

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, June 16, 2005



Sonora welcomes Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital's new addition

The Health & Wellness Center opens at LMH Hospital

The new Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Health & Wellness Center was the bright spot of a cloudy day on Sunday, June 12, 2005, as community members gathered for lunch and tours of the new facilities.

After only 14 months of massive construction, a state-of-the-art, \$5.2 million facility is now available for Sutton County to brag about.

Rev. Milton Black opened the ceremonies with an invocation, followed by Sutton County Hospital District Board President, Rev. Lewis Allen, who spoke of the past and embracing our future.

Sutton County Hospital District CEO, Keith Butler, spoke of the new services and made special recognitions of guests and key players in the new era of health care that will now be offered in our home town, including Mr. Ben Pool, President of the Sutton County Health Foundation, and Key Note Speaker, Dr. Dan Stultz, Chairman of Texas Hospital Association. Stultz explained all that we now have to offer.

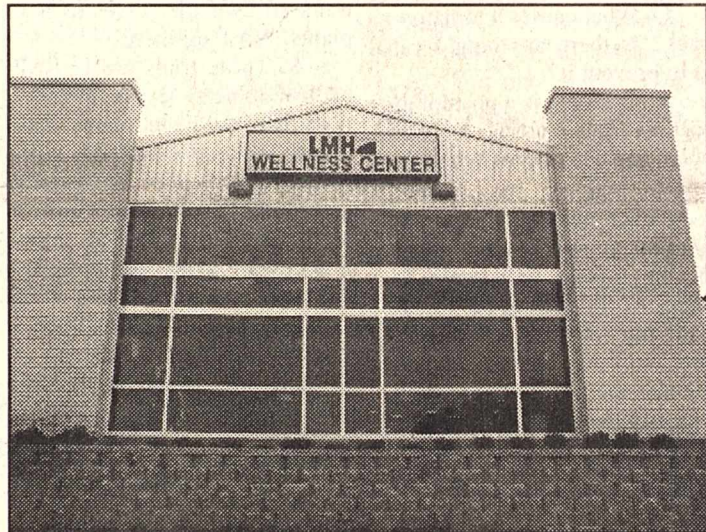
The Wellness Center is now open for business, offering an indoor swimming pool for aerobics and aquatic therapy, a fitness center, cardiovascular equipment, Paramount Performance System equip-

ment, land aerobics facilities, lockers and showers. There will be Diabetes Education programs, Health Awareness and Prevention Programs, Smoking Cessation Programs and much more.

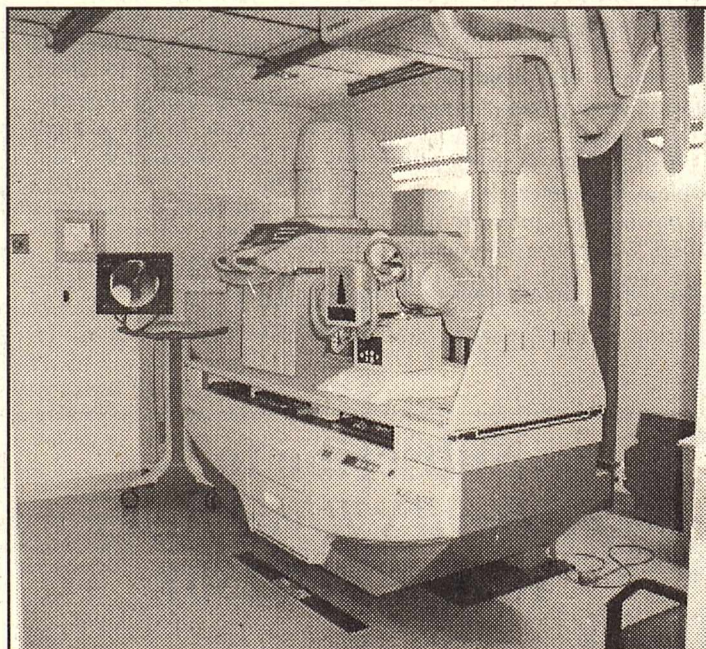
In the new hospital wing, which is slated to open this week, pending the inspection from the Health Department, is technology at its best. Only 10% of the hospitals in the nation can offer what Sonora now has, including a multi-slice helical CT Scanner, digital x-ray and fluoroscopy, digital ultrasound, 5-bed Level IV Trauma Center, and rehabilitation and therapy services making our hospital the most modern in our region.

Hospital CEO and project facilitator, Keith Butler, proudly stated that the day the doors opened, the facility is paid for, with no debt to Sutton County residents and no increase in taxes. Approximately \$600,000, was received in grant money, with the remainder of the bill being paid by operations and the Hudspeth Ranch. This is no small feat for a community the size of Sonora.

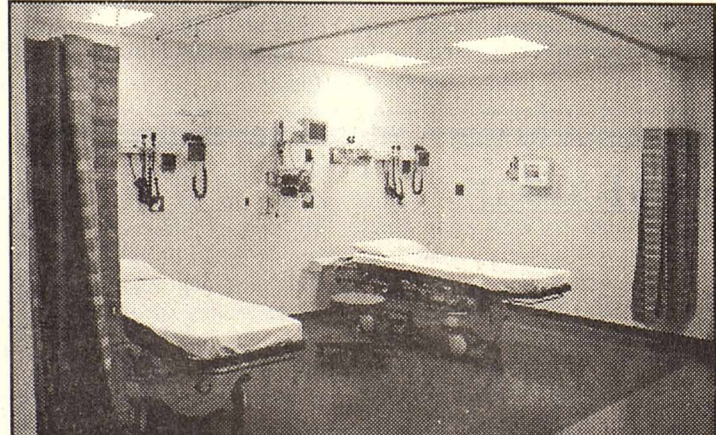
If you have not visited the new facilities you will want to stop by and tour, while signing up to take advantage of obtaining a new, healthy lifestyle in Sonora's world-class healthcare and wellness center.



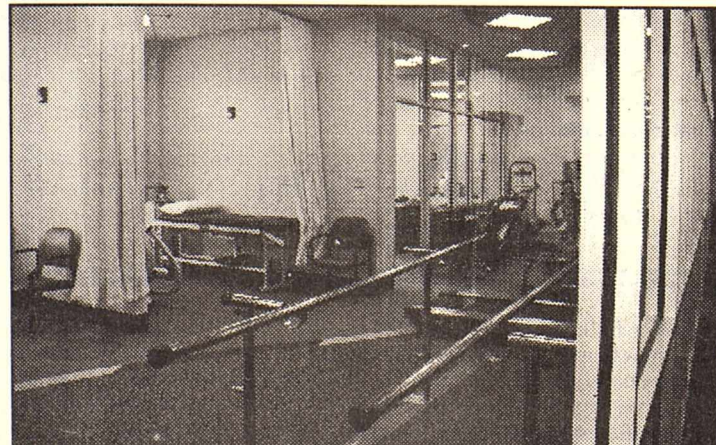
Beautiful new facilities house state-of-the-art equipment.



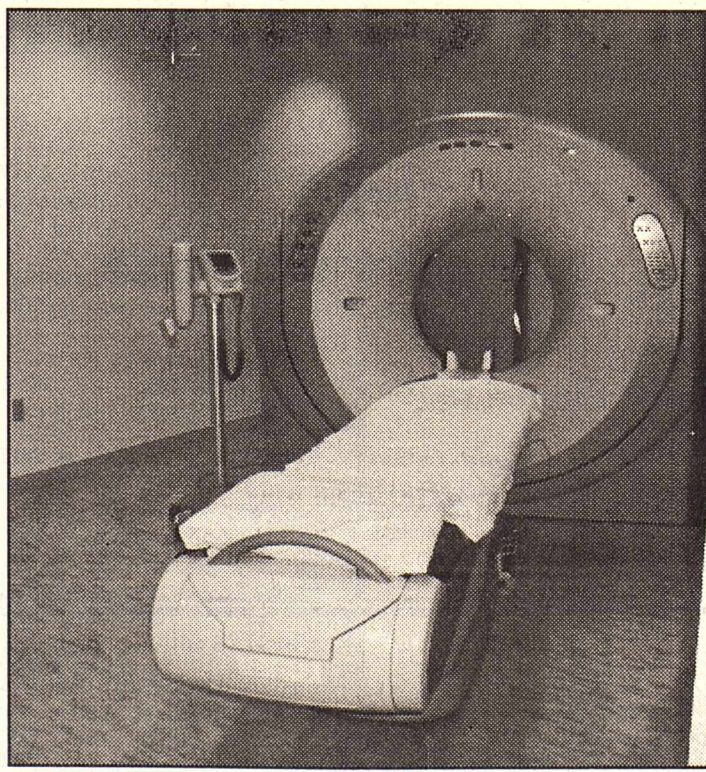
Hudspeth's new digital x-ray machine is only the 4th of its kind available for use in Texas.



Level IV Trauma center available for emergencies.



Rehabilitation available at home, no need to travel to San Angelo.



The multi-slice helical CT Scanner offers new opportunities for patients at L.M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital.

Residents speak out for drug testing at School Board meeting

by Storie Sharp

There was less than standing room only at the June 13, Sonora ISD School Board meeting. Concerned parents and citizens were spilling over into the back rooms of the administration office and onto the front lawn as board president, Tammy Favila, called the meeting to order. Favila explained that this was a regular business meeting, but that they would move to the agenda item of obvious interest to the visitors, student drug testing.

Favila explained that an allotted time of 30 minutes had been reserved for the public discussion and those who signed up to speak would be given 5 minutes to say their piece.

The statements began with Paul Stephens reading a prepared statement in which he referred to a war that started long before the one in Iraq, the war on drug. Stephens stated that "we as parents must find a way to combat the problem." He stated that if drug testing acted as a deterrent, then so be it, and losing certain "freedoms" should not be a concern. Stephens ended his five minutes by stating that to do nothing will result in tragedy.

Sutton County Probation Officer Jed Davenport was next to speak out, stating that he was representing a group of concerned parents and citizens who wish to see the school board make the decision to implement drug testing in the schools. Davenport gave data he found from survey's done in Texas on the average age at which students begin to experiment with drugs. The results are alarming. Davenport said that drug testing may not be the answer, "but we won't know if we don't try and what are we saying by doing nothing?"

Dawn Cahill then inundated the board with information she had found on the internet and through extensive research on drug testing in schools. She reported that of the schools she studied, 85% stated there was an increase in drug use when not testing. She continued to tell

how different methods were used, including even using parking permits as an extra-curricular activity to allow for more students to be tested randomly.

Cahill commented that one particular school said that drug testing gave students being pressured by peers a legit reason to say "no" and that there was definitely a decrease in drug use when random testing was implemented - she also said that that school won the state championship in football the first year they implemented drug testing in their school.

Cahill read a letter from L.M. Hudspeth Hospital CEO, Keith Butler, committing the hospital to partner with the school to test at no charge, if the board agrees to implement the testing.

Savell Shannon stated that it is part of the responsibility of the district to prepare our children for the world of school, and said "corporate America is drug testing - why shouldn't we." He ended his time by stating that the only thing we have to fear is students on drugs.

Nancy Glasscock told the board that Boerne ISD has implemented not only testing any extra-curricular activity participant but also disciplines by not allowing students to drive on school property if they test positive.

Carol Pope told of how one school in Midland offers a program that allows non-extra-curricular participants to volunteer to be tested and puts on their permanent records that they were a "drug-free" student.

Board member Tryon Fields informed the guests that no member of the board was opposed to drug testing, but explained that the problem was not being able to test everyone, just those involved in extra-curricular activities, based on state requirements. He also commented on the sensitivity of disciplining and how the board had to continue to research all legal aspects of such testing. Fields said that they have already implemented a strong alcohol

See School Board page 5



A concerned community speaks out in favor of drug testing at Monday's school board meeting.

Sutton County 4-H'ers Shine at State RoundUp

Well, Sutton County 4-H judging teams spent last week at Texas A&M for Texas 4-H RoundUp, which is state-level competition. Their work and preparation paid off!

Emily Earwood, Craig Leonard, Laura Martin, and Colton Moore competed in Mohair Judging & Evaluation. They placed 2 classes of 4 fleeces each, checked reasons, and evaluated 20 mohair samples for fineness. The team, coached by Ms. Shawna Faris, placed first!

Justin Perez, Rodney Doyle, Aaron Gaytan, and Kaylynn Perez competed in the range evaluation contest. They identified plants, as well as their season of growth, origin, longevity, economic value, and importance. They also assessed range condition and decided on management options. The team, coached by Pascual Hernandez, finished sixth.

McKenzie Watkins and Laura Martin competed in a Sheep Method Demonstration titled, "A Yarn to Spin." Method demonstrations are useful in developing speaking skills as they require participants to "show and tell" something about a current issue. The girls, coached by Julie Martin and Kelly Thorp, took second.

The teams compete in the Sonora Invitational Contests this week. Events include wool & mohair evaluation, range evaluation, and judging livestock.

We're proud of our 4-H'ers!

See all the 4-H State competitors, page 10

Ask the Historical Society

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

Q. Did they really race horses in Sonora?

A. Yes! For many years horse races were held on holidays in Sonora. Main Street was used as the track and many exciting horse races, and a great deal of betting, took place during the holidays. In later years a track was built and regular races were held. The American Quarter Horse Journal is quoted in the April 5, 1962 issue of the Devil's River News as saying "Sonora is a long time leader in Texas racing circles." Jim Scarbrough in his article wrote how Quarter Horse Racing and many of our great Quarter Running horses of today, can attribute a great deal of their status and success to a small but very active Quarter Racing town called "Sonora."

The quiet, contented, but industrious town has a not-too-old but most colorful background. According to Buzzie Stokes, manager of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, in the 1880's and 90's the sheepmen would winter their flocks, without water, on what is now the townsite. This was possible because of the lush green vegetation. After the winter, the sheep were driven back to water holes to spend the summer months.

According to old-timers, "Short-Horse" races have been popular around Sonora since the 90's. Such noted horses as "The" Traveler, Gussie Sykes, Mamie Sykes, Judge Thomas, Midnight and other great foundation horses of the breed raced at Sonora in the early days. Reportedly there were a lot of colts and fillies sired by Harmon Baker which were raced at Sonora all, of course, before records were kept. Also, there were numerous colts and fillies raced there which were sired by Little Joe, Uncle Jimmie Gray, and before that a lot of Sykes' mares and horses.

Bud Stokes, one of Sonora's elder citizens, Quarter Horse Breeder and Racer, now a Cattle Broker, recalled a match race between Judge Thomas and Mamie Sykes around 1898.

"There was a doggone

bunch of money up on that race," Stokes said, "everybody in the country, seemed like, was there to see it. They were starting lap and tap, of course, and it took a long time to get the race started."

Stokes went on to say that, "John Stokes, my uncle, owned Mamie Sykes at the time and John Cooper of Sonora owned Judge Thomas. I was just a little kid at the time, but I remember that it was a hard fought race all the way. They were running the quarter and, along toward the end of the race, Judge Thomas pulled out in front and just barely won by a head."

"That same year they took Judge Thomas to Montana and he was supposed to have set a world's record for the quarter mile," Stokes related.

An editorial by James Hunt and Ralph P. Mayer, written for the Devil's River News, stated that, "Another well known horse by Traveler, owned toward the end of his career by O.W. Cardwell of Junction. The dam of Little Joe, Jenny II, was by Sykes Rondo, foundation sire of the Sykes family. Another well known horse owned by Cardwell was Sam King, a great producer of broodmares. Sam King was by Hondo, which was by John Crowder, which was out of Paisana. Paisana was the mare which produced most of the foals by Old Billy that developed the Billy Family."

Many of the foundation sires and mares of the Quarter Horse breed have been in or near Sonora at one time or other. "The" Traveler was reported to have been match raced in Sonora at one time. John Cooper traded a mule for Traveler when he lived in Granbury and later the famous sire was moved to Alice. Judge Thomas, better known to many in Sonora, was another of John Cooper's famous horses.

Jap and Nell Holman of Sonora were quite well known in West Texas and Sonora Quarter Racing circles. Jap had a well known horse, to people in those parts, called Yankee Doodle. Yankee Doodle was by Red Bug out of a Dogie Beasley mare. He was reported to have had one of the most tremendous starts of any horse in the area at

that time, leaving Man, an unbelieving jockey, at the starting line. In those days, they used a surcingle rather than a racing saddle and those who saw "Yankee" run say that the jockey sure had to grab a handful to stay aboard.

Probably two of Yankee Doodle's most famous races were match races with a horse from Oklahoma which they were calling Hickory Bill. Actually, the horse called Hickory Bill was none other than the famous Billy Van. The first match was run close to Mason, around 1940. A clip from the Mason newspaper stated that "Texas" entry, Yankee Doodle, won the matched race against Hickory Bill (Billy Van), a four year old dun stallion belonging to B.B. VanVactor of Carter, Oklahoma. The second race, a grudge race, was matched on a river bank close to Sonora. Jap Holman sure didn't want anything to happen to Yankee Doodle so he built a wire pen for the horse and hired two men to stay with him around the clock for two weeks. The day of the big race drew nigh and according to persons who were there, it seemed like every person who lived within 200 miles of Sonora turned out to see the race.

James Hunt said that he was just a small boy and his father put him in a tree so he could see the race over the great crowd of people. A lot of money was bet on the race and everyone was concerned that there be a fair start. B. W. Hutcherson was the starter and like many of the lap and tap races it took all afternoon to get the race started. When the horses took off Yankee Doodle wasn't exactly ready and was left pretty badly by Billy Van. The big bay started making up ground hurriedly and about mid way, which was the 200 mark, he caught the Dun from Oklahoma and went on to win handily.

From 1934-38 Yankee Doodle started forty times, mostly quarter mile races, and racked up 20 wins, 16 seconds and 1 third. Although he was never registered with the Quarter Horse Association, ask anyone in Sonora if he wasn't a "Quarter" horse!

By 1962 Sonora would have organized racing for about 30 years. The track in 1962 was the 4th and was started about 1941. The land was acquired in 1940 after surveying the layout, however, it was found that they needed additional land in order to have a full quarter mile straight-away.

The late Joe Berger sold the Park Association the needed land at a very small cost. The Sonora Park Association is strictly a community operation. Everyone pitches in and helps do the work and planning and no personal profit is involved. If they make a little money they pour it right back into the track. In 1962 there were 6 barns that could handle 150 horses. Plans were under way for a new jockey's room, a new rail for the straight-away and track surface improvements.

Since 1959 Sonora had hosted the West Texas Quarter Horse Futurity. That year the race was won by Hy Diamond Dandy. Horses in recent years include Easter Rose, Barbara L., Hunt's Patsy Jo, Little Red Raffles, My Hy, Red Chick W., Blonde Joan, Faila Tabu, Mister Garcia, Miss Texas Red and others too numerous to name.

Jerry Shurley was president of the Park Association in 1962.

The horse track is long gone, due to a number of unfortunate decisions, but we hope you have enjoyed the walk down memory lane of horse racing in Sonora.

The office will be closed until June 17th, our vacation has been a trip to the hospital for Rick and major back surgery. We hope he will be well enough to sit with us a while on the 17th as he misses the regular visitors to the society.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County history send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonoratrax.net. You may reach us on Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings, at 387-5084, our offices are at 307 Oak Street. You are welcome to stop in any one to those days to do research, ask questions or to rent the John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building (Old Depot) and grounds.

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Main Street Traffic
Friends of Historic Sonora share recognition letter
 Submitted by: Ann Kay
 A few months ago I sent a note to the President of the National Trust, Richard Moe, sharing with him some of the wonderful photos and success stories of a small town in West Texas called Sonora. I also congratulated him on the 25th anniversary of the National Trust Street Center.
 I explained to him how Sonora and Sutton County had worked very hard at historic preservation and saving their western heritage for the future of our community and generations to come.
 I expressed to him how important it was for us to receive the Texas Courthouse Grant and that we had received the second Texas Courthouse Grant and soon the Sutton County Courthouse would be completely restored. I would like to share the letter with you that President Richard Moe wrote back to our community:
 Dear Mary Ann,
 Thank you very much for your kind note concerning the 25th anniversary of our National Trust Main Street Center. It has been quite a journey, and we are thrilled by the economic revitalization and preservation successes that communities are achieving using the Main Street model.
 The success of the Main Street program would not have been possible without your help and that of the many volunteers and professionals who carry out the missions of the local Main Street programs. Together we will continue our work to strengthen the country's communities and preserve their stories for future generations.
 Warmest regards,
 Sincerely, Richard Moe

State officials to play musical chairs

State Capital Highlights
 Texas Press Association

By Mike Cox
 AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry has until June 19 to sign or veto bills and still hasn't said whether he'll call a special session this summer to give lawmakers one more try at solving the state's school funding woes. Meanwhile, with the '06 primaries only nine months off, Austin political junkies are talking.

With Republican Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs having declared for comptroller, Sen. Todd Staples (R-Palestine) having announced for her job and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison rumored to be taking on Gov. Rick Perry in next March's Republican primary, where does that leave Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn?

One answer is that Strayhorn might decide not to get in the Perry-Hutchison fight and instead opt to make an end run at lieutenant governor. Just as a Hutchison gubernatorial candidacy would arguably close the governor's mansion to Strayhorn, it would open what is really the most powerful elective job in Texas to the comptroller. Why? Because the buzz is that Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst is interested in replacing Hutchison in Washington if she comes to Texas to run again.
 Perry.

Should Hutchison decide not to take on Perry, the scenario could default to a Perry-Strayhorn primary battle.
Next station: Name change...

A bill to rename the Texas Railroad Commission the Texas Energy Commission ended up on a side track when the gavel closed the 79th Legislature, but lawmakers did move all the commission's railroad responsibilities to the Texas Department

of Transportation. Rep. George "Buddy" West's House Bill 1078, the bill that would have changed the name of the 114-year-old commission to reflect what it really is, hit the end of the tracks on April 20. That's when it was left pending in the House Energy Committee.

So, once the commission's remaining railroad functions are rerouted to TxDOT, the Railroad Commission will have nothing to do with railroads and everything to do with energy. Maybe next session...

New insurance commissioner...

The No. 2 person at the Texas Department of Insurance, deputy commissioner Mike Geeslin, got the top job last week when Gov. Perry appointed him as former Commissioner Jose Montemayor's successor. Geeslin, an advisor to Perry before he went to TDI two years ago, will have more on his plate than Montemayor. One of the biggest servings will be overseeing TDI's legislatively mandated absorption of the duties currently handled by the Worker's Compensation Commission. That includes adding a fourth commissioner whose responsibility will be worker's comp issues only.

It's 'skeeter time...

If you've been to the coast lately, or anyplace else in Texas that gets a lot of rain, you know there are plenty of mosquitoes out and about. According to the State Health Department, so far this year no cases of West Nile infection have been reported in Texas. Last year, 119 human cases occurred in 40 of the state's 254 counties. This year, only six cases affecting birds, three carrier mosquitoes and two infected horses have been reported.

The solution: A good insect repellent and wearing long sleeve shirts and pants. (But the insect spray still is important because a mosquito bite can penetrate clothing.)

2nd Annual
Help your Fellowman
Golf Tournament
 A, B, C, D Scramble
 \$25.00 Per Player
 Bring your Team or Walk on
 Saturday, June 18
 Time - 8:00 a.m.
 Sponsored by The First Baptist Church, Sonora.
ALL PROCEEDS
 To benefit Ministerial Alliance Benevolence Fund!
 (2004 Tourney raised \$5,200!!)
 Prizes to 1st - 3rd Place Teams & Hole Prizes
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**Sanchez attends HOBY
Ambassador Seminar**

Stacy Sanchez, daughter of Mari and David Sanchez, recently attended the Texas Capital Area Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar held June 10-12 at Concordia University in Austin.

Stacy joined more than 66 other young leaders representing as many high schools from throughout Texas.

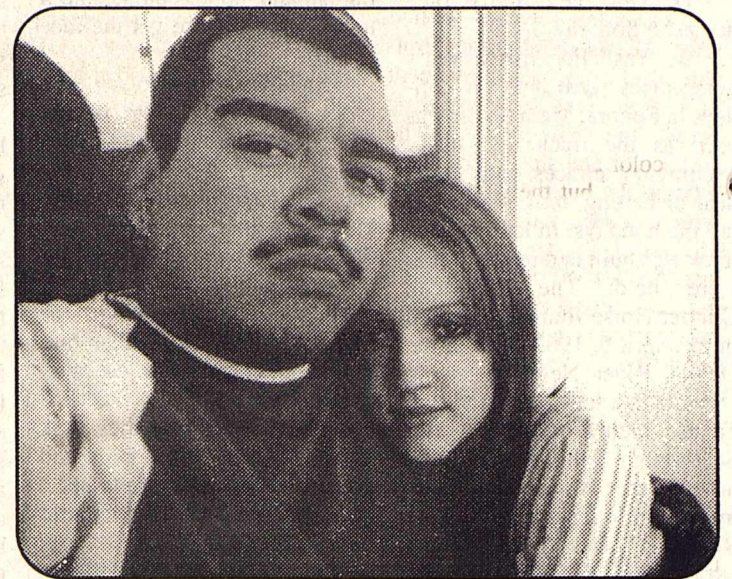
HOBY Leadership seminars bring together a select group of high school sophomores to interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education and the professions to discuss present and future issues. The goal is to provide the youth a stimulating forum for learning

about the free market and democratic process while broadening their understanding of their leadership potential and quest for self-development. HOBY leaders are also challenged to return to their communities to perform at least 100 hours of community service within 12 months following the Seminar.

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership was established in 1958 by the popular actor Hugh O'Brian following a visit to Africa where he was inspired by a meeting with Dr. Albert Schweitzer.

"One of the things Schweitzer said to me was that the most important thing in education was to teach young people to think for themselves," O'Brian said. "From that inspiration, and with the support of others who believe in youth and the American dream, I started HOBY to seek out, recognize and develop outstanding leadership potential among our nation's youth."

Further information about HOBY seminars, activities and sponsorship opportunities in Texas is available by calling Sarah Buss at (512)473-9979

Engagement Announcements**Burris-Moreno announce
July wedding plans***Errbey Moreno and Amber Burris*

William Kalka of Artesia, New Mexico, and Lori Sargent of Midland, Texas, are pleased to announce the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Amber J. Burris, to Errbey G. Moreno, both formerly of Sonora.

The ceremony will be held at 6:00 p.m. on July 25, 2005, in Central Park in Artesia, New Mexico. Brother Duff, of Faith Baptist Church, will be performing the ceremony.

Ring bearers will be the couple's two sons, Jaydon and Westin. The flower girl will be their daughter, Kaylee.

Maid of Honor will be the bride's lifelong friend, Amy Briggs. The Best Man will be Robert Kalka.

Lawrance Kalka will serve as the groomsman. After the ceremony the couple plan a short honeymoon in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Proud parents
Allison & David Mirike
announce the arrival of their son,
Carson Bailey Schwiening
born June 2, 2005 at 10:01 a.m.
8 lbs 21 inches

Grandparents are Susan & J.D. Mirike and
Curt Jr. & Betty Schwiening
Great-grandparents are Elsie Mirike of Sheffield,
Ann Rogers of Iraan,
Wilna Schwiening of Roosevelt and
Edna & Early Barton of San Angelo

Emily Cory is proud to introduce
her new baby brother
Colin Gage Cory

Born Monday, June 6, 2005

7 lbs. 12 oz. and 21 inches long

Colin is welcomed by proud parents

Jody & Cody Cory

Loving grandparents

Debra & Doug Cory and

C.E. & Molly Clemmer

and special great-grandparents

Imogene & Eugene Murphy

**Local student graduates
from Blinn College**

Jalys Mabry of Sonora was among the May graduates from Blinn College's Brenham, Bryan and Schluenburg campuses who received two-year associate degrees and one-year certificates.

Mabry received an associate in arts degree.

Graduation ceremonies were held May 13 on the Brenham campus.

Searching for her roots

submitted

After 52 years, I came to find my roots. My name is Elba Chavez Lara and I was born in Sonora on September 2, 1935, to Herminia (Minnie) Chavez Lara and Deonicio (Nicho) Lara. My grandparents are Sebero and

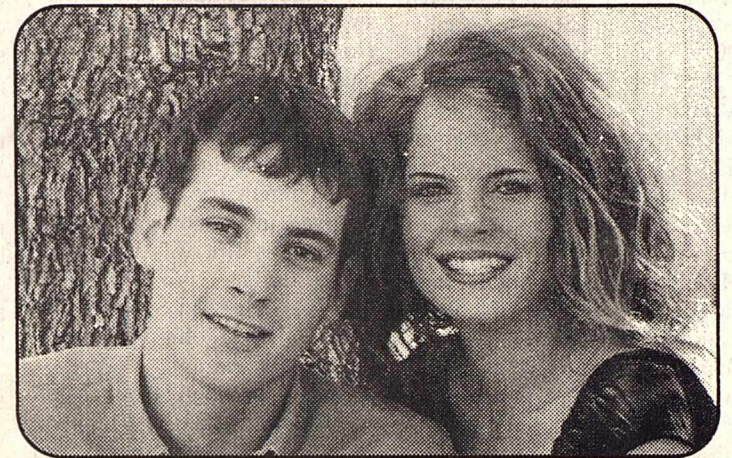
*Elba Chavez Lara*

Margarita Chavez and Josepha Lara. At that time, my family included my parents, sisters Lina, Dora, and brother, Ricardo.

When I was 2 years old, my father was murdered (1937). And two years later, on June 19, 1940, a fifth child was born into the family. His name is Juan Muniz, Jr. (Johnny). A few months later, after his birth, my mother moved all of us to Bakersfield, CA.

Things have changed here--streets have different names and are paved instead of being rocky as they were when I lived here. What makes me really sad though is that I can't find where my father is buried. I'm told he is buried in the old cemetery next to my brother and grandma. by an old mesquite tree. But I can't find the mesquite, which has probably died and rotted.

If you have information as to the whereabouts of my father's grave, please contact the Devil's River News at 387-2507.

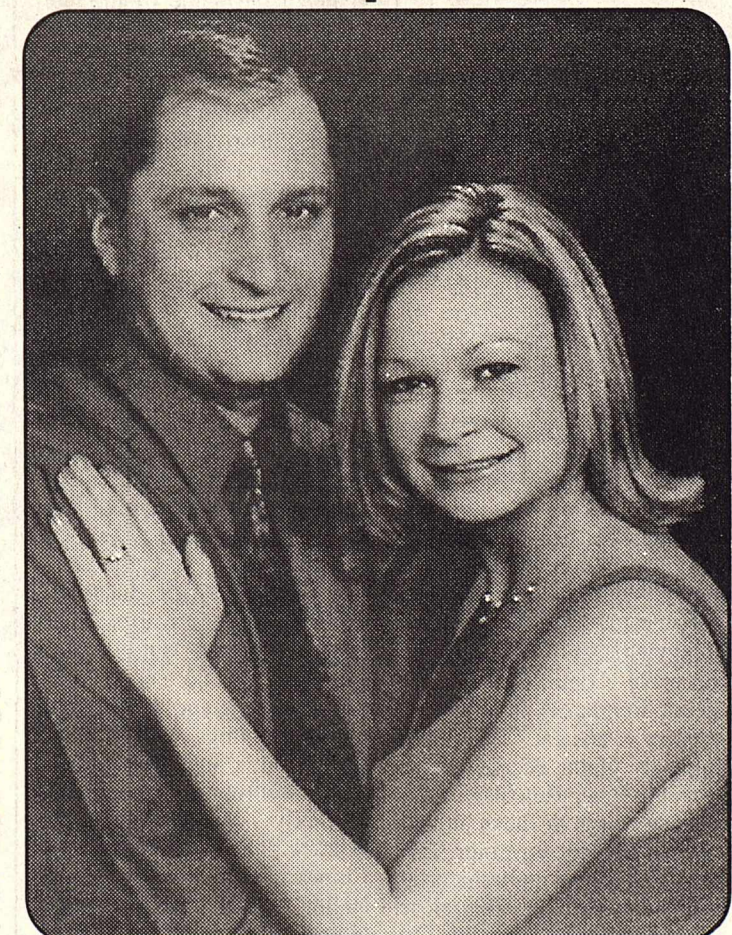
**Mathews and Pitcock
announce engagement***Jessie Mathews and Matthew Pitcock*

The parents of Jessie Mathews are pleased to announce her engagement and approaching marriage to Matthew Pitcock of Lubbock, son of Sharon and Darrel Pitcock of Robert Lee.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Jan and Greg Moore and Cindy and J.J. Mathews of Andrews.

Mathews attends Angelo State University in San Angelo. The prospective groom is employed with Land O' Lakes/Purina Mills in Lubbock.

The couple will exchange vows on August 13, 2005, at Robert Lee Baptist Church in Robert Lee.

**Floyd and Evans to
wed in September***James Holden and Heather Floyd*

Mrs. David Stark of Sonora, Texas and Mr. Dana Floyd of San Angelo, Texas announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Heather Floyd, to Mr. James Patrick Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Holden Evans of Carthage, Mississippi. A September wedding is planned.

**2005 Sponsors for St. Ann's Building Fund
THANK YOU!****Team R.A.Z.P.A**

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Taco Grill

La Mexicana

Sanchez Construction

Los Cerritos

Sonora Tire Service

Hernandez Tax & Financial Services

First National Bank

Cakes by Maggie

Doyle Morgan

Sonora Contractors

AMIS Gift Shop

Carquest

Texas MAG

B&K Trucking

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Busy Bee's Daycare

Walsh Welding

Friends of Historic Sonora

Farm Bureau

The Devil's River News

Stirrup Trouble

Dr. Charles Pajestka

H & R Block - Elvira Holguin

M&MFencing

Days Inn/Comfort Inn

U.S.Plungers

HOLT/CAT

Kayla Garcia

Burnham & Burnham Trucking

Location Builders

Mata Remodeling

NAPA

Coors

Budweiser

Chavez Plumbing

Niblett Oilfield Service

Flowers by Irene

Schlumberger Oilfield Services

PCS Plungers

S&M Fencing

Puro Tejano DJ -

Hector Mendez

Wal-mart

Joe David Ross

Alco

Precision Sales

Texaco

Shots #5 & #6

Snap On

Moore Oil & Lube Service

EM Hobbs

Multi - Chem

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Up on Eaton Hill

Deadly Drama

by Delyse Jaeger

Rounding the turn around 9:00 p.m., my headlights illuminated the insect-like movement of a large black mass crawling across the caliche road. The size, color and shape suggested a tarantula, but the gait was all wrong. After maneuvering the truck to light up our mystery bug, my son and I jumped from the cab to find one of nature's horror stories unfolding before our very eyes. There was a tarantula alright, but he wasn't walking across the road, rather he'd fallen under the paralyzing venom of a tarantula hawk and was being drug to a fate I wouldn't wish on the most vile creature on earth - (the cockroach, of course).

The tarantula hawk is a huge wasp with a shiny blue-black body and bright orange wings. The sting of this fella is considered the most painful of all North American insects. With this in mind we carefully approached, flashlight in hand and truck door open. The large black eyes of the ruthless wasp shone in the night and our presence did not disrupt her labor. She continued dragging the tarantula another ten feet or so across the grass, stopping just short of the fence line. Leaving the immobilized spider, she began moving down the fence, taking an occasional short flight and quickly dropping back down to the ground with obvious purpose. "She must be searching for the burrow" we guessed and sure enough, about fifteen feet down the fence, the wasp located the hole in the

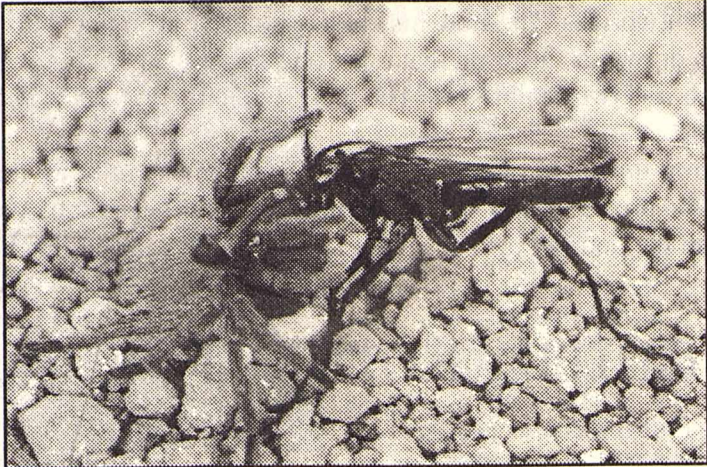


photo courtesy of Robert Shantz. A spider wasp drags a paralyzed tarantula to it's grisly fate.

ground. Then quickly she began moving back up the fence. Upon reaching the vicinity of the tarantula, his captor began casting about on the ground until she found her prey. Grabbing hold of the spider's underside, she quickly transported him to the burrow, placed him just outside the entrance and disappeared inside. A moment later she emerged, took hold of the doomed fellow, and they both vanished down into the ground. Having researched this terrifying relationship, I knew his fate was worse than death. The tarantula hawk would lay her egg upon the spider's abdomen and then seal up the burrow. The venom injected from her initial sting would continue to incapacitate the spider. Within a few days a larvae would begin to feed "ravenously" on the tarantula's flesh, carefully avoiding the vital organs and in doing so, prolonging the spider's horrific and certain demise.

Occasionally science fact

trumps the most creative science fiction and the bizarre truth of tarantulas and spider wasps may be the crown jewel of nature's creepy chronicles. When not engaged in the dark business of converting tarantulas into baby wasp nurseries, the wasp feeds on nectar and is said to become "flight challenged" from eating fermented fruit. In therapy that might be called self-medicating, and who can blame the heartless insects! Perhaps it is somehow fitting that roadrunners are among the few animals that feed on the tarantula wasp. However, since even a 4 inch wasp is small in comparison to a lizard, and lacks an internal skeleton, tarantula wasps probably escape being thrashed against the rocks by roadrunners - where is the justice?

Perhaps we might have rescued the spider, but caring for a paralyzed tarantula with an unknown prognosis just didn't seem a reasonable option.

Hit the trails, where you never know what drama awaits.

School Board from page 1

abuse policy and that he feels the board just wants to be sure to take the time to find a policy that fits this community and school, and "has teeth" to get a grip of the problem.

Delyse Jaeger asked if a task force of school administrators, community members, physicians, law enforcement, etc. could be put together to work on building a plan for a program that works in Sonora. Board President Favela said that such an idea would be considered, but that since this was just a public discussion no such decision could be made at this time.

Cahill approached the board with a petition of 190 signatures from Sonora community members in favor of drug testing in the schools.

The only Sonora student present for the meeting, Chelsea Martinez, stood and introduced herself as a sophomore and a Lady Bronco student that she was in favor of the testing because the drugs in the schools scare her and something needs to be done.

Gary Leonard made a very emotional plea, reminding the board that they do many other things that might be considered unconstitutional correct, including praying before meetings, so what is stopping them from taking a chance on stepping on some toes. Leonard stated that he moved his family here from a border town to leave such problems as these behind and was shocked to find that the alleged drug problem in Sonora is worse than the city he and his family left behind. He also stressed that he is not wanting to punish those for their problem, but to save them from what is in store for them.

Juvenile Probation Officer, Jerry Jimenez ended the public discussion by stating that he is on the streets with the kids and lives among them. He knows there is a problem and feels strongly that something has to be done to help them, not hurt them.

"If we save one kid, then we've done our job," Jimenez said. He also reminded the board that the community elects them to make decisions in our children's best interest, and although it may not be their job to raise our kids, it is their job to do all that they can to see that they are given the best chances.

Favila stood and thanked all those present for their input, their interest and their desire to help combat a problem in our schools. Those present for this part of the meeting included:

Dawn Cahill, B.L. Campbell, Casey Henderson, C. Martin, D. Martinez, Jane Rushing, Jana Dover, Kelly Owen, Rhessa Lang, Carol Leonard, Gary Leonard, Carl Lang, David Wallace, Beth Wallace, Jan Stephens, Rosa Sanchez, Elizabeth Black, Nancy Glasscock, Ray Glasscock, Erica Morriss, Carol Pope, Juanita McBride, Fran Pennington, Larry Jennings, Carolyn Earwood, Savell Shannon, Sherry Ingham, James L. Jaeger, Delyse Jaeger, Marlyn Young, Kyle Dover, Noemi Samaniego, Lance Castro, Oscar Chavez, Sr., Ben Ingham, Cynthia Perez, Keith Hudson, Lisa Karnes, Caroline Vickers, Mike Moore, Kay Friess, Paul Stephens, Jan Stephens, Trevlin Strong, Susan Hall, Sue Moore, Scottie Moore, Dr. Gregory and Mrs. Johnson, Devoe Smith, Jerry Jimenez, and Chacho Cahill.

Favila reminded them that the board meets every 2nd Monday of the month and they are welcome and encouraged to attend any and all public meetings.

"We won't disappoint you. We will do what we were elected to do and do our best to protect our children," Favela stated to end the discussion. She then announced that as scheduled as part of the regular meeting the board would then tour the newly remodeled Intermediate building. The crowd filed out to continue discussing the issue outside for quite some time.

The regular meeting reconvened, with a special presentation from Sonora Chamber of Commerce Board of Director Susan Hall. Hall advised that the Chamber had recently joined the Keep Texas Beautiful program, and had to complete eight guidelines to be considered for the ample amount of grant money set there for beautification projects in our community. One of those steps is to get other organizations and boards to commit to the efforts, and she was asking the Sonora ISD Board of Directors to agree to help with the program. A special power point presentation explaining the Keep Texas Beautiful program was given, and can be shown at your next meeting by contacting the Sonora Chamber of Commerce or Susan Hall.

In other business, Sutton County Tax Appraiser, Rex Ann Friess, reported that the 2004 tax levy was 99.17% collected and delinquent letters would be sent out as of July 1 for the remaining 1%. The board then

reviewed the list of current bills in the amount of \$766,825.60.

Quarterly cafeteria and investment reports were also reviewed.

Construction manager and architect, McGee and Williams reported that construction was ongoing in the Intermediate building and things were pretty torn up right now, but would be coming together as scheduled, weather permitting. Several change orders were discussed and McGee said that the plan is to finish all outside projects by the first of August.

Superintendent Brant Myers then presented a preliminary budget discussion. He explained rollbacks, Chapter 41 expenses and State Aide estimates. With enrollment predicted to be up to 1000 students, the Chapter 41 estimate is extremely high. This is the amount of money that Sonora has to pay back to the state, or to the allotted schools, due to the "Robin Hood" plan. Gas values are also predicted to be way up, putting the amount to be sent back to the state at approximately \$6.3 million! With the current M/O tax rate of \$1.50, plus the small 5% from State Aide, the cuts that the administrators have been able to make, minus the Chapter 41 expense, the school still should be able to operate in the black for the next budget year, but nothing is set in stone, as this is a preliminary estimate. Property values have not been set yet, which will affect the bottom line. Further budget discussions will be held over the summer months.

The board voted to allow Dr. Myers to dispose of the old leased computers to the West Texas Boys Ranch and/or send to schools in Mexico as seen fit.

The second reading of Update 75 was held, with Dr. Myers explaining many of the legal and local changes. A lengthy discussion was held and the board eventually voted to allow Dr. Myers to make the necessary steps for revisions of Update 75.

Dr. Myers reported that the '05 school year ended with 983 students, up by 24 from last year, went over May maintenance reports and reviewed TAKS scores reviews. Math came across as the weak area for testers from Sonora, but the students still did well overall compared to state bases.

The board then went into executive session to discuss the employment of professional personnel before adjourning for the evening.

Request for Proposal Extension Notice

Workforce Solutions of the Concho Valley, operated by ACS State and Local Solutions, is seeking proposals from organizations to provide the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program Year 2005 opportunities in the following counties: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green.

All types of provider sources will be reviewed and considered for acceptance and use in accordance with the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program Objectives. Candidates seeking approval as service providers must have a minimum of two years experience in the administration of youth programs.

Applicant Requirements: Proposers may be a public-non-profit (including faith-based organizations), or private-non-profit entity, or private-for-profit entity or governmental entity. Proposers must have adequate personnel capabilities necessary to implement the goals and objectives of the program and to ensure compliance with the ensuing contract.

RFP Document: To receive a copy of the RFP, with detailed specifications, visit www.cvworkforce.org for information or pick up the RFP at Workforce Solutions, 202 Henry O. Flipper, San Angelo, Texas beginning Monday, June 6, 2005 and ask for Mr. Morris Apple.

Questions and Answers: Questions submitted by proposers will be forwarded as they are received and answered. Questions and answers will also be posted on the WEB site at www.cvworkforce.org. Workforce Solutions staff may not provide individual assistance in writing proposals, only technical questions may be answered.

Application Deadline: Deadline for submission of proposals in response to the RFP is Tuesday, July 5, 2005 by 3:00 p.m.

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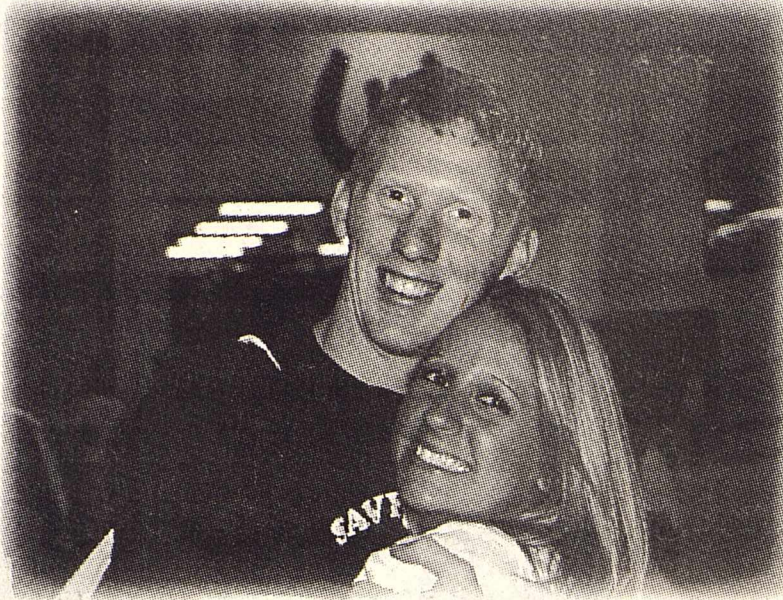
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Project Graduation 2005 was a huge success, thanks to the generous donations of many individuals and businesses. Immediately following graduation, approximately 110 junior and senior students were "locked-in" at the high school from 10:30 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. This all-night, alcohol-free, drug-free party provided the students with an opportunity to play carnival and casino games, winning "money" with which they could buy prizes. The students could also use the "money" for an auction and obtain more valuable prizes. In addition, during the evening, many items were given away in random drawings, insuring that everyone was a winner!

The highlight of the evening was a drawing for four computers, given to two senior girls and two senior boys. The lucky winners for 2005 were Chelsea Seaton, Jesse Garza Marco Gutierrez and Adriana Castilleja.

The success of this party depends on the help of many who spent much time preparing for the big night. A special thanks goes out to all the parents, grandparents, and other family members of graduates, teachers, school personnel and others who helped. The project graduation committee would especially like to thank Sandi Ainsworth for keeping up with all the financial paperwork, Preston Farris for coming out at 2:00 a.m., in the pouring rain, to auctioneer, and Mike and Wilma Villanueva for keeping watch over everyone's prizes during the night.

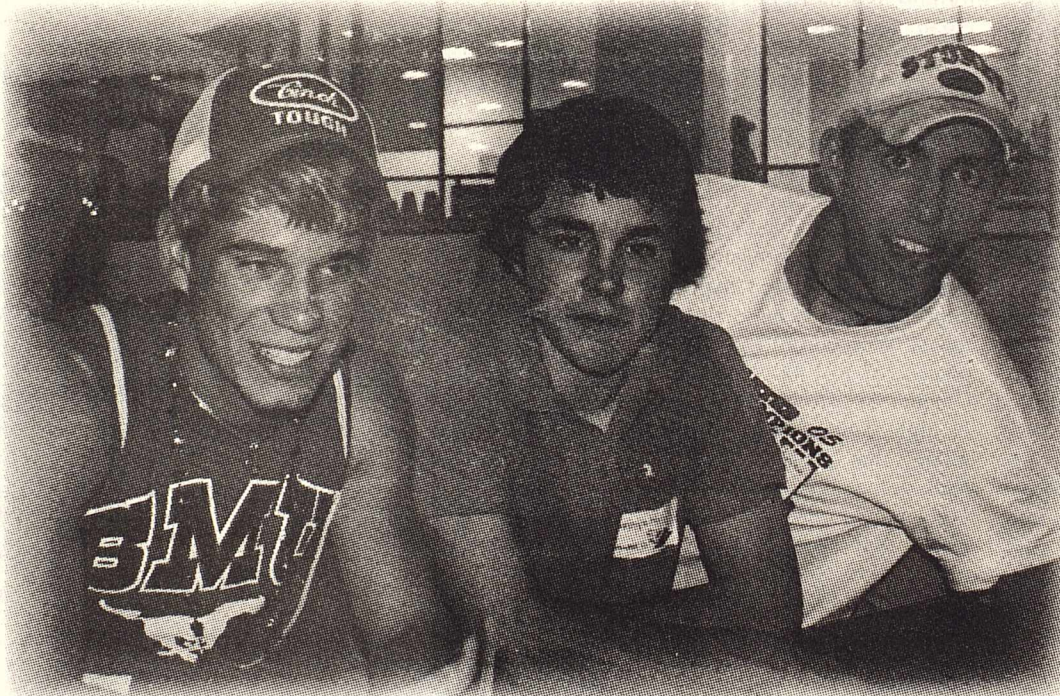
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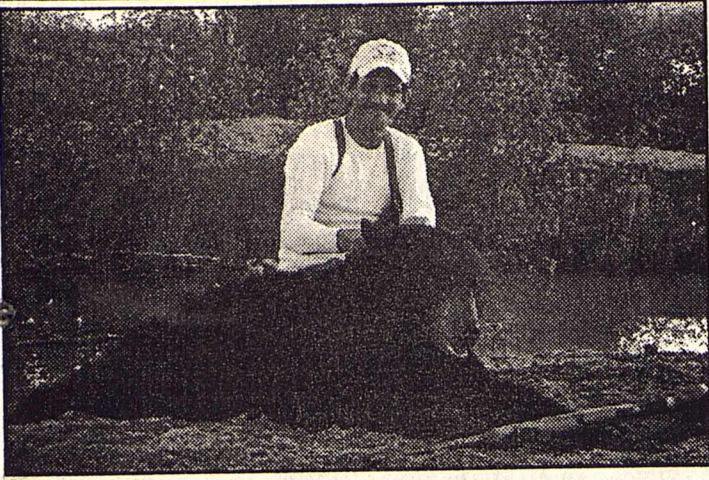
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Shurley "bears" it all

Marvin Shurley shows off his black bear (above) and a brown bear (below) he got last month while hunting near the base of the Bering Glacier in Alaska. The Bering Glacier is the largest inland glacier in North America. A 416 Remington magnum rifle was used and both shots were approx 140 yard shots.



Texas Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist Named Volunteer of the Year

by *Steve Byrns*
 SAN ANGELO — Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo, was recently named the Quail Unlimited Volunteer of the Year by Quail Unlimited and Winchester Ammunition. The award was presented during the Quail Unlimited Celebrity Quail Hunt in Albany, GA.
 Rollins was recognized for his work in educating Texans on Bobwhite quail, their management and habitat preservation.
 He started the "Bobwhite Brigade" program in 1993. The program has since evolved into the Texas Brigades. The Texas Brigades are a series of youth camps that focus on a particular game animal as the nucleus to teach wildlife conservation and management. The camps also teach life skills including leadership, public speaking, and the importance of effective teamwork. Almost 1,000 youth have completed the intensive four-day programs since their

inception. Rollins has been part of many adult educational efforts on quail management. He is the author of the Texas Quail Index, a five-year statewide effort that monitors Texas quail population dynamics.
 Rollins also coined the term "Brush Sculpting." The selective land clearing technique is currently being used on thousands of Texas acres. The goal of Brush Sculpting is to reshape the land's brush patterns for the best use by wildlife and aquifer recharge.
 He authors a monthly column in Quail Unlimited Magazine and has written more than 200 articles on quail.
 Rollins was nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award by Tim Connolly, chairman of the Texas Council of Quail Unlimited.
 For more information call Rollins at (325) 653-4576 or see his Web site at <http://teamquail.tamu.edu>.

Eating blind during barbeque season

Consumers are Grilling Mystery Meat, But They Should Be Grilling Congress

As media coverage of the growth of farmers' markets, organic food, and farm-to-consumer direct marketing continues to expand, more consumers are wondering where their food comes from. The most basic tool in an informed consumer's toolbox is a label. Yet as summer approaches and consumers are stocking up on the usual assortment of grilling meats, most won't receive even basic information about where that meat was produced.

So why isn't there a label noting the country of origin for meat? The answer, like nearly everything else these days, is political. Thanks to maneuvering in Congress, consumers will have to wait until 2007, at the earliest, for this vital information about what they are feeding to their families.

Right now, the U.S. Department of Agriculture should already have implemented a provision of the 2002 Farm Bill that requires "country of origin" labeling (COOL) for beef, lamb, pork, fish, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, and peanuts. The label would be found on foods sold in grocery stores and would state the food's country of origin (for meat, the animal would have to be born raised and slaughtered in the U.S. to get the "Product of U.S." seal.) The implementation date for mandatory COOL was supposed to be September 30, 2004.

Mandatory COOL was one of the most significant wins for family farmers and consumers in the controversial 2002 Farm Bill. But big agribusiness, especially the meat and grocery industries, doesn't want consumers to know where their food comes from and has worked to kill COOL before it ever got started. As corporate consolidation of agriculture continues to drive family farmers out of business in record numbers, more of our food supply is controlled by a small group of companies. These companies don't want to give ranchers and farmers a desperately needed way to identify their crops and livestock as products of the U.S. They seem to be nervous - and rightfully so - that consumers won't agree with their vision of shifting food production to the developing world, where labor and land are cheap, and environmental, worker safety and pesticide rules are more lenient.

So, the industry played politics to protect their own interests, not consumers. First, agribusiness interests pressured Congress to delay the date when the law would go into effect. Instead of Sept. 30, 2004, Congress used the appropriations process - which funds the agency implementing the law - to delay the effective date until September 2006 for everything covered by the law except fish (COOL for seafood went into effect in April 2005). Now, the House bill setting USDA's budget for 2006 includes another year of delay before mandatory COOL goes into effect for meat.

Meanwhile, some lawmakers are trying to change COOL into a voluntary program. Voluntary labeling has been an option for two years, yet few

food processors and meatpackers have been willing to participate. When is the last time you purchased meat with a country-of-origin label? A voluntary program will not provide consumers and producers the level of assurance that a mandatory program can provide.

With food already traveling 1,500 miles on average before reaching our tables, food imports increasing every year, and food safety scares like mad cow disease, it is past time for consumers to have the basic information necessary to buy food that was produced closer to home. Consumers deserve to know where (and under what regulations) the food they are buying has been produced.

Why would anyone oppose such basic information being provided to consumers? The biggest argument is over cost - but family farmers and ranchers have given the agency lots of ideas for making COOL a simple process that does not have to be expensive, utilizing information most producers already keep.

According to the Florida Department of Agriculture, a state where country-of-origin labeling for produce has been law for more than 20 years, it costs supermarkets one or two man-hours per store a week. That's far less than 1 cent per household per week.

Surveys show that 80 percent of Americans want to know where their food comes from, and that just as many are willing to pay a few extra cents to eat domestically raised meat, fruit and vegetables, if they should happen to cost more than imports. More than 200 farming, ranching, food safety and consumer groups support country-of-origin labeling.

Most U.S. trading partners - about 60 countries, including Canada and Mexico - already have some form of country-of-origin labeling. And eight U.S. states have similar laws in place, including Florida, Louisiana and Maine. In the negotiations between the U.S. and Japanese governments over the re-opening of Japanese market to American beef (which has been closed since the discovery of mad cow disease in the U.S. in December 2003), one condition which has been discussed is that all beef sent to Japan would be certified - and labeled - as being entirely of U.S. origin.

Ironically, if this requirement becomes part of any deal to resume imports of U.S. beef in Japan, consumers in Japan could get country of origin labels before those in the U.S.

Consumers have a right to know where their food comes from, but in the U.S. we blindly eat meals every day without any way to find out where our food comes from. Given that labels tell us where our clothes and cars are made, it seems logical that we should also get the same information about our food.

For more information on country-of-origin labeling, visit www.americansforlabeling.org.

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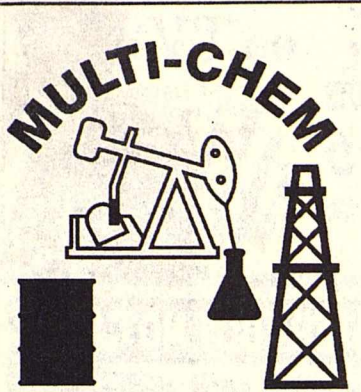
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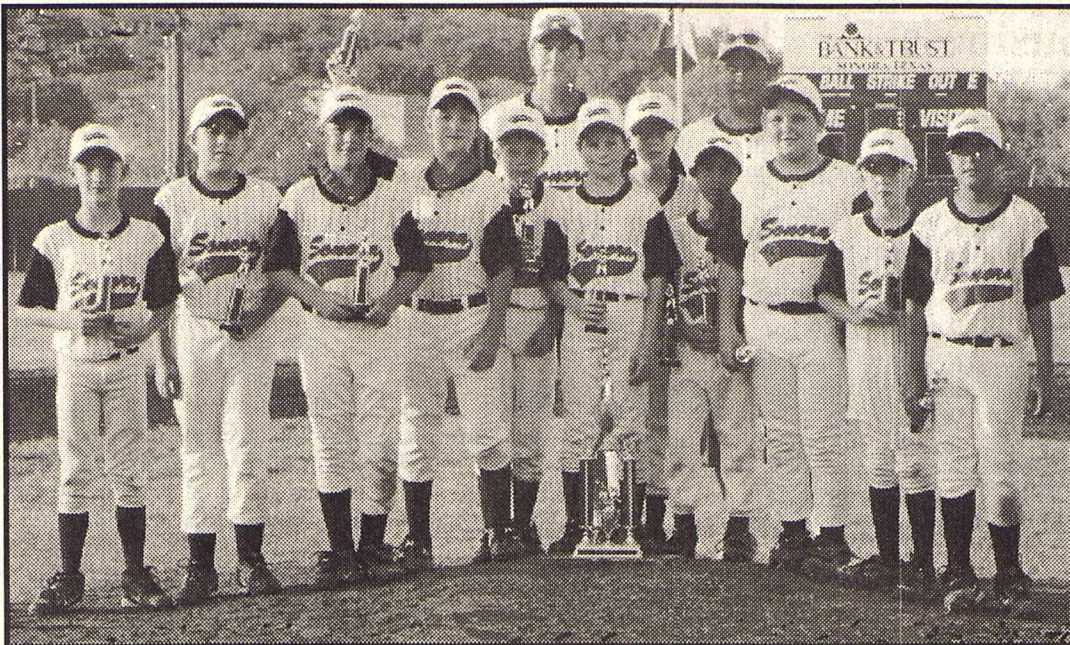
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Sonora 10-year-old All-Star Champions

The Sonora 10-year-old All-Star Tournament, June 4, 2005, was won by the Sonora team of Jansen McBride, Phillip Onofre, Jared Hinsley Aaron Hinsley, Jason Alaman, Owen Friess, Zach Leonard, Darien Lopez, Nolan Kinder, Sam Patterson and John Lopez IV. The boys are coached by Lynn Hinsley and John Lopez III. Teams attending the Sonora tournament were Sonora, Big Lake, Eldorado and Ozona. First place went to Sonora, second went to Big Lake and third went to Ozona.



John Lopez IV was voted MVP; Aaron Hinsley was chosen Golden Glove and Jared Hinsley received "All-Tournament" Honors.

Minor League All-Stars win Eldorado Classic



The Sonora Minor League All-Stars were victorious placing first in the Eldorado Plateau Classic Tournament during the weekend of June 9-11.

These boys are coached by L to R back row: Johnny Esparza, Jock Dutton and Curry Campbell. Not pictured is head coach Sam Hughes.

Standing left to right: Nelson Black, Cody Barber, Andres Acevedo, Chance Campbell, Tyler Smith, and Scott Gonzales. Kneeling: Kaden Kinder, Anastacio Munoz, Tanner Esparza, and Will Dutton. Lying in front: Tanner Myers and Hunter Hughes.

Sonora ball players Andres Acevedo and Hunter Hughes were honored with medals and named to the All-Star Tournament Team.

Way to go Sonora All-Stars! Keep up the great job!



Chance Campbell was named Golden Glove winner for the tournament for his impressive performance as Sonora's catcher.



Tyler Smith was named the MVP of the Eldorado Plateau Classic for his outstanding efforts as one of Sonora's pitchers as well as a third baseman.

Colton Moore wins saddle in Boatright raffle



Colton Moore was the lucky winner of the hand-tooled saddle that was raffled to raise funds for cancer patient, and former Sonora resident, Mike Boatright.

Other winners were Steve Hall - a dozen caps, and Nathan Favela won Dallas Cowboy game tickets.

Guard against skin cancer

Congressman Henry Bonilla
Summer is a wonderful time of year. Whether you go to the beach or the lake, go fishing, hiking, or just

enjoy a walk down the street, I hope you take advantage of the beautiful warm summer days. But, as you enjoy the summer, don't forget the damage sun can cause if you don't protect yourself from its harmful ultraviolet rays.

I was shocked to recently learn that over 90 percent of all skin cancers are caused by sun exposure, yet fewer than 33 percent of adults, adolescents, and children use sun protection.

Nothing beats fun in the sun, but we should use caution when we are outdoors. When you're packing your bag for outdoor activities, don't forget your sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses. Be especially careful between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., when the sun is at its brightest. If you are out in the sun for long periods of time, sunscreen does not offer enough protection. Covering your skin with clothing and wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses will protect your skin and help keep you cool.

When planning for your summer days, you can find information about the strength of the sun's UV rays by looking at the National Weather Service's UV Index. Be extra cautious when the UV Index is 5 or higher. Remember that sun exposure can come from reflections off sand, water, and even concrete, and don't be deceived by a cloudy day. The powerful sun can still cause skin damage. If you are planning a trip to the mountains, don't forget UV radiation increases at higher elevations, and plan accordingly.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, more than a million people will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year. The statistics are startling, especially for a disease that we can potentially limit through preventative measures. Self-examinations can aid in the early detection of skin cancer. If any moles have irregular (asymmetric) borders, are larger than the size of a pencil eraser, or are multicolored you should see your dermatologist. Regular, thorough self examinations are easy and could be life saving.

As we enter the long days of summer, remember your sunscreen and cover up as much as possible. Sun protection is not just cancer prevention- it also helps keep your skin looking healthy, young and wrinkle-free!

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Sutton County 4-H'ers
 Round-up big wins at state
from page 1



Method Demonstration: Laura Martin & McKenzie Watkins pose at the awards ceremony.

FYI
 2nd Annual Help Your Fellowman Golf Tournament; A.B.C. D Scramble; \$25 per player; Bring your team or walk on; Saturday, June 18, 8:00 a.m.; Sponsored by First Baptist Church, Sonora. All proceeds go to the Ministerial Alliance Benevolence Fund (2004 Tourney raised \$5,200!!!); Prizes to 1st - 3rd place teams and hole prizes. Hamburger meal provided after play; For more info. contact Jed Davenport 387-2579, DeVoe Smith 387-2900 or First Baptist Church 387-2951.

Comstock Rodeo Club - 42nd Annual, Saturday, July 9, 2005;
 Girls 12 & Under - Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Flag Race, Goat Tie Down; 13-19 Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Flag Race, Breakaway Roping; Boys 12 & Under - Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Flag Race, Breakaway Roping; Boys 13-19 - Tie-Down Roping, Ribbon roping, Breakaway Roping, Rescue Race; Little Britches Boos Scramble, Barrels and Poles - Free; Entry Fees - \$3 per event if entered and paid before 7/9/05; or \$5 per event if entering or paying on 7/9/05; Books close 9:00 a.m. on 7/9/05; Bar-b-Que lunch serve don the ground, dance at 9 p.m in the 4-H barn, Entry information call Mary Dobbins (432)292-4526. All horses need proof of Coggins test to enter grounds. Team Roping and Open Roping following rodeo

The Sonora Middle School will be selling used computers that are 3 and 4 years old. They will be sold as is with no guarantee. Some have Windows XP and others have Windows 98 operating systems. Delivery date will be around the 20th of June and checks will have to clear the bank before they can be picked up. Information may be obtained at the Middle School Office (387-5431). All of these computers have a network card and can be connected to DSL for internet. If you connect to internet by phone line you will need to buy a modem. Following is the information for each type of computer. Tangent \$141.00; Processor: AMD Athlon XP1800+ 1.53 GHz; 40 Gigabyte hard-drive: 256 Megabytes of RAM; CD player; System software: Windows XP Gateway \$88.00; Processor: Pentium III 930 MHz; 256-384 Megabytes of RAM; CD player; System Software: Windows 98 Second Edition

Sutton County 4-H Playdays resume on June 21, 2005.

Happy Birthday

- June 16**
 Kevin Buitron, Sharee Johnson, Nathan Favela, Victoria Richardson, Tanner Law, Brigitte Rogers, Cynthia Ward, Brad Baize, Davis Jimenez, Reid Rousselot, Olda Romero, Analise Perez
- June 17**
 Shainah Johnson, John Galvan, Rosemary Dunn, Suzanne Huddleston, Terry Vickers, Shane Benson, Jesse Vela, Adrian Chavez, Darla Titus, Brady Wesson
- June 18**
 Virginia Epps, Freddy Virgen, Harold Luna, Patsy Velez, Anna Coronado
- June 19**
 Brandon Velez, Kate Higdon, Richard Samaniego, Zare Santana, Gunter Pennington, Rocky Jones, Cecilia Ramos, Sandra Mesa
- June 20**
 Jan Northcott, Tony Renfro, David Delgado, Gerry Ingham, Maria Espinosa, Jordan Anderson, Michelle Anderson
- June 21**
 Morgan Smith, Ronnie Bowers, Callie Moore
- June 22**
 Virgil Burge, Steven Harper, Pam Munn

Tales by Tumbleweed Smith

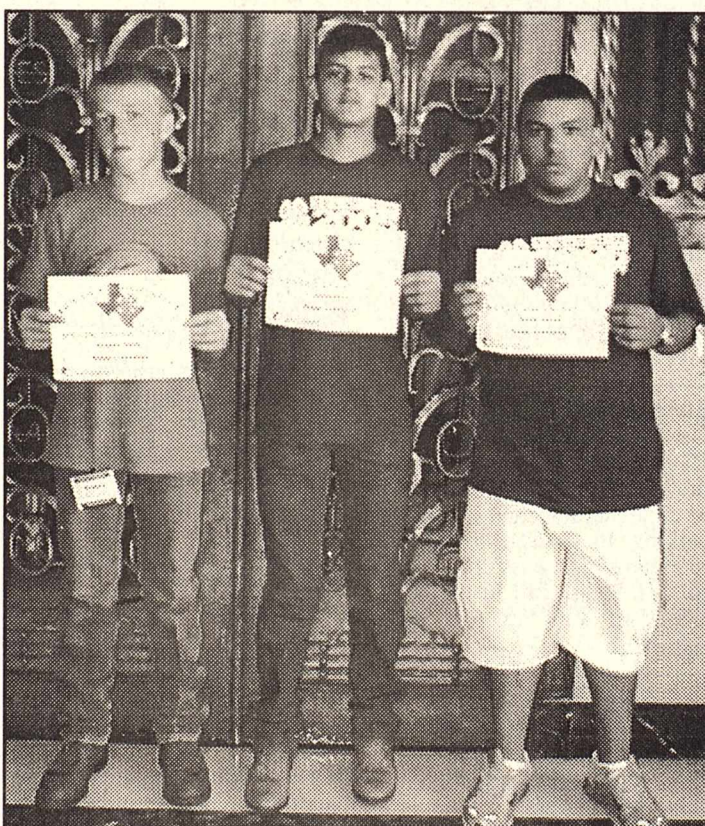
Miss Rodeo Texas is more than just another pretty face

Tumbleweed Smith
 Tanya Harvey of San Antonio is winding up her reign as Miss Rodeo Texas. Her last day will be June 25. Her final appearance at a rodeo before giving up her crown will be at the Big Spring Rodeo June 16-18.
 The past year has been a busy one for her. "I've had a great time promoting professional rodeo," says Tanya. "I've traveled all over the country. I went to Calgary, to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo in Colorado Springs and of course the big rodeos here in Texas: Houston, Fort Worth and San Antonio."
 She took a year off from her studies to be Miss Rodeo Texas. She is a senior at A & M majoring in communication. After graduation she plans to attend law school at Texas University. "I have a minor in statistics and economics. I'm hoping to go into environmental law. I have a strong agricultural background and I want to use the knowledge I have in that industry to do some work in Texas and Mexico. I'm bi-lingual in English and Spanish."
 The Miss Rodeo Texas Pageant is a scholarship organi-

zation. About 20 girls compete for the title. "You have to win a preliminary pageant before you go on to the Miss Rodeo Texas contest. I was Miss Texas A & M. I competed with girls from all over the state in personality, appearance and horsemanship. You have to give a speech and go through several interviews with the judges. It's a weeklong competition. They really want to make sure you know rodeo and know how to ride."
 Tanya knows how to ride. She has a background of ranching and rodeo. She and her sister were active in youth rodeo and high school rodeo. They entered barrel racing, pole bending and breakaway roping events at rodeos all over the state. Her role at rodeos is sometimes more than ceremonial. Besides making media appearances, she usually carries the American Flag in the grand entry, and occasionally is called on to help herd stock in the arena. Her job is not a paid position. "I do get paid for some appearances, but it's more for the love of rodeo than anything else. I do get a ten thousand dollar scholarship that's given to me from the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo."
 She is looking forward to sleeping in her own bed. She hasn't been home since the latter part of January. "I've had a wonderful year and met wonderful people. I could not have asked for a better sport to represent and to promote than rodeo. It's has grown to where it is one of the top seven sports."
 Her favorite event to watch is bull riding.



State Mohair Team Picture: Colton Moore, Emily Earwood, Coach Shawna Faris, Laura Martin, & Craig Leonard.



State range team: Rodney Doyle, Justin Perez, Aaron Gaytan

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