix vegetables, macaroni salad, cornbread, Jell-O with fruit, 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.*

Obituaries

Ganelle Drennan Anderson

Ganelle Drennan Anderson, 66, of Sonora, Texas, passed away peacefully, Tuesday, April 13th, 2004.

Ganelle was born July 31, 1937, in Barnhart, Texas, to Tom & Fay Shroyer Drennan. "Gongy", as she was known to those closest to her, spent her last few years doing what she loved most - cooking, reading and spending time with her grandkids. Many friends and family are truly going to miss those good ol' pecan pies and her frijoles beans and cornbread.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Joyce Drennan Moore, and her beloved grandson, Mayer Clay Anderson.

She is survived by her two sons, Steve Anderson and wife, Michelle, Standley Clay Anderson and wife, Missy; a daughter, Amy Anderson Scott, and husband, David; her grandkids Jordan, Will, Sid, Misty,



Nora Mae Wall McCleery

Nora Mae Wall McCleery, 83, of San Angelo, Texas, passed away at 11:45 a.m., Thursday, April 15, 2004, in a local hospital.

She was born on June 12, 1920, in Tom Green County, Texas. She was a bookkeeper and a charter member of Lakeview United Methodist Church. Nora married John Earnest McCleery on May 24, 1939, in San Angelo.

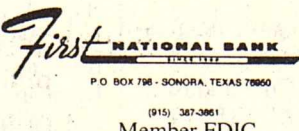

Nora was a very generous woman who loved the Lord first, but always had enough love for everyone else in her life.

Survivors include her husband, John Earnest McCleery of San Angelo; one son, Sherry McCleery and his wife, Deitra,

Jessica, Dustin, and great-grandson, Ian and a very special friend, Olivia Hernandez.

The family would like to thank Dr. Chang and all the staff at SCCI Hospital. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to a charity of choice. A private family memorial is pending.

Community Calendar

<p style="text-align: center;">April 21 Piano Recital • 6:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Al-Anon Family Meetings Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room Call 387-2521 ext. 170</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Community Calendar</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Member FDIC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April 22 Chamber Banquet 4-H Civic Center • 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 25 Carolyn Earwood's School of Dance Ballet Recital • 3:00 p.m. High School Auditorium</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>is made possible by:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Member FDIC 207 N Hwy 277 N • 387-2593</p>
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Ask the Historical Society

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

We will start this column with two more recorded jail breaks from the Old Jail. Devil's River News, August 12, 1927 - Two men, giving the names of Turner and Jones, who were arrested late last week and placed in the Sutton County Jail here, made a successful jail break last Saturday afternoon, and made their escape in a confiscated Chevrolet car which they found near the courthouse. The men when arrested, were not placed in cells usually used for criminals, but in a misdemeanor cell, from which they obtained egress by picking the lock to the window, securing a piece of the sill and battering the lock to the cell door with it, after which they coolly descended the steps of the jail and took the car.

Sheriff Augustine in Ozona was notified of the break, and when the men passed through that town they were ordered to halt, but refused to do so, and the sheriff gave chase and fired several shots at the fleeing duo, upon which they both jumped from the car and took separate directions, with the result that one of the men, Turner, was overtaken and captured, and was returned to the jail here, but the other made good his escape.

The Devil's River News, September 9, 1927-Filing the bars of an upstairs cell window, two prisoners in the Sutton County Jail escaped Wednesday night, but were back on the inside looking at the outside within an hour afterwards. One of the men had escaped once before, and the other is a "permanent" guest as he has been in the jail 103 consecutive days. Another prisoner in the jail refused to leave with the trio, and when Mr. Stephen was returning from the theater about 10 he told him that the men had gone. Mr. Stephen notified Sheriff Cook who drove out the San Angelo road a few miles, and turned around. The men evidently fearing any car coming from that direction, but watching only the cars coming out of Sonora, were climbing a fence on the side of the road when Sheriff Cook spotted them.

Now their rooms have been made a little more secure, as the bars on all the windows in the jail were done over and all loose ones have been re-welded.

In the September 23, 1927 issue of The Devil's River News we found the following interesting article: Harrison L. Hamer has resigned his position as spe-

cial officer and inspector for the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association. He was appointed last winter and has been working since that time.

Previous to going to work for the sheep and goat men Mr. Hamer worked as customs officer in Del Rio for four years. He is an officer of long experience and knows how to catch law violators being especially efficient in bringing bootleggers and smugglers into court. Val Verde Herald

In the July 8, 1927, issue of The Devil's River News we found that the first hole-in-one on the local golf course was made by George E. Allison, who shot hole number three in one stroke, using a mashie niblick club. The distance from Hole Two to Hole Three is 135 yards, and the course is crossed by a deep ravine between the two holes. Mr. Allison's performance is a rare one, and the accomplishment will leave a mark for other golfers to shoot at in the future.

The lowest record for the nine hole course is 39, with a par 36. Some golfer has yet to equal or better par on the course.

Golf among local people is becoming more popular each week, with a number of addicts being found on the links each Sunday.

Q. How did Willer Allison die?

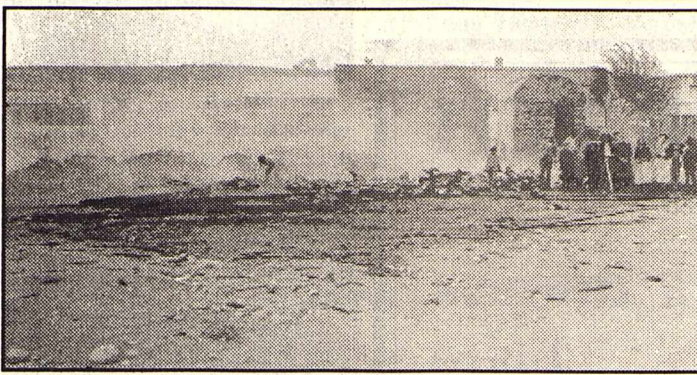
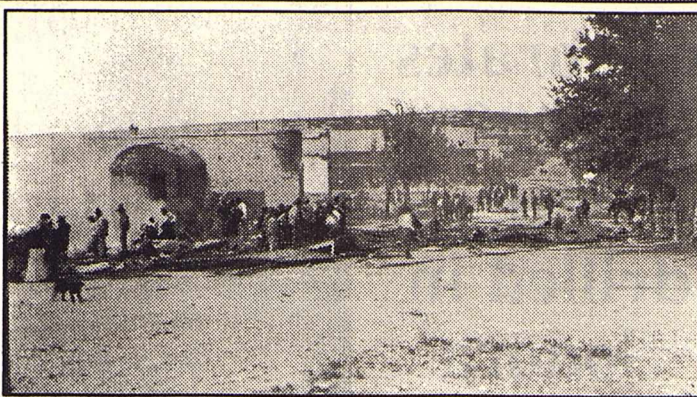
A. The Devil's River News, Friday, September 16, 1927-Willer Hutcherson Allison, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Allison of San Angelo met instant death about two o'clock last Friday afternoon on the ranch of his father's half-brother, George Allison, near Sonora, when he fell or was thrown from the horse he was riding.

The funeral for young Allison was held at 11 o'clock Saturday morning from the home of George Allison in Sonora, with Rev. J.A. Stephen officiating. Interment was in the Sonora Cemetery.

The family lived in Sonora and Sutton County for many years, but some years ago moved to San Angelo. Mr. Allison, who is working on his brother's ranch here, had intended to send Willer to San Angelo this week to school.

Besides his parents, the boy leaves the following sisters and brothers: Ruby, Lewis, George and Ernest Allison, all of San Angelo.

In the July 1, 1927, issue we found that Deputies Roscoe Morris and Cook had made a raid in the Mexican part of town and seized forty gallons of mash



Ornie Herbert Palmer Photography - September 12, 1902 fired destroyed one side of Main St. The bank vault wall remained standing. People are recovering money and records at the burned bank.

and twenty-one quarts of whiskey and a considerable amount of chock beer. Fegeriro Favilla and another Mexican were placed in the county jail. It has been reported that the two alleged peddlers of the contraband made a small bond to appear at the next term of District Court.

In the same issue we found that Heron Ramsay, young ranchman of Eldorado, was in the San Angelo Hospital with three ugly gashes about his head and neck inflicted by a pocket knife in the hands of another Eldoradoan, Joe Williams, a tailor. The altercation was started on the dance platform about two o'clock yesterday morning and resulted in a serious affair. It is reported that the cause was from an old grudge which had existed between the two for a number of years. Sheriff B. W. Hutcherson made the arrest immediately after the affray. Joe Williams, it is reported, is charged with assault with intent to kill. He is now at liberty under bond made early yesterday morning. No charge has been made against Ramsay.

Ramsay was lucky that Miss Jane Pasley, supervisor of the operating dept. of the P&G Hospital in San Antonio and Dr. Ed Coyle, a prominent physician of San Antonio were here visiting Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Bond. Miss Pasley attended the dance and applied first aid to the young man. She applied pressure to severed arteries and slowed the flow of blood until the wounded man was placed in

the hands of his physician, probably saving his life.

It certainly was a busy year for the Sheriff's dept. with some of the above incidents and another we found with a bunch of youths stealing a car and joy riding around the county. Sound familiar?

Seems like some things are repeated over and over by youths looking for a cheap thrill at the expense of others.

Q. Do you have any pictures showing the 1902 fire from the top of the street?

A. Yes, and it is shown with this article. Only two brick walls survived the fire as you can clearly see in one of the photographs. The other clearly shows that all wooden structures on that side of Main Street from Main to Poplar Streets were completely destroyed. Only the brick walls and the bank vault of the First National Bank survived the fire. Luckily the records and money in the vault survived the blaze.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County History send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, 307 Oak Street, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or call 325-387-5084 or 387-2855. The offices are open Monday and Friday mornings and Saturday from 8-4 for people to come in and do research. The Miers Home Museum may be toured whenever the office is open. Just stop at the office and ask one of us to take you on a tour.

Special session tackles school finance

State Capital Highlights Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox

AUSTIN - Here's a clip and save version of what the Legislature will be trying to do during the special session on school finance: Figure a way to lower property taxes while providing more money for Texas schools.

Reduced to those 14 words, it seems simple enough. But it's likely to prove more daunting than finishing the science fair project the night before it's due.

To make it more interesting, the state's Big Three - Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick - all seem to have their own ideas about what's best for Texas on this issue.

In addition to a property tax cut, Perry wants to increase the cigarette tax, video lottery terminals at racetracks and Indian reservations and a \$5 tax on admission to adult entertain-

ment spots.

Dewhurst, on the other hand, says the Senate has been thinking about a deeper property tax cut than suggested by Perry, plus an expansion in what's covered by the sales tax.

Craddick has said less on the issue than the governor or lieutenant governor, but has indicated he favors a property tax cut. The House has filed bills providing for the various components of Perry's plan.

Big buckles, bigger bel-

lies... The stereotypical image of a Texan with a big belt buckle may need an update: There's a lot of belly under that buckle.

One of the facts brought out in the coverage of last week's Texas Roundup, a 10K walk/run and health fair adjacent to the Capitol grounds, is that of the nation's 10 cities with the highest number of overweight residents, Texas has half of them.

And a new report predicts the problem is only going to get worse: The medical cost for obesity in Texas could increase from the current \$10.5 billion a year to \$40 billion a year by

2040.

By ethnic category among children, the report said 25 percent of hispanic children are overweight, 20 percent of black children and 10 percent of white children.

State agencies are giving four hours of leave to employees who participated in the exercise program connected to the Texas Roundup or took part in last week's walk/run.

At the Agriculture Department, Commissioner Susan Combs has been working to get public schools to make healthful diet changes.


The recommendation from the state: start exercising and get on a diet.

Modern Sherlock Holmes...

DNA is far from elementary, but it is helping to solve more and more crimes in Texas, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The national FBI DNA database, known as CODIS for Combined DNA Index System, led to arrests in 16 homicides, 66 sexual assaults and 34 burglaries.

"A good education is an invaluable asset for the children of Sonora"



Vote Dean Dermody
Pct. 4
Sonora ISD
Board of Trustees

Early Voting: April 28-May 11 at S.I.S.D. Admin. Bldg.
Election Day: May 15, 2004 @ Sonora Fire Dept.

"I want to be a voice for your children"

VOTE

Santiago Faz, Jr.
Precinct 4
Sonora I.S.D.
Board of Trustees

Early Voting
April 28-May 11, 2004
Election Day May 15, 2004

"Caring for your children's future!"

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Bridal Registry

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Kacci Lewellen bride-elect of Tom Jacoby
Regina Rosell bride-elect of Chris Neal
Rachel Raines bride-elect of Clint Bowers
Kayla Shurley bride-elect of Travis Davidson
Mrs. Sam Kaufman nee Kristen Hardgrave

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Tedford Jewelry
Bridal Registry

Michele Cramer bride-elect of Dr. Travis Spillman
Kayla Shurley bride-elect of Travis Davidson
Rachel Raines bride-elect of Clint Bowers
Kacci Lewellen bride-elect of Tom Jacoby
Regina Rosell bride-elect of Chris Neal
Kara Eaton bride-elect of Terry Chaumont
Mrs. Sam Kaufman nee Kristen Hardgrave

107 NW Concho • 387-3839

Bridal Registry

Rachel Raines bride-elect of Clint Bowers
Kacci Lewellen bride-elect of Tom Jacoby
Buffy York bride-elect of Kent McAnally
Kara Eaton bride-elect of Terry Chaumont
Kayla Shurley bride-elect of Travis Davidson
Michele Cramer bride-elect of Dr. Travis Spillman
Mrs. Sam Kaufman nee Kristen Hardgrave

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Fundraiser for American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Sponsored by: Employees of Dominion

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- Stainless sear plate & cooking surface
- Four cast brass burners
- 12,000 BTU side burner
- Pull-out tank drawer
- Individual jet ignition burners
- Temperature Gauge
- Rotisserie burner (Rotisserie sold separately)

\$1.00 per ticket OR 12 tickets for \$10.00

Drawing will be held at the Relay for Life rally on May 22, 2004. You do not need to present to win. For tickets or information, contact Dominion at 325-387-3588.

Summer Fun Camp

Landa Knight - Director
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June 1st - July 30th

\$65.00 per week! • Only pay for the weeks you need!
Registration forms available at The Devil's River News

Fun & Games School Age Children Ages 5-12

Gymnastics Movies Swimming

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Lighthouse Community Church

Best Western Sonora Inn

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(325) 387-9111
Fax (325) 387-9221
For Reservations Call
1-877-937-9111

Dominion celebrates it 2000th well drilled in Sonora

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

111 NE Oak Street, Sonora
Invites You to Hear



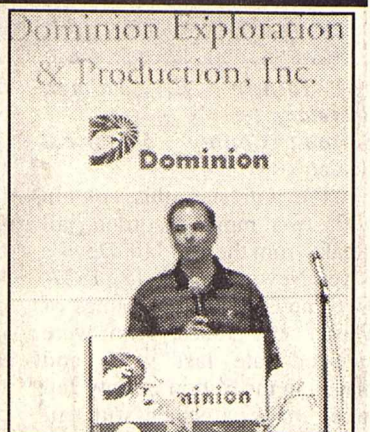
Dr. Rob Boyd
Pastor, Green Valley Baptist Church,
Henderson, NV
and
Mike Andress
Minister of Music,
First Baptist Church, Sonora

**April 25-26, 2004
Spring Spiritual Renewal**

SUNDAY: 10:45 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
MONDAY: Noon Lunch & Service
(Serving begins at 11:45, Service 12:20 - 12:50)
MONDAY: 7:00 P.M. Service
For information call 387-2951



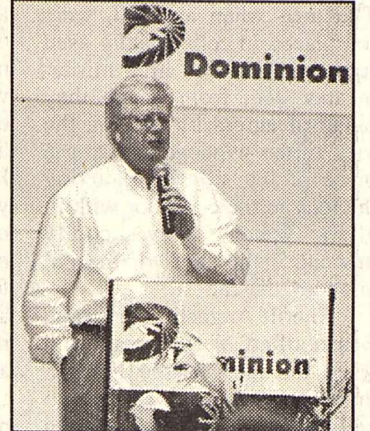
Jody Luttrell and Tommy Arnwine hand out Dominion caps to guests at the April 15 celebration lunch.



Ronnie Irani welcomes guests to the 2000th well celebration.



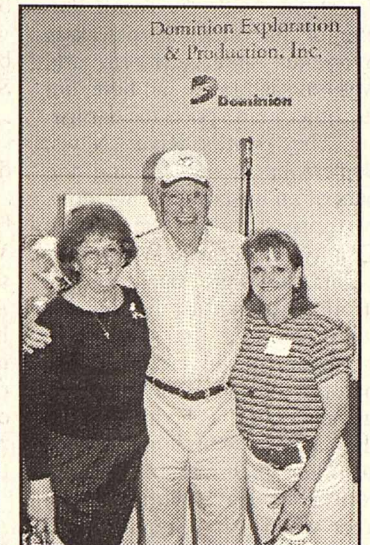
Good old country tunes entertained visitors waiting in line for lunch.



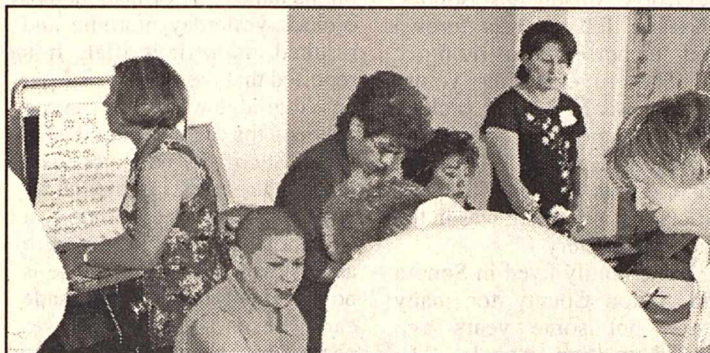
Duane Radtke, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dominion E&P, congratulates Sonora on a job well done.



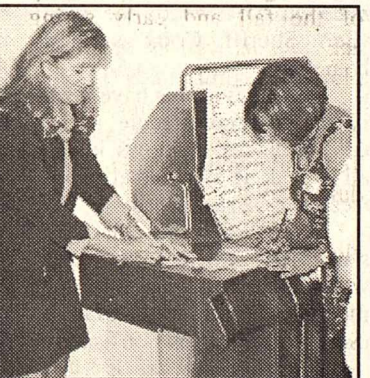
Guests enjoy a barbeque lunch provided by Dominion.



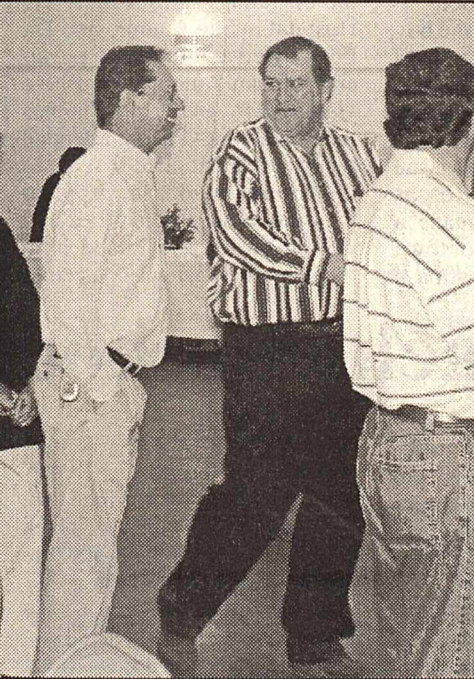
Dominion honors the boys fighting overseas. Thomas E. Capps, Chairman of the Board and CEO, poses with Roberta James and Donna Garrett, mother and wife of Dominion employee, Scott Garrett, who is stationed in Iraq.



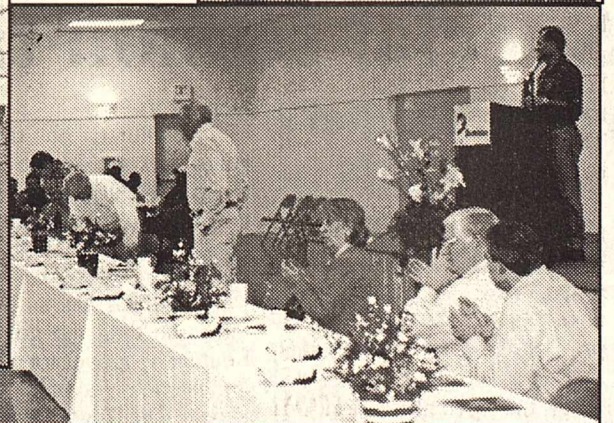
Dominion employees greet guests and sell raffle tickets for a gas grill (to benefit their Relay for Life Team) and a tool set (to benefit the Beebe Scholarship fund).



Dominion employees, Donice Jarrett and Maribel Perez fill out raffle tickets for the gas grill.



Barry Limbocker, District Operations Manager, visits with guests as they wait for lunch.



Special guests at the head table are introduced.

Sonora
NOTICE OF ISD ELECTION
(AVISO DE ELECCION) las escuelas de Sonora

To the Registered Voters of Sutton County, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del condado Sutton, Texas.)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 15.

04 for voting in a school district election, to:

(1) Precinct 2: elect a school trustee from Precinct 2
Precinct 4: elect a school trustee from Precinct 4

(2) Precincts 1, 2, 3, & 4: permitting voters to vote for or against the provision to achieve the equalization of wealth pursuant to Option 4 of Texas Education Code 41.003

para votar en la Eleccion para distrito escolar:

(1) Precincto 2: elegir un miembro del precincto 2
Precincto 4: elegir un miembro del precincto 4

(2) Precinctos 1, 2, 3, y 4: para el proposito de permitir a votantes para votar para o contra la provision para lograr el igualamiento de la riqueza segun Opcion 4 deCodigo de Educacion de Tejas 41.003

LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES
(DIRECCIONES DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

Precinct 1 - Sutton County 4-H Civic Center, 1700 N. Crockett
Precincto 1 - Centro Civico "4-H" del Condado de Sutton, 1700 N. Crockett

Precinct 2 - Hudspeth Hospital Annex, 310 Hudspeth
Precincto 2 - Parta anexa del Hospital Hudspeth, 310 Hudspeth

Precinct 3 - Sutton County Courthouse
Precincto 3 - Casa de Corte del Condado de Sutton

Precinct 4 - Sonora Fire Station, 506 South Concho
Precincto 4 - Estacion de Bomberos de Sonora

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at
(La votacion en adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en)

Sonora Independent School District Administration Building, 807 S. Concho

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. beginning on April 28, 2004
Sonora el Distrito Independiente de Escuela, la Construcción de la Administracion, 807 Concho del
entre las 8 de la mañana y las 4 de la tarde empezando el 28 de abril 2004

and ending on May 11, 2004
(date) (fecha)

terminando el 11 de mayo 2004
(date) (fecha)

Additional early voting will be held at the same location as follows:
(La votacion en adelantada ademas se llevara a cabo en el mismo sitio de la siguiente manera:)

Date (Fecha) _____ Hours (Horas) _____

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:)

Valtree Draper
(Name of Early Voting Clerk) (Nombre del Secretario de la Votacion En Adelantada)
807 S. Concho
(Address) (Direccion)
Sonora 76950
(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Código Postal)

Recommended but not required

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio en)

May 7, 2004
(date) (fecha) / de mayo 2004

Issued this the 9th day of February, 2004.
(Emitida este día 9 de febrero, 2004.)

Scott Garrett
Signature of Presiding Officer
(Firma del Oficial que Preside)

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Happy Birthday

April 22
Crystal Hidalgo, Charlotte Cook, Ashley Briana Perez

April 23
Amy Ramirez, Don Deel, Dois Badgett, Biddy Ramirez, Carl McAngus, Randy Gillit, Ayssa Isabella Mejia, Brad Johnson, Wayne Sawyer

April 24
Cullen Parker, Nicole Lipham, Tori Neal, Estella Sanchez, Chantel Arispe, Kaleena Samaniego, Charlotte Castro

April 25
Adriana Castillo, Eddie Martinez, Breg Hughes, Anastacio Munoz, Stacey Fisher, Alicia Lira, Travis Valliant, Shelby Onofre

April 26
Danni Price, Stephanie Hard, Cindy Fields, Desiree Alvarado, Dakota Love, Carly Hill

April 27
Roxanne Talamantez, Michelle Weingart, Theresa Duran, Mona Prieto, Lourdes Chavez, Melinda Patlan, Melissa Patlan

April 28
Tom Lock, Joe Michael Campos, Jr., Meredith Earwood, Debra Martinez, Kameryn O'Brien, Hector Mendez, Storie Sharp

Saladmaster
We Change Lives

Saladmaster is looking for hostesses to sponsor dinner parties in Sonora.

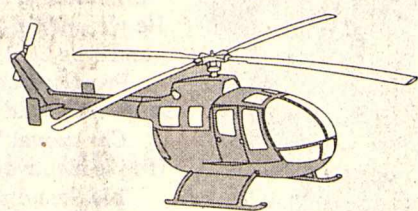
Host a dinner
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Food Provided

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 SOUTHWEST 7
 949-9984 3598 Knickerbocker Rd.
 ID Required on R-Rated Movies
All Shows Times Apply Fri.-Sunday
 • THE GIRL NEXT DOOR dts (R)
 1:45 *4:30 *7:10 9:45
 • ELLA ENCHANTED (PG)
 1:50 *4:15 *7:00 9:20
 DAWN OF THE DEAD (R)
 2:20 *4:45 *7:30 10:00
 • JERSEY GIRL (PG-13)
 2:00 *4:20 *7:15 9:55
 TAKING LIVES (R)
 2:10 *4:40 *7:20 9:40
 HIDALGO dts (PG-13)
 1:40 *4:30 *7:30
 STARSKY & HUTCH PG-13
 2:30 *4:50 *7:25 9:50
 * Show Times for Monday-Thursday
 Times good for the week of 4/23-4/29
 TWO THEATRES OF SONORA
 www.pccmovies.com

Kearney named an All-American Collegiate Scholar at LCU

The United States Achievement Academy announced last week that Kasey Kearney of Sonora, Texas has been named an All-American Collegiate Scholar.

The USAA has established the All-American Collegiate Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Collegiate Scholars must earn a 3.3, or higher, grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school official or other qualified sponsor are accepted. These scholars are also eligible for other awards given by the USAA. These are awards few students can ever hope to attain.

Kasey, who attends Lubbock Christian University, was nominated for this national award by Kari Wood of LCU.

Kasey will appear in the All-American Collegiate Yearbook, which is published nationally.

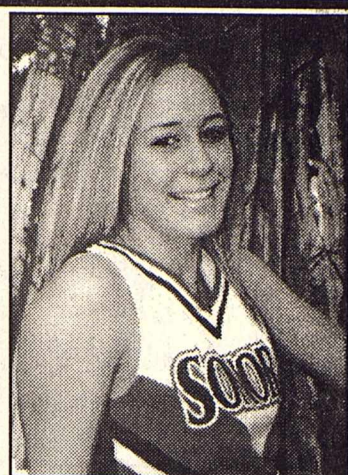
"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important



Kasey Kearney

than ever before in America's history. Certainly, winners of the All-American Collegiate Awards should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

Kasey is the daughter of Kent and Brenda Kearney from Sonora.



Kelly Kearney

Kearney joins Chaparrals at LCU

Submitted

On April 2, 2004, Kelly Kearney traveled to Lubbock, Texas, to compete for one of the cheerleading positions at Lubbock Christian University. Kelly performed a cheer that she learned at tryouts. Jumps and gymnastics were the base for stunts. She was one of the four girls selected that day to complete the squad of twelve.

Kelly is a senior at Sonora High School where she has been a cheerleader for the past 4 years, and a captain this year. Kearney will move from cheering for the Broncos, to cheering for the Lubbock Christian University Chaparrals.

Kelly is the daughter of Kent and Brenda Kearney and has one sister, Kasey, who also attends Lubbock Christian University.

Chamber Chatter

Sonora maps recalled

by Ruthie Bounds

For all of you that helped to sponsor the city & county maps produced by Liberty Marketing, we have a NEWS FLASH. The maps that are arriving this week are incorrect! Please bring your maps to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center, do not give them out and please do not pay the bill. We are in the process of having these maps reprinted with all the corrections and have notified Liberty Marketing that until the corrections are made and we have the correct maps that no bills will be paid.

This is a very busy couple of weeks for all of Sonora. This week on Thursday we have "Casino Night" for the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. Play the tables, roulette, dice, black jack and a buffet fit for high rollers. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Sutton County Civic Center. We will take a break from the games long enough to eat and recognize some of Sonora's finest folks with well-deserved awards. The games will resume after the awards have been handed out, so plan on staying around and enjoying the fun.

Also, this week is the Sonora Classic Boer Goat Show, beginning with animal check-in on Friday, April 23. The American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) sanctioned show will begin on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. There will be a meal of goat and chicken prepared by Daryl Coates of Big Spring, and tickets will be sold at the door. After the meal there will be a clinic given by Lukas Burger for Boer goat breeders, there will be no charge for the clinic. The show will resume on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

The dance recital for Carolyn Earwood's School of Dance will be at the Sonora High School Auditorium at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. This is Carolyn's last year to teach dance, so don't miss an opportunity to come tell her "Thanks" for teaching all our little ones the pleasure of dance.

Next week on May 1st & 2nd, we will be having the Cinco de Mayo Celebration with all sorts of fun events. There will be a parade, 3rd Annual St. Ann's Softball Tournament, 1st Annual Sutton County Car Expo, food booths, arts & craft booths, children's rides, and dance. You have some extra time to sign up for food or arts & craft booths. We have extended the deadline until Tuesday, April 30th. We still have room for many more vendors. For an entry form come by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center.

Up on Eaton Hill

Fur & Feathers – infant care

by Delyse Jaeger

Of all the delights spring offers our senses, perhaps one of the most exhilarating is the opportunity to witness new life in the animal kingdom. Recently, Sonora kindergarteners were treated to the metamorphic process of a giant moth. Once the fat caterpillar underwent its miraculous change and emerged with beautiful wings, it was necessary to provide it with a safe environment in which to adjust to its new form. Obviously, most creatures are vulnerable when very young, but they have been provided the most excellent protection available—their specific design. Unfortunately, well-meaning two-legged uprights often mistake healthy young animals for abandoned or injured babies. The most common unnecessary "rescues" occur with birds and fawns. It is estimated that up to 40% of fawns taken out of the wild are not actually abandoned as believed by their compassionate kidnappers. Often fledgling birds are seen hopping around on the ground and picked up. The experts offer the following advice.

Usually, careful observation will reveal a parent animal waiting in the wings. Baby deer are born with a freeze instinct for their protection along with camouflaged coats and very little odor. Mother deer leave their young bedded down while foraging. Birds will continue to feed their young as they fledge from the nest and experiment with flight. It may take several days for some species of birds to master their wings. During this time, the greatest concern is the presence of cats and dogs in the area. Carefully returning a bird to the nest or moving it a short distance to a protected area will

not interfere with the natural development. Birds do not reject young as the result of casual human contact, as commonly believed. However, strong perfume and chemical odors will create a problem. If a nest has been blown down, it is advisable to place it back in position and the nest can be secured with light wire or twine if necessary. Always use caution in handling any wild animal, as it may be frightened or sick. Rabies is a serious concern, so it is best to seek assistance from someone trained in caring for wildlife. Mary Humphrey, wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is our local resource and Sonora resident. Judy Edmondson cares for all manner of orphaned animals. Local veterinarians can also help determine an animal's needs.

It is an awesome season with so much to take in. If you come across a baby animal and it is not in immediate danger, observe it for some time before proceeding. More than likely you will receive an opportunity to observe the parent return and give tailor-made care to its young!

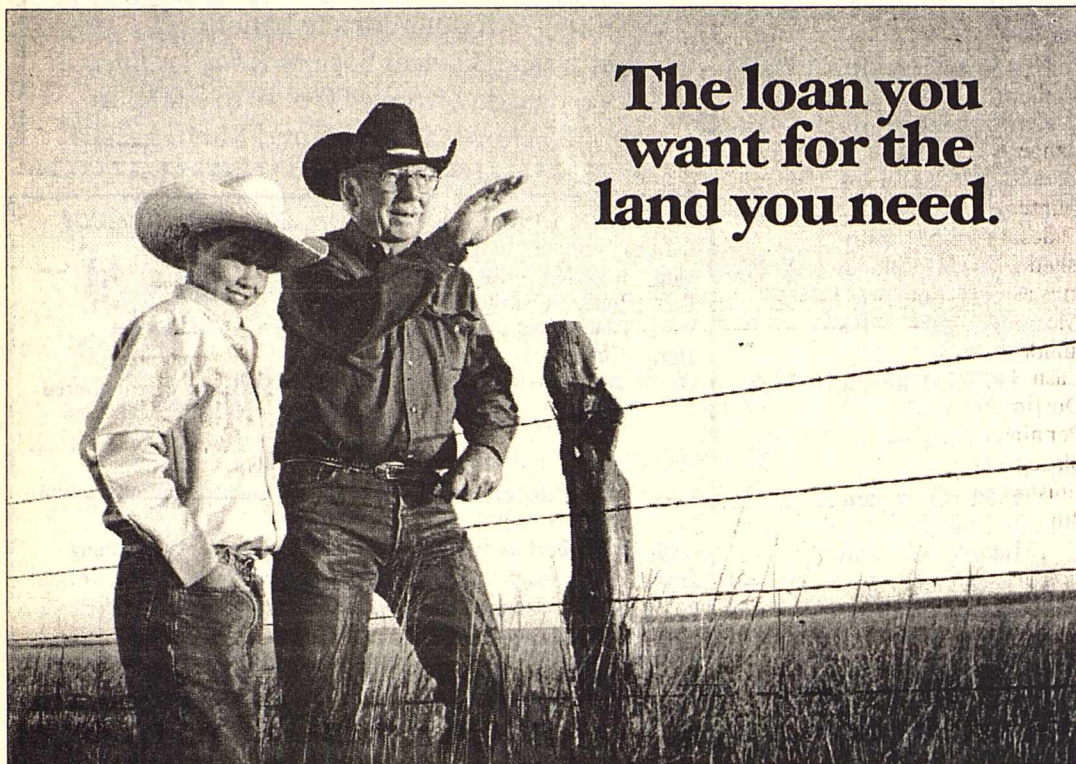
Eaton Hill continues to blossom. We will soon have an updated map and brochure to help you navigate the numerous trails and points of interest. Birding season is in full swing and serious birders might encounter an unexpected surprise or two on the Hill. Also, the new registration and information hut will soon be under construction at the Dry Devil's Trace Trailhead on Water Street. Hit the trails!

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



Photo by Joseph Edmondson: An orphaned Great Horned Owllet

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San Angelo Credit Office #2 Colonial Plaza • 325-949-8114
 (Just off Knickerbocker at Bentwood entrance.)

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Medicaid Certified - Excellent State Surveys last 2 years

"Where we care, have compassion and understand West Texas ways"

400 West Murchison - Eldorado, Texas 76936
 Nursing Home 325-853-2507 x 139 / General Information 853-2507

Texas Cooperative Extension sets two Predator Awareness Days

by Steve Byrns

SAN ANGELO --Texas Cooperative Extension has set two Predator Awareness Workshops in April.

The first is slated for Goldthwaite on April 22 in the Mills County Civic Center, and the second will be in Canyon's Community Building on April 27. Both programs have the same format and run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Six Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for participants (3 General, 2 Integrated Pest Management and 1 Laws and Regulations).

Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo and workshop coordinator, said the programs are designed to bring producers up to date on the latest control methods and information concerning livestock predators.

"Predators, both as sources of loss to agricultural producers and as forces in the ecosystem, are subjects of interest to almost everyone," said Cearley. "These workshops are geared toward an objective presentation of predator management. There's plenty on the program to help participants increase their knowledge of various animals and hone the skills required to cope with them."

Cearley will present the morning's first two topics: "Appreciating Predators???" and "Interpreting Physical Evidence of Predation." Other morning presentations include predator control and wildlife management and biology videos on coyotes and bobcats.

Cearley will speak during the lunch break on the school enrichment curriculum, "Predators In The Classroom."

He is followed by four 20-minute concurrent sessions on predator control alternatives conducted by local Extension Wildlife Services personnel. Methods to be discussed include non-lethal approaches, foothold traps and snares, Livestock Protection Collars, calling and aerial gunning.

Other afternoon topics include predators as disease vectors, ethical predator management, preventing illicit use of pesticides in predator control, an update from the Sheep And Goat Predator Management Board, and the video "Coyotes: A Matter Of Perspective."

Pre-registration is \$10 per person. Registration at the door is \$20 per person.

For more information on the Goldthwaite program contact the Extension office in Mills County at (325) 648-2650. For more information on the Canyon workshop call the Extension office in Randall County at (806) 468-5543.

Oil & Agribusiness



Rig Locations as of April 16, 2004

Sutton
 New Dominion; 8900' Duke Wilson - 172 - #16, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8800' Mayfield - 41 - #10, Key Energy.
 New Dominion; 8800' Tom Mitchell - 3 - #7, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8800' Hudspeth - 51 - #5, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8650' Mayer #46, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8550' Simmons Ranch #69, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8500' Bee County School Land #17, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8500' Simmons Ranch #71, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8450' Mayer - 36 - #9, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8350' Shurley - 165 - #8, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8300' Simmons Ranch #66, Patterson Drilling.
 New Chesapeake; 7000' Schwiening - 46 - #1, Key Energy.
 New Dominion; 6850' Shurley - 142 - #19, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6850' Shurley - 141 - #18, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6800' Cauthorn - 27 - #12, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6600' Deberry Meckel Unit #13, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6300' Davis - D - #14, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6200' Vanderstucken - 69 - #8A, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 5700' Cusenbary - 60 - #9, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; Galbraith - 79 - #9, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett

New Endeavor Energy Res; 15000' Parker - 100 - #1 H, Big Dog Drilling.
 New Chevron/Midland; 9500' CE Davidson Jr -B- #40, Nabors Drilling.
 New Encore Operating; 9300' Jones Ranch - B - #1438, Adobe Drilling Bronco.
 Devon Energy; 9200' Ruby Helbing - 26 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
 Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey - A - #301, Nabors Drilling.
 New Beach Expl; 7600' Meadows - 52 - #1R, Rod Ric Corporation.
 New Anadarko; 7200' Roy Henderson - 32 - #14, Patterson Drilling.
 New TXP, Inc.; 7100' VI Pierce - 29 - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 New J.Cleo Thompson; 7000' Shannon 10 - 19 #1, Patterson Drilling.

Terrell

Riata Energy Inc.; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling.
 Nuevo Texas Inc.; 19000' Mitchell - 7 - #6, Nabors Drilling.
 Riata Energy; 17000 Hackberry #4901, Lariat Drilling.
 Newfield; 15000' Hicks #3501, Patterson Drilling.
 Nuevo Texas Inc.; 13000' Mitchell - 8 - #8, Patterson Drilling.
 ConocoPhillips; 12600' Creek Ranch 12 - #6, Grey Wolf Drilling.
 New EOG Resources; 10525' Ruth White - 4 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 WTG Exploration; 8999' Aunt Josie #1, Lariat Drilling.
 Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Geaslin NE - 204 - #46, Patterson Drilling.

Val Verde

New Conocophillips; 10500' JA Ranch #L1, Patterson UTI.
Schleicher
 Pogo Producing Co; 6900' West - 78 - #1, Heart Land Drilling.
 Unit Petroleum; 6500' Whitten - D - #2, Heart Land Drilling.
Edwards
 Newfield; 14000' Whitehead - 47 - #1, Patterson Drilling.

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



Real world brush control: what works and what doesn't

by Steve Byrns

SAN ANGELO - What makes a successful brush control project?

There's no simple answer, according to Dr. John Walker, resident director of research at The Texas A&M University System Research and Extension Center in San Angelo.

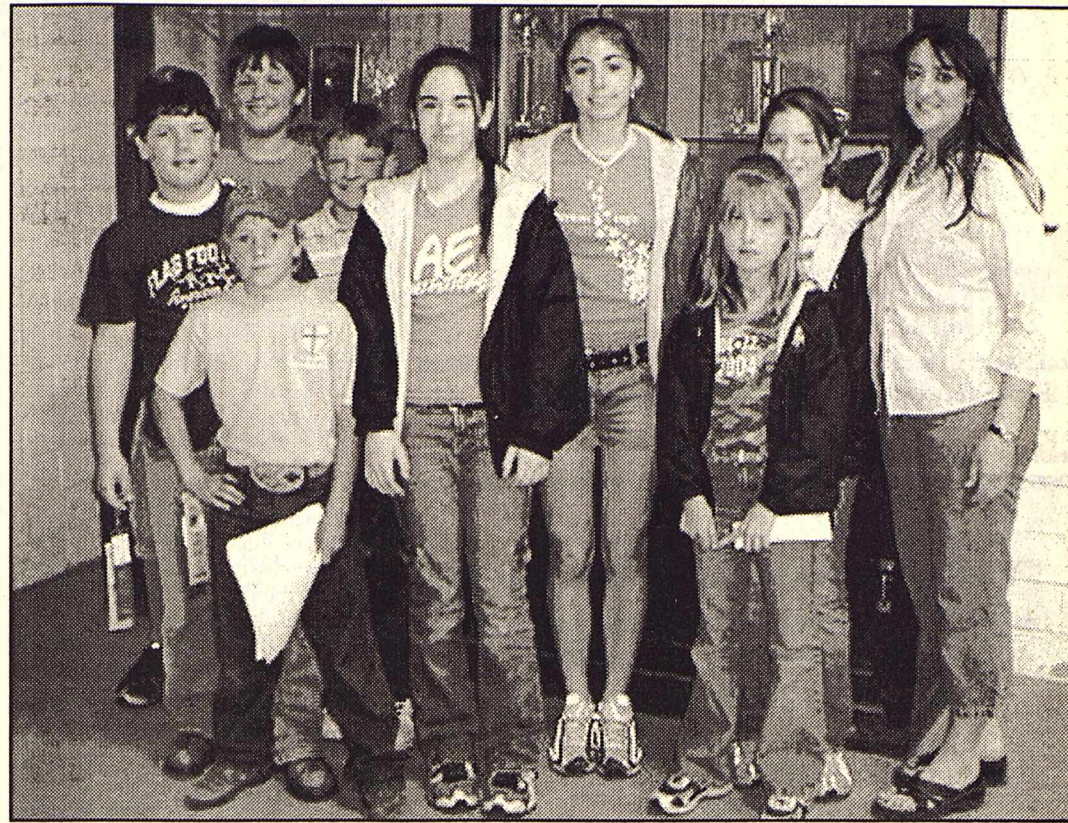
"On the surface, it seems just a matter of looking out there and seeing what worked and what didn't," Walker said. "But if an expensive mechanical method was used that killed all the brush and the ranch went broke paying for it, was it successful? Or if poor follow-up management left the ranch in worse shape than before the brush control, should the treatment be considered a success?"

He said all governmental-approved brush control methods work as claimed "if used according to specifications. But that "if" makes all the difference.

In the spring of 2002, Walker and his coworkers studied the effectiveness of 26 brush control projects within the state's North Concho Watershed Project to determine the effectiveness of different control treatments. The techniques were classified as mechanical (bulldozers, excavators), chemical or a combination of both (tree shears followed by stump spraying).

"Mechanical control was the most effective with 93 percent of the jobs we looked at classified as successful. The one failure resulted from the opera-

Sutton County 4-H competes at District



submitted

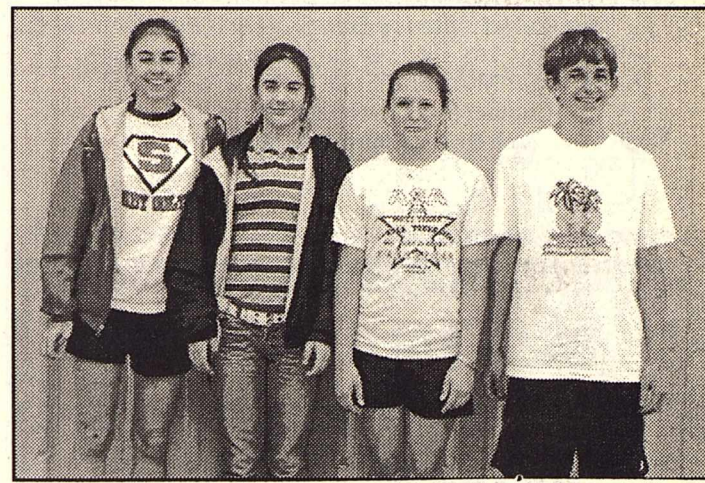
Sutton County 4-H Club was represented in several categories on Saturday, April 17, 2004 at the District 10 contests held in Kerrville and Fredericksburg. Competing in Range Evaluation were novice team members Alex Lang, Gunter Pennington, and Cadesman Pope. The team finished 2nd with individual placings as follows: Cadesman 2nd, Alex 3rd and Gunter 5th. The junior team was comprised of Cash Jennings, Sterling Love, Dustin Neff and Bailey Joe Pennington. This team also placed 2nd, with the individuals finishing as follows: Bailey Joe 4th and Sterling 5th.

Mohair judging competition involved the novice team of Stella Ingham, Zachary Leonard, and Madison Myers. Individually they finished as follows: 2nd Zachary and 5th Stella. The junior team of Emily and Meredith Earwood, Laura Martin, and Colton Moore had an excellent finish as 1st high team. Emily was 3rd high individual in the contest.

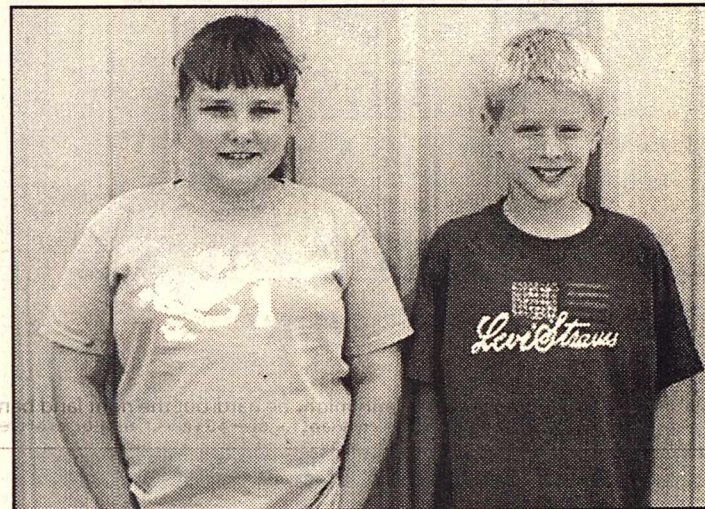
Laura Martin and Colton Moore also presented an illustrated talk in the sheep/goat demonstration division which was titled "A Yarn to be Spun". They received a 2nd place award for their efforts.

Serena Lee Allison entered the share-the-fun division and read a selection from a local author, Norman W. Rousselot, titled *Horses and Horses*. She

4-H District Competitors



Jr. Mohair Judging Team



Novice Mohair Judging Team

achieved 1st place for her performance in the sub-junior age division.

Congratulations to all of these contestants and "Good Luck" as they continue to com-

pete in other invitational contests in our area. Their hard work will culminate at our local contest in June during the Sonora Wool & Mohair Show.

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**Carol and Bill McClelland
celebrating their 30th Anniversary**



on Kauai in March 2004. Bill is a 1962 graduate of Sonora High School. Bill and Carol were married in March 1974 in Colorado and now live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Friends can contact Bill and Carol at bmcclelland@nebrr.com

First San Angelo A&M Center spring field day offers CEUs

by Steve Byrns

SAN ANGELO — The Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center at San Angelo will offer a number of continuing education units during its first natural resources field day April 29.

Registration starts at 8:15 a.m. for "Behind the Dozer - a Comprehensive Investigation of Followup Brush Control Options." The program begins at 9 a.m. at the center located on U.S. Highway 87, north of San Angelo. Five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units for pesticide applicators will be available to each participant: four in the general category and one in the integrated pest management category.

The field day also offers seven CEUs for Society for Range Management members who are certified as professionals in rangeland management.

Dr. Darrell Ueckert, the center's range researcher and a program planner, said only those who have met minimum education, training and experience criteria qualify as certified professionals in rangeland management by the SRM.

"This certification program arms experts with the knowledge needed to help government agencies, non-governmental organizations and ranchers with their rangeland problems," said Ueckert. "These certified professionals have met certain standards of professionalism set by the SRM which is the scientific

and professional society that deals with rangeland management."

Persons certified under the program are required to earn 32 CEUs during each two-year cycle to maintain their certification.

The field day focuses on strategies and techniques landowners can use to properly maintain the thousands of acres cleared under state watershed programs.

Topics to be discussed during the morning include an overview of current brush control projects, future funding options, "What Worked and What Didn't," cost-effectiveness of maintenance brush control, "Planning a Long-Term Brush Control Program," and a panel discussion.

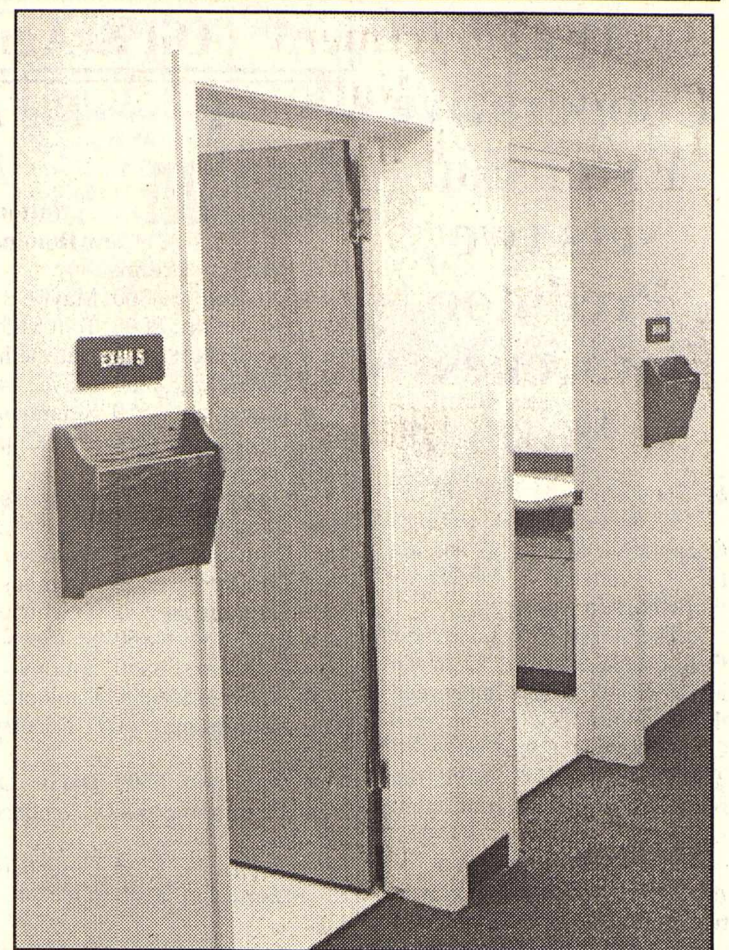
State Rep. Scott Campbell, R-San Angelo, will be the featured luncheon speaker.

The afternoon session starts at 1 p.m. Topics include: "If You Are Going To Do It, Do It Right," "What About Wildlife?," "Fire and Herbivory - Why They Are Important?" and "Where's The Money? - A Look At Funding Brush Control Programs."

The field day concludes with a rancher panel and should adjourn by 5 p.m.

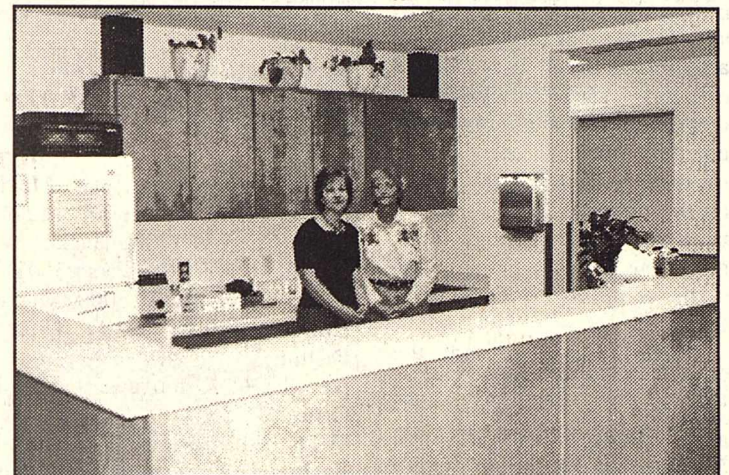
Individual pre-registration is \$25. After April 27, registration is \$40. Student registration is \$10. Registration fees include meals and printed materials.

For more information call the center at (325) 653-4576.

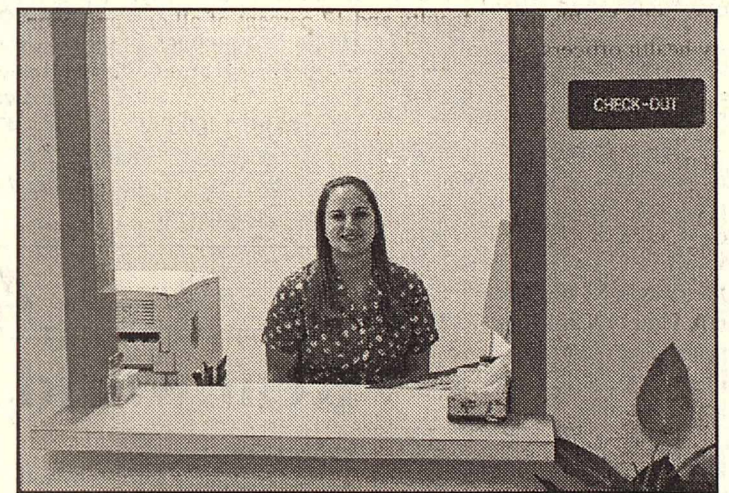


Medical Clinic expansion opens new doors for Sonora

In addition to new and remodeled exam rooms (above), a new nurses station, offices, front office and a new lobby were added at the Sonora Medical Clinic. The expansion and remodeling allows for more patients to be seen in Dr. Pajestka's office and additional services to be offered with the addition of Physician's Assistant, Diana Green.



Dr. Pajestka's nurse, Becky Becknell (pictured with Diana Green, PA-C) has a larger, more efficient nurses station to work from.



A nice new front office offers more room and an attractive atmosphere for the office staff in Dr. Pajestka's office.

Gov. Rick Perry calls special session of legislature to address educational excellence and property tax relief

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry today announced he is calling the Texas Legislature back to work on April 20 for a special legislative session on Educational Excellence and Property Tax Relief.

"Since the implementation of the Robin Hood school finance scheme, the brightest minds in Texas have pondered a permanent solution," Perry said. "The time for pondering is over; the time for action is now."

Perry said that he wants a permanent solution along the lines of the plan he has unveiled during the past few months, but

he also said that he looks forward to working with lawmakers on their suggestions and ideas on school finance.

Last week, Perry announced a comprehensive Educational Excellence and Property Tax Relief Plan that will cut school property taxes by \$6 billion, pump \$2.5 billion new dollars into public schools, significantly increase funding equity, and preserve Texas' strong job creation climate. Earlier this year, Perry proposed a Taxpayer Protection Plan that will prohibit local taxing entities from raising appraisals on residential properties by more than 3 percent a year and limit revenues local entities can raise from property taxes to inflation and population growth. Perry also has called for Educational Excellence Incentives that will refocus attention from minimum expectations to maximum achievement.

The governor noted that the months leading up to the special session call make it clear that, regardless of party or philosophy, there is broad consensus among legislators, educators, employers and families that the current school funding system is outdated and unworkable.

"Property taxes are too high, and fast action is needed to help our taxpayers and our schoolchildren," said Perry. "We agree on many of the broad goals, but there is nothing like the certainty of a session to bring greater consensus on the details."

Brush Control from page 7

4. Climatic conditions must be right.

A mistake at any one of these steps can result in an unsuccessful treatment.

"There are two types of risk that must be managed to have a successful brush control program: avoidable and controllable," said Walker.

"Avoidable risks are weather and environmental factors that can't be controlled but must be avoided and monitored. If conditions are wrong, then don't treat. Sometimes, this means a delay of a year or more. Methods such as aerially-spraying mesquite, may be jeopardized by drought, insects or other factors.

Walker said controllable risks are human error problems that are best controlled by training, motivation and the monitoring of performance. Human errors were the main cause for the poor individual plant treatments observed.

"The shear and spray treatment required decisions and management for both the chemical application and the mechanical operation to work," he said. "Consequently, it had the lowest efficacy. In simple terms, the more that can go wrong, the more that will go wrong."

No matter how successful the initial treatment, Walker said proper followup grazing and brush control within three to five years is essential to prolong the life farther than the 20-30 years expected of a good brush control job.

"Without proper management following the initial control none of the treatments can be considered successful," he said. "Proper management means implementing good grazing practices and followup brush control. The right stocking rate allows perennial grasses to reestablish and compete against brush.

"Goats are the preferred species for stocking after the initial control because they eat the least amount of grass and consume the most brush.

"Followup brush control is essential before the initial treatments can truly be considered a success."

For more information attend the first natural resources field day above.

Pre-registration by April 15 is \$25; Registration is \$40 after that date. Student registration is \$10. Registration includes meals and proceedings.

Walker and Drs. Allan McGinty, Extension range specialist, and Darrell Ueckert, professor, will present their findings on aerially-sprayed mesquite. That will be compared to other types of brush control.

For more information, call Walker at (325) 653-4576.

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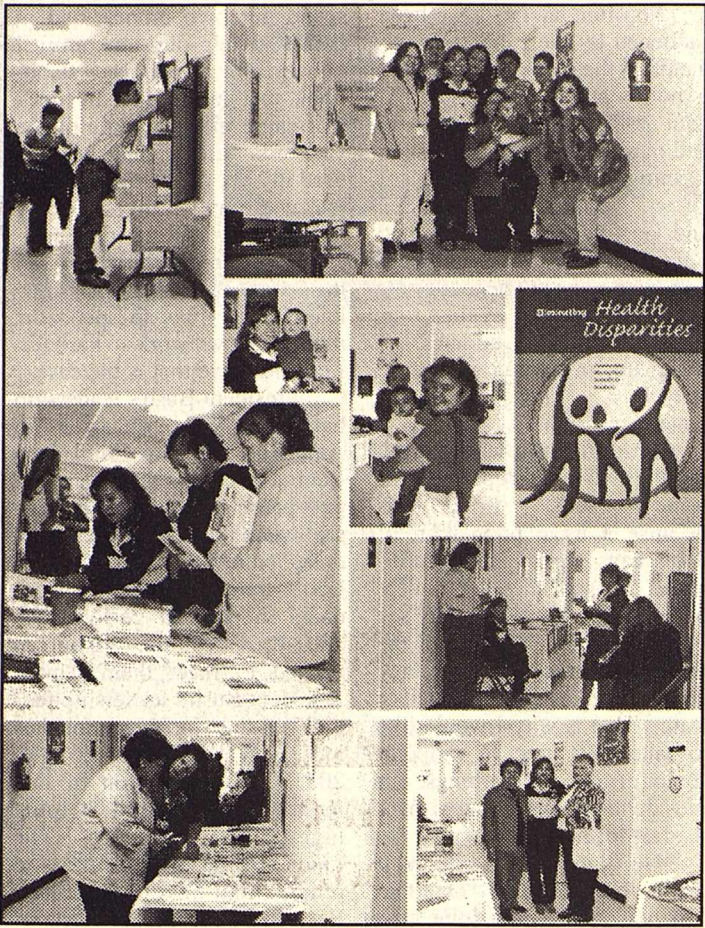
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Texas Department of Health celebrates National Public Health Week in Sonora



The Sonora Texas Department of Health celebrated National Public Health Week from April 5 - 11, 2004. This year's theme, Eliminating Health Disparities: Communities Moving from Statistics to Solutions, was put to play on April 5, when the local office held an open house for Sonora residents. The open house provided literature, programs and services for the public, including information on WIC, prenatal care, sexual diseases, drug prevention vaccinations, women wellness, heart disease, hypertension, malnutrition and much more.

Health disparities are differences that occur by gender, race and ethnicity, education level, income level, disability, geographic location and or sexual orientation. Some health disparities are unavoidable, such as health problems that are related to a person's genetic structure. However, other health disparities are potentially avoidable, especially when they are related to factors such as living in low-income neighborhoods or having unequal access to medical care and information.

Residents of rural areas have less contact and fewer visits with physicians. Although 20 percent of Americans live in rural areas, only 9 percent of the nation's physicians practice in rural areas. Research shows that even when racial/ethnic minorities are insured at levels comparable to whites, they tend to receive a lower quality of health care for the same health conditions.

Lack of diversity among health care providers can be a barrier to communication. Minorities make up 28 percent of the U.S. population but only three percent of medical school faculty, 16 percent of public health school faculty and 17 percent of all city and county health officers.

Health disparities are a problem in every state across the nation, and Texas is no exception. The United Health Foundation ranked Texas 35th in its 2003 rankings of overall population health by state. Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured residents in the nation, with more than a quarter of Texans lacking health insurance. More than 20 percent of children in Texas are living in poverty and the state is also challenged by a high risk of heart disease (11 percent above the average state).

Moving from statistics to solutions

These statistics are disturbing, and communities across the state are working to devise solutions to close these gaps and increase the health of all Texans regardless of race, gender, geography, income or disability. Public health professionals in Texas have developed innovative programs to address a wide range of health disparities. Examples include: • Search Your Heart/De Corazón a Corazón - To reduce the prevalence of heart disease and stroke among African Americans and Latinos, the American Heart Association developed seven activity modules including "Check for Life" to provide cholesterol, diabetes and blood pressure education; "Activities for Life" focused on fitness education and "Bread of Life" to share information on nutrition.

For more information on all of the services that the Texas Department of Health provides call 387-2234.

ADHD from page 1

the Sonora Elementary School, and the Sutton County Child Welfare Board are inviting you to a seminar on Saturday, May 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., concerning "ADHD, Meds, and Methods." It will be held in the Elementary School Auditorium.

Melanie Copeland will be the speaker. She is a respected presenter at the local, regional and state level and is the Executive Director of the Parents Anonymous Program in Abilene. She spent a year researching the medical, social and environmental aspects of ADHD diagnosis, treatment, and management. She developed an exceptional Power Point presentation reflecting her research and providing practical skills training for caregivers of children with ADHD.

Management of ADHD is important for children to advance socially and academically. The more parents, teachers, and care givers know and understand the problem the better prepared they will be to help their children. Please join us for this educational meeting.

Dominion helps clean up Sutton County roads



Dominion Exploration employees were joined by some Creek Swabbing and Roustabout and BB Chemical employees to clean up a portion of Hwy 277 south of town. Dominion adopted the stretch of land and will be cleaning up the area every three months for two years.

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Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C
DATE OF ISSUANCE: March 29, 2004

Rule 37 Case No. 0238250

NOTICE OF APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the DOMINION OKLAHOMA TEXAS E&P INC., 14000 QUAIL SPRINGS PKWY 600, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73134 has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code Section 3.37) Applicant seeks exception to lease line and distance between well to drill Well No. 16, Shurley 141 Lease, 581.64 Acres, Sec. 141, Bk. C, HE&WT RR CO Survey, A-450, Fawcett (Wolfcamp) and Sawyer (Canyon) Field(s), Sutton County, being 9 miles in a southerly southwest direction of Sonora, Texas. The location of this well is as follows:

320' from the north line and 2410' from the east line of lease.

320' from the north line and 2410' from the east line of survey.

Field rules for the Fawcett (Wolfcamp) field(s) are 467/1200, 40 acres.

Field rules for the Sawyer (Canyon) field(s) are 500/1000, 320/40 acres.

This well is drilled to an approximate depth of 7,050 feet.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF Rule 37(h) (2) (A), this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative Steve Towns, Consultant, at 512-480-9600. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512) 463-6899.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY **May 09, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.** IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C
DATE OF ISSUANCE: March 29, 2004

Rule 37 Case No. 0238249

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1220' from the east line and 2310' from the north line of lease.

1220' from the east line and 2310' from the north line of survey.

As apart of this application, applicant seeks permit authority in the Fawcett (Wolfcamp) field(s). No Rule 37 is necessary pursuant field rules for this field.

Field rules for the Fawcett (Wolfcamp) field(s) are 467/1200, 40 acres.

Field rules for the Sawyer (Canyon) field(s) are 500/1000, 320/40 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 7,000 feet.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF Rule 37(h) (2) (A), this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative Steve Towns, Consultant, at 512-480-9600. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedures, please contact the Commission at (512)-463-6899.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY **May 9, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.** IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

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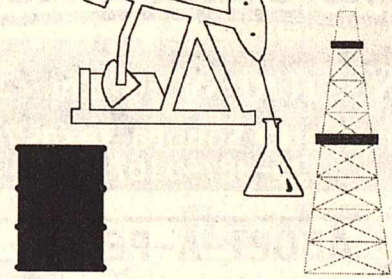
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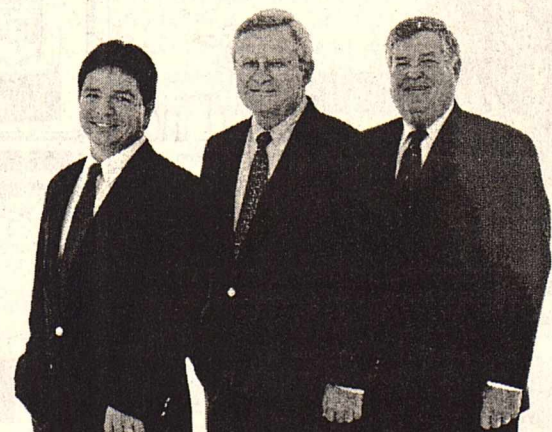
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Vaccinate your infants

By Congressman Henry Bonilla

Would you be surprised to learn that there is one simple step you can take to keep your children healthy? It's not a magic drug. And it won't cost you thousands of dollars. It's a very simple task and one that we all should follow: get your child vaccinated and do it on schedule.

This week marks the ninth annual National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). Across the nation, efforts are being made to immunize more precious infants. In Texas, you will see this campaign in full swing as little red boots scoot their way across the state to promote "Shots Across Texas."

Vaccinating your children may sound like an obvious step in raising a healthy child, but life is hectic and this step is too often forgotten or put-off for far too long. Vaccinations offer the single best protection for the health of our children and our future.

In today's society, immunization is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. We all know the old adage, "you're only as strong as your weakest link." In this case, the weakest link is the unvaccinated child.

We often forget how fortunate we are to have access to vaccinations. I have first-hand appreciation of vaccinations. You see, I grew up in a public housing complex in South San Antonio. The people living there were poor, but they provided a hard-working, labor force for the city's factories and military bases. In those days, many of today's vaccinations did not exist. Far too many children suffered serious illnesses that today can be avoided by a simple vaccination.

As Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I oversee funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This important administration approves, regulates and moni-

Letter to the Editor

Let's Focus on Truth

Dear Editor,

So often lately I have been saddened by the Liberal propaganda of the media. Statewide it is not as much of an issue, but nationally, it is becoming more and more clear that Liberals are running the media. Most "news" reports are one-sided and very heavy-handed against our president and current administration. The editorials are most always against our president and his policies. I have no problem with free speech. That is every American's right.

Unfortunately, we are missing the two-sided reporting our society needs. I say this because a large population of Americans are so easily influenced by what they see on TV or read in print. When they see only one-side or opinion of the issue over an over again, they begin to believe that is fact or truth. That is why I would like to take this time to pinpoint some of the great things our president has done for us over the last four years.

He gave our military a much deserved raise. One that had not only been a long time coming, but also helped to boost numbers.

Regarding Preemption: This administration is the only one to take this type of step. The war in Iraq is not only to free the Iraqi people, but also to stop Sadaam before he could attack us with WMD's. What American wouldn't have wanted to prevent 9/11? Yet, the Bush administration is criticized for the war in Iraq by the same people who are saying that he should have done more in his 200+ days in office to prevent 9/11?

The Bush administration put tax money back in our pocket.

Fifty years of dancing at the Stampede

Tumbleweed Smith Hoyle loved western stuff. He was a cowboy at heart.

In May of 1954 when he opened his dance hall in Big Spring, he decided to call it THE STAMPEDE. It became a monument to Saturday night dances.

Hoyle was a legendary western musician. He was a fiddle player and had a band that played for weekly dances in Brownfield, San Angelo, Sweetwater, Abilene and Big Spring. Hoyle's song, BIG BALLS IN COWTOWN, was played on radio stations across the nation and has since been recorded by George Strait and Asleep At The Wheel. Hoyle's death in 1985 was mentioned on NBC's Nightly News.

Hoyle's son Jody, who owns the Stampede now, and has a successful musical career of his own, was two years old when the dance hall opened.

"I was there, but I don't remember much," says Jody. "It opened on May 8, 1954. Eleven hundred people paid to get in. I think the cover charge was a dollar or a dollar and a half."

When it opened, there were no tables, just benches around the wall.

People came there to dance. There was a red line painted on the floor.

If they weren't dancing, they had to stand behind the red line. The tables were added in 1957 or 58. That cut down on the size of the dance floor, but people could have a place to sit. There has never been any alcohol sold at the Stampede. Jody says it's always been a family place.

In the beginning, men couldn't wear their hats on the dance floor and their shirt tails

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Full Bloom

This time of year is so beautiful with all the spring flowers blooming and the birds singing. The air is full of life, you can just sense or feel it. It is such a change from the cold dread of winter. Seeing the beauty of the flowers and the trees reminds me of the hope we have in Christ. We recently celebrated the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus but we don't talk much about the new life that He has provided for us. His death was on our behalf (1 John 3:16) and His sinless life and innocent blood was the only thing that could pay for our (my) sin (Romans 5:6). It was not just His death but also His resurrection and the hope of the new life that goes with it that makes it so wonderful (John 10:10). That new life is experienced when you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior (1 John 5:11,12). Just as those spring flowers have new life and new beauty, every one that has received Christ has a new life (John 11:25,26). Oh, you may not be able to see it on the outside but there is a new beauty on the inside. If you haven't ever accepted Jesus, ask Him into your life today and experience the new life in Christ.

See you in Church next Sunday. Brother J

Take a walk to raise money for Alzheimers

The Alzheimer's Association - STAR Chapter - West Texas Region will be holding its annual Memory Walk on Saturday, April 24, 2004, at the River Walk, Paseo Pavilion, San Angelo, Texas.

Join the fight against Alzheimer's disease and become a part of Memory Walk 2004. You or your company can organize a team to assist in the fight against this devastating disease.

There are currently over 21,000 West Texans with Alzheimer's disease and over 4.5 million Americans. This number is expected to more than triple by the middle of this century. The annual cost of Alzheimer's disease will soar to at least \$375 billion, overwhelming our health care systems.

Money raised in the 2004 Memory Walk is used locally to provide a wide range of necessary services.

For more information or organizing a team or becoming a team captain, please contact (325) 653-1724 or 1-800-272-3900.

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