

THE Devil's River NEWS

50¢

Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Vaccination stressed at Anthrax meeting

by Storie Sharp

"I would give anything not to have you all here tonight," stated Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Biologist Mary Humphrey on Thursday, July 7, 2005, as she opened the special meeting to discuss the recent discovery of anthrax outbreaks in Sutton County.

"We all knew anthrax was in the area, but no one knew when it would pop out," she said.

Humphrey provided a map of the area that showed where positive cases of the disease in livestock and whitetail deer had been confirmed. The area includes the southwest corner of Sutton County, about 7 to 8 miles west of Hwy 277 S, approx. 7 miles in on Aldwell Road to where Taylor Box Lane and the end of Caverns Road join, to 1/2 mile east of SH163 in Crockett County and about 2 to 3 miles into Val Verde County.

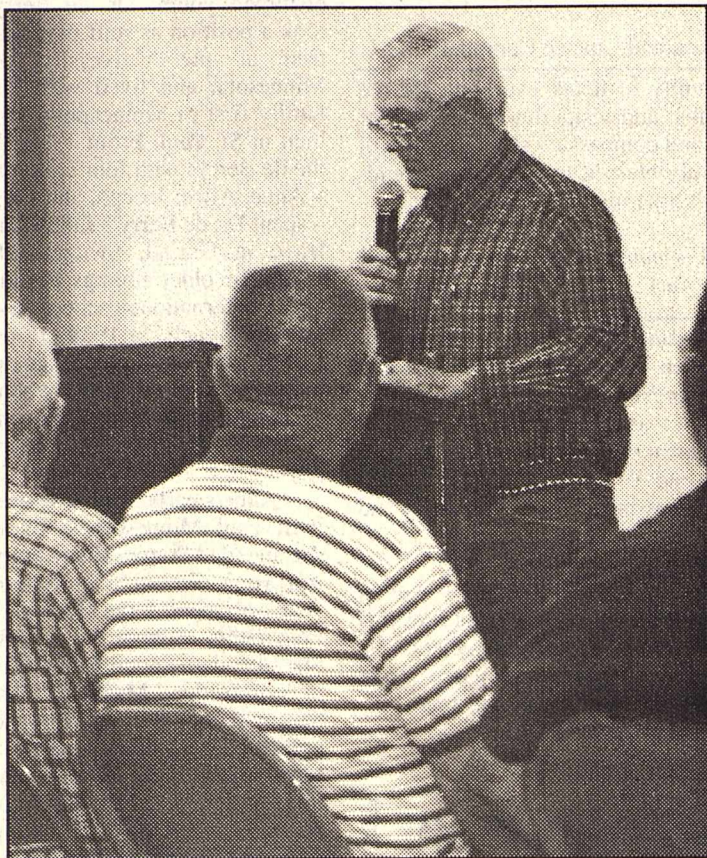
Humphrey then introduced Dr. Thurman Fancher, Area 6 director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), who answered questions from the approximately 180 concerned ranchers, land owners and hunters who attended the meeting.

Dr. Fancher said that the wet spring and dry summer make ideal conditions for the spore to vegetate and bloom. The spores can multiply in the soil, rain brings it up, plants pick them up and the livestock ingest them.

"Once the spore vegetates it is there forever, but it only 'blooms' after a lot of rain and only grows at certain times. Then it becomes dormant until the conditions are right again," he said.

"It may have been what killed the dinosaurs," Dr. Fancher joked, as he told how anthrax has been in this area since before our grandparents' time, it just wasn't a media interest until after 9/11 and people started sending it in letters.

Sutton County veterinarian Mike "Doc" Keller advised that



Dr. Thurman Fancher candidly answers questions at the special Anthrax meeting on July 7, 2005.

he had been in Sutton County for 30 years and this was the first known outbreak of the disease that he was aware of.

"Vaccinate!" That was the best answer Dr. Fancher had to give to the majority of the questions fielded from the audience. He stressed that the vaccination is cheap and easy to administer and it is better to be safe than sorry.

"If I had livestock worth anything here, I would damn sure put the \$1.50 shot in them every year," he stated. He advised that it may not be on your place, but if ranchers or workers travel to other areas to day work or help out, they could lose a horse.

Dr. Fancher reported that the best way to dispose of an infected carcass is to burn it, but with burn bans in effect throughout most of Texas this could pose a problem, so deep burial was also advised. If burning is the method used, it is

important to coordinate with local fire departments in case dry conditions cause an unexpected grass fire. It is also important to burn the animal to ash, as the organism lives in bone.

"Tell your hunters and visitors to leave the deer sheds alone," the Dr. advised. "The venison will not be affected come deer season because the cold weather will take care of it. But hunters need to just leave the sick deer alone and all should be fine."

People are advised that it isn't hard to recognize an infected animal because most are found after they are already dead. By the time the animal displays signs of disease, including staggering, trembling, convulsions, or bleeding from all openings of the body, it is usually too late.

If a rancher or livestock

See Anthrax page 6

SISD Board of Trustees votes for drug testing

by Storie Sharp

"Madame President, I would like to make the motion to call for the vote on student drug testing for Sonora ISD. I also would request that a committee composed of two district staff members, two school board members and two community leaders be appointed to develop the best possible policy on drug testing and for the policy to be presented to the Board of Trustees for the first reading on or before the scheduled meeting in September of 2005 and fully implemented by November 1, 2005.

Furthermore, I would also like to request that if any student and/or staff members would want to participate in voluntary drug testing that the district would incur all costs."

This motion, made by Sonora ISD board member Tryon Fields, comes after months of discussing the problem of drugs in Sonora schools and what can be done to combat

See School Board page 8

Sutton County Historical Society elects new officers

Enthusiasm grows for future preservation projects

The Sutton County Historical Society met July 6, 2005 in the Ross Room at the Sutton County Steak House. President Eddie Sawyer, Vice President Kelly Owen and Secretary Jo-Ann Palmer were present, along with members Richard Palmer, Rose Mary Whitehead Jones (Rosie), John Allen Ward III, Corky Schwiening, Lesa Whitehead, Wanda Neville, JoAnn Hernandez, Claire Jones, Marvin Shurley and Storie Sharp.

The president gave a brief report on the current financial status of the Historical Society, explaining specific designations for projects. He stated a complete report will be made available to new officers.

The election of officers was called for, with Rick Palmer opening nomination for Rose Mary Whitehead Jones as president. Neville seconded the nomination. Sawyer commented that this would be a good choice, because Rosie has been instrumental in raising funds for the Ice House Museum and takes a strong interest in the historical society. The vote was approved unanimously.

New member, Lesa Whitehead nominated Marvin Shurley for vice president. Sawyer said that this too was a good choice because Marvin is very good at all that he commits to and is a go-getter. With a second by Rick Palmer, the motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Hernandez was nominated for treasurer by Claire Jones seconded by Lesa Whitehead, and was unanimously elected.

Rosie nominated Jo-Ann Palmer to remain secretary, and a second was made by Rick. Jo-Ann agreed to take the position for two years only.

Sawyer stated that Rita Mendez has all the books on QuickBooks and Hernandez can get with her to get all the information she will need.

Sawyer was thanked for all the work he has done for the society over the years and given a round of applause by those present. A letter of commendation will be forthcoming.

Marvin Shurley questioned if the Historical Society were a 501-C3 or 501-C5 organization and was told they are a 501-C3

See Historical Society meeting page 3

City hires new manager

In a brief statement on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, Sonora Mayor, Gloria Lopez announced that James Polonis has been hired as City Manager effective July 25, 2005.

"He brings outstanding qualities which will be an asset to the City. The council and I feel confident that he will provide outstanding leadership for the City. We look forward to working with him," said Mayor Lopez.

The next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

Abuse and neglect of county facilities, property force Commissioners to crack down

by Storie Sharp

The Sutton County Commissioners met on Monday, July 11, 2005, with all Commissioners Belia Castaneda, Milton Cavaness, John Wade and Mike Villanueva, present. The Civic Center, County Park and Allison Park were again up for discussion, as problems continue to be addressed in each area. Sutton County Judge Carla Garner reminded the commissioners that at the last meeting they were discussing and researching possible additions to be made to the rules at the Civic Center and County Park with hopes of solving existing problems. Garner said that several ideas had been brought up for discussion and she wanted to know if any more information had been gathered for further input on improving the policies at the two locations. Areas of concern included cleaning, security, minors and alcohol, and glass containers. Judge Garner stated that these facilities are for the community to utilize, but that rules had to be implemented to ensure the upkeep and proper usage of the properties. As new issues and challenges are presented, new rules must be implemented to ensure the facilities continue to be properly maintained and the community's safety is always a priority.

Garner told the commissioners that Sutton County Treasurer, Joyce Chalk, had advised that the deposit for rental of the slab was not adequate to cover the cost of paying someone to clean. Chalk said that several people had decided to lose the \$75 deposit rather than properly clean the slab and restrooms inside the fenced area, but that this did not cover what most charged to clean the area. After discussing this at length, the commissioners agreed that it would be in the best interest of the county to require the same stipulations used in the Civic Center: only approved cleaning crews should be used and raise the deposit to \$125 to cover that cost, if not done properly. The court agreed that this rate could be increased if need be at a later date.

Commissioner Wade advised the court that he had gone to the Civic Center to discuss possible strategies with the office staff and everyone agreed that the "no bottles" idea was a good one. The possibility of broken glass cutting someone or the bottle being used as a weapon, poses a potential threat to safety. It was agreed that "No Glass Bottles" be added to the rental rules for the Civic Center and the slab and that signs be posted stating so.

Security at the slab was discussed and it was revealed that, although it is in the contract agreement that security be provided for functions having alcohol inside the Civic Center, no such rule was in place for the slab. It was agreed that this be implemented and that any functions on the slab where alcohol would be available (sold, provided or allowed) must have security present.

The possibility of banning minors at any function where alcohol will be present was also brought to the table. The pros and cons of such a rule were discussed, as well as how such a rule could be enforced. Sutton County lawyer, David Wallace, advised the commissioners that in the state of Texas, if a minor is within eyesight of his/her par-

ent and the parent allows or provides the alcohol, the minor can consume the alcohol. Private parties pose the most problems with minors drinking because access to the alcohol is not monitored as closely.

It was stated that events which sell alcohol on the premises must follow TABC laws, therefore proper identification must be provided to purchase alcohol. Most of the organizations that sell beer for a profit at the slab use arm bands to mark those of legal age. After further discussion, it was decided that such a ban would not be added to the rules, but that the enforcement of security at all events with alcohol should help with this problem. The question of how to enforce all the rules was posed, and it was reported that the contracts already state that if rules are not followed, rental would be refused to that individual or organization again. The commissioners agreed that it was important that this be enforced, possibly discouraging renters from breaking the rules for fear of exclusions and therefore, helping to keep the facilities maintained properly.

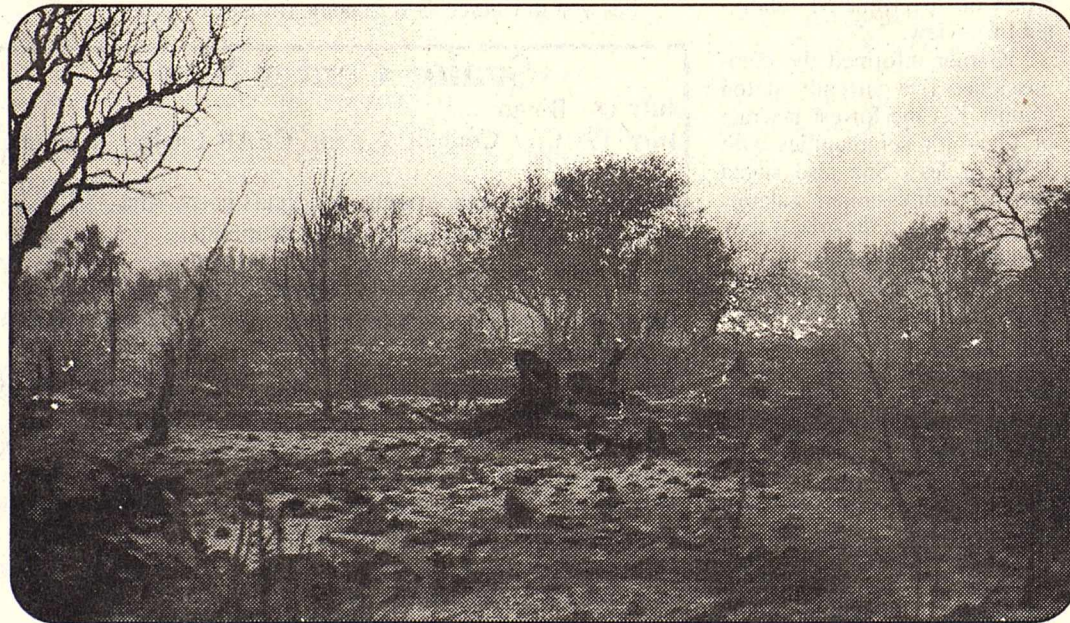
Another area of concern the commissioner's had to address yet again was that of Allison Park. The county owned area on the banks of the Llano River near Roosevelt has been on the agenda many times, with surrounding land owners complaining of trash issues, or reckless ATV riders, loud parties, etc. Commissioner Cavaness stated that one such land owner had requested to be added to the agenda, but was not present. Cavaness said that the 4-Wheelers were becoming more of a nuisance and that the county should consider posting signs banning the small ATVs from the park. Road and Bridge Manager, Oscar Jimenez stated that the trash at the park was also an ongoing problem. Jimenez reported that many of the area landowners were dropping their household trash at the park, knowing the county would come to clean the area after the weekend.

People disposing of their paper products throughout the park, is also causing quite a disgusting nuisance. The county previously voted to not provide portable restrooms at the park for the summer months because of the continued neglect and abuse of the toilets were causing increasing costs. Judge Garner reminded the court that the possibility of building restrooms at the park had been researched and because of the park's location near the river and in a floodplain, strict regulations must be met, therefore making such a project extremely costly and not feasible since the park incurs no revenue.

Many options, ideas and possibilities for tending to the park were discussed. Judge Garner said that the county had tried to give the park to the Texas Parks and Wildlife, but because of the tremendous liability, had been turned down. Judge Garner reported on a recent incident where a local land owner had shot a gun in the vicinity of park visitors and, although no one had been injured, such instances at the park continue to grow and to be a problem. Because of the distance from town, it is difficult for law enforcement to tend to such problems in a timely man-

See Commissioners page 2

Neighbors working together to fight fires around Sutton and surrounding counties



Blazes still burn strong as dusk sets on a day of fighting fire at the Liveoak Ranch on Hwy 55.

by Storie Sharp

Sutton and Edwards County ranchers, volunteer firefighters from Sonora, Rocksprings, Eldorado and Ozona, Texas Forest Service firefighters, the Borderline Fire Department from the Texas A&M Experiment Station, good neighbors, community members, church families, and complete strangers have been busy fighting the many grass fires that have sparked up over the last week. At one time there were three reported on Hwy 55 on Thursday, July 7. Three were reported at the same time on Tuesday, at three opposite ends of the county, east, west and south. Thousands of acres have been burned, but luckily no major injuries or losses of livestock have been reported.

Many of these fires have been contained and extinguished with the assistance of neighbors traveling to the location on maintainers and bulldozers to build a firebreak and remove flammable fuels from the fire as it advances. Once a

grass fire takes off, there really is no way to fight it with just water. The firebrakes become one of the most effective tools.

Although not all trained in fighting fires, ranchers know how to protect their homes and livelihood and work together to keep them safe. Many ranchers attend Prescribed Burn classes and demonstrations throughout the year, where fire is used as a tool for vegetation management. This practice of working with fire comes in handy when a grass fire starts unexpectedly.

Local ranchers and residents have had only the best to say about the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department who have put in much overtime since the 4th of July. These men and women work diligently and tirelessly to help put out the blazes. Many fires have broken out at the same time these last few days on opposite ends of the county, sending the fire trucks running across approximately 1,454 square miles of property. These men and women are to be commended for their efforts.

Fire danger remains at crit-

ical levels in most areas. Where only light rains have fallen, that moisture has already been baked out of vegetation by the summer heat.

Light or spotty rains sometimes create the perception that fire danger has dropped enough for people to drop their guard about outdoor fire safety.

Statistics show that people cause more than 90 percent of the fires in Texas. Causes range from someone flinging a cigarette out of a car window to sparks from equipment.

Even a broken glass bottle can be a hazard. The broken glass can concentrate the sun's light and focus enough heat to start a blaze.

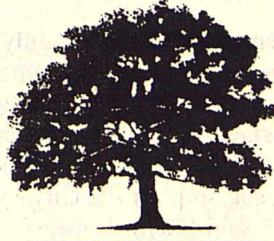
Depending on the wind, a grass fire can spread across the county in a matter of minutes.

Fire safety suggestions:


* Don't throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle. Dispose of them properly and make sure they are completely extinguished.

See Fighting Fires page 4

**Lighthouse
Community Church**
A place for returning Prodigals
and recovering Pharisees
Sunday Services
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship • 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
1705 N. Crockett


SUTTON COUNTY
HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your memorial gift helps preservice access to quality healthcare for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, P.O. Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950. All contribution 100% tax deductible.


**Sonora
Church
Directory**

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA Antonio F. Gonzales, Sr. 504 Santa Clara 387-2035	THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN Lewis Allen, Pastor 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616
CHURCH OF CHRIST Jerry Jackson 304 N. Water 387-3190	LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 N. Crockett
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH T. Wayne Price Pastor 111 E Oak 387-2951	PENTECOSTAL CALVARY TEMPLE UNITED 509 Amistad
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Rev. Milton Black 404 E. Poplar 387-2955	ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Father Miguel Dinio 229 W. Plum 387-2278
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Beverley Parsons, Pastor 201 N. Water 387-2466	JEHOVAH'S WITNESS 310 St. Ann's Street 387-5658 or 387-5518
TEMPLO JERUSALEM ASAMBLEA DE DIOS Enoc Elias Nunez 306 W. 4th St. 387-3092	
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Tom Baden 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366	
LA IGLESIA HISPANA UNIDA DEL NOMBRE DE JESUS, INC. Pastor Felipe Martinez 807 Orient	

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387-2266

Notes of Appreciation

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all who came to our aid last Thursday, July 7th. The grass fire out on our Liveoak Ranch started at the highway, and with high winds, spread rapidly through three pastures. Friends and neighbors came quickly thanks to the speedy reaction of Charlie and Shirley Jones who saw the fire and started a chain reaction of calls that brought the Rocksprings, Sonora and Eldorado Fire Departments as well as the Texas Forest Service fire fighters. Many thanks to all these fire departments and also to the Borderline Fire Department from the Texas A & M Experiment Station.

To name all the individuals who came out is nearly impossible, but to all of you who were there to help us--- we thank you. We are truly blessed and very grateful for the protection of our home and our livelihood.

God Bless you all,
Curry, Bonnie Lou, Chelsey Lou and Chance Campbell

We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, food, telephone calls, and visits during the loss of our beloved Robert. The kindness and compassion shown to us will always be remembered. We are truly blessed to have your friendship, especially during this difficult time in our lives.

The family of Robert Day
Pat Day, Jewel Day, Ricky & Antoinette Day, Track & Frank Konvicka, Cody Day, Brian Konvicka, Kaci Day, and Brandon Konvicka

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for all those who prayed for us a few weeks ago when Todd & Brandon were in a motorcycle accident. Without your prayers we believe the outcome would have been more severe than it was. We praise God and give Him all the glory. We want to say thank-you for all the visits, calls, concern and prayers for our family and we are once again reminded of how blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family and friends.

Todd, Pam and Brandon Munn

We would like to thank all who helped fight the grass fires this week on the George Wallace Ranch. Deepest appreciation is extended to the Volunteer Fire Dept., all of our great neighbors, Todd and Brandon Munn and Kyle and Dalton Dover for their help.

Thank you,
The George Wallace Family

Commissioners from page 1

ner, thereby adding to the liability of maintaining the area. Judge Garner and the commissioners agreed that something drastic has to be done before someone is injured and the county is liable. Because of people abusing the area and the privilege of free entry, the problems continue to grow. Garner even stated that, although drastic, the land may have to be returned to original landowners if changes aren't made. This would eliminate public access, ruining it for those who observe the rules and enjoy having a nice place not-too-far from home to enjoy camping and swimming in the river. The possibility of imposing a curfew, fencing, and banning overnight camping were all discussed. David Wallace agreed to research other county owned properties similar to Allison Park and find out what regulations, restrictions and/or ideas were most recommended or worked best and report back to the commissioners.

One other area of concern that was discussed was that of unapproved usage of lights at the baseball fields. It was reported that the lights at the ball fields were being turned on for individual usage without approval and the county was having to incur the electricity costs. It was stated that such usage is restricted, but locking the lights didn't work because people continuously cut the locks or had additional keys made. It was recommended that special locks be purchased that are larger and more difficult to cut. These locks also call for special keys that can not be duplicated easily and would make it more difficult for unauthorized use of the lights. A deposit will be required to obtain the keys if planning an event at the ball fields. The keys must be returned to get the deposit returned. Judge Garner also recommended that if any county employee notices the lights are on that they take a minute to see who is using the lights and report this information to law enforcement. Signs

will be posted that unauthorized use of the lights is restricted. In other business, Jimenez gave a general update on summer maintenance to county roads, and reported that they were continuing to remove trash left on Mearns Road. He reported that it was unbelievable the stuff that people would just stack there for them to pick up, even though it is not a dump ground.

County Tax Appraiser, Rex Ann Friess, reported that current taxes were 99% collected.

Commissioner Villanueva reported that he had recently attended the CARP conference to hear current legislative decisions or recommendations for Senior Citizens.

Wallace reported that \$781.57 had been collected on hot checks in the month of June.

Betty Hernandez, reported collecting \$22,801, in the County Clerk's office in June.

Judge Garner presented the commissioners with a preliminary budget that contained initial requests from departments, as well as other budget requests. A special meeting to discuss the budget was set for Friday, July 15, at 9:00 a.m. The Commissioners requested that a report on overtime be submitted for review.

Garner informed the commissioners that currently Sutton County has the lowest tax rate in Texas for communities with 3,000 or less. She also stated that the commissioners' salaries are the lowest in the area if they wanted to consider raises.

Commissioner Wade stated that he was fine with the current salary and inquired if any of the surrounding counties offered insurance as part of the compensation. Garner said she would research this question and get back with him. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next Commissioners meeting is at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 25, 2005.

Obituary

Anne Longfellow de Berry

Anne Longfellow de Berry, of Sonora, Texas, died on Tuesday, July 5, 2005. Born June 27, 1928 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to the late Erica Thorp de Berry, a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and to Dr. E.M. ("Jum") de Berry, originally from San Angelo, Texas. Anne's parents met in Boston while working to help disturbed youth. Dr. de Berry took a position as staff psychiatrist at the University of Minnesota, and lived with his family first in Minneapolis and then in St. Paul. From 1937-38 the de Berrys with four children - Anne, Alice, Joseph, and Guy - spent Dr. de Berry's sabbatical leave in Gstaad, Switzerland, where the older siblings attended an international school and learned French. In 1939 Dr. de Berry gave up his practice to move his family to Texas, where he bought a ranch near Sonora and built a home on the property.



made visits to the family's summer home in Maine and to the Texas ranch. In 1980 Anne moved permanently to the Sonora ranch and took over the raising of cattle, sheep, and goats there until her death. For a few years in the 1980's she had also done some ranching in Menard County with her cousin, the late Adair Baugh. Anne, a great-granddaughter of the poet Longfellow, became a well known and beloved personality in the Sonora area.

Anne's early schooling was in St. Paul, Minnesota. In Texas she attended Sonora Elementary and High School. Her Senior year was spent at the Hockaday Preparatory School in Dallas. She attended Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, her mother's alma mater, and graduated in 1949 with a B.A. in government. Following graduation, Anne worked for a year at Jones, Friese & Hay accounting firm in San Angelo, Texas. Upon completing a course at Katie Gibbs Secretarial School in New York City, Anne was recruited by the federal government, and worked for five years in Washington, D.C. and what was then West Germany.

In 1957 Anne left for Italy, making Florence her home for 15 years. She returned to the states in 1972 to live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where some of her mother's family resided. During this time and the Italian period, Anne

Anne was shortly preceded in death by her brother Guy de Berry, of South Egremont, Massachusetts, on June 21, 2005. Her brother Joseph had died in 1979. Survivors include a sister, Alice de Berry Brook, of Ingram, Texas; niece Erica Longfellow Forbes and Erica's daughter Allegra Longfellow Forbes, of Southwest Harbor, Maine; niece Carolyn Allegra de Berry, of Greensboro, North Carolina; sister-in-law Carol M. de Berry of Portland, Connecticut; widow of Joseph G.T. de Berry; and many cousins throughout the U.S.

Funeral arrangements will be private.

Give me a brake

This little sign is painted on the back of many big trucks. It reminds me of my summer schedule. But I don't need a brake; I need a break. We have been busy all summer. We are planning on going to a church camp in a couple of weeks and we are also trying to get some of our family to go. It is good to get away and have Christian fellowship. Maybe it is the change of pace, or just getting away from the everyday routine. At most church camps they usually have good Bible study classes and sometimes they also have missionaries tell of their experiences. There is also the preaching and it seems like God uses the camp to bless people or bring blessings into their lives. Jesus took time to come aside and he told the disciples to do the same, (Mark 6:31). It could be somewhere quiet or with a group of people. The Bible also talks about a spiritual rest that only Jesus Christ can give, (Matthew 11:28-30). Just as we have to find a relaxing place to be refreshed physically the only place we can find rest for our souls is in Christ Jesus. It is there we can find forgiveness for our sins and the gift of salvation, eternal life, and real rest (Romans 4:25 & 15:13).

See you in Church next Sunday. Brother J

Senior Center News

- July 18 - Bingo
- July 19 - City Council 2 p.m.; CEAP Energy Assistance 11:00 a.m.
- July 20 - Van to San Angelo. Medicals come first 387-5657.
- July 21 - Crafts: need ideas and volunteers.


Senior Center Menu


- July 18 - Frito pie w/chili/cheese, tossed salad w/croutons, spinach, cinnamon applesauce milk
 - July 19 - BBQ chicken, pinto beans, potato salad, apricot/banana medley, cornbread, milk
 - July 20 - Ham w/pineapple rings, macaroni & cheese, mixed veggies, peaches, lemon bar, milk
 - July 21 - Chicken strips w/gravy, baked potato, broccoli w/cheese, rolls, peach cobbler, milk
 - July 22 - Roast beef w/gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cake w/strawberries, milk
- Mon. - Fri 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
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.


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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given to the Editor of this publication.
The views expressed in submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the staff.

Community Calendar

July 19 City Council Meeting City Hall 2:00 p.m.	July 25 Commissioners Court Annex • 9:00 a.m.	July 30 Outlaw Pro Rodeo Team Roping Challenge Arena Park Complex 11:00 a.m.
July 23 Dorothy Baker's Birthday Party St. John's Parish Hall 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	July 29 Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo Multon Bustin' Arena Park Complex 7:00 p.m.	

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The Community Calendar is made possible by:
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Ask the Historical Society

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

Memorials Received this week: John Allen III and Lucia Ward in Memory of Anne L. DeBerry

Marvin F. & Wanda Shurley in memory of Nicholas E. Shurley

Donations Monetary:
Terry, Kelly, Rebeckah, Reagan, Gage Owen
Beverly & LeeRoy Valliant
Gil Allison

Donations Material: John Allen Ward III an autographed copy of Biscuits O'Bryan's latest book.

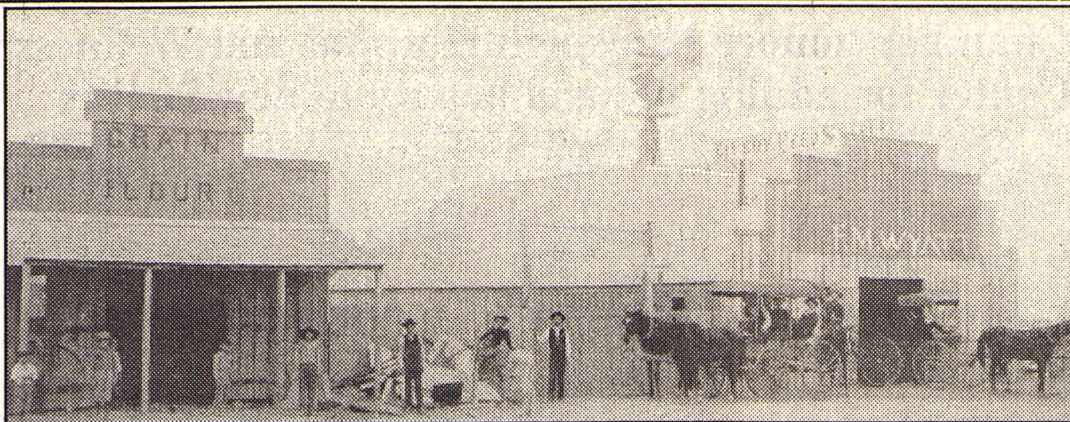
Q. Who are the new officers of the Sutton County Historical Society?

A. A meeting was held on July 6 and the following were elected to office: Rose Mary Whitehead Jones, President; Marvin Shurley, Vice President; JoAnn Hernandez, Treasurer; Jo-Ann Palmer, Secretary. I look forward to a wonderful year with all our new officers on board. We will miss Eddie Sawyer and all he has done over the years but all organizations need an influx of new blood every so often to give new ideas and help us old timers. Please give our new officers as much support as you can.

We didn't have any questions, other than the above, this week so we thought we would share some old files that John Eaton had compiled:

The Morris & Allison Saloon, known to most by its later name, The Ranch Saloon, was the scene of many fist fights, knife fights and shoot outs. Way to many to keep a full record of here. The large, two story edifice, is prominent in early pictures of Main Street. Upstairs was reserved for gambling, and downstairs was the bar. Upstairs was one large room as well as some smaller ones. As mentioned in a John Denison story, the large room was rented by and used for the County to hold District Court until the Courthouse was finished. In 1893 they paid \$40 for the use of the large room and two small ones. Seems pretty high rent for a few weeks of court but it was the only room in town large enough for the purpose so the owner got top dollar. It is interesting to note that an outside stairway connected the two floors.

John further wrote: "An elderly lady told me of a condition that existed in the use of the upstairs areas. She didn't say the exact date the condition



Shoot-outs were held on the streets of old Sonora.

existed, just that it was the wooden, two story bar in the early days. She stated a few "ladies," and we use the term quite loosely, from San Antonio came to occupy these upstairs rooms. Services of their nature had been restricted to the southeast part of town. The real ladies of the town, greatly resentful of these "ladies" presence among the nicer people of Sonora were up in arms. The women of the town and religious leaders were furious. The situation came to a head when the so called "ladies" became so brazen as to publicly display their wares by sitting on the upstairs porch in the cool of the evening. The good people of Sonora were further incensed and husbands and politicians were under constant barrage from the women of town and the clergy. The scandalous "ladies" immediately returned to San Antonio and their presence was not tolerated in the Main Street area again."

On February 21, 1893, the upstairs of the Morris & Allison building had quite a bit of excitement while the Grand Jury met in one of the small rooms. Gambling was going on in one of the other rooms and a ruckus occurred. We know this because the indictment is dated the same date as the incident.

Two gamblers, Ed and K. Taliaferro, were charged with assault to murder, shooting with a pistol and stabbing with a knife. (Case #80 Court Records) Witnesses were Tom Adams, Lum & Lon Reynolds, Pete Robinson, J. Morris of Sonora; J. L. Pinkston, Coon Dunman of Coleman County; Joe Chance of Tom Green County and Barney Beach of Brewster County. The two were tried separately, and found not guilty as charged. In testimony, Ed Taliaferro said Pearce Keaton advanced and fired his pistol so he shot Pearce. Other witnesses said Pearce knocked down Kay and started firing

before Ed fired his gun. Joe Chance was in another room and heard the shooting and someone say "By God I did not want to shoot him but he kept after me with his pistol."

Judge Timmons, after hearing the witnesses stated the big questions was just who was the aggressor in the case, with a possibility Pearce was trying to murder the defendants. The Judge wrote 4 pages of instructions to the jury. The verdict was not guilty as charged.

Locals gave several stories about this old gun/knife fight: John A. Martin said that the gun Pearce used was acquired only a day or two before he loped into Sonora. The Keaton boys were running a ranch on Bull Run. Pearce had told John how proud he was of his new pistol, while loping along he took shots at prickly pare apples, rocks, snakes or anything. It was a fine shooting iron, but when it got poked in Taliaferro's face and the trigger was pulled it just snapped every time. Seems Pearce forgot to reload or had bad ammo.

Mat Adams got his story from his older brother and is the most complete of anyone left living.

"Gambling was done in all the saloons except the Bank Saloon on the west side of the street. About that time the building was put up and used, maybe for a year, for banking purposes. Pearce was the sort of ranch boy who came to town regularly to get drunk, fight, or gamble, just anything to get into trouble.

"This time with the good pistol under his belt, Pearce got into a poker game. At the table were Ed and Kay Taliaferro and other persons he couldn't remember. Ed and Kay were professions, which didn't matter to Pearce who probably never had much to lose anyway. The trouble started over the old argument of which hand is highest, a straight or a flush.

(Rick says a flush?) Anyway Pearce was a hot-headed cuss and never considered the odds of taking on the two Taliaferro brothers. Pulling his gun he would have surely killed one or both but the gun would do no more than snap. Ed, a gun man, emptied his gun at Pearce, but missed every time. Kay, a knife fighter, started to work on Pearce and cut him up mighty bad. At this time some of the neutral parties might have jumped in to stop the fight but didn't. Pearce made it to the door, how we don't know as folks say the room was so full of gun smoke you could hardly see or breathe. Once he made it down the long outside stairs a doctor was called to care for him. He was cut up so bad he had to lay up for several days before making a buggy ride to his old home place, ten-mile crossing, this side of Junction."

Now you boys who have been bugging me for another shoot-em-up story or sordid story of the bad old days should be happy for at least the next six months after this one and should send in their \$10 dues check to the society. We need extra money now to pay for lawn mowing.

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@sonoratax.net. You may call us at the office on Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings, from 8-12 at 387-5084 or stop by the office at 307 Oak Street at the same times to tour our buildings, rent the John & Mildred Cauthorn Building (Old Depot) and grounds, or tour the Miers Home Museum.

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Historical Society Meeting from page 1

non-profit organization.

Membership was led in a brief prayer for the ranchers and volunteers who are battling grassfires in Sutton County and for all those who have been hit with anthrax.

Rosie took over presiding over the meeting as Eddie Sawyer and Claire Jones had to leave for another engagement. She explained that she will work very hard to continue to provide historical documentation for research and enjoyment. There are many foundations that offer grants, and Rosie said she would continue to contact them seeking funding for projects. She stressed that it is very important that everyone work to keep Sutton County's history in Sutton County. As the museums and archives increase and improve, people will travel to our town to do their research, thus bringing in tax dollars.

Rosie discussed the project she is working on for the Archival Storage Vault in which she is compiling histories of Sheep & Goat Raiser's Association presidents and their family histories. She is also including histories on Angora goat raisers, Meat Goat raisers, horse racing, cattle raisers and other types of ranching and farming histories in Sutton County. She has compiled over seven storage boxes of information so far.

It was reported that the Chamber of Commerce has put a notice on their web site that the society is looking for these histories and has been very helpful in the search.

A motion was made by Jo-Ann Palmer that the regular checking and savings account be

turned over to The Bank & Trust. The Ice House account and stock will remain with the First National Bank at this time, in appreciation of all Mike Hale and Al Elliott did to help get the ice house. The motion was seconded by Schwiening. JoAnn Hernandez abstained from voting, and all other members present voted to transfer the two accounts leaving the Ice House Account and stock where it is for now.

Brief discussions were held regarding the new city manager, getting all local people to do work on the buildings to keep work in Sutton County. Palmer reported on currently scheduled rentals for the Cauthorn Memorial Building (depot) and the need to replace a window that opens from the kitchen into the large room of the John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building with a door. This door would make serving meals much easier for the wait staff. Estimates are to be obtained from several local contractors and a final decision will be made after costs are evaluated.

A large function is scheduled for Oct. 1 and the Shurley Family reunion is planned for September.

Rosie stated that the new museum will be a community museum to be open for all to enjoy. It is planned to start work on the renovations again in the fall.

In closing, it was suggested that the society see what would have to be done to try to obtain Hotel/Motel money for our historical preservation/community museum/meeting center projects.

**"Christmas in July"
Layaway Sale**

10% off any purchase of \$300.00 or more placed on layaway now for Christmas

- 1/6 down, balance in 5 equal payments, due 15th of each month August thru December
- No statement sent if payments are received on time
- No finance charge

Smart Santas plan months ahead. Take advantage of this opportunity to buy at a saving, pay it out over 6 months, avoid finance charges, and have your Christmas shopping done early, too! During July only, so hurry!

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(Some for Only \$1.00!)

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Gage & Grayson Glidewell are excited to announce the arrival of their baby brother

Grant Patton Glidewell
born on June 10, 2005

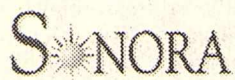
7 lbs. 5 ozs.
19 inches

He is also welcomed by proud parents Dustin & Kelly Glidewell

Thank You to Sonora for all the support.

Chamber Chatter

Chamber honors Hudspeth Hospital and Wellness Center for adding natural beauty to new facility

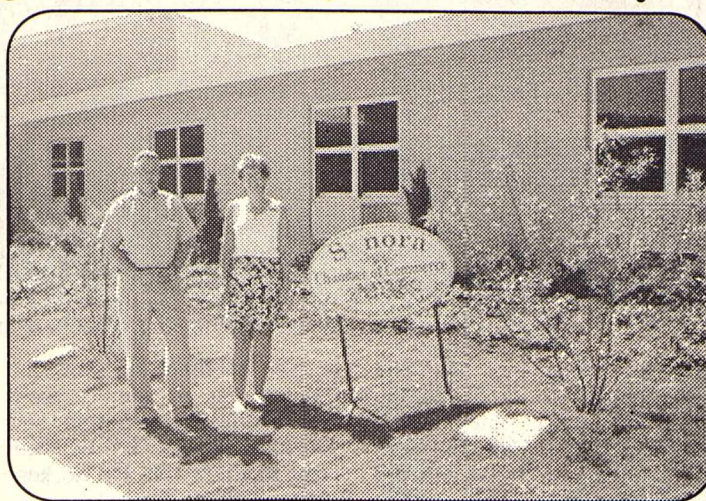


by Ruthie Bounds, COC Executive Director

The winner for this month's Sonora Chamber of Commerce Landscape of the Month award will not come as a surprise to any of you that have seen this wonderful facility. The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital & Wellness Center is the winner of this month's presentation.

The overall planning and concept of this building, along with the landscaping and additional parking, are a beautiful addition to our community. The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Board and the Hospital Auxiliary along with the Hospital administrator, Keith Butler, are to be commended for their excellent overall plan and the execution of this.

They have not only provided a much needed health and wellness facility for Sonora, but have done so in such an eye pleasing manner. The extra parking, the tree and shrub dedications, and the overall layout of the property makes it less clinical than many hospitals and inviting and comfortable for visitors and patients alike. We congratulate the Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Board, staff and Hospital



L.M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Administrator, Keith Butler, and CFO, Mickey Schaefer proudly show off the landscaping at the new Wellness Center.

Auxiliary on a job well done! Your hard work has done much for Sonora!!

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the second week in July. The Sonora Chamber of Commerce staff has been working for several months, already in preparation of the Sutton County Days Celebration & Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo. We have recently mailed out sponsorship information to many of you in and around Sonora. Please consider becoming a sponsor for the Sutton County Days Celebration. It is the largest event of the year for Sonora, and brings in many out-of-town visitors to spend money in our

community. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or a volunteer for Sutton County Days and were not contacted by us, please let us know by calling the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office & Welcome Center at 325/387-2880 or e-mail us at soncoc@sonorax.net. We already have many out-of-town arts & craft vendors signed up to participate in this year's event, and several out of town parade participants have already sent in their entry forms. Sutton County Days will be August 12th & 13th and the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo will be from Wednesday, August 10th through Saturday, August 13th.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My husband and his friend were coming back into town late Monday night when they saw a glowing coming from the top of Dunes Mini Storage. They turned around and drove up there to find that someone had started a fire in the grass. As we all know, we do not carry buckets of water to put fire out. They had to make do with what they could to stomp it out.

Apparently, this was the second fire started down HWY 277 that night. When I got the call from my husband, I immediately got mad. See, my church family (adults and youth) spent Sunday, all day and night, fighting a fire on two ranches (Wallace & Balch), and my husband and son spent a good two hours Monday afternoon fighting fires at the Wallace ranch and close to the Balch ranch. This fire was started by the weather, not by humans. I guess you can say that I am very disgusted at the thought of someone thinking it is funny to go around starting fires.

The thing that I want you (the pranksters) to know is we, (the citizens, fire department, ranchers, families) are the ones who suffer. We are the ones who can be injured or killed because of your cheap 30 second thrill. If you are so bored that you have to start a fire to get that thrill, why don't you go out and help fight fires that are accidentally started. Don't we have enough problems in this world right now?

Pranksters, they saw your car and soon you will be caught. I just hope it is before someone gets hurt. I pray that you feel remorse and stop the next time you think it is funny to do such a crime.

A concerned citizen of Sonora, Jana Dover

It's a BOY!
Katy Jo proudly welcomes her new baby brother **Cuatro Wardlaw** born on June 9th 7 lbs. 4oz. - 19 1/2" long
Maternal Grandparents: Shirley & Dody Snyder
Paternal Grandparents: Jack & Jessie Wardlaw
Maternal Great-grandmother: Edith Freeze

At two, dirt was forming, her shirt says as proof. Her birthday shows that this is no goof. She may look twenty, but others will know, on Sunday Pam was a half-century old.

Happy Birthday from Tom, Erin, Josh & Brian

Happy Birthday Dorothy Baker
We are honoring our mother on her **90th birthday**
You are invited for visiting and refreshments
Saturday, July 23, 2005
Saint John's Episcopal Parish Hall
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
No gifts please - your presence is her gift

the Studio Ballet • Tap Jazz • Aerobics
Dance classes will be starting August 29, 2005. We will have Pre-Registration Sunday, August 14, 2005, from 2:00-4:00pm. There will be a \$15.00 registration fee, which includes a t-shirt, due at time of registration.
If you can't make it to pre-registration, don't worry, just call and I will be more than glad to meet you and sign up your dancer. (325-226-3370).
If you would like to sign up, you are welcomed to fill out this form (you do not have to pay until pre-registration or first day of class) and mail it to P.O. Box 612, Sonora, Texas, 76950, or go on-line and fill out the registration form at www.thestudioinsonora.com
Student Name: _____
Grade Level or age: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone#: _____
\$30.00 for 2 years (ballet only)
\$40.00 for 4 years and older (ballet, tap, and jazz)
\$60.00 for 2 or more children per household
See you at registration—Thanks! Marlyn Young



A warning sign posted at a local ranch office warns of fire danger, as fires burn on neighboring ranches.

Fighting fires from page 1

* Keep a 30-foot "safety zone" surrounding the home clear of brush and cedar, especially for those living in a woodland area. Grass should be cut short in this area as well. For homes that sit on a steep slope, the safety zone should be increased accordingly.

* Stack firewood at least 15 feet and uphill from the home.

* Rake leaves, cut off dead limbs and twigs, and mow grass regularly. Cut tree limbs within 15 feet of the ground and remove dead branches that extend over the roof.

* Don't park cars, trucks, or recreational vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach a temperature of more than 1000 degrees; it only takes about 500 degrees to start a brush fire in the summer.

* Use an approved spark arrester on all internal combustion engine-powered equipment. This special muffler helps ensure that sparks generated by off-road vehicles, chainsaws and other equipment don't start wildfires. Check and replace spark arresters periodically.

* Maintain equipment in good working order.

* Parents should emphasize to their children the dangers of playing with fire. Many grass fires are started by children who have no idea how quickly flames can grow and spread.

* Homeowners who barbecue should maintain a 10-foot area around grills and propane tanks free of brush and shrubbery. Non-flammable screens should be placed over the grill (with mesh no coarser than 1/4" thick). Never leave a grill unattended. After use, place grill ashes in a metal bucket and soak in water.

Officials say outdoor burning bans are in effect in 104 of Texas' 254 counties. In national forests and grasslands in the state, fires are allowed only in gas and propane grills, lanterns and stoves in developed recreation areas. Smoking is limited to enclosed vehicles and buildings, developed recreation sites or in 3-foot circular areas cleared of flammable material.

Sutton County residents are reminded that an Outdoor Burn Ban was implemented by county officials on June 27, 2005.

Airport Security: Know Before You Go

Submitted by: Kelly L Thorp
County Extension Agent-FCS
Texas Cooperative Extension

Millions of people pass through the nation's airports every day.

However, with changes in airport security procedures, there is often a lot of fear and confusion about the "dos and don'ts" of air travel. The following information represents some of the suggestions offered by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

First and foremost, don't be frightened - the security personnel at the airport are there to help you. You can do some things before you even leave your home to help ease the security screening procedure. When selecting your clothing, be sure that it does not have metal items, including under-wire bras, belts and belt buckles, which may set off the metal detector. Also, avoid jewelry made of metal or limit the amount that you wear. Your footwear may also cause problems if your shoes contain metal arch supports. Though the TSA does not require you to remove your shoes, you may be subject to additional screening if you do not remove your shoes.

Other things you can do before you leave your home include cigarette lighters are no longer allowed in airports. Your lighter will be confiscated and not returned if you try to carry it through a security checkpoint. You may carry matches in your carry-on or your checked baggage.

Do not pack wrapped packages in your baggage. Screeners may unwrap those packages for security reasons.

Do not lock your baggage. Security personnel may cut the lock off your bag to gain access for security reasons. TSA approved locks may be ordered from www.travelsentry.org or http://safeskielocks.com.

These are locks that may be opened by airport security personnel.

Remember to label all baggage with your contact information, including your carry-on bag.

You are limited to one carry-on bag and one personal item, such as a purse or briefcase, on board the plane. Remember to put keys, cell phones, excess jewelry and other metal or metal containing items in your carry-on bag.

Some metal items simply cannot be removed to go through security, such as artificial hips, knees or pacemakers, to name a few. Your health professional should provide you with a card stating that you have a medical device which may cause the medical detector to alarm. Also, he or she may recommend that you not walk through the metal detector (for example, metal detectors may interfere with your pacemaker settings).

In these cases, the security personnel at the airport will conduct a one-on-one screening that

may include use of a handheld metal detector or using their hands to conduct a pat down search.

Other medical conditions and equipment may be of concern, including Supplemental Oxygen canisters will be permitted through the checkpoint once they have been screened. However, you should inform your airline of your Oxygen at the time of your reservation. Some airlines prohibit personal Oxygen on board their planes.

Diabetics are allowed to carry any and all supplies necessary for their care, including syringes when accompanied by insulin. You should notify the security personnel that you are a diabetic and are carrying your supplies with you.

If you wear a prosthetic device, such as an artificial limb, you will not be required to remove said device but security personnel will need to see and touch it as part of the screening process. You will also be allowed to carry any and all equipment needed in support of your prosthesis.

Walkers, crutches and canes that can fit through the X-ray machine will be required to undergo screening. Security personnel will assist you with walking through the metal detector and continue to assist you until your walking aid has been cleared. Items such as wheelchairs will be hand screened. Depending on your ability, you may or may not be required to leave your wheelchair. You should let security personnel know if you are unable to get out of your wheelchair.

Certainly inform airport security personnel of any mobility, vision or hearing problems you may have. They will make special accommodations to ensure that you understand the process and why additional screening may or may not be necessary.

If you are selected for additional screening, keep the following in mind:

You have the right to request a private screening area.

Your security screener should be your same gender. If not, you have the right to request a different security screener.

You have the right to refuse all security screening but you will not be allowed to enter the gate area or board your airplane.

Above all, remember to stay cool, calm and collected. You will eventually make it through the security checkpoint and be on your way.

The airport security personnel are simply trying to make certain that you and all the other air travelers are safe.

For more information, contact your County Extension Agent at 387-3101.

You may also get more information from http://www.tsa.gov. Click on the "Travelers and Consumers" link at the top left of the page. (Source: Andrew B. Crocker, Gerontology Health Specialist, Texas Cooperative Extension)

Aggie Moms invited to Meet and Greet

The San Angelo A&M University Mothers' Club (AGGIE MOMS) will host a "Meet and Greet" event on Saturday, July 23, 2005 at the Historic Orient-Santa Fe Depot, 703 S. Chadbourne in San Angelo. This event is for all new, current, and former students of Texas A&M University and their families. The social time will be from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Homemade ice cream, sandwiches, and drinks will be served. Drawings for door prizes will occur throughout the evening. Aggie moms will be on hand to answer questions new Aggie parents may have about sending their sons and daughters to Texas A&M. The San Angelo A&M Club will have tickets available for Aggie night with the Colts, scheduled for August 3rd.

The San Angelo A&M University Mothers' Club was organized to support area students in the pursuit of a higher education at Texas A&M. The Club meets monthly during the school year, and conducts programs of interest to parents of A&M students. The Club conducts a number of fundraising activities throughout the year. Funds that are raised go towards scholarships awarded to area students each spring. Each semester, funds are available for tutorial scholarships on an "as needed" basis. Additionally, Aggie Moms prepare "goodie bags" each semester to encourage area Aggies during finals week, and send out "sunshine cards" (gift cards from either Freebird's or Jason's Deli) in the fall and in the spring as a way of letting our students know that they are in our thoughts and have our support.

The San Angelo A&M University Mothers' Club includes not only San Angelo, but also the communities of Ballinger, Big Lake, Bronte, Christoval, Eldorado, Eola, Mertzon, Ozona, Paint Rock, Robert Lee, Sonora, Sterling City, Vancouver, Wall, and Water Valley. Officers for 2005-06 are: Nevie Lacy, President; Suzy Mears, VP-Programs; Theresa Fortin, VP-Membership; Lane Warrick, VP-Publications; Shelley Gregg, VP-Fundraising; Judy Turner, VP-At Large; Judie Williams, Secretary; Cyndy Jackson, Treasurer; Debbie Lisoiski, Parliamentarian; Nancy Brockman, Historian; and Mary Jean Sims, Auditor.

Property tax reform moves to conference committee

State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - With less than 10 days remaining in the 30-day special session, state lawmakers continued their trudge toward passage of a property tax relief bill with school funding waiting in the on-deck circle.

The full Senate met Sunday to consider hundreds of pages of amendments to its version of House Bill 3, property tax reform.

At 3:15 a.m. on July 11, senators emerged with 20 amendments. Their version will have to be reconciled with the House version, by a Senate-House conference committee.

Both House and Senate aim to pay for the proposed property tax cuts by expanding sales and business taxes, but it remains to be seen if the two bodies can agree on the mix and the method.

Briefly, the Senate version lowers property taxes to \$1.30 per \$100 valuation in 2006 and \$1.25 in 2007, while the House version, which passed by a single vote, caps the rate at \$1.23 and \$1.12, respectively.

The Senate voted to increase the sales and use tax one half-cent to 6.75 percent, but the House voted for a full-cent increase to 7.25 percent - the highest in the nation.

The House version spreads

more of the tax to Texans whose annual income is less than \$100,000 and more than \$15,000.

Of course, raising taxes in Texas is still frowned upon. To assure public knowledge of those responsible for any increase in state taxes.

Rep. David Leibowitz planned to attach a floor amendment to HB 3 on second reading.

However, a House rule requiring all amendments to be revenue-neutral forced Leibowitz, D-San Antonio, to withdraw the amendment.

Leibowitz's amendment would have (1) required the House to post on its Web site a notice showing how each member voted; (2) required the governor to own up by posting a notice that he had signed the legislation; and (3) required the governor to really own up by publishing paid quarter-page notices in statewide and regional newspapers - since most Texans still reach for a newspaper.

Even without a big, honking public notice, Grover Norquist, director of the Washington, D.C.-based Americans for Tax Reform, is sure to get wind of any tax increase and who is responsible.

His organization finds candidates to run against incumbent GOP lawmakers who either refuse to sign its no-new-taxes pledge or break their pledge by voting in favor of a tax increase.

Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities could not be farther from Norquist's group on the tax issue. The progressive think tank repeatedly has urged the Legislature to recognize a state income tax as a way to improve school funding, lessen the property tax burden on homeowners, provide better health care for children and needy adults, and boost the quality and coverage of child protective services.

Just whose job is it, anyway?

The Texas Supreme Court heard arguments in the state's appeal of a district court ruling that declared the current school finance system unconstitutional.

If the high court upholds the lower court ruling, the Legislature will be required to rebuild the school finance system to meet constitutional standards by Oct. 1. If the lower court ruling is overturned, the Legislature could stand pat with the current system, which was devised by the courts.

Texas Constitution Article 7 Section 1 says: "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

In arguments before the court, lawyers representing

more than 300 school districts said the constitution requires the state to give all Texas schoolchildren equal access to education and it is up to the judicial branch to enforce the constitution. Lawyers from the Texas attorney general's office argued that the wording means Texans must abide by a school finance formula devised by the Legislature, not the judiciary.

A ruling may take weeks. And any progress on school finance by the Legislature during the special session runs the risk of being deemed unconstitutional.

So, special interest groups and all three branches of government could find themselves back at their drawing boards in the fall. School districts may find themselves relying, as usual, mainly on their own resources, plus stop-gap funding meted out at the governor's discretion.

Eminent domain added to call

The Fifth Amendment says "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." During its just-ended term, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that homeowners could lose their residences when the state has a compelling interest in taking private property for public use.

To address this ruling on the state level, Gov. Perry added eminent domain as an issue for the Legislature to consider in the first called session.

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Up on Eaton Hill

I Spy A Dragonfly

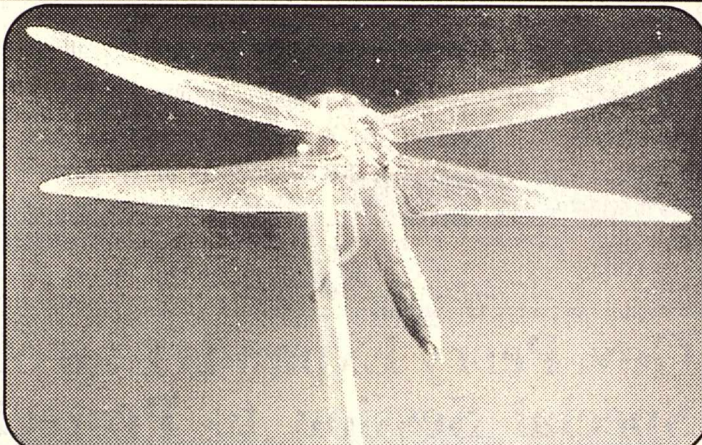
by Delyse Jaeger

Move over bird and wildflower enthusiasts and make way for the latest craze to tweak the fancy of nature lovers - damselfly and dragonfly watching. Publication of the field guide *Dragonflies Through Binoculars* by Sid Dunkle has helped foster popularity of pursuing these winged beauties. Of course, the varied and magnificent color, often in metallic tones, of dragonflies makes them ideal targets for the lens of a camera or pair of binoculars.

Dragonflies and damselflies belong to the insect order "Odonata". The word comes from the Greek "odonto" meaning tooth - probably something to do with the extendable lower mandible armed with hook-like pincers

found in the insects' aquatic larval stage. As lovely as the flying adult is, so the larva or naiad is ... well, freaky, and with pretty bizarre talents to boot. Dragons and damsels spend the majority of their life cycle as predatory aquatic creatures. Although they vary from species to species, naiads look like something out of a sci-fi horror movie. In their favor, the water insects eat mosquito larvae and continue to feed on mosquitoes as adults. Perhaps the most unusual and certainly the most surprising behavior is the dragonfly naiad's ability to shoot water from its rectum - a virtual anal jet propulsion system!

The dragonfly pictured here is a Neon skimmer and was spotted at our local golf course



The Neon Skimmer dragonfly is a vibrant orange-red.

cruising one of the ponds, most likely in search of a mate. With over 200 species thus far identified in Texas, there is no shortage of colorful display for he who has an eye for the odonates.

Eaton Hill is still giving up a few wildflowers and construction of the kiosk at the Buckeye Trailhead is well under way. Hit the trails!

Sutton County 4-H forecast

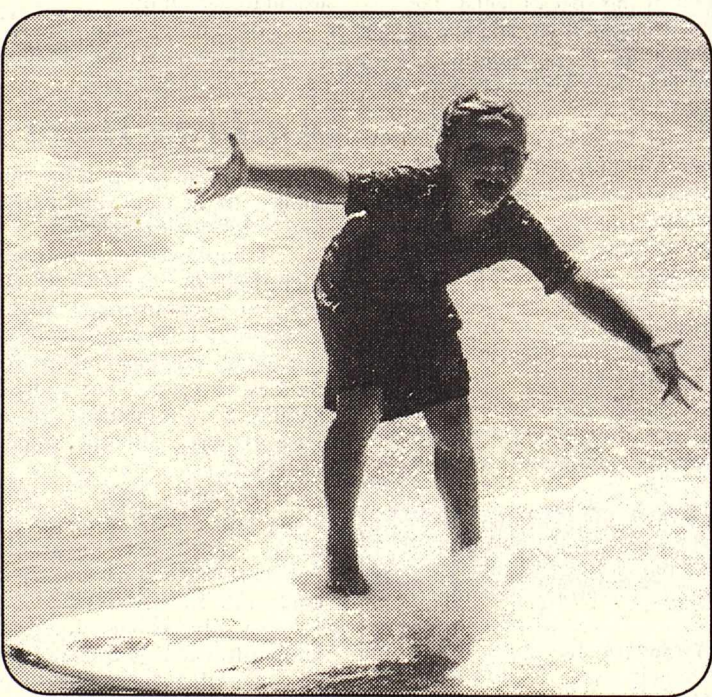
Livestock projects: If you need help this summer finding goats or lambs for the upcoming season, contact Pascual at the office and he will be glad to help. In addition to several sales already scheduled to attend, interested parties can also look for projects at several ranches to purchase by private treaty.

Permian Basin Fair & Scholarship - Lambs & goats: September 9-10; pigs: Sept 16. If you're interested please call so that the office can order entry forms. There IS a SCHOLARSHIP available. They will give away 11 \$1,000 scholarships and three \$500 scholarships to senior exhibitors in the livestock division. For more information and complete details visit the Extension Office.

Lamb & Goat Tags - If you will be feeding lambs or goats this year, please call the office with the number of state validation ear tags that you will need. Ear tag order forms are here and tags will be ordered next month.

Rural youth loans through Farm Service Agency: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a loan program to help rural youth between the ages of 10-20 initiate a livestock breeding program. These loans are for a maximum of \$5,000 and interest rates are determined each month. A relative could provide the lease, feed, medical supplies and let the young applicants run their livestock with theirs. For details or applications, contact regional FSA farm loan manager, Paul Kline, in San Angelo: 325-655-5518.

4-H Officer training - In May, officers were elected. An officer training is planned for August 18 at 2 p.m. and is currently trying to ensure that these dates do not interfere with any school activities. Please watch the newsletter and paper for further information and official training dates.



Surfs up for Sonora Dude!

submitted

Soon-to-be second grader James Freeman of Sonora, experienced a dream come true earlier this summer when his mother Kathleen Freeman finally let him have a go at surfing. It took about an hour for James to get the hang of it, and onlookers at Surfside beach were amazed to see such a youngster riding the waves.

A professional surfer even stopped to give James a few tips as well as some wax and tools for preparing the surf board. James learned he surfs "goofy-foot" which is the term for surfing with the right foot forward rather than the more common left foot forward style. By the end of the day word had spread to the surf shop about the little surfer dude from Sonora out catchin' the waves.

Asked what he thought about the experience, James said "It was cool! I loved it!" James is the son of Paul and Kathleen Freeman.

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Auction Registration

1:00 p.m. Auction Begins in Back of Store

AUCTION ITEMS:

Chevrolet Flatbed Truck, Big Tex Gooseneck Trailer, TCM Forklift, New Holland (Bobcat Type) Loader w/ Bucket and Forks, 48" Stroughton Trailer On Wheels, Chop Saw w/ Rack, Plasma Cutter, Welder, Tiller, Mulcher, Paint Shaker, Paint Colorant Dispenser, Platform Scale, Floor Model Scale, Nail Bins (Turn-A-Round) with Nails, Nail Bins w/ Nails in Wood Counter Unit, Heavy Metal Equipment Shed w/ Posts, Rebar Cutter, Steel Shelving Units, Wet Saw (Tile Cutter), Pallet Jack, Drill Press, Table Saw, Floor Sander, Floor Edger, Floor Machine, Bench Grinder, Key Machine (No Keys), Key Machine (Round Keys) Vehicle Key Machine, Window Shades w/ Cutting Machine, Blinds w/ Cutting Machine, Carpet Cleaning Machine, Valve Box, Tinhorn Material, Covers for Valve Boxes, Tile Reinforcing Wire, Chain Link Fence, Top Rail and Posts for Chain Link Fence, Metalbestos Pipe, Radial Arm Saw & Electrical Panel Boxes.

BULK SALE ITEMS:

Paint, Plumbing Supplies, Black Pipe Fittings, Light Bulbs, Screws, Builder's Hardware, Ceiling Fans, Sporting Goods, Housewares, Pots, Pans, Dishes, Welding Supplies, Electrical Supplies, Pet Supplies, Lawn & Garden Supplies, and Floor Tile, Excluding Store Fixtures. 12" Sheet Vinyl Rack w/ Floor Covering, Cabinet Hardware, Wire Shelving, Cleaning Supplies, Wood Cement Pallets, Peat Moss, Fertilizer, Aluminum Window Units, Doors, White Stucco (in Trailer), Bolts, Nuts, Washers, & Screws Display w/ Merchandise.

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Rig Locations as of July 8, 2005

RigDATA

Sutton
 Dominion; 8850' Mayfield - 39 - #24, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 9350' Duke Wilson #187-15 Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 9150' Duke Wilson - 173 - #14, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 9000' Randee Fawcett Trust - B - #18, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8950' LR Valliant #24, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8900' LR Valliant #304, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8850' Randee Hill-Fawcett - B - #3, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8650' Mayfield - 39 - #21, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8500' Shurley RR - 1C - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8300' Rip Ward - E1 - #3, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8300' Edwin S Mayer Jr. - C - #403, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8150' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr - Z - #6, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7750' Shurley RR - 1F - #2, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7750' Ben Mittel #8, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7500' Ben Mittel #7, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7000' Canyon Ranch #105-10S, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
 Endeavor Energy; 13000' Hudspeth - 74 - #1, Big Dog Drilling.
 New Momentum Energy; 9900' Weatherly-Pryor #2, Patterson UTI/TMBR.
 Dominion; 9850' Hunt - 19 - #7, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 9650' Joe Friend Estate - A - #6025, Patterson Drilling.
 Devon Energy; 9200' Ruby Helbing - 26 - #8, Patterson Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey #104, Nabors Drilling.
 Approach Operating; 9000' Addie Clayton #903, Nabors Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Childress #1601, Patterson Drilling.
 New Anadarko E&P; 8950' McMullan - #9, Patterson Drilling.
 New Oxy Permian; 5600' South Cross Unit #234, Patterson UTI/LEV.
 Bluegrass Energy; 7000' Simpson Canyon - 1044 - Unit #1, Adobe Drilling.

Schleicher
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Rousselot - #1502, Nabors Drilling.
 TXP, Inc; 7500' University - 17 - #2, Heart Land Drilling.
 New Unit Petroleum; 6800' McWhorter Unit #3, Heart Land Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; Rousselot #5602, Nabors Drilling.

Terrell
 Newfield; 15000' Poulter #3504, Patterson Drilling.

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

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Gov. Perry Expands Call of Special Session to Protect Private Property Rights

Asks Lawmakers to Shield Texans from Effects of Supreme Court Ruling

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry today expanded the call of the special legislative session to include legislation that limits government's ability to take property from private owners through eminent domain.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently set a new legal precedent that allows government entities to seize private property for economic development purposes.

"Today I am expanding the call of the special legislative session and asking lawmakers to take swift action to protect the private property rights of every Texan," Perry said. "The Supreme Court's ruling would allow government to condemn your family's home, bulldoze it and build a new shopping mall or some other kind of economic development project simply to generate more tax revenue. I stand with an overwhelming majority of lawmakers and citizens who believe that this starts us down a slippery slope that will lead to the erosion of Texans' rights."

"I support an amendment to the Texas Constitution because, by definition, the constitution is intended to protect the people from arbitrary acts by government that infringe on their basic rights. One of the most basic rights in Texas is the right to own property, and government shouldn't be able to take that away to pad its tax coffers."

Gov. Perry's specific message allows lawmakers to consider "legislation relating to limiting the use of eminent domain to take private property for private parties or economic development purposes."

The Texas Constitution authorizes the governor to set the agenda during a special session of the legislature. The governor called lawmakers into special session beginning June 21, and has asked them to consider school finance, education reform and property tax relief legislation.

Legislation has already been filed in the Texas House and Senate that addresses the eminent domain issue. Today's action was required for lawmakers to have the authority to pass such legislation.

"I have expanded the purpose of this special session because this recent decision by the Supreme Court requires immediate action. We don't need to study this issue, we need to act, and I believe this legislature will," Perry said.

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Oil & Agribusiness

Needle Size Is Important When Vaccinating

EXTENSION

by Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Extension Agent - Ag

With the recent spotlight on animal health, many of us may be thinking about vaccinating livestock. So, let's take a minute to regard basic injection considerations for cattle.

The correct needle size and length is important to ensure that the entire dose of the drug gets into the animal properly, with the least amount of tissue damage. Remember that as the gauge of a needle increases, the diameter of the needle decreases. For example, going from a 16-gauge to an 18-gauge needle produces a smaller needle diameter. Proper needle size will vary depending on product viscosity, size of animal and route of administration. A 16-18 gauge 3/4 to 1-inch needle works well for subcutaneous (SQ) injections. A 16-18 gauge 1-1 1/2 - inch needle works well for intramuscular (IM) injections. A 14-gauge needle is NOT recommended. It is twice the diameter of a 16-gauge needle, increasing the risk of tissue damage and leakage from the injection site. A 20 gauge breaks too easily.

A one-inch needle, inserted at a downward angle places the medication in the layer beneath the hide and above the muscle. The downward injection helps prevent vaccine from running back out, before the hole seals. If you're injecting just 2 cc of medicine, it doesn't take much leakage to reduce the efficacy. Also, remember that keeping needles sharp also reduces problems. If you're pressing hard, and then feel it pop in, your needle is too dull. Change needles frequently.

Always restrain animals properly and choose the best location for the injection. It is the site where the product will be most beneficial without damaging expensive cuts of meat. Keep all injections in front of the shoulder. Never inject into the top butt or top of the rump. For both vaccines and antibiotics, the triangular mass of neck muscle is the only acceptable site for both IM and SQ injections. Be sure to inject straight in, not from the side.

Finally, these are suggested practices for cattle. Always visit with your veterinarian about considerations regarding individual species of animals and the treatment being administered.

Angora Goat Performance Test Field Day and Sale set for July 28

by Steve Byrns,
 Contact: Dr. Dan Waldron, (325) 653-4576, d-waldron@tamu.edu

SONORA - The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station's annual Angora goat performance test field day and sale is set for July 28 at the Sonora Experiment Station.

The station is located 28 miles south of Sonora, on U.S. Hwy 55, about halfway between Sonora and Rockspings.

Activities open at 10 a.m. with an informal viewing of the test animals and their records. Educational presentations will start at 11 a.m. and continue after a noon lunch. A sale of performance-tested animals will follow at about 2 p.m.

Dr. Dan Waldron, Experiment Station research geneticist at San Angelo and the test's coordinator, said the Angora goat breeders have brought an excellent set of bucks for this year's performance test.

"The bucks on the 2005 performance test are the product of generations of selection by breeders that are committed to improving the breed," Waldron said. "The test information can be used by buyers to select a goat that will improve next year's kid crop."

The program's topics and speakers include:

- "New Measurements for Mohair," Dr. Chris Lupton, Experiment Station wool and mohair researcher at San Angelo;
- "Activity Report of Mohair Council of America," Zane Willard, the council's executive director, San Angelo;
- "BSE, Scrapie and National Animal ID," Joe David Ross, Sonora rancher;
- "Yellow Star Thistle," Ross;
- "Comments on Test Results," Lupton and Waldron; and
- "Presentation of Mohair Council Awards" and "Recognition of Certified Bucks."

The sale of performance tested animals will conclude the day's activities.

Complete performance data and photos of the bucks in-fleece will be available on the Internet at <http://sanangelo.tamu.edu/genetics/angoratest.htm>.

For further information, contact Waldron or Dr. Frank Craddock at (325) 653-4576 or the Sonora Experiment Station at (325) 387-3168.

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Public Notice

PUBLIC HEARING FOR EXPENDING SECTION 4B TAX PROCEEDS

The City Council will hold a public hearing concerning the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation expending Section 4B sales tax funds for the following project: Project to expend \$10,000 to assist in establishing the headquarters for American Meat Goat Association in Sonora. The hearing will be held on July 19, 2005 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the council with written or oral comments.

Engineering Services Public Notice

The City of Sonora has received funding for a Texas Community Development grant. The City is requesting qualified firms or individuals submit proposals for engineering services. The City is procuring these services and will enter into contract upon the grant award.

In order to be considered, proposals must be submitted prior to 10:00 a.m. on the 25th day of July, 2005. The City of Sonora is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and individuals or firms submitting proposals will not be discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, mental or physical disability, marital status, parenthood or age. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all management consultants or firms that submit proposals, per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards Act of 1981. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

A complete Request for proposal outlining services required by the City, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria has been prepared. Interested parties may obtain copies of this Request for Proposal by contacting the person below:

Ms. Patti Prather
City Secretary
City of Sonora
201 E. Main Street
Sonora, Texas 76950
325-387-2558

Employment

Notice is hereby given that the **Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program** is now accepting applications for part-time secretary/bookkeeping position. Applications may be obtained at the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street office, 232 Main St. Suite 101, Sonora, TX 76950. For more information please contact Ann Kay at the Friends of Historic Sonora office or call 325-387-2248. Applications will be taken until the position is filled.

Help Wanted: Now hiring Car hops and cooks, All shifts. Please apply in person at **Sonic Drive-In**.

Cheetah Wireless
228 E. Main
387-6099

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

Chartwell Community Services is now hiring personal care attendants needed in the Sonora area. Flexible hours call 1-800-825-4499 and ask for

Help Wanted: T&C Village Market is now hiring Office Personnel. Please call 325-387-3438 and speak with Johnny.

Full time secretary/bookkeeper needed. Knowledge of Quickbooks required. Mail or present resume with personal references at **Quick Bonds** 206 E. Main, Sonora, TX. No phone call.s

Shots #5 and #6 are now hiring full-time and part-time. Apply at either location.

Operators needed: Maintainer, dozer, and loader operators. CDL required. Call **Mittel Dozing** 277-6883.

Help Wanted: Full time and part time. Apply at **Mr. D's**, 216 Hwy 277 N. from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

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Excellent Opportunity: Independent Oil and Gas Operator looking for **experienced swabbing unit operator**. Please contact Nick at 325-206-0270 or 325-387-3386.

Help Wanted: Full time and part time. Weekends & Holidays. Apply in person or call **The Caverns of Sonora** at 325-387-3105 FMI.

Help Wanted: ARC Pressure Data, Inc. is seeking **SLICK-LINE OPERATORS**. Applicants need clean driving record and be able to pass drug test. Computer skills required. Salary based on experience. Benefits include medical, dental and 401K. Call Jim Harrington at 325-206-0247 for appointment.

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Garage Sale

Block wide garage sale at Ol'Sonora Tradin' Post Hwy 277 N. Friday, July 16, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - ?

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- 104 Cedarwood: 3BR - 2- Bath brick home with large open floorplan, 2 car garage, fenced yard with landscape, 20' X 40' shop, 8 years old. \$97,500
- 110 Dixie Drive: 3 BR - 2- bath. Carport, privacy fence, vinyl siding, lots of storage, metal roof. In good condition with lots of living area. \$57,500
- 206 N. Divide: Fully remodeled 1 1/2 story 4 BR - 2 -bath home. New carpet, new paint, central heat/ac, large back yard with 16' X 10' storage/greenhouse. \$47,500
- 111 Eldorado Drive: 3 BR - 2- bath home with native stone exterior, fire place, large yard with shade trees. \$50,000

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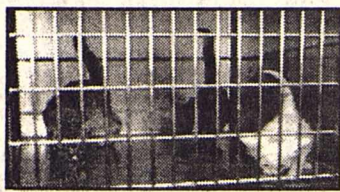
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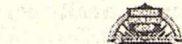
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FYI

Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo committee will have a "work day" at the Sutton County Arena on July 23, 2005. Painting, welding, cleaning and general maintenance work to be done to prepare for the 2005 Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo. Volunteers are encouraged, invited and requested to come help. For more information call Curry Campbell at 387-3174 or Storie Sharp 387-2507.

GET READY FOR NIGHT IN OLD FREDERICKSBURG ... Where the Fun Never Sets! Two big days of old-fashioned family fun and lots of polka. JULY 15 AND 16 featuring toe tapping polkas - kids area-arts and crafts - plenty of sausage on a stick - large selection cold beverages, plenty of polka and country & western under two halls. FRIDAY • JULY 15, LITT'L FISHERMEN AND DUJKA BROTHERS - SATURDAY • JULY 16, SHINER HOBO BAND; JODIE MIKULA ORCHESTRA; SEVEN DUTCHMEN AND BOBBY JONES CZECH BAND. Also on Saturday meet the author, JANET KADERLI; ALMOST PATSY CLINE; GERMAN FOLK DANCE INSTRUCTION; NEW BRAUNFELS VILLAGE BRASS BAND and HARRY & THE HIGHTONES. Join us for lots of fun! Come out and enjoy the music and fun. Downtown Fredericksburg at Market Square. Call toll free 866-TEXFEST (839-3378) or visit www.tex-fest.com

Paisano Baptist General Encampment opens the eighty fifth consecutive session of family camp on Sunday evening, July 24, beginning with dinner in the cook shed at six p.m. The first worship service begins on Sunday, July 24, at 8 p.m. in the massive Tabernacle at the center of the camp. For more information, to see if any housing or RV spots available, contact the camp at 432-837-3074. E-mail camp manager, Dan Dunagan, at danbdunagan@yahoo.com.

Outlaw Pro Rodeo Kid's
Mutton Bustin - Friday, July
29, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.

Entries are now open at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce for kids ages 4-7, weighing 55 lbs. or less. Must be entered by 6:30 p.m. on Friday (at the rodeo office). NO LATE ENTRIES!! Top 6 contestants will qualify to compete in the finals during the Friday night performance of the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo on August Aug. 12. Parents must sign release, \$10 entry fee. FMI call Storie at 387-2507 or 387-3925.

Outlaw Pro Rodeo Team Roping Challenge, Saturday, July 30, 2005 - Jackpot Team Roping. #9 & #13, ropings will run together with separate fast backs, \$50 a team (cash), limit 5 entries per roper in each roping. Books open 10:00 a.m., close 10:45 a.m., rope at 11:00 a.m. Open Draw Pot Roping, (open to all residents of Sutton and adjoining counties and Outlaw Pro Rodeo Sponsors), May enter twice, draw four, \$100 per roper (enter with a partner), Top 12 teams will return to rope in the Sonora Outlaw Pro Rodeo Buckles awarded to winners of County Roping. For more information call 325-206-0272 or 650-8675.

School Board from page 1

this issue.

The regular meeting of the Sonora board of trustees on Monday, July 11, was moved to the Sonora Middle School snack bar area to better accommodate the expected crowd that wanted to be a part of the public discussion regarding drug testing in Sonora schools. This would be the second of such open forums, where concerned parents, community members and teachers could express their opinions, feelings and thoughts regarding this important decision. Board president, Tammy Favila reminded visitors that 30 minutes would be allotted for the discussion as in the previous meeting, and each person was to be to the point and to discuss only the topic of drug testing.

Cynthia Perez was the first citizen to stand, asking for the testing to be implemented because she has heard so much about the problem and is concerned for her high school student's safety. She also said that the testing would allow her to be informed if there was a problem with her child so that she could deal with it. She stated that her child had confirmed to her that he had been offered drugs and it broke her heart to think that he was being subjected to such things. She said that this time he said no, but she wanted the problem to be under control and stopped before he decided to find out what all the hype is about. She also said that she has discussed drugs with her younger child also, so as to educate her and hopes they do what is best.

Sonora Elementary teacher Wheelless Miller was next to speak, breaking with emotion as she spoke of the pain that drugs cause everyone involved, not just the user, but anyone that loves that person. She stressed that many don't understand the harsh reality of using meth, how it takes away your family, your emotions, your spirituality and finally, your health. She strongly stressed that the board implement drug testing because even if it only scares one student into choosing NOT to use, then it is worth it. She also stressed that students and staff should be allowed to volunteer to be tested, to prove that they are drug free. She said that by giving them the opportunity to say no. Then maybe it will build their strength for after they graduate and leave here and they will always be able to say no.

"It's not about discrimination, it's about a life choice," she concluded, as the room broke into applause.

Noemi Samaniego presented the board with a petition signed by Hispanic members of the community and she asked they be added to the first petition that was presented at last month's meeting. She explained that this was not a racial issue, but after visiting with many people in the community, it was important that the board know everyone is in this together for what is best for the kids.

Sam David Hernandez, past SISK Board member, started by saying that he agrees with all that has been said thus far, and wishes that all students could be tested, even the lower grades. He again reiterated that if you save one child then you have succeeded. He asked if a prob-

lem with funding was why the board was hesitant to make the decision. He continued that the need is there and the money could be found.

Board member Favila responded that money was not the issue; it was the possible legal ramifications on such testing. She said the board wanted to be absolutely sure of all legal aspects before jumping in and being accused of not fairly testing.

Sam David responded that if only the extra-curricular students could be tested, then so be it, at least it's a start.

Sutton County lawyer, David Wallace told the board that the first child since his time of practicing in Sonora had recently been sent to TYC. This minor had tested positive of many drugs several times and been given several chances. This wasn't a horrible person, had even participated in athletics and was a fairly decent student. But now they are no longer here. Wallace said maybe this is a good thing for that student to be away from the other students, no longer able to influence them, but those other students are still here. There is hope that these students can be helped before it's too late and can continue to be a part of our community.

Sonora Elementary Teacher Nancy Jimenez said that as an educator she feels a responsibility to do all that is possible to help all students. Drug testing could be a tool used to help stop this problem.

Dr. Brant Myers asked to say something as a community member and a parent, as well as the Superintendent of Sonora schools, he stressed that what upsets him most about this problem is that people in this community, students, adults, leaders; someone knows who is providing the drugs for these kids. Someone knows where they are coming from, but no one will speak up and point the finger and say "Stop." The kids know but aren't telling. Why as a community that is expressing concerns for this problem, won't someone call the police and tell them who is doing it? Myers compared the problem to that of prohibition; where alcohol was illegal but everyone was still drinking. He encouraged the parents to ask their kids, make them tell them. One parent responded that she had told her child to do so but he refused because of fear.

Favila interrupted that the time was almost up, but wanted to end the discussion by saying that the board, the administrators, the staff, the law enforcement and the community have to work hand in hand to make a difference.

Carolyn Earwood told how the community of Boerne, TX had implemented drug testing and had nothing but positive things to say, as the results were nothing but good.

Favila stated the forum was over and only the board could discuss the topic any further, as a part of the regular business agenda. Board member Scott Jacoby added that he wanted it known that money was not an issue when it comes to the well being of the kids in Sonora schools. "These kids are our future and we will invest what it takes to protect them, just like you. We love them too," he said.

Without hesitation Fields immediately put his motion up for vote. The crowd again broke into applause.

Board member Dean Dermody seconded the motion and with a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously. Drug testing will be implemented at Sonora ISD.

As the room began to empty, Dr. Myers asked that everyone stay for the budget discussions, so that all would be

aware of the \$6,350,064 that has to be sent for Chapter 41. This is a huge amount of money that has to be subtracted from the budget and could increase next year, depending on values. He reminded those present that the State always operated a year behind, so they would be going by the good year's values when a bad year hit and the District would have to be prepared if this happened. This was discussed in a budget workshop, where Myers stressed that all estimates were based on a guess of the number of students that would start the year and decisions made by legislatures. He reminded the board that the initial proposed budget could be changed before the final deadline. Dr. Myers then went through a power point explanation on revenues, expenses, property values, tax rates, touching on all areas that affect the bottom line. He reminded everyone to look at the big picture and stay educated on legislative changes and answered questions regarding the budget and taxes. After further review of the preliminary budget, a date was set for August 30, at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration building for a public meeting on the budget and proposed tax rate.

In other business, bills in the amount of \$776,600.006 were approved to pay. Only one bid for insurance was obtained because of continuing liabilities. The student code of conduct was approved as presented, with the understanding that the drug testing would have to be added as an amendment at a later date. The construction report revealed that all was on schedule as of right now, even though it looks far from finished. Mike McGee said that all that was scheduled to be completed by August 15 would be done and at this time he didn't see any major change orders except the floors in the Intermediate building. He concluded that the "hard stuff that couldn't be seen" was complete.

A change order from the maintenance taxes in the amount of \$62,021 was approved to renovate the cafeteria kitchen.

Louise Dermody presented the pros of having a digital marquee to communicate with parents: She reported that the existing marquee is unsafe and difficult to change and is limited on space. She said that she is researching possibly using Title I money since it would play a part in parent communication. She also said that some fund raising could be done for the money not funded elsewhere. It was agreed to wait and see if more money could be obtained from Title I and other areas and make the decision in August.

Dr. Myers gave the Superintendent's report, reporting on campus maintenance projects being done, including the completion of the tennis courts at the high school, lighting at the vocational building, painting at many of the teacher's homes, etc.

Before going into executive session to discuss employment of professional personnel, including an elementary pre-k teacher, middle school PE/coach, middle school history/coach and a speech pathologist, Dean Dermody commented that he wanted to thank the community again for taking time to come and show their support for the important decisions at hand.

Favila applauded the board for attending the conference in San Antonio and also thanked the community and the people that were present at the meeting and again stressed that everyone has to work together to make this decision work. She finished by saying that everyone must communicate with one another and she appreciated everyone's comments which have affected the decisions of the board.

Happy Birthday

July 14

Jackilyn Sykes, Mattye Davenport, Cyndy Allen, Buster Fred, Ramon Estrada, Jennifer Gamez, Alfred Garza,

July 15

Audra Smith, Rayonna Blackman

July 16

Brenda Kearney, Daisha Henson, Jake Trainer, Bryce Williams, Kim Cole

July 17

Jimmy Sims, Amanda Samaniego, Libbye Davis, Manuel Paredes III

July 18

Annalisa Perez, Whitney Perez, Ann Morriss, Barbara Earwood, Anita Hudson, Tressa Henson, Morgan Vvylecka, Nina Martinez, Caleb Barker

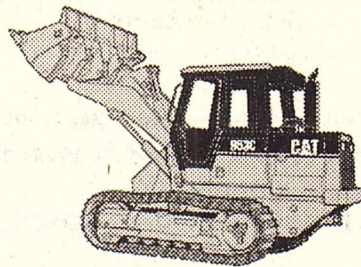
July 19

Elva Mata, Ryan San Miguel, Jason Arredondo, Larry Finklea, Danielle Galindo, Marilyn Wood, Kaitlyn Gibbens, Cassie Johnson, Will Anderson, A.J. Ozuna, Kim Beard, Elva Vasquez, Starlyn Chadwick, Ryan San Miguel

July 20

Caleb Gully, Pam Jones, Mike "Doc" Keller, Bob Cramer, Caleb Gully

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