

THE Devil's River NEWS

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Sonora Middle School receives six Gold Performance Awards

submitted

Sonora Middle School has received notification from the Texas Education Agency that Sonora Middle School has received Gold Performance Acknowledgements in all subject areas, as well as attendance.

Sonora Middle School is one in 14 campuses in the state of Texas to receive Gold Performance Acknowledgements in all subject areas along with attendance. Sonora Middle School is the only school in Region XV to receive this award.

The Texas legislature enacted the Gold Performance Acknowledgment system in 2001 to recognize district and campuses for high performance on

indicators that do not affect accountability ratings. School districts across Texas and their campuses have worked hard to maintain exceptional, well-rounded instructional programs while faced with the implementation of new statewide education reforms. The Gold Performance Acknowledgment System is one way that TEA recognizes public schools for the strides they are making in numerous areas that are critical to the academic success of students.

Both Sonora elementary and Sonora High School were recognized with Gold Performance Acknowledgements and SMS received Gold Performance in Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Writing and Attendance.

State gearing up for possible winter wildfire siege

State fire control leaders continue to gear up for what could be a long winter wildfire siege for the state's firefighters.

Additional in-state and out-of-state personnel and equipment resources, including six dozers, six engines and a mechanic truck from Wisconsin, have been ordered and mobilized to strategic areas to bolster the state's firefighting arsenal. Critically dry fuels (vegetation) exist across much of the state, a fact evidenced by several large wildfires that have already occurred. With no significant change in the weather pattern in sight, fire control leaders are planning for the worst but hoping for the best.

Grasses, weeds and other vegetation in much of the state lie dead and dormant from a combination of drought and hard freezes, according to Mike Dunivan, fire behavior analyst with the Texas Forest Service. Areas hit by hard frosts earlier in the year are where the lion's share of the known large fires occurred, but essentially all of the state is now at risk, due to the presence of the dead vegetation, said Dunivan.

"Vegetation is critically dry in much of the state," said Dunivan. "Add winds and low humidity during the afternoon prime burning period, and you have a recipe for fast-spreading, dangerous wildfires. Most of the large wildfires that already occurred statewide resulted from this deadly combination of wildfire ingredients."

The fire analyst noted that the Texas Forest Service sent an advisory to fire departments in Texas warning of the possibility of dangerous fire behavior during periods of dry, windy weather and the need for diligent use of fire safety practices and protective gear. Already this year, two volunteer firefighters

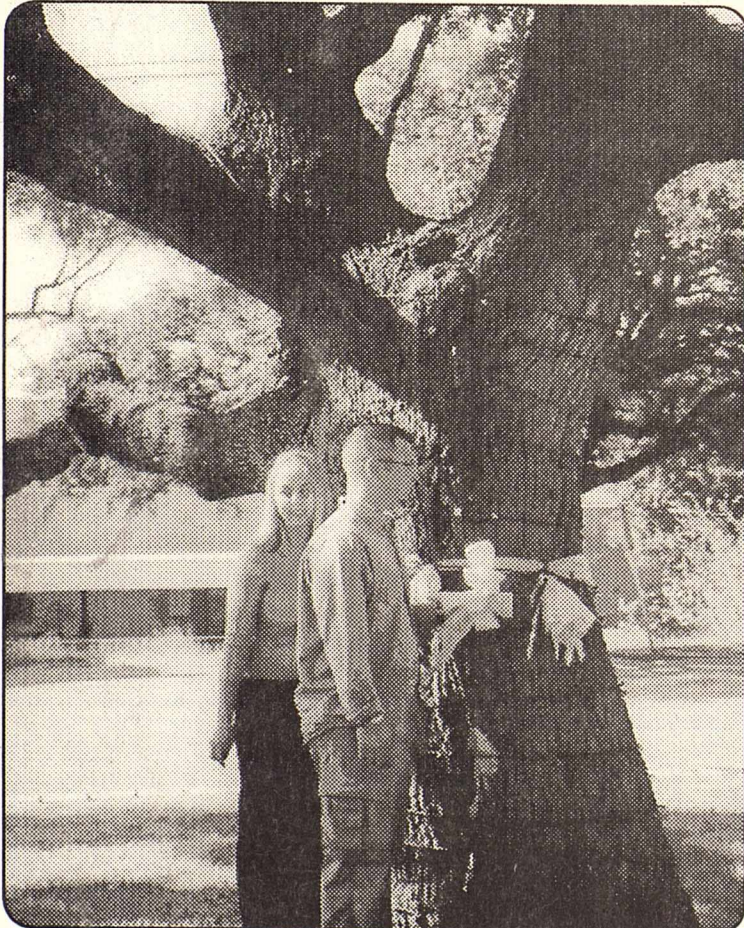
suffered serious burns upon being overrun by wildfires, and another firefighter lost his life in an accident when the fire tanker he was driving rolled over.

"Now that most summer grasses and weeds have gone dormant, any wildfires that arise will have more fuel available to stoke the flames. Also, wherever dead grass, weeds and other fine-textured fuels are present, even short periods of dry, windy weather can cause a rapid escalation in wildfire risk and difficulty of control," Dunivan declared.

Unless the weather cooperates and brings significant moisture statewide and/or the public exercises greater safety with all outdoor fire use, firefighters fear that additional wildfires are likely. Many wildfires result from careless burning of household trash, leaves and brush piles. The following are suggestions from the Texas Forest Service.

- * Obey outdoor burning bans.
- * Postpone all outdoor fires during periods of dry, windy weather.
- * When outdoor fires are permitted, establish wide control lines down to bare soil before igniting your fire, and stay with your fire until it is cold to the touch.
- * Dispose of smoking materials properly, either in an ashtray or crushed out in bare dirt.
- * Avoid using welding or grinding equipment in or near dry grass and weeds.
- * Avoid driving or parking in tall grass and weeds that could be ignited by the pollution control equipment on your vehicle.

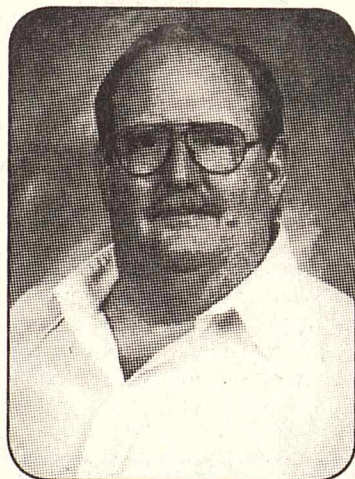
An early Christmas present with a yellow ribbon



James Settles, husband of Ashley Bible Settles, removed his yellow ribbon from the Old Oak Tree Sunday, November 27, 2005. James recently returned home from a tour of duty in Iraq.

He expressed his appreciation to the people of Sonora for the packages, cards and letters he received while overseas. They asked that everyone continue to remember the men and women who are serving our country.

Submitted Photo



John K. Wilson announces bid for J. P. Office

John K. Wilson is announcing that he has filed for the office of Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 for Sutton County.

Wilson stated, "I have been interested in this office for several years, and if elected, pledge to uphold all aspects of the office in a professional manner."

"I believe my dedication and management experience will enable me to serve the community as an efficient, fair, and impartial Justice of the Peace. I have filed in the Republican primary and ask for your consideration."

The Primary Filing Deadline for Major Parties is January 2, 2006. Early voting for the Democratic and Republic Primary begins February 21, 2006; Early voting ends March 3, and the Primary is held March 7, 2006.

2005 District 2-AA

Academic All-District Football

Caleb Ramos, Evan Gulley, Uriel Santana, Anthony Longoria, Hilton Bloodworth, Steven Barthelemy, Craig Leonard, Justin Northcott, Chris Perez, Trent Reiner, Cameron Cox, Nash Traylor, Mason Martinez, Dustin Duhon, Will Crittendon, Swade Draper, Travis Valliant, Brandon Munn, Roland Solis, Embre Smith, Jesse Galvan, Steven Lozano, Bryan Reyes



Sonora residents drop off items to be recycled.

Volunteers join forces to help Keep Sonora Beautiful with a Recycle/Reuse Roundup

by Storie Sharp

Volunteers from Keep Sonora Beautiful, Goodwill Industries and the local 4-H joined forces on November 30, 2005 in the Sutton County Arena parking lot to help clean up our community.

Joining other communities around the state, Sonora took part in the "Texas Recycles Day" activities by holding a Recycle/Reuse Roundup from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mallory Rousselot, Susan McAlpine, and Sam Kent were the Task Force Chairs for the local event, planning, motivating, and going above and beyond the call of duty to help make the first Roundup successful. The Keep Sonora Beautiful program hopes to make the event an annual occurrence with continuous growth and involvement.

Residents from Sutton County were encouraged to get busy cleaning out closets, storage rooms and back yards, and deliver items to the many trucks and trailers located in the lot. Volunteers with the project separated, loaded, hauled and even picked up some loads of gently used clothes, paper, magazines, aluminum cans, ink jet cartridges and much more. This group put in over 85 hours of their time on the event, taking in over 5000 pounds of items. The loads were then hauled to the Goodwill Industries location in San Angelo to be distributed as needed.

Texas Recycles Day encourages and motivates

Postal Inspectors Warn Public About Counterfeit Financial Instruments from Cyber Scams

The latest scam to hit American consumers involves counterfeit financial instruments, costing victims millions of dollars each month. Counterfeit checks and money orders - including U.S. Postal Money Orders - are used in the scam, which often starts with what appears to be an innocent contact via an internet chatroom or by e-mail.

Con artists posing as students, tourists, or overseas military personnel ask for help in cashing checks and money orders, or they target people looking for love or at risk. Scammers buy goods or services on the internet and offer payment by check or money order - often in excess of the actual value to the goods or services.

Postal Inspectors have found that in most cases, con artists ship the check or money order and ask the victim to cash it, keep a portion as a "gift," and wire the remainder, usually to an overseas address.

Bank customers are responsible for the checks they deposit, and depositors must repay the bank for bad checks. Federal law requires banks to make the funds the customer deposits available quickly, but it's important for consumers to know that just because you can withdraw the money, it doesn't mean the check or money order is good. Banks often release funds from a cashier's check or money order before it is determined to be legitimate or fraudulent.

The scams have several common factors:



Susan McAlpine separates magazines and catalogs to be recycled for reuse.

Photos by Juanita Gomez

Texans to make recycling part of their everyday lives.

The events highlight numerous solutions for simple and inexpensive waste reduction and recycling. The Keep Sonora Beautiful program hopes that this event provided an opportunity to raise public awareness on the economic and environmental benefits of waste reduction and recycling. Aims to raise public awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of recycling and helping to Keep Sonora a Beautiful Place to live and visit.

For more information on Keep Sonora Beautiful contact Susan Hall or Lance Castro

the casing of the counterfeit Postal Money Orders. The Postal Service never authors any such letter to a customer.

Not being a victim in their fraud scam comes down to prevention -

Be skeptical of anyone asking to wire money to overseas bank accounts or to cash money orders or checks on their behalf.

Never disclose personal or financial information to anyone you don't know.

Never wire funds to anyone unless you are sure the check or money order they gave you was legitimate.

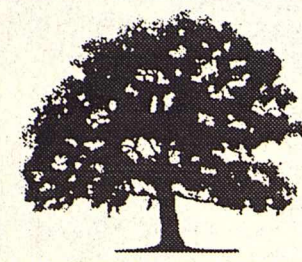
So how can the public be confident that they have received a legitimate financial document? For Postal Money Orders, visit the website www.usps.com/postalinspectors. Click on the Postal Money Order Alert for further descriptions of frauds involving Postal Money Orders and Postal Money Order security features. Also listed is a toll-free number for verification - 800/372-8347. Alternately, go to your local post office and ask the clerk to check to see if the Postal Money Order is counterfeit - if anyone would know, it would be the clerk or postmaster.

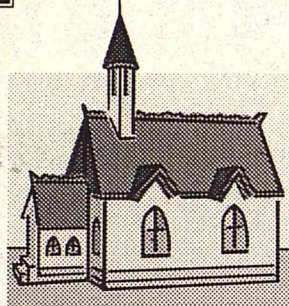
For other financial documents, try to verify it through the entity that issued it. Bank tellers and check cashers see too many checks and money orders each day to know the security features in every document, so it all boils down to prevention.

Hudson Technology Consulting, Inc.
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 Craig Hudson (325) 206-0713/Joan Hudson (325) 206-0168

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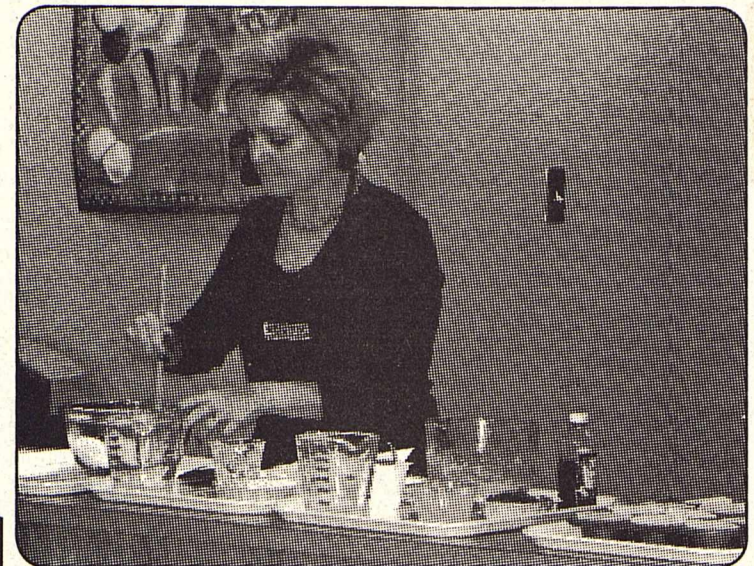
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The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616	First Baptist Church 111 E. Oak 387-2951
Lighthouse Community Church 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100	St. John's Episcopal Church 404 E Poplar 387-2955
Pentecostal Calvary Temple United 509 Amistad 387-5266	First United Methodist Church 201 N. Water 387-2466
St. Ann's Catholic Church 229 W. Plum 387-2278	Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St. 387-5713
Jehovah's Witness 310 St. Ann's St. 387-5658/387-5518	Hope Lutheran Church 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366

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**Holiday Cooking Classes offered
 to help people with Diabetes**



Kelly Thorp demonstrates special, healthy, holiday recipes in the Cooking Well with Diabetes class.
 By: Kelly L Thorp, MS, County Extension Agent-FCS
 Sutton County

For people with diabetes, maintaining healthy blood glucose levels is a matter of life and death. One way for people to better control their glucose levels is to eat healthful meals and snacks at regular times each day.

To help local residents learn how to plan and prepare meals that can be enjoyed by people with and without diabetes, Texas Cooperative Extension is holding a four-part series of cooking classes called Cooking Well with Diabetes. The classes started on December 5, 2005 and are being held at the Sonora High School Home Economics' Lab on Monday evenings.

The series includes cooking demonstrations as well as discussions of research findings on diabetes. For instance, recent research has shown that people with diabetes can enjoy a wide range of foods – including sugars – in moderation.

Years ago, the term "sugar diabetes" was in common usage because it was thought that eating too much sugar caused diabetes. In those days, people with diabetes were advised to avoid sugar all together.

Those days are gone, said Mary K. Bielamowicz, an Extension nutrition specialist. Research has shown that moderate consumption of sugars and fats can still be part of a healthful diet for people with diabetes, as long as they keep their blood glucose at healthy levels.

Carbohydrates are found in grains, pasta, cereals, dairy products and vegetables, particularly starchy vegetables such as beans, corn, peas, potatoes and winter squash.

Protein foods such as meat, fish and poultry do not contain carbohydrates, unless other ingredients such as breading are added to those dishes.

Many carbohydrate foods also contain fiber, which can help reduce blood cholesterol and blood glucose levels. Carbohydrate foods that contain high levels of dietary fiber include whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

Because the body quickly absorbs the glucose from sugary and high-starch foods, eating large amounts of them can cause blood sugar levels to skyrocket. People with diabetes should consume some starchy or sugary foods including breads, potatoes, desserts and fruit juices only in moderation, experts say. Instead of abstaining from sugars and starches altogether, they should consume a balance of different kinds of carbohydrates, such as more whole grains, nonstarchy vegetables and whole fruits, and less starchy and sugary foods.

One way to keep a check on the amount of sugars in the foods you buy and eat is to read the nutrition labels on food packages carefully. Sugar is sometimes listed as sucrose, glucose, fructose, high fructose corn syrup, honey, lactose, maltose, dextrose and sugar alcohols such as sorbitol or mannitol.

Another way to reduce your sugar intake is to modify your recipes, Bielamowicz said. For example:

- When baking, reduce the amount of sugar by one-quarter to one-third.
- In cookies, bars or cakes, replace one-quarter of the sugar with nonfat dry milk. This cuts calories while increasing the calcium and protein in the finished product.
- Add extra flavorings or spices.
- Use unsweetened frozen fruit juice or fruit canned in its own juice instead of fruit canned in syrup.
- Replace some of the sugar in a recipe with fruit juices or purees.

Bielamowicz added that because diabetes is a problem of carbohydrate metabolism (how the body uses carbohydrates), eating about the same amount of carbohydrates at each meal will help maintain blood glucose levels throughout the day. For more information on cooking with diabetes contact Kelly L Thorp- Sutton County Extension Agent –FCS at 387-3604.

Thank You Notes

A BIG Thank You! To 16 volunteers that made Sonora's Recycle/Reuse day such a big success. On Wed. Nov. 30, 2005 the City of Sonora made a wonderful effort to help minimize landfill waste. The Keep Sonora Beautiful Committee received over 5000 pounds of recycle items from 49 people. There was a total of 85 hours actually put into this endeavor by some wonderful volunteers.

I would like to personally thank Mallory Rousselot, Susan McAlpine, and Sam Kent for all your work with this event. They were the Task Force Chairs and they each went above and beyond.

I would also like to thank: Helmy Isenhour, Julia and Ronald Hines, Linda Johnson, Max and Jimmie Howorth, Ruthie Bounds, Adrian Martinez, Lisy Quinn, Karen Threlkerd, Ron Piri, Chris Hines, Lance Castro, and Stephen Hall for all your help.

Susan Hall



Thanks to the generous donations of several individuals and families in Sutton County, the Sutton County Historical Society was recently able to complete a \$7,000 plus, project at the Cauthorn Memorial Building, better known to most as The Depot.

SCHS Secretary, JoAnn Palmer was adding the finishing touches this week to the new lamps that are reproductions of Early American lighting posts and luminaries that create an elegant atmosphere in the Depot's back yard and amphitheatre area. A buried sprinkler system has also been added, making the upkeep of the lawn easier and more efficient. Wooden benches are now located in two areas of the yard, providing a smoking area that is comfortable and convenient. JoAnn and Rick Palmer have been working diligently to improve the facilities for all to enjoy.

The Depot is available to rent for parties, meetings, weddings and much more. These new additions just add to the already existing charm of the place. To plan your next function at the Depot contact JoAnn at the Sutton County Historical Society Office, located in the Miers Home Museum, 387-5084.

Senior Center Activities

Fri. Dec. 9 - Happy Birthday Virgil Polocek
Mon. Dec. 12 - Bingo after lunch -
Wed. Dec. 14 - CVCAA meeting at Center - 5:30 p.m.


Senior Center Menu

Fri. Dec. 9 - Polish sausage, baked potato slices, green beans, roll, blushing pears, milk
Mon. Dec. 12 - Beef stew w/veggies, sweet peas, crackers, peaches, chocolate pudding, milk
Tues. Dec. 13 - Chicken fried steak w/gravy, baked potato, Italian veggies, roll, fruit, milk,
Wed. Dec. 14 - Meatloaf w/sauce, mashed potatoes, broccoli, wheat roll, cake, milk
Thurs. Dec. 15 - Fried catfish, hominy, okra & tomato gumbo, roll, apple crisp, milk


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 8 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting Chamber office @ 12:00 p.m.	December 12 Commissioners Meeting Courthouse Annex @ 9:00 a.m.
December 11 St. Ann's Guadalupe Festival	December 20 City Council Meeting @ 2:00 p.m.
December 12 School Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	December 21 Sonora I.S.D. Early Release @ 1:00 p.m. Christmas Break

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**The Community Calendar
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Letters to the Editor Policy

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Ask the Historical Society

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

NOTICE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 18, and WILL REOPEN ON JANUARY 9. CONTACT JO-ANN HERNANDEZ AT THE BANK & TRUST TO RENT THE DEPOT WHILE OFFICES ARE CLOSED.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF YOU, RICK AND I WILL BE CELEBRATING THEM IN MOBILE, ALABAMA!

Q. Do you have anything on the 1968 championship team and game?

A. Class A. State Champions on the Sonora Broncos team were Ed Lee Renfro, Israel Sanchez, Mark Jacoby, Scott Shurley, Thurston McCutchen, Richard Perez, Robert Mata, Herman Perez, Charlie Goodson, Jesso Cook, Scott Jacoby, Dick Bundy, Ted Fish, Marty Martinez, Ruben Chavez, Lupe Espinosa, Jim Elliott, Erasmo Lumberas, Barry Black, Bill Green, Monte Dillard, Kerry Joy, David Wuest, Larry Everett and Mitch Trainer. Coach Hopkins had his second win in 1968; he had the winning team in 1966.

On December 20, 1968 it was a rainy day at San Marcos but it didn't seem to stop the Sonora Broncos from keeping Poth scoreless, for the first time, in a game.

Sonora had 204 yards, 189 on the ground. Ed Lee Renfro had 118 yards in 30 carries. Kerry Joy had 58 yards. Renfro intercepted 3 passes, David Wuest 1 and Robert Mata 1.

In the first quarter Poth drove to the 15 yard line of the Bronco's and Renfro intercepted a pass and stopped their drive.

In the second quarter Poth got to the 16 yard line and Ross Poth fumbled and Erasmo Lumberas recovered the ball. Bill Green kicked a 33 yard field goal for a 3-0 end of the first half.

In the third quarter, Sonora in a 56 yard drive, got the lone touchdown of the game with a 3 yard plunge by Renfro. With 57 seconds left in the quarter the score was 9-0.

In the 4th quarter Poth was at the 29 yard line when Renfro intercepted another pass.

The game ended with Poth 0, Sonora 9. It was the first time Poth had ever been held scoreless.

The Bronco defense was paced by Renfro, Mata, Jim Elliott, Israel Sanchez, Barry Black, Ted Fish and Monte Dillard.

Ed Lee Renfro and Bill Green were named to the All-State Team. It was the third time that Renfro had been made All-State halfback. Poth who had been unbeaten until they played Sonora placed 5 players on the



Cattle are plainly long of leg and horn, short on beef. Watering the herd - Cowboys hold the R.G. Peacock herd on the Devil's River in Crockett County, Texas, about 1871. The riders are identified as Rid Corbett, Tom Casbeer and R.G. Peacock. Photo courtesy Mr. and Mrs. B.Y. Peacock.

team. Ed Lee Renfro, in his senior season, had scored 148 points, 21 touchdowns and kicked 22 extra points. He had gained 1,799 yards in 259 carries and caught 2 passes for 36 yards and had returned 10 kick offs for 210 yards. He was the top player of the 1960's teams, and some from that generation think he was the best player Sonora ever had.

Q. The John & Mildred Caution Building that you rent out for parties and weddings is also called the Depot; was it really a railroad depot; I didn't know Sonora ever was a train stop?

A. A lot of younger people don't know that Sonora was once connected to the world by rail. The founding fathers of Sonora fought for a little over 30 years to get a railroad for the town and in a little over that time it was closed and the rail and ties torn up. Most new people don't even know that the railroad was ever here. It was, and the old-timers can tell some great stories about the days when Sonora had a railroad and stock was shipped out of Sonora by rail.

"The Fort Worth Star-Telegram" reported that over 800 people were in Sonora the day the train came to town. 100 tickets, at a cost of \$2.25 for the round trip, were sold for people in Sonora to ride the first train into town from San Angelo or Eldorado. The project cost \$3,000,000, to run the Santa Fe rails from San Angelo to Sonora.

A special train from San Angelo brought 500 visitors to this city at 10:30 on the morning of July 1, 1931. On the train were many Sonorans who had the distinction of boarding the inaugural train that found its way over a ribbon

of steel into virgin territory. Immediately after Pat M. Neff, chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission and former governor of Texas, had brought the train to a halt, Mayor Roy Aldwell was introduced on the station platform by W.E. Caldwell. Mayor Aldwell briefly told of the effort that had been made for the past years to securing a railroad for this section and in a pleasing manner welcomed the visitors to Sonora.

From the station platform the multitudes gathered just west of the station, to watch E.F. VanderStucken, pioneer Sonora merchant, banker and ranchman, drive the last spike, a gold one, to seal the rails with the ties. Pat M. Neff hit the last lick that drove the spike into the timber.

Whooping cowboys, among whom were men 80 years old and those who will take the older generation's place, paraded to main Street, led by the music of the San Angelo De Molay Band.

After everyone had finished with dinner, a string of cars that were backed back to town, people were trying to find their way to the park for the six races and rodeo that were held as part of the celebration.

The railroad would cut shipping costs for ranchers in the Sutton County area. Sheep or goats in a single deck car would cost 46 cents to Fort Worth market. In a double deck car, sheep, goats and calves would cost 23 cents. Local ranchers had been paying up to 25 cents a head just to get their stock to the railhead in Mertzon or San Angelo then freight charges from there on top of that. The railroad coming here was a wonderful boon to the ranching industry as 200 cars of livestock could be

loaded daily at the 4 stock pens in Sonora, some of the best pens in Texas.

The people of Sonora had collected over \$900 to insure that the town could feed a free barbecue dinner to the visitors to the town. Tables groaned with food donated by local people to help feed the crowd.

The Depot had been brought into town on a work train and assembled on site. After the railroad closed down it sat empty and forlorn. One family bought it but didn't do anything with it and finally it was bought by the Sutton County Historical and renovated into a building we now rent out for weddings, parties and meetings.

To rent the Depot call 325-387-5084 on Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings, leave a message if we are out on the grounds. From Dec. 18 - Jan 9 call JoAnn Hernandez at The Bank & Trust or stop in to see her there and get a look at the beautiful Christmas tree they have put up in the main lobby area. JoAnn will have all the rental contracts and handle the rentals, inspections and return of deposits while I am away for the holidays.

Everyone please remember that Rose Mary Whitehead Jones, our president, is collecting information on the history of horse racing and people involved in it in our area. She needs your help so no one will be left out.

Again all of us at the Sutton County Historical Society wish you all a Happy Haunnakah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Hope you enjoy the columns while Rick and I are gone and the photographs we will run in the hopes someone might be able to recognize the people and give "The Devil's River News" staff their names. See you all in 2006!


Laura & Aaron
Abilez
wish to announce
the arrival of their son
Kyle Lee
November 11, 2005
6 lbs. 11 oz.

Maternal grandparents: Larry & Kay Word
Great-grandparents: Clyde & Mary Word and Hub & Theresa Parker
Paternal grandparents: Dewayne & Dorthy Abilez
Great grandparents: Ronnie & Francis Davis and Andy & Elida Abilez

Happy Birthday
Elsa Castilleja

We Love You, Mom!

From Ab your kids!



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Lawmakers focus on tax relief following court's ruling

State Capital Highlights

Texas Press Association

By Ed Sterling
AUSTIN - Six months are not much compared to the decades state lawmakers, courts and governors have already spent on solving or avoiding solving the riddle of school finance and property tax reform. Nevertheless, June 1 is the Texas Supreme Court-imposed deadline for the Legislature to retool the tax system, and it isn't that far away. Thanksgiving week, the high court upheld a lower court ruling that said the way hundreds of school districts are forced to set local property taxes at the cap of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation violates the state constitution by imposing, in effect, a statewide property tax. Weeks earlier, Gov. Rick Perry named a tax reform commission composed mostly of business people to study taxes, with former state Comptroller John Sharp as chair.

And, after the high court spoke, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst named his own committee of senators to look for a solution.

House Speaker Tom Craddick, on the other hand, said he would not follow suit and appoint a similar committee, indicating that the Perry-Sharp effort will be enough to get the job done.

Perry, in sync with the high court, now says more money for education is not the answer. But to teachers and advocates for schoolchildren, no tax solution

will be complete without addressing teacher pay and the need for more and better-equipped classrooms.

Regardless, the focus now shifts away from finding more money for teachers and classroom instruction and zeroes in on property tax relief. Oddly, during this year's 79th Legislature (January through May) and the two 30-day special sessions that followed, there was general agreement at the Capitol that school finance could not be fixed without also fixing the state tax system.

The governor himself said he wanted a solution that would "give schoolchildren and teachers the resources they deserve and need." Memo arouses Democrats. On Dec. 2, a U.S. Department of Justice office memorandum surfaced in the Washington Post and stirred up Democrats who opposed the congressional redistricting plan passed by the Texas Legislature in 2003.

The memo reveals that the plan pushed by then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay did not win the universal approval of the staff of the Department of Justice - then run by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

More than a half-dozen staff members said the plan violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by under-representing minorities and rural voters.

But the plan was approved anyway, and in 2004, the Republican Party picked up six seats in the U.S. House.

The U.S. Supreme Court may hear arguments on the subject. Another hat in the ring? Add

former Texas Supreme Court justice Bob Gammage of Llano to the list of possible candidates for governor.

Gammage could join fellow Democrats Chris Bell of Houston and Felix Alvarado of Fort Worth in the quest.

Laredo oil and gas tycoon Tony Sanchez, who ran against Republican Gov. Rick Perry four years ago, also is pondering the idea of running. On the Republican side, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn will challenge Perry in the GOP primary come March. In the latest spat between incumbent Perry and challenger Strayhorn, their camps are accusing each other of using state office equipment to send out campaign information.

And last but not least, there is Kinky Friedman, the Hill Country singer, writer and dog and cat rescuer who plans to run as an independent after the partisan primaries in March.

Laney to leave Legislature
Cotton-farming State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, announced that he won't run for reelection.

Laney is tied for third on the House seniority list, having begun his service in 1973.

Only Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, and Craddick have served longer. Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, is tied for third.

Laney was Craddick's predecessor as speaker, having served in that high post in the 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 sessions.



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Happy Birthday

December 8
 Louie Castro, Sr., Quincy Crain,
 Austin Slaugh, Cameron Sims,
 Bobby Mogford, Mike Fay,
 Whitney Hooper

December 9
 Chris Flores, Amber Vasquez,
 Carrie Smith, Rose Hooper,
 Chris Lopez

December 10
 Melanie Smith, Tyler
 Edmondson, Sabrina Surber,
 Elizant Flores, Gilbert Vara,
 Jr., Amy Hernandez, Tommie
 Sanchez, Amberlie Kinder,
 Kristen Hardgrave, David
 Lopez

December 11
 Deyanira Alvizo, Genaro Perez
 III, J.R. Perez, Carl Weaver, Sam
 Taylor

December 12
 Giovanni Gamez, Kassandra
 Tyler, Dylan Taylor, Jared
 Hinsley, Arron Hinsley, Tessa
 Joy, Lupe Buitron, Richard
 Bernal, Guadalupe Marquart,
 Mary Mauldin

December 13
 Charlotte Luna, Michael Harris,
 Bobby Dickenson, Dianne
 Luckie, T.J. Thorp, Ginger
 Everett, Scottie Moore, Laura
 Bedwell, Andres Chavez, Valerie
 Lopez

December 14
 Billie Renfro, Randy Mabry,
 Lisa Price, Tim Roberts, Shelby
 Randolph

Main Street Traffic

Travel through time with Santa
FHS Main street Program shares special collection

Joy Galbreath has caught the holiday spirit and has been gracious enough to share her Duncan Royale Santas Collectors Editions of 1983, which is now on display at The Bank & Trust during the month of December. The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program would like to invite everyone to visit the Santa Claus collection during banking hours, and experience the magic of Christmas past and the history of Santa's progression through time.

The Duncan Royale Collection Edition of 1983 includes figurines of Santa that each tell their own tale of the times. With Christmas just around the corner, we thought it would be fun to share the tales of Father Christmas that are depicted by some of the figures on display, including:

The Medieval Santa - Usually, St. Nicholas' beard had been pictured as dark. The beard did not change to white until after 1300 A. D. Since Christianity was still spreading, the legends of St. Nicholas were being interwoven with various pagan traditions and lore. He was visualized as a presence with a long white beard, riding a horse in the sky. The ability to fly eventually took hold. Until then however, St. Nicholas was generally an earth-bound gypsy wandering from house to house with his gifts and his band of gnomes.

Russian Saint Nicholas: It was 987 A.D. when St. Nicholas' memory first made news in Russia. Duke Vladimir wished to marry Princess Anna of Byzantium, but the Duke had to publicly accept Christianity in order to win Anna's hand. He returned to Russia from Byzantium with a portrait of Saint Nicholas and also brought with him the various legends surrounding the life of Saint Nicholas. The Russian depiction of Saint Nicholas is generally that of a bearded man, an image which is certainly based on the portrait Duke Vladimir brought from Byzantium.

Dedt Moroz Father Ice: An ancient Russian bedtime story, which was often told to children to frighten them into being good, has a cast of characters headed by Dedt Moroz. . . Father Ice.

According to the story, a Siberian woman had a kindhearted stepdaughter and a wicked natural daughter. The good girl was always treated more harshly by her step-mother. One day, in a fit of rage, the step-mother threw the girl out into the cold. Dedt Moroz appeared on his sleigh and, impressed by her kindness "Father Ice" rewarded her with diamonds. Hearing of this, the step-mother put her own natural daughter into the snow. The wicked young girl galled Father Ice by throwing a tantrum. Father Ice punished the little brat by turning her into a pillar of ice. This story gradually became associated with Christmas due to the appearance of Dedt Moroz in drawings. His long, white beard and sleigh gave a feeling of Christmas.

Wassailing Santa is England's "Father Christmas": "Wassailing" is an old English custom similar to proposing a toast to one's health. English carolers would carry a large bowl from house to house, hoping their neighbors would fill it with drink. As time passed, the drink associated with the wassail bowl would be hot, spiced ale with toasted apples floating on the surface. Although this custom began in the pre-Christian era, the Church passively adopted it as a means of spreading Christmas good will. By not objecting to the pagan winter custom, the Church effectively gave its blessing and Wassailing became a Christmas tradition.

Kris Kringle Figure: The Dutch, who had long held the notion that St. Nicholas and his devilish slave, Black Peter, bounded from house to house rewarding good children and punishing naughty ones, gradually adopted what they believed to be a more religious view. The Dutch-German protestant reform movement brought with it the idea that the Christchild should be the standard bearer for Christmas. The German word for Christchild, "Christkindl" eventually became Kris Kringle. The transformation from Christkindl to Kris Kringle did not take many generations, especially with intermarriage between the Pennsylvania Dutch and the English settlers in the New World. Thus, despite the intentions of the Protestant reform movement, the original meaning of the word has faded. Once thought to be the Christchild's chief helper, the image of Kris Kringle has reverted back to an image of St. Nicholas. Kris Kringle is still popular as the Santa Claus of some Pennsylvania Dutch Home Pages today. He carries a tiny Christmas tree and enters the house through a window left open. When he has finished decorating the tree and placing the presents, he rings a bell allowing the household to know of his departure.

The Victorian Santa: In England, Santa Claus was a composite, embodying the elements and spirit of Christmas as well as the spirit of several pre-Christian legends. The Victorian English still generally referred to the jolly old elf as "Father Christmas". However, he owes many of his roots to the ancient Roman gods such as Saturn who was thought to bring food, wine and good fortune to the Roman Empire each year, and the Norse gods such as Odin who was known to roam the skies on a chariot with his long white beard flowing. Prior to the 1800s, Father Christmas was portrayed in mammoth proportions, a giant in a fur-lined robe and mistletoe headdress. Later, with some help from Clement Moore's illustrated edition of "A Visit from St. Nicholas" in 1848, Santa began to evolve toward the image we recognize today. Whereas the Americans preferred to give Santa a rougher, pioneer image in the mid-nineteenth century, the English opted for a more dignified look with clay pipe and elegant costuming.

American Pioneer Santa: From the day Columbus arrived in the West Indies, St. Nicholas had been a factor in the New World. As luck would have it, Columbus arrived on St. Nicholas Day of 1492 A.D. and named his new found port "St. Nicholas". When the settlers arrived it was not long before the youngsters insisted that there be a yearly visit from St. Nicholas in this new land just as in the Old World. The early American description of Santa Claus can be found in the writings of author-humorist Washington Irving. He pointed out in 1809 that the image St. Nicholas had in America was not that of a robed Bishop, but rather a Dutch-attired gentleman with a long pipe and a broad-brimmed hat. Thirteen years later came the timeless poem by Clement C. Moore entitled "A Visit from St. Nicholas" which carried the classic description of Santa Claus. Meanwhile, as many new Americans were moving westward, some descriptions of Santa carried a contemporary look. . . a buckskin dad pioneer who could pass for an elderly Daniel Boone.



Father Time, Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas; whatever his name if you don't believe, you don't receive. Get to know Santa in a new way with the Duncan Royale Santa Collection at The Bank & Trust.

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Civic War Santa: As war raged between the states in the 1860s, one of the few concepts the North and the South probably agreed upon was the concept of Santa Claus. To both sides, Santa Claus was second only to baby Jesus, the personification of Christmas itself, as a means of expressing the spirit of the holiday season. He was as popular in the North as General Grant and as popular in the South as General Lee. Neither side was above using the jolly old elf as propaganda material. In fact, the Harpers Weekly drawings by Thomas Nast were published during this era. Many of these drawings had a pro-Union flavor, portraying Santa Claus as the benefactor of the Union soldier. To this end, even President Lincoln made the observation that Nast, through his use of the Santa character had become the North's "best recruiting sergeant". (The Nast Santa).

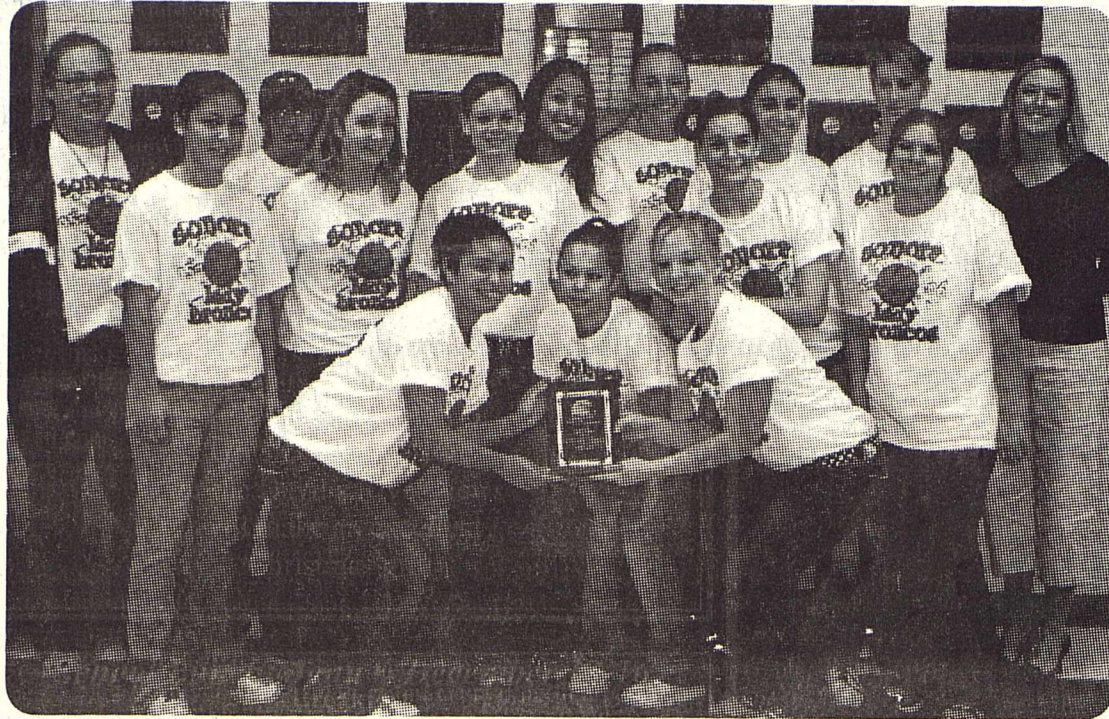
The Soda Pop Santa: An added touch to the image of Santa Claus was created in the 1920s, during prohibition. This novelty came, not from religion or from poetic inspiration, but from the world of advertising. The advancement of color reproduction allowed Santa to step from the old black and white into the brilliant world of color. Now his red suit could really shine and his rosy cheeks could really glow. During the Christmas season his image was full blown on billboards across the nation. The famous soft drink ad created by Haddon Sundblom not only added color but size. Gone, but not, entirely forgotten was the "jolly old elf" of yesterday. He now has larger proportions to match the baritone of his "HO HO HO".

Lady Broncos JVA finish second in Eldorado Tour-

submitted

The Lady Bronco JVA team took second place in the Eldorado tournament over the weekend of Dec 1, 2 and 3. The girls worked really hard and went undefeated until the championship game against San Angelo Central's Sophomore team.

Front row: Whitney Perez, Loren Isenhour, and Heather Hughes **Middle Row:** Azeneth Villanueva, Monica Traylor, Jessica Snyder, Kaci Chavarria, and Danielle Castro **Back Row:** Kari Nicholas, Mandy Brister, Christina Martinez, Steely Ingham, Emily Earwood, Savannah Leonard, and Coach Lauren Tarvin.



Sonora High School All A Honor Roll

Freshmen - Kaitlyn Henderson, John Duke Hudson, Savannah Leonard, Maria Moreno, Steven Pacheco, Pecos Roberts, Ricardo Rodriguez

Sophomores: J.T. Downing, Emily Earwood, Edward Garcia, Kayla Garcia, Heather Hughes, Kimble Luna, Laura Martin, Chelsea Martinez, Colton Moore, Kari Nicholas, Marcus Perez, Danielle Rodriguez, Felicia Rodriguez, Elbe Samaniego, Lauran Schaefer, Heather Smith

Juniors: Amanda Berry, Alex Kenney, Steven Lozano, Stacy Sanchez

Seniors: Stever Barthelemy, Swade Draper, Embre Smith, Nash Traylor

7th Grade Colts Making a Statement

submitted by Coach Boxell

The boy's basketball team hosted the Mason Punchers on Monday December 5 at the middle school gym. The Colts hoping to keep their record unblemished, took a tie ball game into the second quarter and turned it into a 20-8 halftime lead. Ethan Morriss, who led the team in scoring, found all 10 of his points in the second quarter. A.J. Ozuna, Osbaldo Castaneda and Refugio Sanchez each added 2 points for a combined 16 point second quarter. Coming out of halftime with momentum on their side, the Colts added another 10 points in the third quarter to bring the score to Sonora 30, Mason 11. The Colts were still not finished with the Punchers as Osbaldo Castaneda added 4 more points and William Otwell put in 2 of his total 8 points in the fourth quarter. When the final buzzer sounded, the Colts remained unbeaten by defeating Mason 36-15. The victory was a team effort with great defense played by Shane Patlan, Rigoberto Rivera and Preston Lopez. Individual scoring statistics for the Colts ended as followed, Ethan Morriss 10, William Otwell 8, Colyer Dermody and Osbaldo Castaneda each had 6, Refugio Sanchez added 4 and A.J. Ozuna contributed 2 points. Next week the Colts travel to Wall to take on the Hawks to play their last game before the holiday break.

Hale takes 5th at USAT Nationals

The United States Triathlon Association, USAT, held their National Off-Road Duathlon Championship the second to last weekend in October.

Former SHS and ASU graduate, William Davis Hale, took fifth overall finishing in 1:20:17 for the final race of the 2005 racing season. The National Off-Road Duathlon Championship was held at Piney Hills State Park in Ruston, Louisiana and consisted of a 2.5 mile trail run/10 mile mountain bike/2.5 mile trail run. Athletes from all over the nation made the trek to Ruston for this USAT sanctioned event.

The United States Triathlon Association has over 59,000 members nationwide and almost 9,000 in the South-Midwest region. The SMW region consists of members from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Hale competed in 8 duathlons this past year finishing the season in the top 25 overall rankings among athletes in the SMW region. This ranking was accompanied with a 2nd overall ranking in the four race duathlon series given by the Tri-OKC club in Oklahoma. Because of his strong season, Hale will be ranked overall in the USAT national rankings to be finalized at the end of this year.

The sport of duathlon is popular among runners and cyclist because the swim portion is replaced by an additional run. Road and off-road races are held throughout the nation beginning early spring and finishing in the fall. Davis and his wife Heather live in Stillwater, Oklahoma while attending the Masters/Doctoral program at Oklahoma State University.

8th Grade colts bust out against Punchers

submitted by Coach Dempsey

The 8th grade Colts came out of the chute strong, Monday, December 5, scoring 21 in the first period against the Mason Punchers.

The pressure defense set the tone for the whole game. The first quarter was led by Tyler Creek with 6 pts., Will Anderson 4 pts., Cash Jennings putting in 3 pts., Caleb Gonzales with 2, Paul Faz 2, Dustin Neff 2, and A. K. Williams 2 pts. to finish out the period.

In the second quarter, A. K. Williams came off the bench relaxed and stuck in 12 pts. Will Anderson and Cash Jennings each had 2 pts. The second half the Sonora boys tried their half-court trap for the first time and this slowed the game down, with the Colts scoring 13 for the quarter.

A. K. hit 6, while Tyler had 3, Caleb 2 and, Manny Parades 2.

The Colts took off all the presses in the 4th quarter and only scored 5 pts. for the period, A.K. had 2 pts., Dustin 2, and Manny 1.

The boys won the game 55-23, but must have a great week of practice to get ready for the Wall Hawks, next Monday in Wall.

Thanks again for your great team work and attitude, it has paid off so far with a 4-0 record.

Scoring: A.K. Williams 20, Tyler Creek 9, Will Anderson 6, Cash Jennings 5, Caleb Gonzales 4, Dustin Neff 4, Manny Parades 3, and Paul Faz 2.

7th grade Lady Colts punch out Mason

The 7th grade Lady Colts took on the Mason Lady Punchers on Monday, Dec. 5 in Mason. The Sonora girls outplayed their opponents, winning 24 to 14.

Scoring for the Lady Colts were: Maci Zuniga - 20; Morgan Smith - 2; Chelby Ramos - 2

Stroud prepares for Deployment

Staff Sargent Jennifer Stroud will be preparing for deployment for Garcia Diego on the 27th of December, 2005. Her tour will again take her to Garcia Deigo for approximately 6 months.

Jennifer was recently promoted to Staff Sargent on November 1st of this year. She graduated from a very hectic training for supervisory skills on October 28, and was given a dinner and awarded her medal on November 1st along with her 5th stripe.

Jennifer re-enlisted in the Airforce for another term of 4 years on April 2, 2004 and plans yet another 4 years when her enlistment is up in 2008. She states the military has taught her discipline and responsibility and is very thankful she chose this career.

Both Jennifer and her Mom Barbara are thankful for their very good friend Debbie Durden who has accepted the role of "MOM" for Stevie Lynn while Jennifer is overseas. Debbie has 3 children of her own and is a stay at home Mom. They both feel it's in Stevie's best interest to be around a family environment and socially interacted with other children without the high cost of daycare. They both feel Debbie could give better care and use the extra income herself. Debbie and Stevie have a bonded relationship as Stevie has been staying with Debbie from time to time in preparation for this move.

Barbara is not fully able to give the time and care needed for her granddaughter due to her hectic work schedule with Sweetwater Steel Company in Early, TX. However, Barbara and her husband Ed have plans to pick Stevie up from time to time on weekends and take her to their home on Lake Brownwood for visitation. Stevie is 3 years old and enjoys being at her grandmother's to feed ducks and watch the deer.

Jennifer recently made a

visit to Sonora to attend a special ceremony for a young man in Sonora killed in Iraq. Accompanying her was a very special friend Nico Jorge from Paris, France. While in Sonora, she took him to the Sonora Caverns for a tour, and gave him a tour of the town where she grew up. Jennifer states she was glad she was raised in Sonora, people in a small town are more pleasant and family like than people in larger cities. This is so true.

If you would like to contact Jennifer before her deployment she will be at her Mom's home for Christmas and you can mail cards and letters to Jennifer Stroud, C/O Barbara Stewart PO Box 431 Brownwood, TX 76804-0431.

Joe Brown's new book "Buskin" which may be purchased at Ol' Sonora Trading Co. Gifts Galore & More or the Devil's River News will make an excellent Christmas gift!

School Lunch Menu • December 12-16

Breakfast

Mon.-Pancakes w/syrup, asst. juice
 Tues.- Toast & ham, asst. juice
 Wed.- Cinnamon roll, asst. juice
 Thurs.-Scrambled eggs, toast, asst. juice
 Fri.- Pop Tart, asst. juice

Milk and cereal offered with all breakfasts.

Lunch

Mon.- Corn dog/mustard, baked beans, celery sticks, brownie
 Tues.- Baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed vegetables, pudding, biscuits
 Wed.- Beef nachos, pinto beans, tossed salad, cookie
 Thurs.- Hot ham & cheese sandwich, chicken noodle soup, carrot sticks, apple half
 Fri.- Chili dog/hot dog, pinto beans, tator tots, mixed fruit

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President Approves Funding for West Texas
Rep. Henry Bonilla Plays Crucial Role

by Congressman Henry Bonilla
 WASHINGTON, D.C. - The final numbers are in: The West Texas agriculture industry will receive more than \$21.5 million in federal funding for the 2006 fiscal year. This news comes after President George W. Bush officially approved the Agriculture spending legislation.

"Sheep and goat ranching is a way of life in Texas. The region relies heavily on the sheep and goat industry, which is why today's funding announcement will make such a tremendous impact on our area. I'm thankful to Congressman Bonilla for his steady support of Texas and the work he has done to secure this funding," said Glen Fisher, American Sheep Institute Secretary-Treasurer and Sonora resident.

Using his role as Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Bonilla was able to secure \$21.5 million for projects in West Texas. "I've always said that the Agriculture Subcommittee touches lives on a daily basis. This is living proof that what we do makes a difference for the people of Texas," said Chairman Bonilla.

Bonilla was able to secure \$18.6 million in funding for scrapie eradication. With today's funding, the U.S. hopes to be declared scrapie-free by 2017. Becoming scrapie-free will have a significant positive economic impact to the livestock, meat and feed industries.

Bonilla also secured \$1.25 million in funding for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; \$150,000 in funding for dairy and meat goat research; and \$300,000 in funding for wool research. Bonilla hopes this funding for sheep research will increase the profitability of the sheep, goat and camelid industries in the United States and Texas.

Additionally, Bonilla has secured \$1 million in funding to correct degradation of rangelands. Rangelands cover 70 percent of the land surface in the southwestern United States. Today's funding will allow the Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration to integrate new information technologies to meet the targeted, emerging and associated natural resources.

Bonilla today announced that he has secured \$2.4 million for the West Texas Telecommunications Project. This funding will support increased trials and use of new technologies by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in West Texas. Today's funding announcement brings the total funding to \$9.3 million over the last four years.

"This is always an exciting time of year. I've dedicated several months to securing funding for my district. But my job is never complete until the president has signed the legislation and made the funding law," said Bonilla. "This is a great day for the people of West Texas and I'm proud to make this terrific announcement."

Bonilla has represented the people of West Texas since his first election to Congress in 1992. Since then he has worked hard to provide his constituents with the funding necessary to improve their lives and work.

Governor Orders Response to Texas Wildfires

AUSTIN - Responding to the outbreak of wildfires across the state, Gov. Rick Perry has deployed fire fighters, airpower and heavy equipment to affected areas and directed the Governor's Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Forest Service to coordinate fire suppression activities to meet this threat.

"I urge all Texans to use extreme care in outdoor activities, to be aware of burn bans in their counties, and to take precautions to protect their homes and property," Perry said. "Texans living in rural communities or in suburbs bordering rural areas should

remain alert to the threat of wildfires."

Texas Forest Service fire fighters have responded to 74 fires burning across more than 17,000 acres since Nov. 23. Of those, 10 are large fires affecting nearly 11,000 acres.

Wildfires currently are burning in Eastland, Montague, Parker, Wichita, Wilbarger and Wise counties.

The governor has authorized deployment of the following resources: • Three UH 60 Blackhawk helicopters and one CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the Texas Army National Guard.

• 129 personnel from the Texas Forest Service.

• Heavy equipment from the Texas Department of Transportation.

In addition, the governor has requested two air tactical fixed wing aircraft, two medium helicopters and two single engine air tankers from the U.S. Forest Service to assist in the state's coordinated fire response.

Persistent drought conditions since spring have left many counties vulnerable to fire. Burn bans-which are prohibitions against all outdoor burning--have been instituted in 120 counties. High winds, warm temperatures and unseasonably dry weather have caused severe wild fire danger in Northeast, North and Central Texas.

Oil & Agribusiness

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 Dominion; 8400' Edwin S Mayer Jr #28, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 7600' Shurley RR - 1E - #4X, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 9200' Duke Wilson #183 - 2, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8950' Mayer - 21 - #14, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8950' Mayer - 20A - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8430' Edwin S Hill - Mayer - S - #5, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8300' Mayer Ranch - E - #6, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8250' Mayer Ranch - AA - #2504, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7550' Shurley RR - 1F - #6X, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 7400' Fawcett - 130 - #12, Patterson Drilling.
 New KCS Resources; 7000' Carta - 114 - #12, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6950' Canyon Ranch #20 74S, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6100' Cusenbary - 59 - #3, Patterson Drilling.
 New Dominion; 6050' Cusenbary - 59 - #5, Patterson Drilling.
- Crockett**
 Orbit Crude, Inc.; 9000' Childress #2102, Patterson Drilling.
 Bluegrass Energy; 7000' Simpson Canyon - 2044 - Unit #1, Adobe Drilling.
 Momentum Energy; 1150' Chambers County - 4 - #1, Hinz Drilling.
 New Henry Petroleum; 10800' University - 6 - Paige - 27 - #1, Big Dog Drilling.
 New Harrison Interests; 9800' RB McMullan #1 Patterson Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Chandler #2501, Nabors Drilling.
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Addie Clayton #908, Nabors Drilling.
 New Encore Operating; 9000' JL Henderson Jr - B - #704, Patterson Drilling.
 New FIML Natural Res; 5100' Rowland #189A, Patterson Drilling.
 New EOG; 6500' Shannon Hospital - 2 - #4, Adobe Drilling.
- Schleicher**
 New Approach Operating; 9000' Rousselot #1321, Nabors Drilling.
 New Approach; 9000' Rousselot #1302, Nabors Drilling.
 New Dominion; 8750' Powell - 23 - #4, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 8750' Jeffers - 28B - #1, Patterson Drilling.
 New Discovery Operating; 7100' Ruth - C - #2, Heart Land Drilling.
- Terrell**
 ConocoPhillips; 12000' Creek Ranch - 15 - #3, Patterson UTI.
 BP America Prod; 16000' Banner Estate #28 H, Helmerich & Payne.
 Encana O&G; 11300' ACU - 48 - #8, Nabors Drilling.
 J. Cleo Thompson; 10300' Ingham - 22 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
- Edwards**
 Newfield; 10000' Five - C - Ranch #5801, Patterson Drilling.
 Dominion; 7800' Canyon Ranch #1204E, Patterson Drilling.
- Val Verde**
 Devon; 16000' Jarrett - Farmer - 4 - #1, Nabors Drilling.
 Newfield Exploration; 16000' Rio Diablo #1, Patterson Drilling.
 Gruy Petroleum; 15500' Phillip Arledge #8, Grey Wolf Drilling.

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



Don't Forget Your Pets During Winter

submitted by **Pascual Hernandez**
 Sutton County Extension Agent-Ag

Though our winters are generally mild, it has been cold lately and more cold weather is surely

in store for us. These cold spells during winter can pose special risks to pets. As such, remember to keep outdoor pets in a warm dry area.

If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, it must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in its body heat. You might even need to elevate your pet's bed off the floor and cover with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway can be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

Staying warm means that the body will use extra calories so adjust your pet's diet accordingly when the temperatures drop. It becomes more important if you have an active or working dog. Increase its food supply, particularly protein. Also, your dog may be more sensitive to cold due to age, illness, or breed type. Short-haired breeds are obviously more affected by cold.

Cats often nap on warm car engines, so knock on the hood or tap the horn and then wait a few minutes before starting the car. Pets like the smell and taste of anti-freeze but even a small amount can kill them so watch for leaks. If the weather becomes severe it might be a good idea to bring your pet inside.

Also remember that many plants - including Christmas rose, holly, mistletoe, philodendron and dieffenbachia - are toxic to pets. Keep them out of your pet's reach.

Our pets provide us with companionship and affection, so don't forget to keep them as comfortable as possible this winter.

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Crude Oil
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SMELL
 A distinctive "rotten egg" odor added to make odorless natural gas detectable

LISTEN
 An unusual hissing, roaring or blowing sound near gas lines or appliances

LOOK
 Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants

LEAVE
 The area immediately--do not smoke, use a cell phone, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks

Although natural gas leaks are rare, learn to recognize the signs. If you suspect a natural gas leak, play it safe: call Atmos Energy at 1-800-817-8090 from a safe distance.

ATMOS energy.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 1-800-817-8090. For more information on gas safety, visit atmosenergy.com.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your Non-Commercial classified ad in The Devil's River News, Eldorado Success, Ozona Stockman, Big Lake Wildcat and Iraan News for one low, low price. Call today for details!

- Sonora
- Eldorado
- Ozona
- Big Lake
- Iraan

387-2507

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Employment

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED!

Must have current Class A CDL and a good driving record. Experience driving transports, vacuum trucks, operation pump trucks & winch truck. Monthly performance & safety bonuses. Health insurance, annual profit sharing, driver's days off schedule. Please apply in person at **Niblett's Oil-field Service, Inc.** Hwy 277 South, Eldorado. No phone calls please.

Comfort Inn is now hiring house-keeping and front desk clerks. Apply in person @ 311 N. Hwy 277.

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

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

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 432-336-9339 or contact the Fort Stockton Office at 432-336-7821.

Hiring Commercial Drivers: Current Class A CDL w/Haz Mat/Tanker. Want great pay and cash incentives? No 24-hour call. Established Company looking to hire drivers. All applicants must pass drug/alcohol test. Please call Justin (432) 339-0540 or 800-523-5566 ext. 140.

Make up to \$2,500.00 in 13 days. Looking for enthusiastic adult to manage a fireworks stand outside Sonora, December 20th thru January 1st. No investment required. Phone 10 a.m. thru 5 p.m. for more information. 830-429-3808 / 800-364-0136.

Experienced Rig Up Truck Drivers Needed and Experienced, Alert Rig Up Truck Swampers Needed ASAP. Service company needs conscientious road truck and winch truck operators. Must have current CDL, clean driving record, and experience in rig moving/oilfield equipment hauling. Offers most competitive pay in the area, commensurate with experience. Drug free and dependable persons call for interview 325-387-5220. All responses confidential.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN NEEDED. Will train qualified applicant for Certification. For interview, pick up application at **Everett's Pharmacy, 417 Hwy 277 North, Sonora.**

The Standard Times is seeking a **mature individual to deliver newspapers in Sonora.** Make approximately \$1400.00/month working early morning hours. Plus \$400.00/months gas allowance. Call 1-800-588-1884, X 8291

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.

Help Wanted: Full time, dependable service technician needed in the Sonora area. Will train. Must be 18 years of age with a current Texas drivers license. Call 325-387-3154 for more information.

Sonora ISD is accepting applications for two custodial positions. One position will require some heavy lifting. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled and may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 807 S. Concho. EOE

Looking for someone to ride with to Ozona on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Early mornings and afternoons if possible. Will share expenses. Call 387-2672.

Lubrication Services, LP Driver Needed

Minimum Qualifications: CDL with Hazmat endorsement High School Diploma or GED Great Benefits! 401K, Medical, Dental, Vision, Prescription, paid Vacation and much more. Come join a winning team. Drivers interested should fax their resumes to (325) 387-5762. For additional information you can call (325) 387-2654. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Needed sales/manager with 5-10 years experience in wireline industry. Fax resume to 432-550-0092.

Sooner Plumbing is now hiring. Experience help preferred. Call 387-5656.

Sonora ISD is accepting applications for a **Custodian in Food Service.** Work hours are 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. school days only and the position does require heavy lifting. Contact Food Service Supervisor Dora Gonzales for further information at 387-5760. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 807 S. Concho. EOE

Sonora Middle School is accepting applications for the following teaching positions:

- (1) 8th Grade Math/Pre-algebra, and Algebra
 - (2) Special Education with emphasis in Language Arts
 - (3) 8th Grade Language Arts
- Applicants should be Texas certified and Highly Qualified. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 325-387-2545 or Sonora Middle School Principal John Berry at 325-387-3023. EOE

For Sale

For Sale: 2003 Tahoe LT, 59,000 miles. Call 226-0432.

14 x 70 mobile home for sale or rent. Call 432-770-3497.

Motorcycle for sale: 2000 Valkyrie V-6, 33,000 miles. Can see at <http://web.sccn2.net/bike>. Asking \$7,500.00. Call 650-9553.

Commercial Property for Sale: 1100 Orient St., Eldorado. 5500 sq. ft. - office and warehouse on 1.43-acre caliche lot. Asking \$196,000. Call 325-853-2711.

2004 Chevy Duramax LS, 4-door, 4WD, Allison transmission, 36,000 miles, excellent condition, \$28,900.00. Call 830-719-0286.

9 ft. artificial Douglas Fir Christmas tree. Call 387-2253

For Sale: 2002 Yukon XL. Very Clean - one owner. Call 387-3072 after 5:00 p.m.

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Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to:

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Apply at:
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510 Hwy. 277 N.,
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A Drug-Free Workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Broken Arrow Ranch is buying axis, sika, fallow and blackbuck deer. Field harvest animals on your property under state inspection. Harvesting deer on area ranches for 20 years. Local references available. Call Glen 800-962-4263 or email to glen@brokenarrowranch.com.

Wanted: Ranch Property Individual looking for active, existing or former, ranching operations. Interested in keeping large property intact. No "recreational" properties. Please contact 800-340-1425, M-F 8-5 pm. or ranchinproperties@hotmail.com.

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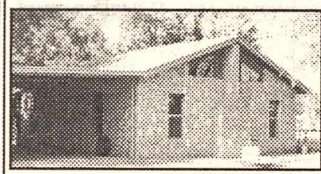


505 Glasscock • List Price \$33,000

This 2-bedroom, 1-bath stucco home is located on a large fenced lot. There are several large trees and plenty of room to expand or add on to the structure. The home features a pier & beam foundation, a composition shingle roof and a 1-car carport. This home has great potential, as well as a good investment for rental property.

Bobbie A. Smith Real Estate
(325)387-2728

For Sale



308 Cedar St.

Rock home on large tree shaded lot. Open space with AC/CH, tiled floors, tiled bath, equipped kitchen, double carport and large storage bldg. Home has vaulted ceilings and is easy care. Ideal for single person at affordable price.

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387-2200 Fax
Email: sjacoby@sonoratr.net

For Sale

304 Plum \$110,000



Fully remodeled with 2 bedrooms, 2-full baths, custom kitchen cabinets, refinished hardwood floors, new central heat/AC, fireplace, rock patio, covered porch, detached storage.
Approximately 1465 sq. ft. on approx. 85' X 200' lot.
Call Sharon Holman 325-387-7046.

Bob Caruthers
BROKER Real Estate

Lot for Sale - Menard Street
House (Fixer upper) Tom Green & 4th
Small Acre Tracts west of Sonora on Bloodworth Road
16 to 23 acres available Tracts 3,6,7, (8 & 9)
Val Verde County - Game Managed - 6600 Acres
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◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (12:00) 3:20 6:50 10:00 (PG)	◆ JUST FRIENDS (12:25) 2:45 5:20 7:55 10:25 (PG-13)
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (12:40) 4:00 7:20 10:40 (PG)	◆ IN THE MIX (11:55) 2:20 4:55 7:50 10:25 (PG-13)
◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (1:00) 4:20 7:40 10:50 (PG)	◆ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (11:50) 3:15 6:55 10:30 (PG-13)
◆ SYRIANA (1:10) 4:10 7:10 10:10 (R)	◆ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (12:10) 3:30 7:15 10:45 (PG-13)
◆ AEON FLUX (1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:20 (PG-13)	◆ WALK THE LINE (12:35) 3:45 7:05 10:15 (PG-13)
◆ YOURS, MINE, AND OURS (12:20) 2:40 5:00 7:35 9:50 (PG-13)	◆ CHICKEN LITTLE (12:15) 2:30 4:50 7:25 9:30 (G)
◆ PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (12:30) 3:40 6:45 9:40 (PG)	◆ SAW 2 (10:35) (R)

Showtimes Valid 12-09 - 12-13/2005
 () - Friday through Sunday only.



Sonora Woman's Club enjoys Christmas tunes and treats at December meeting

The Sonora Womans Club were treated to a special holiday treat at the December meeting, held at the home of Lois and James Archer. The ladies were serenaded by a men's quartet that is most famous for their rendition of "Forever Plaids" a musical comedy about a group the comes back to earth to perform 1950 hits. The men added some Christmas tunes to their sock hop schedule, making the meal a true Christmas treat. The December meeting is always a favorite of the club, with dinner theatre provided as a special treat. The guests were then treated to more surprises as names were drawn for lucky winners of the monthly fund raiser. Winners received Christmas decorations, baked goods and holiday jewelry as their prizes. The Sonora Womans Club works to raise funds for the Sutton County Library.

F.Y.I.
 The Dollar General Appreciation Night - Friday, December 9, from 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Stop and shop for 30% off toys, Christmas and select items. Special treat: The Bronco "Rowdy" has returned from his rest in the pasture for a very short time. Stop by and have your picture made with Rowdy while shopping. The Dollar General appreciates all of their customers and is looking forward to offering an evening of great shopping deals.

Now is the time for senior ads for Yearbook. They are due no later than December 20. Prices are as follows: full page - \$180; half page \$100; 1/3 page \$75; and 1/4 page \$60. A maximum of six pictures is allowed and text should be kept brief. Ad copy and payment are due no later than December 20. For more information, call the High School Office at 387-6533.

On December 10, 2005, Richard Webb, son of Mr. & Mrs. Webb, will remove his yellow ribbon at 2:00 p.m. Anyone that wishes to attend are more than welcomed.

Sonora 3rd Grader, Justice Barber, who was seriously injured in an accident last month is slowly recovering and greatly misses his friends in Sonora. The holidays can be a lonely time when you are far away from home. Let's remind Justice how special he is and how great it is to be from Sutton County by showering him with letters, cards and notes of encouragement. You can write Justice at: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children; Attn: Justice Barber, Room 330; 2222 Welborn Street; Dallas, Texas 75219

The Sonora Ministerial Alliance is preparing for the Annual Christmas Food Basket program in Sonora. One hundred baskets of food will be packed and distributed to local families in need of assistance during the Christmas season. Anyone who would like to receive a food basket this Christmas may request one by calling the office of Adelita Alvarez, Justice of the Peace, 387-3322, or Rev. Lewis Allen, 387-2616. Contributions to the Food Basket Program may be made out to The Ministerial Alliance and mailed to Box 1015. Donations of canned goods or non-perishable items will be collected soon by Sonora's Cub Scouts; or may be taken to any of the churches in the Ministerial Alliance by December 14. Food baskets will be packed by members of Sonora's church youth groups at the First Methodist Church at 6:00 pm, December 14. The bulk of the food baskets will be delivered on Saturday morning, December 17, by high school aged volunteers from the churches. Annual St. Ann Catholic Church Guadalupe Festival, Sunday, December 11, 2005; Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the Church Hall; music, food, game booths, silent auction, arts & crafts and more. For more information contact Jo Ann Hernandez, Belia Solis, Emily Castro, Elia Longoria or Terrie Alvarado.

STORYTIME...come and join us every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. for Storytime at the Library for children 3 to 5 years of age. Stories are read, related crafts, songs and fingerplays... for more information call 387-2111.

Keep your holidays safe and bright with tips for a safe season

HOUSTON (December 5, 2005) - According to the U.S. Fire Administration, each year roughly 156,000 fires occur during the holiday season claiming nearly 630 lives, injuring 2,600 individuals and causing over \$930 million in damage. While the number of occurrences may seem astounding, what's more amazing is that most of these fires could have been prevented by following some simple safety measures.

With the holidays fast approaching, WTU Retail Energy would like to help ensure that this season is spent celebrating with friends and loved ones by providing these quick holiday safety tips for the home.

Appliances
 Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in the home are considered one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. All smoke alarms should be tested once a month and their batteries replaced annually.

Keep newspapers, blankets and all other flammable material away from floor heaters, fire places and other heating sources.

Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

That time of year is here, when homes emanate with the soft glow of Christmas lighting, and through windows lights twinkle on the branches of family

Christmas trees. Neighborhoods are lit with a festive glimmer to brighten up the long, dreary winter!

Before beginning your own design of outdoor lighting, it is important to know the basics on how to hang outdoor Christmas lights. Many people have made this process an annual tradition, and others are trying it out for the first time. No matter what situation you are in this winter, credible information is always important to keep in mind!

These tips have been compiled by electrical companies, lighting manufacturers and experienced homeowners alike--people who know the ramifications of not knowing how to hang outdoor Christmas lights. While your children dream of a white Christmas, you can make the effort to ensure they at least have a safe Christmas!

Always use specified "outdoor lighting" for outdoor decorating. Indoor lights are not made to withstand the elements.

Use insulated staples or light hooks to hang outdoor Christmas lights. Nails and tacks can damage the cord insulation.

Hang bulbs facing downward to keep moisture out of the sockets.

Only use U/L approved lights. (Underwriter's Laboratory)

Each year before you hang the lights outside, check for

frayed or exposed wiring, broken bulbs or sockets and loose connections.

Never overload extension cords or outlets.

Use outdoor electric outlets for outdoor Christmas lights. Do not run a cord from inside the house.

A timer can help you save electricity and also keep the bulbs from getting too hot from consistent use.

If you unplug the lights yourself, always pull the plug itself and not the cord.

Before climbing onto a ladder to hang outdoor Christmas lights, check for hazards overhead such as power lines, phone or cable lines, or tree branches. Make sure all the rungs on your ladder are secure. The feet of the ladders should be on solid, even ground. It helps to have another person hold onto the ladder and keep it steady.

Do not use inside extension cords for outdoor use. Use only 3 prong UL approved outdoor extension cords. And keep these cords away from places where water can pool.

The holidays are a time of celebration, and preventing electrical accidents from occurring can keep families safe and holidays happy.

Let's Remember

Last month on a cool windy day my brother and I sat together on a bench during a military funeral at a national cemetery and listened as they talked about my dad and his service to and for this country. He spent a good portion of his life in the military. He was a decorated war veteran and had served his country faithfully never complaining. During the Korean conflict they were overrun several times and barely escaped with their lives. Freedom always has a cost to someone! Many have and are sacrificing greatly so we can be warm and safe in our beds at night. They are also sacrificing so people in other parts of the world can have freedom and safety.

I am reminded of someone who over two thousand years ago gave His life for our well being us without complaint, (Romans 5:8, John 10:10). His name was Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, (John 3:16). This coming Christmas season let us not forget those who are serving. We can pray for their safety, success and return. Let us also remember the families of the ones serving. We can offer special prayers for those who have lost loved ones. I had mixed emotions at the end of my dad's funeral service, sad because we missed him and yet so proud because of his faithful service. See you in Church next Sunday.

Brother J

Location Builders 203 S. Hwy 277
 Sonora, TX 76950
 325-387-3881

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John Lopez Jr. Superintendent	Elpidio Torres Jr. Construction Foreman
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