

The Devil's River News

Since 1890

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Volume 118 • Issue 2

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 12, 2006

Sonora gears up for annual 4-H FFA Stock Show

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006

7:00 p.m. Arrival & Weigh In deadline for Meat & Angora Goats, Market Lambs, and Swine

Friday, Jan. 13, 2006

8:30 a.m. Angora Goat Show

Meat Goat Show 30 minutes after end of Market Lambs

8:00 p.m. weigh in deadline for Futurity Ewe Lambs

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006

8:30 a.m. Futurity Ewe Lamb Judging and interview

Swine Show immediately after Futurity Ewe Lamb Show

Barrow and Beef Cattle Exhibitions will follow Swine Show

6:00 p.m. Buyer Appreciation Supper

6:45 p.m. Premium Sale

8:00 p.m. Awards Presented

Stock Show Season Kicks Off!



submitted by Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Extension Agent-
Ag

Well, it's that time of year when 4-H and FFA youth get busy exhibiting the livestock they've been developing. It's meant having to gentle animals, halter-break them, weigh, exercise, doctor, and all the work necessary to prepare animals for the show ring. Even though we have our Sutton County Livestock Show this week (January 13-14), our exhibitors have already gotten started.

Six Sutton County kids participated at the Sandhills Stock Show with their goat projects. Class 1 results are as follows: Colton Moore-3rd, Gunter Pennington-8th & 9th, Bailey Joe Pennington 14th. Class 2: Colton Moore- 4th & 8th. Class 3: Colton Moore 9th, Bailey Joe Pennington 18th. Class 4: Colton Moore- 16th. Classes averaged 70 animals. Congratulations to Mandy Brister, Kylie Love, Ty Love, Colton Moore, Bailey Joe

Pennington, and Gunter Pennington for representing Sutton County.

Participating in stock shows can help youngsters develop self-confidence through competition. They are given the opportunity to learn patience, commitment, and work ethic, but can also learn to overcome obstacles and to deal with disappointment. Livestock exhibition is an excellent opportunity for family involvement in competitive events which reinforce time and resource management skills as well as determination and self-confidence. We encourage families new to the program to seek help from their County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher. We are happy to assist you and help make livestock exhibition a pleasant learning experience.

So, make time to visit the Sutton County Civic Center on the 13th and 14th to help support our youth. Shows start at 8:30 both days. The auction begins at 6:45 on Saturday evening. Call the Extension Office at 387-3101 for more details. There will be food, friends, and fun. Hope to see you there.

Is your home safe from wildfires?

Wildfire can strike anywhere, anytime. Homes surrounded by brush, tress, or even grass can be quickly overtaken by wildfire. Homeowners can take these precautions to save their property.

- Defensible space around your home is an area cleared of brush, cedars, and other combustible materials equal to 1 1/2 times the height of your one plus 30 feet.

- Trim limbs overhanging the roof.

- Remove flammable tree debris, including leaves and twigs, from rooftops and gutters.

- Choose firewise landscaping, such as hardwoods, rather than evergreens.

- Store firewood a minimum of 30 feet from your home space trees 15 to 20 feet apart and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.

- Remember, fire travels 16 times faster up slope, if your home is on a ridge top, keep combustible materials and plants at least 75 feet from the downslope side of your house.

- Clearly mark your home address from the main road and make sure your driveway is accessible to firefighting equipment have faucets on all sides of your home, and whenever possible, provide firefighters an addition water source such as a pool or pond.

Governor Proclaims School Board Recognition Month

(AUSTIN) - Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January 2006 as School Board Recognition Month. Districts across the state will use this opportunity to show their appreciation and bolster understanding of the critical role elected boards of education play in their local schools and communities.

"...The full promise of this great nation heavily depends on how well young Americans are prepared to embrace and succeed at the challenges ahead. Critical to achieving this goal is ensuring excellence in education.

"Throughout the Lone Star State, school boards work to meet this mission, achieving successes that continue to make a positive difference. Through their efforts in working with educators, government officials and the community, school boards help to provide young Texans with the tools necessary for success.

"Created in 1949 to foster educational excellence in districts throughout the Lone Star State, the Texas Association of School Boards will be conducting an awareness campaign throughout the month of January to highlight the many contributions of school boards.

"I encourage all Texans to recognize the important roles that school boards play in ensuring a quality education for young Texans. Through their commitment and focus on the future, we are building an even stronger foundation for the Texas of tomorrow," he said.

"We encourage every community to take time in January to acknowledge the vital contributions made by locally elected school trustees and support them as they tackle the challenging and rewarding task of preparing our students for the future. School board members are extraordinary people who are dedicated advocates for Texas youth, yet few people fully understand the demands and far-reaching implications of their responsibilities on local boards," said James B. Crow, TASB executive director. "More than 7,000 men and women serve their Texas communities on school boards and give of their vision, knowledge, leadership and time, working purely for the common good of every child. It is important to recognize the commitment that board service requires as local trustees work with parents, educators, and community leaders to develop sound educational policies in their districts. They help us to set high standards in the education system, urging us all to strive to reach educational excellence and better prepare the next generation," he said.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.3 million public school students.



The Castro family meets at the Old Oak Tree. photo submitted by FHS Main Street Program

Proud family ties ribbon for Castro

by Jennifer Esparza, FHSMS staff

On December 28, 2005, at 4:30 p.m. Chris Castro, a 2005 graduate from Sonora High School, tied a yellow ribbon up on the Old Oak Tree. Joining him was his mother, father, sister, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends. We wish all the best to Chris as he makes his journey in Iraq and hope that he returns home safe to all of us.

Volunteer Fire Department elects officers for New Year

by Storie Sharp

The Sonora Volunteer Fire Department has been busy over the last year. After a busy summer season with numerous grass fires on ranches in the all over Sutton and surrounding counties, the warm dry winter has shown no mercy. The volunteers worked two major house fires within the city limits of Sonora toward the end of 2005, and continuously work rescue on accidents when needed. The men and women of this force are all volunteers, many of whom have grown up as part of the "fire family."

The SVFD also works to insure that our children are educated on Fire Safety and Prevention, providing valuable information and programs to the Sonora Schools during the year.

More than just volunteers for our community, several of the men and women of Sonora VFD are always ready to help neighbors when needed. Recent blazes that blew through the Barnhart area, called for more than their small department could handle and the call for help went out. The fire started at around 10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 31, after sparks from a transformer hit the dry grass. More than 12 different agencies — including three vehicles from the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department — helping fight the large fire. Our crew stayed through the night long after many other departments had gone home, trying to put a stop to the burning destruction.

These men and women are to be commended for the continuous commitment to keep Sonora, Sutton County and so many people safe.

The New Year brought about elections at the Fire Hall, with the honor of "Fireman of the Year" going to Carl Johnson. This award is chosen by peers and says a lot for the job that Carl does. Congratulations Carl!

The "2006" S.V.F.D. OFFICERS are as follows:

Chief RICK CEARLEY; Fire Marshall CARL TEAFF

First Assistant CHARLIE ALEWINE;

Second Assistant DONNY YOCHAM SR.;

Captain WAYNE TYLER;

First Lieutenant BILLY LIPPMAN;

Second Lieutenant WAYFORD TYLER;

President PAT CABELL;

Vice President MIKE SANCHEZ;

Secretary ALTA ALEWINE;

Treasurer KYLE DONALDSON;

County reinstates Burn Ban

by Storie Sharp

The Sutton County Commissioners didn't hesitate to vote for the Burn Ban in Sutton County to be continued at the Monday, January 9th meeting. A full house greeted the Commissioners first meeting of the year, with representatives from maintenance supply companies on hand to answer questions regarding bids that were to be opened, as well as department heads and interested parties from the community.

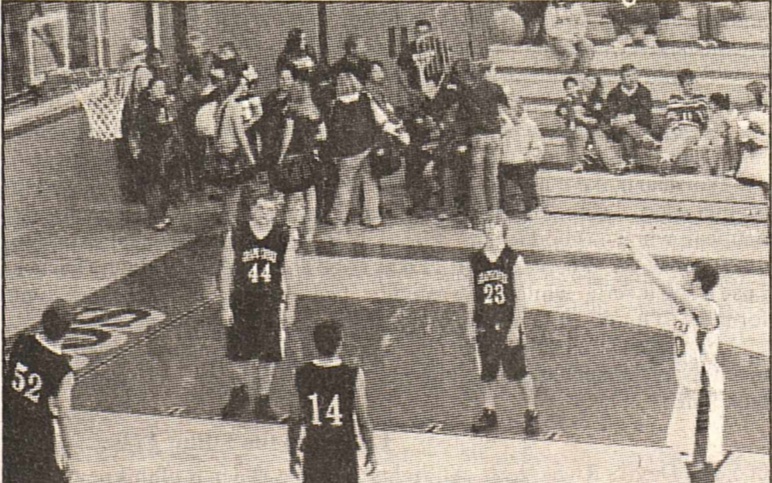
General business of paying bills and approving minutes was conducted, with Commissioners Belia Castaneda, Milton Cavaness and Mike Villanueva present. John Wade was absent.

Justice of the Peace, Adelia Alvarez reported that 792 criminal traffic tickets were served, and 70 non-traffic, with 4103,922.62 collected.

Sutton County Sheriff, Joe Fincher reported 43 inmates in the jail for

See Commissioners page 4

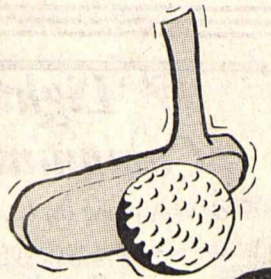
Bronco Basketball back on the court



Sonora 61, Grape Creek 46 **GRAPE CREEK**- Garcia 11, Fisher 6, Miller 6, Cook-Lindsay 6, Choate 5, Field 5, Rios 4, Jones 3. Totals - 14 17-32 46. **SONORA** - S. Duhon 16, Gulley 14, Leonard 11, Smith 9, Parker 8, Valliant 3. Totals - 21 14-18 61. **G. Creek** 9 11 14 12 - 46 **Sonora** 7 7 25 22 - 61 **3-point goals** - **Sonora** 5 (Gulley 2, S. Duhon 2, Parker); **Grape Creek** 1 (Garcia). **Records** - **Sonora** is 4-8 and 1-2 in district.

JV - Grape Creek 63, Sonora 25.

Sunny skies predicted for Polar Bear Classic



The weekend forecast is calling for mostly sunny and 62° degree days, perfect for the average golfer, but maybe a little warm for Polar Bear golfers.

Don't let that keep you from helping the Sonora High School Golf Teams raise money for their 2006 quest of a repeat trip to State.

The 7th Annual Polar Bear Classic, sponsored by the Sonora High School Golf Team will be Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the Sonora Golf Course.

Tea Time is 12:30 p.m. and players are encouraged to sign up early.

The entry fee is \$10.00 per person and any extra donations will be greatly appreciated.

The Order of Play for the fundraiser is 18 holes of Par 3 Golf (Scramble). Ties will be broken with a putt off.

Sign up at the Pro Shop or call 387-3680.

The Sonora Golf Course has graciously waived green fees for all non-members, supporting our youth all the way.

In case those weather man are way off, (as is often the case in Texas) and there is bad weather, the Classic will be postponed until the next Saturday!

Support your State Bound Golf Team.

Critter gettin' gets you money in Sutton County

Sutton County Critter Gitter Calling Contest is calling all critter gitters!

Back by popular demand, there will be three calling contests this season: January 21st & 22nd, March 4th & 5th, and March 25th & 26th.

Each contest will have registration on Saturday at 2 P.M. at Stagecoach Barbeque, next to Rafter W Feeds, and turn-in will be on Sunday morning at 10 A.M. at the same location (feel free to call for directions).

The hunt can proceed immediately after the rules and regulations

See Critters page 8

Sonora Industrial Development Corporation offering special grants to assist businesses

submitted by Max Howorth, SIDC

As part of Sonora's economic development progress, the SIDC has established four grant programs specifically designed to encourage redevelopment of mature business corridors in the Sonora area by providing financial resources to small business owners for exterior property and environmental improvements. The four programs are:

(1) Paint Grant, (2) Landscape Grant, (3) Signage Update Grant and (4) Restaurant Grease Trap Replacement Grant.

• **Paint Grant Program**

The Paint Grant Program is to assist small business owners with the costs associated with refurbishing the exterior of a commercial building in need of fresh paint. This program pays 50% of the cost, including the cost to appropriately prepare the surface of the building as well as labor cost, up to a maximum amount of \$2,500. Only buildings that have been previously painted and need to be repainted are eligible. New construction projects are NOT eligible to receive a Paint Grant.

• **Landscape Grant Program**

The Landscape Grant Program is intended to broaden the city's focus on curb appeal and enhancement of Sonora's business image. Existing commercial properties as well as new construction projects that have not received landscape assistance under another SIDC grant are eligible to apply for this grant. This Program pays 50% of the cost for materials, labor and permit/tap fees up to a maximum amount of \$2,500. Landscape projects must include an irrigation system to receive consideration for the Landscape Grant.

Note: Regarding painting and landscaping, it is recognized that in some cases, an applicant's employees or family/friends may provide labor. On a case-by-case basis, this "in-kind labor" may be considered by SIDC in calculating the overall grant. In such cases, the same standards of workmanship will be required and a documented agreement with SIDC must be attached to the Application.

• **Signage Update Grant Program**

The Signage Update Grant is intended to encourage and assist businesses with costs associated with replacing and updating their signs in conformance with existing City standards. This Program pays 50% of the cost to replace or update a legally conforming commercial business sign, including the cost of labor, up to a maximum amount of \$1,500.

• **Restaurant Grease Trap Replacement Grant Program**

In 2005 the City of Sonora adopted a new Grease Trap ordinance. Due to this new ordinance, some Sonora business properties have grease traps that do not meet the new standards and therefore are considered legally nonconforming. The Restaurant Grease Trap Replacement Grant is intended to assist businesses with costs associated with replacing and updating their grease trap facilities to the new city standards. This Program pays 100% of the cost of equipment and installation up to a maximum of \$3,500.

Individual grants will be approved and funded by the SIDC and, except for grease trap replacement, will be administered with the assistance of the Keep Sonora Beautiful organization in accordance with requirements of a performance agreement between SIDC and Grantees. The program has set a maximum limit of \$50,000 total spending on these exterior property and environmental improvement projects in fiscal year 2005-2006.

For additional information call the SIDC office at 325-387-6280 or email sidc2@sonoratax.net.

Application forms may be obtained at the SIDC office at 120 N. Concho Street, Sonora, TX 76950.

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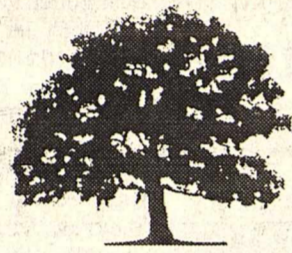
**Lighthouse
Community Church**

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 preserve access to quality
healthcare for generations to come.
Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation,
PO Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950.
All contribution 100% tax deductible.



**Sonora
Church
Directory**

Primera Iglesia Bautista
504 Santa Clara
387-2035

Church of Christ
304 N. Water
387-3190

**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

Brought to you by:
Kerbow Funeral Home
387-2266

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



Member 2006

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Obituary

Clemencia Cardona Flores

Former Sonora, Texas, resident, Clemencia Cardona Flores, 92, passed away after a short illness on December 29, 2005 at her home in Houston, Texas, surrounded by her loving family. She was born January 6, 1913, in El Remolino, Coah., Mexico. She was the oldest of seven children born to Cecilio and Maria Torres Cardona who raised their family in Sonora, Texas. Clemencia continued her education after high school in San Angelo; and soon after marrying Adolph Flores, also a Sonora resident, made a permanent move to Houston. In the late 1940's Clemencia moved her parents to Houston. Her brothers, Cecilio, Enrique, Pablo, Angel, and Salvador, and her sister Edwina (deceased in June of 2005 in Killeen, Texas) also moved to Houston following military service.



Clemencia and Adolph Flores were successful owners of the Flores Beauty Salon and Adolph's Hairstyling Salons for many years; celebrating over 50 years of marriage before Adolph passed away in November of 1986. They both were very involved in the Hispanic community through the Familias Unidas Club and the LULAC Council #643. Clemencia continued to volunteer for many years with the YWCA and the Houston Independent School District. She also was an active member of St. Anne's Catholic Church. For the past decade, she was blessed to live with her daughter Gail, where she enjoyed a quiet life surrounded by love and family. She will be always remembered for her generous, helpful, and fun-loving spirit, and the love she freely gave to all her family and friends throughout her life.

Clemencia is survived by her son Adolph Flores Jr. and daughter-in-law Barbara of Baytown, Texas, and grandchildren Michael Flores, Troy Flores, Gary Flores, Rhett Flores, and Pamela Jasso.

She is also survived by her daughter Gail, and son-in-law Mario Quintero of Houston, and grandchildren Christopher Quintero, Jonathan Quintero, and Abigail McDonald. She left behind thirteen beautiful great-grandchildren; as well as her five brothers, Cecilio Cardona Jr. of Boerne, Texas, Enrique, Pablo, and Salvador Cardona of Houston, and Angel Cardona of Leander, Texas; and also numerous nieces and nephews who will miss her.



A Rosary service was held Friday December 30th, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church, Houston, Texas. A Funeral Mass was held at noon on Saturday, December 31st, at the church with Father Hugh Cullen officiating, followed by a catered dinner in the church hall. A bright sunny sky shone down on the long procession of cars driving to the burial site at the Forest Park Lawndale Street Cemetery for the final burial service. Official pallbearers were Gary Flores, Troy Flores, Rhett Flores, Jonathan Quintero, Pablo Cardona Jr., and Michael McDonald. Honorary pallbearers were Michael Flores and Christopher Quintero.

To view the online obituary or to post a tribute to the family, go to www.navarrefuneralhome.com

**TEXAS TALES TOLD
BY TUMBLEWEED**

Horses and Scents



Tumbleweed Smith

Linda Lamka and her family moved to Pecos from Missouri three years ago. She was looking for a home for her horses.

"The area where we were was rather rocky and we were looking for flatter ground," says Linda. "We were getting pretty desperate, so I went to one of my chat rooms and just put the message out there that we were looking for property on an interstate highway that was good for raising horses. This one gal emailed me back and said she had property on Interstate 20 in Pecos."

While growing up in Missouri, Linda read about Pecos Bill, cowboys and grew to love the western way of life, so the possible move to Pecos interested her.

"After about six weeks of emailing back and forth, her mailing pictures and us talking on the phone, we made a deal to buy the property. I had never seen the place in person, had never met the woman, and had never come to Pecos. We just stepped out on a leap of faith and came down."

She and her family hope to raise quality ranch horses. They have twelve horses now. When Linda isn't tending to her horses, she runs her Oak Street Gallery. It features western art and crafts, Montana Silversmith products, rustic home décor, books, and her special line of cosmetics and soaps, which she makes.

"Back in Missouri, my son was working for a candle shop that also had glycerin soap. I went into work part time and got intrigued by it and started finding all kinds of recipes on the Internet for lotions, gels and shampoos. I found out where I could order the ingredients and ended up with a pretty nice little business in Missouri. We weren't selling on the internet in Missouri, but we are here."

Her line of soaps and body products started with hand milled soap and grew to include shower gels, lotions, body scrubs, face cleansers and creams and foot scrubs.

"I make the products with the West Texas climate in mind." She calls herself an alchemist.

"I get in my little room, put on my hat and lab coat and just start making things. If you can cook, you can make soap. It's all recipes.

You can make it in a cookpot now, instead of the old kettle your grandmother used. I sometimes use the oven. I just add certain ingredients, like oatmeal, which is good for the skin. I make a line of lotions and shampoos using carrot oil. People love it. I don't need a lotion after I bathe because I use a sugar scrub while I'm washing. I have dozens of fragrances, some for men. Our mineral cosmetics are made with all natural ingredients."

Ingredients in all her products are listed on the labels. Much of her business is conducted on the internet. Her website is www.oakstreetgallery.com.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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**Keeping Fats, Oils, and Grease
out of the Sewer System**

Submitted by Kelly L Thorp, MS

CEA-FCS

Texas Cooperative Extension-Sutton County

Fats, oils, and grease*FOG*comes from meat fats in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream.

FOG poured down kitchen drains accumulates inside sewer pipes. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses, resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration.

Manholes can overflow into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains, allowing FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public-health hazard.

FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Restaurants, cafeterias, and fast-food establishments spend tens of thousands of dollars on plumbing emergencies each year to deal with grease blockages and pump out grease traps and interceptors. Some cities also charge businesses for the repair of sewer pipes and spill cleanup if they can attribute the blockage to a particular business. Some cities also add a surcharge to wastewater bills if a business exceeds a specified discharge limit. These expenses can be significant.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year unplugging or replacing grease-blocked pipes, repairing pump stations, and cleaning up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Excessive FOG in the sewer system can affect local wastewater rates.

So, keeping FOG out of the sewer system helps everyone in the community. For more information contact Sonora City Manager, Jim Polonis at 387-2558, extension 315 or your local Sutton County Extension office.

Source:<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us>

Internet Shopping

by Ms. Karen S. Best

Ah, January... a time of reflection, resolutions and renewal. It's also the month in which the bank statements come in detailing every last dollar you overspent on Christmas presents. As I reviewed the crumbled remains of my checking account, I noticed something interesting. I, the self-proclaimed queen of "Buying Local", did half of my holiday spending online.

Now granted, I doubt my dalliance with Internet shopping over the holiday led to any major economic downturn in the San Angelo economy. If, however, you multiply my Internet shopping experience by a fair number of shoppers in San Angelo who did the same thing over the holiday, that could equal a pretty nice chunk of change.

Explaining this shift in spending habits is easy. Convenience was king this last holiday season. Small business owners may look forward to the holiday season to help bring their finances into the black, but consumers (at least some of us) dread the season. The lines, the crowds, and fights over gadgets we didn't even know we wanted... you know the drill. You decide just how much out-of-town loved ones mean to you based upon how many people are ahead of you in line at the post office. I managed to ship one gift off to my brother (only eight people in line ahead of me on that one), but those other than blood kin didn't fare so well (I had a cut-off point of ten people in line before I just gave up).

So how does a small business in San Angelo who wants to compete for these online dollars do so? It's not as hard as one might think.

First, do your customers a favor and offer shipping. Both the U.S. Post Office and UPS offer easy-to-use shipping software that will allow you to estimate the cost of shipping right at the check out counter. At one store here in town, I commented on how much I dreaded shipping the package. The clerk said the gift could be shipped from the store, so I bought gifts for two others knowing I could eliminate a trip to the post office. It was fast, easy and convenient.

Second, incorporate a customer-friendly approach to returns. If there's one thing both retailers and customers both dread, it is returns. And returning anything purchased on the Internet is inconvenient and expensive. Making returns as easy as possible for a consumer is an attractive benefit to shopping at your store. If a customer is dissatisfied with a product for whatever reason, it may be in a retailer's best interest to allow the return rather than offend both the gift recipient as well as the gift giver. The old adage that bad news travels fast holds true in retail. One dissatisfied customer will tell an average of twenty others of their bad experience. A reasonable return policy just makes good sense.

Third, it might be worth a retailer's time to get online to check out competitors' prices. If your prices are not in reasonable proximity with those of an online retailer, you will lose business to the Internet. Of course, many online retailers obtain large volume discounts that put local merchants at a purchasing disadvantage. Despite that fact, there are opportunities on some products to be competitive, and keeping your prices in check could work to your advantage.

Fourth, sometimes the ambience of a store will attract a customer. I know one store in particular that keeps getting my business even though it's in an inconvenient location and the prices are higher. But the store in itself is worth the trip. They carry wonderful products and carry a variety of goods arranged in a manner that can keep my attention for enough time for me to "need" something. Oh, and they ship.

Lastly, you could always consider taking that next big step onto the Internet. While I shopped online this last Christmas, all of my online purchases were not from large retailers. Amazon.com and ToysRUs.com did not carry a particular toy train set I needed. I found a small retailer in New Jersey who had just opened her website. I called her and left a message. Fifteen minutes later, she called me back from her cell phone saying she could have it in the mail the same day. Couldn't have been easier, or more appreciated!

Half of the battle is getting people into your store, and how you do it makes all the difference. The Internet offers convenience and variety, but it does not have a corner on these attributes. Offer these things as well as competitive pricing and excellent customer service and you will find fewer customers surfing for alternatives on the Internet.

"Business Tips" was written by Ms. Karen S. Best, Business Development Specialist of Angelo State University's Small Business Development Center. For more information on the topic of this article or the services of the ASU • SBDC, contact her at Karen.Best@angelo.edu.

Senior Center Activities

Fri. January 13 - Sr. Network - Don't let osteoarthritis of the knee become a Pain! Video Seminar Program - noon!

Mon. January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Center will be closed - Happy B-day to me! Juanita Mesa

Tues. January 17 - City Council 4 p.m.

Wed. January 18 - Happy Birthday Phillip Cooper - Van to San Angelo - medicals come first. Call 387-3941

Thurs. January 19 - Happy B-day Nig Wall & John Lopez, Sr.

Senior Center Menu

Fri. January 13 - Spanish meatballs, rice, green beans, sliced tomatoes, roll, pineapple rings, milk

Mon. January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Center will be closed! Sign up for Holiday Meals!

Tues. January 17 - BBQ chicken, beans, beets, pears w/pineapple, roll, chocolate chip, cookie, milk

Wed. January 18 - Beef stew w/veggies, sweet peas, cornbread, cirtus fruit cup, milk

Thurs. January 19 - Catfish, hominy, broccoli, corn muffins, bread pudding w/raisins, milk

Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older.

Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m.

Donations are accepted (suggested donation for Seniors is \$1.50;

\$4.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go)

Hey, you beautiful thing you!
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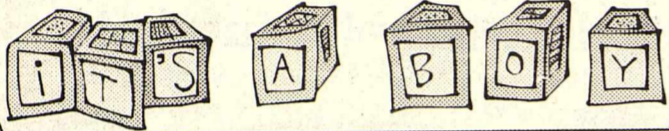
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**Chelsea and Brian
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Benjamin Royle

November 23, 2005 6 pounds, 12 ounces
 7:43 a.m. 18 inches



- Happy Birthday**
- January 12**
 Maria Zaragoza, Kaitlyn Leigh Lopez, Stephanie Hulsey, Marty Lipham, Felicia Farley, Hector Alcadio Mendez, Darian Lee Reyes
- January 13**
 Tim Cole, Thomas Schenkel, Cheryl Lock, Amy Torres, Ralph Mayer, George Sanchez, Hayden Davenport, Coach Patton
- January 14**
 Japha Routh, Christian Kesinger, Jody Trainer, Olivia Banda
- January 15**
 Trey Wardlaw, Gary Hardgrave, Patti Harlan, James Daubney, Danette Maddux, Bill Savell, Baby D. Davila
- January 16**
 Glynn Dell Glasscock, Nancy McAngus, Austin Herd, Dana Young, Edward Mata, Jr., Karen Fincher, Joe Longoria, Bill Stewart, Jo Davis, Jacquelyn Castillo, Anthony Mata, Juanita Mesa
- January 17**
 David Wallace, Felipe Estrada, Tina Watkins, Ruben Garza, Lisa Slaton, Antonio Lopez
- January 18**
 Alexis Aguirre, Allanna Aguirre, Richard Ridgeway, Jed Leal, Rose Kames, Rene Vasquez, Colby Savell, Kent McAnally, Michael Creek, Jan Grider, Jim Polonis

Engagement
Word/Abilez plan March wedding



Aaron and Laura

Larry and Kay Word are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Laura Nicole Word to Aaron Kyle Abilez of Roundrock, Texas.

Aaron is the son of Dwayne and Dorthy Abilez of Roundrock. The couple will be married on March 11, 2006, at Lighthouse Community Church.

Laura is a 2004 graduate of Sonora High School. Aaron is a 2004 graduate of Stony Point High School. He is currently attending Angelo State University majoring in business.

Let the bidding begin...NOW!

Though the 36th annual telethon benefiting West Texas rehabilitation center will not be aired until January 21, the telethon auction website is up and open for bids on more than 400 retail times and dozens of handmade quilts and afghans. Interested bidders may log on at www.Westexasrehab.org.

A boat, a jeep, four-wheelers and a quad cab pickup truck. Baseball, golf, auto racing passes, Elvis collectibles and Red Raider autographed balls. Quilts, artwork, diamonds, furniture, hunts and week-end getaways. Whatever your passion or pastime, chances are good it's up for bid, thanks to generous donations from businesses and individuals in the Concho Valley and Big Country.

Auction bidding will continue on-line until midnight on January 21. That's also the deadline for telephone bidding, which is possible from 6 p.m. to midnight on January 21 by dialing toll free 1-866-219-7013. Items also will be featured on that date in a pull-out section of the San Angelo Standard-Times and Abilene Reporter-News.

While keeping tabs on bids, viewers will want to tune into Rehab 2006, the five-hour live television special starring popular country duo The Bellamy Brothers as well as Charlie Chase, Kristy Lee

and Red Steagall. The show will air on KLST-TV as well as regional stations across the state.

And while all the activity is going on in the Abilene Civic, site of the live television production, Concho Valley phone bank volunteers will be set up in 15 communities from Ballinger to Big Lake that night. They'll have pen in hand ready to take local phone pledges to help West Texas Rehab Center continue to provide top-quality outpatient rehab care to all who enter its door-regardless of their financial status.

"This is such a significant fundraising event for the Center that I hope everyone will watch the show, bid on the auction items - and call in a pledge," said WTRC president Woody Gilliland. "Rehab is always there for all who need it... let's all be there for Rehab on January 21"

A simple "What's for dinner?"

This statement brought the Rousselot family to a stunned hush then shrieks of joy as Sergeant Rousselot unexpectedly walked in on their pre-Christmas gathering, December 21st.

Sgt. Rousselot, grandson of long time Sonora residents Norman and Doris Rousselot, has spent the last year north of Baghdad, Iraq. With the help of his parents, Mark & Mallory Rousselot, he managed to keep his arrival secret.

He has removed his yellow ribbon from the Court House Square and expressed his heart felt thanks for all the support and prayers from Sonora residents and Johnson Law offices.

Commissioners from page 1

the month of December, with a 12.2 daily average. Dispatchers answered 708 calls and Deputies drove 6,437 miles for a total of \$877 at 14.3 miles per gallon.

Sutton County Judge Carla Garner reported that the EMS billed out \$9,454.89 in the month of November.

In the Road and Bridge Department, Oscar Jimenez requested permission to have someone work on the water well at the yard. Jimenez stated that he had one estimate this far, for approximately \$6,000. It was revealed that if it could be proved that lightning or natural causes had caused the damage that insurance will pay.

County Tax Assessor, Rex Ann Friess reported that as of December 31, taxes were 18% collected, down 2% from this time last year.

Commissioner Villanueva reported that he had been very pleased with the tour of the Sutton County Arena grounds, where Outlaw Pro Rodeo President, Curry Campbell had pointed out and explained all the proposed improvements and additions that he and the rodeo committee and the new "Arena Improvements" committees were considering. Villanueva said everything sounded really impressive. Al Elliott, a member of the Arena Improvement committee added that the entire area had been surveyed and currently they were working with representatives from Texas Tech and other interested parties on assisting with funds for the project.

Bids for this year's cleaning supplies were opened, with two being submitted, from Cintas and Unifirst. Judge Garner and Maura Weingart reviewed the bids, that were similar in numbers, but different in actual distribution. Representatives from both companies stated their case as to why they should be chosen. It was brought to attention that there may have been a problem with the current contractors and county maintenance personnel, and that service contracts and availability was a main concern. The current company, Unifirst, stated that they were not aware of any problem and that if there were, one just need to contact him at any time. The commissioners decided to table the decision until Weingart had an opportunity to compare each item completely and provide the most cost efficient choice.

A request to waive rental fees of the Civic Center for the Texas Parks and Wildlife regional meeting was requested.

Sam Hughes, representing the Sonora City League, asked for permission to put a C-Crate at the Sonora Baseball Complex to replace an old one that is leaking and ruining equipment. The new facility would allow for all the ball equipment to be stored at one central location instead of individual homes. The court said they did not see a problem with the request, with the stipulation that the School District be contacted as to placement, as to adhere to an interlocal agreement between the county and the school.

A request from Charles Weaver, to subdivide a plat of land, west of town, known as the Noble Ranch. Al Elliott explained that the request was not to resale the lots but to incorporate into prior obtained land, with the stipulation not to sale small.

The meeting was adjourned after an announcement of a planned meeting at City Hall, where a TCEQ representative will explain the new grease trap requirements recently enforced by the City of Sonora.

Authentic West Texas decor with a flare wins Ol' Sonora COC Landscape of the Month honors



The Sonora Chamber of Commerce has been out and about, working with the Keep Sonora Beautiful Program to recognize local chamber members that give that extra effort to make our town even more appealing to the eye, therefore making it an even better place to be. Everyone in Sonora benefits from tourists and doing business local. The merchants, salespeople, and business owners work hard to serve visitors, as well as tend to all local needs. It is important that everyone work toward the same goal of offering the best to all those that travel our streets, and the "Landscape of the Month" award is just a small token of appreciation to say Sonora notices!

This month the committee has chosen Ol' Sonora Trading/Merle Norman/Rosey Bud Florist as the "Landscape Business of the Month." Mary Ann works hard all year to keep her shop looking great inside and out, tempting tourists with a taste of the old west, mixed with some of today's trends. The cactus gardens, wood pieces and bright decorations make Ol' Sonora a welcome stop for anyone passing by (and this is just a tip of the treats and treasures offered inside). Stop by and visit Mary Ann and Kim and let them know you appreciate their efforts to help "Keep Sonora Beautiful!"

If you would like to nominate a local business for consideration as "Landscape of the Month" contact the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 387-2880.

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SHS UIL students compete in speech and debate tournament

Students from Sonora High School competed in the Blanco High School Tournament on Saturday, January 7, 2006.

There were a total of 40 schools participating.

Stacy Sanchez and Warren Wallace placed 3rd in Varsity Cross Examination Debate

Kayla Fields placed 2nd in Prose

Erin Newton placed 7th in Poetry

Kaci Chavarria broke to the quarter-finals in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate

Heather Smith and Yolanda Sanchez broke to quarter-finals in Novice Cross Examination

Other participants included Nash Traylor, Kathy Pacheco, Cameron Cox, Travis Valliant, and Lauran Schaefer

Other participants included Nash Traylor, Kathy Pacheco, Cameron Cox, Travis Valliant, and Lauran Schaefer

SHS will host the 60th Annual Speech and Academic Tournament on February 10 and 11. Anyone who would like to judge speaking events or grade Journalism papers please contact Renee Casey at the high school 387-6533.



Back: Stacy Sanchez and Erin Newton; Front: Kayla Fields and Warren Wallace

7th grade Lady Colts playing ball

The 7th grade Lady Colts recently competed in the Wall Tournament January 5 - 7, 2006. The Sonora girls finish 4th overall.

Sonora - 25 Brady - 17

Maci Zuniga - 9; Morgan Smith - 6; Karina Trevino - 6; Gabriela Ibanez - 2; Ramos Chelby - 2

Sonora - 13 Ballinger - 15

Maci Zuniga - 4; Chelby Ramos - 4; Morgan Smith - 2; Kash Mcgee - 3

Sonora - 20 Grape Creek - 24

Morgan Smith - 8; Kash Mcgee - 8; Maci Zuniga - 4; Kash Mcgee - 8; Maci Zuniga - 4



Lady Broncos Taking the shot!

Lady Colts squeak by Grape Creek

The Lady Colts were back in action on Monday, January 9, in Grape Creek defeating the Grape Creek girls by one point, 18 to 17.

Scoring for the Broncos were MORGAN SMITH with 10; and MACI ZUNIGA with 8.

Sixth grade students thinking to Keep Sonora Beautiful

The Keep Sonora Beautiful program is growing every day, with new projects, plans and members working on ways to help make our community a better, prettier place to live and visit. The Sonora Middle School sixth grade students were asked to help the program, while teaching the benefits of showing pride and care for your town. Mrs. Jennings took the students on a bus tour of the community for a "windshield survey" of things that needed to be improved or suggestions that they think might make a great place to live even better.

These students have some very innovative ideas and thoughts and should be considered when the future of Sonora is discussed. Here's two more of the essays from Mrs. Jennings's class.

Keep Sonora Beautiful

"With the love of our people we can help our community," to accomplish this we can work together on our community to make it a better place.

One area of Sonora that could really be improved is the downtown area. Many of the stores are abandoned. If we could just fix up stores that are abandoned and make a soda shop, ice cream parlor, or a nice beautiful restaurant for kids or adults to hangout, eat or talk with others.

Even though the downtown area is vital to Sonora, the outskirts are just as important to us. One thing or another is a "Welcome to Sonora" sign with a water feature or organize various school groups to pick trash and a slogan sign like "Go Broncos" or a good welcome sign.

Another place where we can look is at our neighborhoods some are nice and some are abandoned and it would be nice to add pretty flowers, clean houses that have litter around or buildings, but everyone should know that every house is abandoned if we clean, paint or make it more special. People don't like the roads some are bumpy and have holes, but I think people would be happy if the roads were fixed.

By improving the appearance of Sonora we show all the care for our community and work for our community to make it a better place to live in. We can all do it together. **M. DeLuna**

Making Sonora a Better Home

Anatole France once said, to accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream. Not only plan, but also believe. One way we can improve our community is by working together, and by so doing we will accomplish great things.

One area that could be improved is by fixed up run down buildings and by have more stores for people to shop for stuff. We could also plant flowers and grow more grass. But one thing we mostly need are kids to sponsor trash pick-ups.

Another way we can improve our community is by building a big skate park for big skaters. An ice cream stand would be nice for hot days in the summer. We could also put in a shooting range for hunters when they go hunting or sit in their gun.

One thing we mostly need is to recycle more so that we could get more of it. Also the roads need to be fixed up here and there. Maintenance is one thing we need, like putting better air conditioners in, because I'll tell you, it gets hot in Mrs. Jennings class.

Our community has its ups and downs, but we could add restaurants, and arcades for people to eat at and play games on weekends. But if we had an arcade center everyone would fighting over a little game. A go cart track would also make people get off the streets and it would make lots of money.

The out skirts of town could be one part where we could put more rest areas and more cation signs for like rough roads ahead, or slow down at low bridge. Another thing we could do is mow the grass along the side of the highways more often so there would be a less chance of hitting a deer. We mite even then go into the Dry Devil's River and cut the little trees down and smooth out the rocks.

A new weight room might be a bad idea but I think it would be good for people that like to work out. We could put in a wide screen plasma TV so the people could watch it while exercising. Also, a jogging path mite attract some kids that run track and field.

Although these things would be nice, but sometimes it's too much work for one person. Sometimes we just need to work together in order for it to be improved. So we just have to work as a team. **Zach B.**

Grape Creek Eagles fall to Lady Broncos

Sonora 48, Grape Creek 35

GRAPE CREEK - Ramos 11, Wilson 7, Fisher 2, Luna 5, McWright 10. Totals - 10 13-20 35. SONORA - Alvarado 2, Gulley 14, Hernandez 6, Smith 14, Krieg 12. Totals - 18 8-13 48.

G. Creek 12 10 4 9 - 35 Sonora 10 12 20 6 - 48 3-point goals - Grape Creek 2 (McWright); Sonora 4 (Gulley 2, Smith 2). Records - Grape Creek is 15-8, 2-3 dist.; Sonora is 12-7, 3-2 dist.

Colts hit the court in Wall

The 8th grade boy Colts went to Wall Thursday the 5th and defeated the San Angelo Lincoln Jr. High 36-31. This was by far the toughest team we had played since defeating Wall earlier. Scoring in that game were: A. K. Williams 21, Tyler Creek 6, Cash Jennings 6, Will Anderson 3, Dustin Neff 2, Caleb Gonzales 1. This sent us to game two Saturday afternoon against Grape Creek. Grape Creek played us within 3 pts. for the first half, but the Colts pulled ahead by 22, at the end of the game.

Scoring were: A. K. Williams 12, Tyler Creek 11, Cash Jennings 8, Caleb Gonzales 6, Dustin Neff 6, Will Anderson 4.

We played Brady in the finals. They finished ahead of the Colts 31-25. The Colts played hard, but got into foul trouble early and stayed that way until the buzzer blew at the end of the game. Scoring were: A. K. Williams 9, Cash Jennings 7, Tyler Creek 6, Dustin Neff 3

Colts ground Grape Creek Eagles

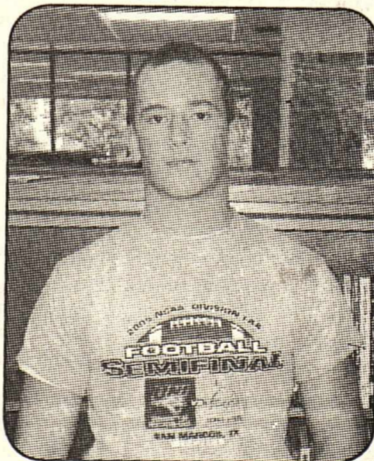
The 8th Grade boys took on the Grape Creek Eagles Monday night. We defeated the Eagles 42-18. The Colts held them to 7 points the first half while scoring 25 themselves. A. K. Williams finished the first period with 14 pts., while Will Anderson added 2 more and Cash Jennings with 1. The second period was slowed with lots of fouls being committed. Will Anderson and Dustin each hit a 3, while Cash Jennings added 2 more points. The second half Tyler Creek and Cash Jennings took over the boards. Tyler had 3 pts. in the third quarter and Cash added 6. The fourth was much the same, Cash with 3, Tyler 1, Dustin 1, and Paul Faz with 2. The Colts will be on the road for two games and then we will be back home for our last home stand.

Scoring: A. K. Williams 14; Cash Jennings 12; Tyler Creek 5; Will Anderson; 5 Dustin Neff 4; Paul Faz 2

Student of the Week

Cameron Cox

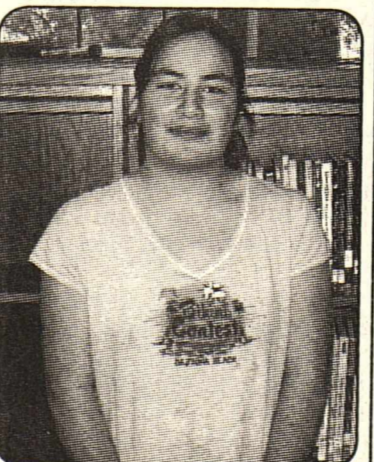
Cameron Cox is the senior son of Drew and Faye Cox. Cameron is active in many groups such as Bronco Football, Debate, church youth group and is a member of the Who's Who Among American High School Students. Cameron has lived in Sonora all of his life and he states that Sonora High is a great school with the best teachers and faculty and with excellent athletic programs.



After graduation Cameron plans to attend Hardin Simmons University in Abilene and major in kinesiology and to play football.

Nohemi Buitron

Nohemi Buitron is the 9th grade daughter of Jose and Rosa Maria Buitron. She participates in Theater Arts and enjoys that class very much.



Nohemi moved to Sonora during her 7th grade year from San Antonio. She says that her favorite things about Sonora are all the nice teachers, being a freshman, the Bronco football players, band competition, and the principal.

After graduation Nohemi would like to attend University of Texas to study nursing or to become a teacher.

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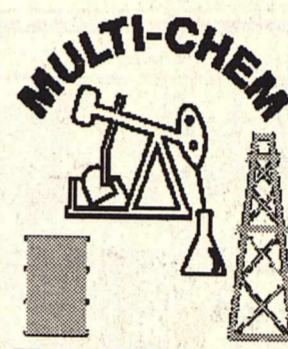
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HOTEL/MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED USE HEARING

The city council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas on possible uses of approximately \$180,000.00 of expected hotel occupancy tax revenue.

The primary and foremost qualification for the use of the hotel occupancy tax revenue is that the expenditure is spent in a manner which directly enhances and promotes tourism and the convention and hotel industry. The collected tax is allocated to six statutory expenditure categories as outlined in the Texas Local Hotel Occupancy Tax Law, and is limited to the following (1) the acquisition of sites for and the construction, improvement, enlarging, equipping, repairing, operation and maintenance of convention center facilities or visitor information centers, or both; (2) the furnishing of facilities, personnel, and materials for the registration of convention delegates or registrants; (3) advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional program and convention delegates or registrants to the municipality or its vicinity; (4) the encouragement, promotion, improvement, and application of the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, design and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, motion pictures, radio, television, tape and sound recording, and other arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of these major art forms; (5) historical restoration and preservation projects or activities or advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to encourage tourists and convention delegates to visit preserved historic sites or museums; and (6) hold and promote sporting events at which a majority of the participants are tourists to the area and that will substantially increase hotel activity.

Further, any citizens, organizations or businesses that request hotel occupancy tax funds will need to provide a proposed budget and a list of proposed activities, programs and/or events that will directly enhance and promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry.

City Council action regarding approval of proposed budgets will follow public hearing.

Oil & Agribusiness

Hill Country Chapter of Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser's Auxiliary to host night meeting in Ingram

Are you interested in the sheep and goat industry and the many changes taking place in our farm and ranch land? Have you always wanted to participate in some manner, but work an 8:00 to 5:00 job? HCCTSGRA will hold their third annual night meeting on Monday, January 23rd, 2006 at the home of Betty Burton especially for you.

Come check us out and bring a friend. Betty lives at 119 Littlefield Road outside of Ingram. Social time will start at 6:00 p.m. followed by 6:30 meal and meeting at 7:00. There will be reports on how much we made at the style show held every October for scholarships. Last year we were able to present \$10,500.00 to students from Blanco, Kendall, Gillespie, and Menard counties. Students majoring in agricultural related fields apply from our 13 county membership. Applications are available at high school counselor's offices. You will also be updated on the latest legislative happenings, agenda for the year and hear our speaker, Sharon Spenrath. Sharon and her husband, Kenneth, ranch in the hill country of Texas and in Wyoming. They raise sheep, goats, and cattle. Sharon chairs the Texas Cattle Women's and American National Cattlewomen's legislative/issues awareness committee. She sits on the Cattlemen's Beef Board and will speak on our common goals. Please call Betty Burton (830-367-4977) or President, Suzy Stewart (830-669-2204) to RSVP and get simple instructions to the meeting place.

DSHS Treats for Coyotes, Gray Foxes Help the Rabies Medicine Go Down

It's a once-a-year treat - a highly favored food, bundled in bite-size portions, delivered by air right to the doorstep. No waiting.

For several weeks in January, coyotes and gray foxes in South and West-Central Texas get just the sweetened dog food and fish meal delicacies they want. Tucked inside each food sack is a bonus: a dose of oral rabies vaccine.

Over the last 10 years almost 25.4 million individual doses of oral rabies vaccine have been distributed across 352,100 square miles of Texas. That work, health officials with the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) at the Texas Department of state Health Services (DSHS) say, has led to dramatic drops in incidences of canine and gray fox rabies.

"No human cases of rabies in either area have occurred since the vaccine airdrop began," said DSHS veterinarian Ernest Oertli, ORVP director. "And no animal cases of canine or gray fox rabies have been recorded outside the original containment zones since the program's beginning. These are truly measurable success points."

Beginning in early January, about 2.8 million baits will drop from five specially equipped airplanes flying across 39 Texas counties. The first flight takes off Jan. 6, weather permitting, from the Zapata County Airport in South Texas. The second portion of the drop begins about Jan. 14 from the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton, and the last leg gets under way about Jan. 21 from Junction's Kimble County Airport.

DSHS initiated the program in 1995 to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to stop the spread of the rabies virus and then eliminate canine and gray fox rabies in the area. Canine rabies in coyotes and domestic dogs had reached epidemic proportions in South Texas and threatened San Antonio and other major population areas. The next year, an airdrop began in West-Central Texas where an epidemic of gray fox rabies had been occurring since 1988.

The number of canine rabies cases in South Texas has declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to none in 2002 and 2003, one in 2004 and none in 2005 through November. Gray fox cases also have show a dramatic decrease from an all-time high of 265 cases in 1994 to four in 2005 through November.

The specialized baits offer a dinner of fish meal to coyotes and dog food containing molasses and vanilla flavoring to gray foxes. But the important ingredient is the 2 milliliters of oral rabies vaccine encased in each bait.

"The vaccine inside the bait cannot cause rabies in people or animals," Oertli said.

Because baits contain a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people touch them, they should not be handled. Each brown bait, which measures 1 1/4 by 1 1/4 by 1/4 inches, is marked with a DSHS toll free number, 1-877-722-6725, that people may call for information.

"The DSHS Oral Rabies Vaccination Program is just one part of the overall effort to control rabies by a veterinarian as required by law."

A domestic animal's rabies vaccination can be safely given even if the animal recently ate an oral rabies vaccine bait, he said.

Surrounding counties included in the 2006 West-Central Texas vaccine distribution are: Crockett, Edwards, Kimble, Terrell, and Val Verde.

Texas Fire Watch Continues Statewide

Writers: **Tim W. McAlavy, (806) 746-6101, t-mcalavy@tamu.edu**
Steve Byrns, (325) 653-4576, s-byrns@tamu.edu
Contact: **J.F. Cadenhead, (940) 552-9941, j-cadenhead@tamu.edu**

COLLEGE STATION - Much of Texas is a tinderbox right now. Texas Cooperative Extension range specialists are advising all Texans, especially landowners, to refrain from lighting any fires during work-related or other activities.

"There is no question of whether to burn: Do not light a fire for any reason," said J.F. Cadenhead, Extension range and brush control specialist based at Vernon. "Conditions are just too hazardous."

Unseasonably warm dry weather since November 2005 has sparked many wildfires in the state, scorching more than 200,000 acres, destroying or damaging more than 200 homes, and causing several fatalities.

Although prescribed burning - burning under prescribed certain conditions for specific reasons to attain certain management goals - is sometimes permitted during burn bans, potential problems caused by burning under current conditions cannot adequately be addressed by these burn plans, Cadenhead said.

"There are recognized environmental needs that must be met before and after a burn for proper rangeland recovery to occur, not to mention the safety concerns and risks to life and property," Cadenhead said.

"The prudent rangeland resource manager is reminded that rangeland health and recovery can be substantially hindered if a burn is done during droughty times on dry soils with no foreseeable moisture. Lack of grass and ground cover accelerates wind and water erosion on unprotected soils.

"Those planning and conducting the burn can only attempt to determine how 'safe' a burn can be if all goes as planned. With the current dry conditions, weather patterns and recent wildlife events causing public fear of any smoke on the horizon, most, if not all prescribed burning should be put on hold until more favorable conditions return."

Robert Pritz, Extension agent in Callahan County, had his holidays cut short when two fires whipped through his county just after Christmas. A fire on Dec. 26 charred 2,500 acres of rangeland north of Baird. Soon after, a second fire roared through Cross Plains, claiming two lives, destroying more than 100 structures, killing livestock and burning 7,800 acres.

After dealing with these disasters, Pritz is promoting two ideas to limit future agricultural losses.

The first is setting up an animal evacuation plan.

"You should have an evacuation plan not only for yourself, but for your livestock as well," Pritz said. "Know at a moment's notice what to do with your livestock if a fire does come across your place. Do you have a wheat patch or a plowed field to put them in? Whatever it is, give your animals the option to get out of the way."

"Producers here did a great job of giving their livestock that chance, which kept our livestock losses far below what they could have been. In some instances a rescue was as simple as cutting the fence and letting them run down a county road. Some of the losses reported were from people who got their cows out, but lost their calves when they missed the gate and ran into a corner where they died from the smoke."

His second idea is minimizing equipment losses.

Too many people don't consider the potential for losing valuable equipment until it's too late, Pritz said.

"Where are you storing your equipment?" he said. "And put those overhead fuel tanks further away from your buildings. A lot of equipment was lost here, because it was parked in areas vulnerable to fire."

"Something else to think about is insurance on farm equipment. A lot of our guys are wishing they had it now. About the only insured equipment any of them had was that which was financed; and that's only because it was required."

"The Texas Forest Service and National Weather Service agree that extreme drought conditions are likely to persist in Texas through March, unless extraordinary winter moisture occurs soon," Cadenhead said. "We are also just now entering the worst, driest time (January through March) of our typical wildfire season."

"Many of our wildfires to date have been caused by people burning trash, celebrating the holidays with fireworks, careless handling of smoking materials, electrical sparks from wind-blown highlines and transformer shorts."

Pritz gave accolades for the volunteer fire departments that fight most rural fires.

"I'll tell you, I've learned more than anything how valuable our volunteer fire departments are," Pritz said. "These guys go above and beyond to help out. A lot of people think they just handle small stuff, you know, just little fires. These fires we've had the last few days here in Callahan County and in Eastland County, now let me tell you, those have been some major fires they've had to deal with. Please don't put your neighbors who serve in this capacity at risk through your carelessness or stupidity. Think before you flick that cigarette or strike that welding arc."

All Texans are encouraged to monitor drought and fire conditions and refrain from any activities which might involve fire. With the dry soil in pastures, burning now will increase the risk of killing grass roots, resulting in bare ground and possible soil erosion, Cadenhead said. Landowners who have a prescribed burn planned in counties with high fuel loads or with recent wildfires are advised to put their plans on hold until better weather conditions return.

"That means no outdoor burning of any kind, at least for now," Cadenhead said.

Texans can monitor the current drought and wildfire situation using these resources:

- Texas Emergency Management Situation Reports from the Governor's Division of Emergency Management at: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/sitrepindex.htm>
- Texas wildfire information and reports from the Texas Forest Service at: <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu>
- The Keetch-Bynum Drought Index at: http://webgis.tamu.edu/tfs/kbdi_daily/kbdiindex.png
- The U.S. Drought Monitor manned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Rig Locations as of January 6, 2006

RIGDATA
A Rig Location & Permit Review Service

Sutton
Dominion; 9550' Ray Ranch - B - #1142, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 9500' Hill-May Ray - D - #2, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8950' Mayer - 4 - LTD - #1, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8950' Mayer - 20A - #3, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8875' Mayer - 3B - #10, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8400' Shannon - 52 - #16, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 8360' Edwin S Hill - Mayer Jr. - U - #5, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8350' Mayer Ranch - F - #7, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8250' Shurley - 166 - #18, Patterson Drilling.
Mariner Energy; 8200' Mayer #4A, Lariat Services.
New Dominion; 7850' Mack Cauthorn - 130 - #8, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 7600' Shurley RR - 4C - #2, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 7500' RC Ward #7, Patterson Drilling.
Dominion; 7450' Shurley - 147 - #20, Patterson Drilling.
New KCS Resources; 7000' Genini #3315, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6750' Canyon Ranch - 115 - #18S, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 6750' Canyon Ranch -126 - #12S, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett
Henry Petroleum; 10800' University - 6 - Hannah - 26 - #3, Big Dog Drilling.
Clayton Williams; 10000' University - 26 - #1, Lariat Services.
Harrison Interests; 10000' Joe Tom Davidson Jr - A - #46, Patterson Drilling.
New Pioneer Natural; 9950' Read - 28 - #2 Patterson Drilling.
Approach Operating; 9000' Approach Bailey #406, Nabors Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' Bailey #412, Nabors Drilling.
Approach Operating; 9000' Lauffer #1303, Nabors Drilling.
New Approach Operating; 9000' Addie Clayton #808, Nabors Drilling.
New Anadarko E&P; 8000' Laura Hoover Estate - 7C - #12, Patterson Drilling.
New Bluegrass Energy Inc.; 7000' Simpson Canyon - 4027 - Unit #1, Adobe Drilling.
New FIML Natural Res; 5500' Maggie Moore #22B, Patterson Drilling.
New EOG Resources; 5275' Shannon Hospital - 4 - #11W, Adobe Drilling.

Schleicher
New Approach Operating; 9000' Rousselot #1405, Nabors Drilling.
New Dominion; 8650' Edwin S Mayer Jr. - N - #5, Patterson Drilling.
COG Operating; 7800' Brunton - 27 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
Discovery Operating; 6900' RL Henderson - A - #2, Heart Land Drilling.

Terrell
Newfield Exploration; 15000' Poulter #3402, Patterson Drilling.
New ConocoPhillips; 12000' Creek Ranch - 15 - #3R, Patterson UTI.
Exxonmobil Dev. Co; 11600' Banner Estate #4, Helmerich & Payne.
New PXP Texas, Inc.; 8500' Mitchell - 11 - #7, Nabors Drilling.
New Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Brown SE - 212 - #30, Patterson Drilling.
Fasken Oil & Ranch; 7500' Brown NE - 211 - #35, 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 #10, Grey Wolf Drilling.
Patterson Petrol; 15000' Redd State #1, Patterson Drilling.

Schleicher
New Approach Operating; 9000' Rousselot #1405, Nabors Drilling.
New Dominion; 8650' Edwin S Mayer Jr - H - #5, Patterson Drilling.
New Dominion; 8500' Edwin S. Mayer Jr - E - #25, Patterson Drilling.
COG Operating; 7800' Brunton - 27 - #1, Patterson Drilling.
New Discovery Operating; 6900' BR #1, Heart Land Drilling.

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



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Days Inn Devil's River is now accepting applications for the following positions: **Front Desk Clerks, Night Audit, Housekeeping.** No experience required; will train. Please apply in person @ 1312 N. Service Rd.

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Employment

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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.

BJ Services, currently seeking to fill the position of **Facilities Product Handler.** Job Duties include but not limited to Loading Chemicals, Facility Maintenance & 24/hr call. Excellent benefits & Career growth. Apply at BJ Services, Eldorado, Texas.

Rafter W Feeds needs a **warehouse helper.** Please apply in person @ 207 Cedar St.

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1. **Building Custodian**—full time employment
2. **Custodian for Food Service**—8 hours per day, school days only, requires 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

Hill Country Care Center our local, non-profit, skilled nursing home, has an opening for a **Director of Nursing and part-time RNs.** Call Rodney Bacon or Barbara Myers, at 325-446-3351.

Hiring cashier and kitchen help. Call 387-9197. Ask for Maria or Jessica.

The Health and Wellness Center needs a **Part-Time Receptionist/Telephone Operator** Monday-Friday, 5:15 a.m. Shift. Approx 20 hours per week. Apply in person between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. No Phone Calls.

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

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611 S. Crockett in Sonora, TX Public Sale on February 7, 2006 - 1:00 p.m. - Sutton County Courthouse in Sonora, TX on the front (south side - facing Water Street) steps of the courthouse. Property sold "AS IS". Bidders welcome to inspect all reports prior to bidding. Call Brady Johnson at 325-387-2593 for information.

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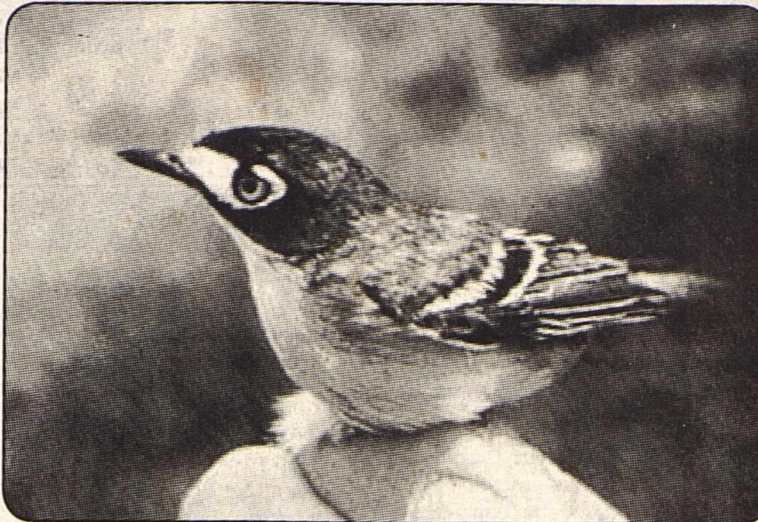
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◆ GLORY ROAD (PG) 1:40 4:30 7:30 10:20	◆ FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (PG-13) 12:15 2:40 5:20 7:50 10:15
◆ LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) 2:00 3:50 7:45 10:30	◆ CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 2:10 4:35 7:05
◆ HOODWINKED (PG) 12:10 2:20 4:50 7:15	◆ RUMOR HAS IT (PG-13) 1:45 4:10 6:50 9:20
◆ TRISTAN & ISOLDE (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00	◆ THE RINGER (PG-13) 12:00 2:30 5:05 7:35 10:05
◆ HOSTEL (R) 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:40 10:10	◆ MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG-13) 1:10 7:10
◆ MUNICH (R) 12:45 4:20 8:00	◆ KING KONG (PG-13) 12:50 5:15 9:15
◆ CASANOVA (R) 1:05 4:05 6:55 9:45	◆ THE FAMILY STONE (PG-13) 4:40 10:25
◆ GRANDMA'S BOY 9:30	◆ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 12:40 4:15 7:25 10:35
◆ BLOODRAYNE 9:40	

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UP ON EATON HILL The Secret Is Out



Black-capped Vireo courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
by Delyse Jaeger

It's a new year and the perfect time to throw caution to the wind and let the bird out of the bag! Some time ago, Texas Parks & Wildlife biologist Mary Humphrey phoned to let me in on a possible discovery she'd made on Eaton Hill. For several mornings, Mary had identified what she believed to be the song of...SHHH - don't tell anyone...a black-capped vireo. This is the species that has gained some degree of UNpopularity as a result of the occasionally disruptive impact precipitated by its "endangered" status. Known to some as that little (expletive) bird, protective measures have interrupted industrial progress, rerouted roads and generally stepped on a few toes. But he's a darling of the birding world, and oh how they (we) love him!

On a beautiful spring morning Mary and I headed up the trail in hopes of making a visual identification. Male black-capped vireos fiercely defend their territory, so Mary employed a recorded song to lure the tiny songbird out from the cover of thick underbrush. Anticipation gave way to sheer joy as Mary pointed out the male vireo that quickly appeared in response to the sound of a competitor's voice. Through the branches there sat, well flitted is more descriptive, one of the most unusual birds I have ever seen.

The most distinctive feature is his large reddish eyes. As you may have guessed, he has a black head, but it is partially dissected with a prominent white eye ring that converges from each side above the black beak. The eye ring is broken by a line of black descending from the black cap to the top of the arresting red eye. The vireos upper body is a green and his underside is light with yellow sides. Females are similar but a duller gray where the male is black. BC vireos live about five years and return each spring to their nesting site. One of the primary causes of their decline is the parasitic nest invader - the bane of the baby bird - the reckless nest-wrecking songbird slayer - cockroach of the avian world - the despised and dreaded brown cowbird. However, habitat loss also has played a part in their decline. Black-capped vireos seem to require approximately four feet of thick underbrush and are partial to particular mixes of broadleaf shrubs.

If memory serves me correctly, we celebrated the discovery with a few steps of the chicken dance - although Mary might say there was no "we". Researching this beautiful bird, I was surprised and delighted to learn that the black-capped vireo was originally described in 1852 by one S.W. Woodhouse who collected specimens near the Rio San Pedro. Today, the Rio San Pedro is known as the Devil's River and the collection site is recorded as none other than our own Sutton County! One of these specimens was sent to the National Museum of Natural History. Perhaps it's still there. So you see, it's only fitting that we announce the sometimes troublesome but always wonderful Black-capped Vireo of Eaton Hill. Hit the trails!

F.Y.I.

7th Annual Polar Bear Classic, sponsored by the Sonora High School Golf Team; Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the Sonora Golf Course.

The 4-H office is seeking volunteers to work the concessions at the Sutton County Junior Livestock Show on January 13 & 14. All proceeds go to benefit the Sutton 4-H club. To volunteer call the Extension office at 387-3101.

Sutton County Livestock Show begins at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14.

Lion's Club Queen's Contest - January 16, 7:30 p.m. - Sonora High School Auditorium.

Starting January 18, 2006, on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Lighthouse Community Church, a Beth Moore Bible Study, "Jesus, the One and Only". FMI call the church at 387-9100

Coming January 18, 2006, Ken Freeman to the Sonora High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.- Food for the youth; All invited at 7:00 p.m.

All Sonora Girls P-K thru 12: Girls Scout sign up for Sonora will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, from 5:30 - 7:00 at the Sonora Girls' Scout Hut located at the corner of Pecan & Water. Any questions, feel free to call Nelda Tobias at 387-5390, Rita Mendez 387-2853, or Sandrita Gonzales 387-3622.

Effective January 1, 2006 Regular City Council Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas

City Council Regular meeting - Tuesday, January 17, 2006; 4:00 p.m.; City Hall

Would you like to start a business but don't know where to begin? The Angelo State University • Small Business Development Center is presenting a FREE seminar titled, "The Essentials of Starting a New Business." This session will cover the requirements of owning a business and the resources available to small businesses. Topics include: * Advantages and disadvantages to owning a business * Market assessment * Profitability assessment * Financing assessment * Choosing a form of organization * Naming your business - Karen Best will facilitate this seminar. Karen holds a J.D. from The University of Texas at Austin and has extensive experience in counseling clients regarding issues facing small business owners, including regulatory and employment law issues. She is an active member of the State Bar of Texas, Tom Green County Bar Association, National Academy of Elderlaw Attorneys, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Rio Concho Retirement Communities. The seminar will be held on Thursday, January 12th, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Rassman Building (2222 Dena Drive) on the ASU Campus, Rassman Conference Room 100. This seminar is Free! Please call (325) 942-2098 to register or by e-mail www.angelo.edu. A Partnership Program with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Community Calender events and FYI sponsored by:



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CRITTERS from page 1

meeting to be held at 2 P.M. on Saturday. The meeting is mandatory for the team captains, but all team members are welcome to attend. Due to difficulty of all members being able to arrive by two o'clock, the team captain can register his team members, HOWEVER, ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE PRESENT FOR CHECK IN ON SUNDAY.

Each member is responsible for having a valid Trapping license. The Game Warden is aware of this contest and may be present to check licenses at check-in.

Sutton County and surrounding counties (Schleicher, Menard, Kimble, Edwards, Val Verde, and Crockett) can be hunted, but not Highways, County roads, land where hunting is not permitted, and land where permission is not granted for hunting Only animals taken during contest are permitted, and no trapped, road kill, etc...animals will be accepted.

SCORING: 50 Points-Mountain Lion; 30 Points-Coyote; 20 Points- Bobcat; 15 Points-Red Fox; 10 Points-Gray Fox
- Raccoon--3 points will be awarded for each of the first five (5) Raccoons, each Raccoon after that will be worth 1/4th of a point.

PRIZES: Each contest will payback 90% of the entry total, and will be split between

1st (50%), 2nd (35%), and 3rd (15%). The remaining 10% from each contest will be held and awarded (along with any donated money) to the team who has the highest combined score form two of the hunts. The team must hunt two of the three hunts in order to qualify for the over-all pot.

If a team participates in all three, their two hunts with the highest points will be combined to determine their over-all points.

JACKPOTS: There will also be optional jackpots for those teams interested in entering, and each will be \$10.00 per team. There will be a jackpot for the most headshots, the most of leach category (e. most Gray Fox, most Bobcats, etc...).

REGISTRATION: Teams may consist of one to four people (team must hunt together), and entry will be \$100.00 per team. Each team must sign a rules and regulations sheet upon entry stipulating that they fully understand the rules.

ONLY CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ENTRY AND JACKPOTS

This contest is to have fun, as well as to help the area ranchers to control predators. In order to increase predator control, we need to increase participation, and if any rancher, business or individual would like to add money to the pot in order to increase participation, please feel free to contact me.

Please feel free to call with any questions or suggestions at (325) 650-0221 or (325) 206-1722.

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<p>Edward Jones Barton F. Gamble 4241 Southwest Blvd Ste 104 San Angelo, TX 76904 800-736-6573 IRA's • CD's • 401K Rollover College Savings Municipal Bonds</p> <p>HAIRCUTS BY JANIS 234 Hwy 277 N. 387-3700 Tues. - Fri. Men & Women</p> <p>Knox Floor Covering Carpet-Vinyl-Tile 392-2180 201 Ave I Ozona, TX</p> <p>Windmills • Pumps • Drilling Deep Well Rig George Thorp Water Well Drilling & Service GEO. "JENKY" THORP 325-387-5104 MOBILE: 325-206-0230 226-3613 510 W. Mulberry Sonora, TX 76950</p> <p>SONORA AIR COOLED ENGINES & EQUIPMENT RENTAL Sales, Service and Repairs</p> <p>Echo • Scag • Snapper • MTD MURRAY • KOHLER • ENCORE Briggs & Stratton • Tecumseh Billy Goat • Bean Pumps Now carrying: N2 Brand ATV Parts and Accessories for Polaris, Kawasaki, Arctic Cat, Suzuki, Yamaha and Honda 507 N. Crockett Ave. Carl Johnson • 387-3400</p> <p>BREWER REFRIGERATION Lic. #TACLBO12114C Ice Machines Sales-Service-Rentals We sell & service Deer Coolers & Freezers 325-835-2141 Mobile 450-2793</p> <p>Lacayo's Cajuns of New Orleans Authentic Cajun Cooking Dennis & Diane Lacayo, owners Damien Lacayo, Manager 1005 N. Crockett 387-5555</p> <p>D.G.'s Pet Service Grooming • Home Pet Care Pickup & Delivery Available 325.387.3104</p>	<p>Carl J. Cahill, Inc. OILFIELD CONTRACTOR  (325) 387-2524 Sonora, TX</p> <p>Rafter W Feed 201 Cedar 387-3042 Your local Acco, Purina and Sure Fed Feed Dealer</p> <p>Team Graphics CUSTOM SCREEN PRINTING EMBROIDERY T-Shirts • Caps Marla Percifull 325-387-5017 Sonora, TX</p> <p>Custom Iron Work  325-206-0780 cell 325-387-3649 Hm. Email: mbadeaux@sonoratorx.net 1212 Glascock Sonora, TX 76950</p> <p>Community Rental & Supply 387-5577 Lolabeth Jones</p> <p>Party and Event Rental Tables, Chairs, Tablecloths, etc....</p> <p>Memories By McBride Juanita McBride 325-387-5959 325-226-3491 Sports Photography • Weddings Quinceanera • Senior Pictures Christmas Photos</p> <p>B&H CATERING Harold & Benita Martinez 207 W. Chestnut 387-2528 or 206-1268 Hrs. 7:00 .m. - 6:30 p.m. BBQ Plates, Daily Specials, Breakfast Tacos and Catering. Dine-In or Carry-Out!</p> <p>Circle "S" Automotive 501 S. Crockett Sonora, Texas 76950 325-387-5167</p> <p>MARY KAY For all your beauty needs contact Victoria Richardson 100 Edgemont 325-387-5280 victrich45@hotmail.com</p> <p>DRN</p>
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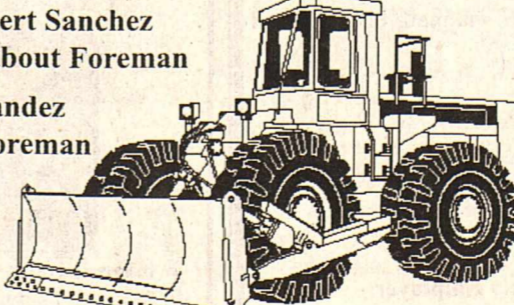
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