

The Devil's River News

75¢

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 24, 2008

Trustees Deny Superintendent's Contract Extension

By Becky McAngus

A motion to extend the contract of Sonora ISD Superintendent Doug Bawcom was defeated Monday night. At-large Trustee Mallory Rousselot proposed extension of the superintendent's contract, a motion seconded by board president and precinct 4 Trustee Dean Dermody. Rousselot and Dermody voted in favor of the contract extension, while precinct 3 member Barbara Jennings and at-large members Tammy Favila and Scott Jacoby voted to deny extension. Jesse Bustamante, who represents precinct 1, was not present for the meeting.

The superintendent's contract was renewed for an additional three-year term last year and is set to expire in 2010. Public outcry over the superintendent's grading philosophy and a challenge to the recording of school board meeting minutes likely influenced the decisions of the trustees.

The board's decision followed a meeting where members got their first peek at an architectural and engineering contract proposed by Chapman Harvey Architects of Lubbock. The architectural firm was retained by the district in 2007 to prepare a Master Plan for improvement and upgrades of the facilities at Bronco Stadium. The proposal includes new locker rooms for both the boys and girls and a multi-purpose building to allow for athletic practice in inclement weather, as well as improved public amenities. The Master Plan provides a comprehensive framework for the six-phase project and is intended to guide the district in land use issues and future improvements to the facility. Sonora ISD paid Chapman Harvey \$11,000 for the Master Plan design.

Larry Harvey, a partner in the architectural firm, told the board, "It's up to us to convince you to hire us to finish the work." He thanked the

board for their input and for the opportunity to prepare the Master Plan and then presented a preliminary draft of the standard architectural and engineering contract, designed to cover all phases of the multi-million dollar project.

Harvey told the trustees that the firm has determined that a portion of the schematic design had already been prepared in the Master Plan rendering, and that the remaining costs derived from the schematic design phase could be met through an hourly cost. "You shouldn't have to pay again for the work we've already done," he stated. The contract proposes administrative hourly wages for work by the firm to range from \$60 per hour for clerical work to \$130 per hour for architectural and engineering time.

Once the schematic design has been completed, the firm proposes an 8% fee for architectural and engineering services. Should the school district determine that it does not want to pursue the construc-

Continued on

Page 4

Local Church Looks to the Future



Photo by Ben D. Taylor
Don Longoria and Jane Rushing stand in front of the foundation of the new fellowship hall.

By Ben D. Taylor

What is a church? Most people would say that a church is a place of worship, or more specifically a building. Some people see church as religion, or the central location for that religion. For Don Longoria and his congregation at Lighthouse Community Church, a church is much more simple than that. For them, a church is made up of people and brought together by a sense of community, the building itself is just stone, metal, and glass.

Don Longoria (or Don Don as the younger members of his church call him) has a singular vision when it comes to his church's mission, "Everything we do is a bridge to the community. We want to reach unchurched people and people that have given up on traditional church." Don proudly told me about an evangelist preacher that recently visited Lighthouse Community Church and referred to the makeup of the congregation as "The Island of Misfit Toys" commenting on the diverse makeup of the people. Don was quick not to criticize other churches and the way they worship, "Our church is not for everyone, we just want to give people another option." Don continues to work with other churches in town towards their combined goal to spread a message.

In late 2002, Lighthouse Community Church outgrew its home and started looking for a new one, and in January 2003 they found it in the old movie theatre in the western part of town. From the start, the renovations were a community event, "When we bought the old movie theatre, we would have family night, bringing the entire family to help work on the church. We had 80 year old women pushing wheelbarrows while 6 year olds worked next to them." The Herculean renovation effort enabled the church to hold its first service in only 4 months. They worked hard to make the church a comfortable and functional space, and have used it for more than just worship services; hosting concerts, youth events, and educational programs.

The popularity of those programs prompted the church to start looking at building the new fellowship hall, "We had a youth program we put together with Eldorado and had a line running outside of the building." The new fellowship hall will be 2,000 square feet (with the upstairs area, the total amount of usable space totals up to over 7,000 square feet) and will contain offices, conference rooms, and a large worship center. The future vision of this church does not stop at the borders of Sutton County, "I would like our church to have a regional influence. We want to equip and train other churches on different ways of teaching the message", Longoria commented. The size of the new fellowship hall is not the most impressive factor in its construction, as the church plans on building the entire building debt free. Jane Rushing, who acts as an ambassador to the community and women minister, commented, "We don't want to put money into a build

Continued on Page 4

School Board Seeks Candidates for Spring Election

By Becky McAngus

Monday, February 11th is the first day for candidates to file for a place on the ballot for the May 10th Sonora ISD Board of Trustees election. The spring election will involve four seats on the seven-member board. Candidates are being sought for two-year terms from precincts two and four. Candidates for precincts one and three will be elected to three year terms.

Persons interested in serving on the Sonora Independent School District Board of Trustees should file with Cynthia Keel at the School Administration Office, 807 SE Concho. There is not a fee required of any candidate. In order to qualify, candidates must be registered voters. They must have been Texas residents for at least 12 months and must have lived in the precinct they hope to represent for at least six months.

Persons considering service on the Board of Trustees should know that this is a volunteer commitment. There is no pay for members' efforts to guide the direction of our school district and to prepare our children for the future. Board members in Sonora oversee the expenditure of \$14 million in taxpayer dollars, funding a public school district that serves the educational needs of one thousand children with a staff of approximately 160 persons. The board meets at least one time each month and sets the goals and policies of the district.

Currently, the Sonora ISD board of trustees includes Jesse Bustamante, representing precinct one; Barbara Jennings, representing precinct three; and Dean Dermody representing precinct four. An open seat on the board - that of the precinct two representative - has existed since mid-2007, when Tryon Fields resigned that position. All of those positions are up for election. The remaining board is comprised of at-large representatives Mallory Rousselot, Scott Jacoby and Tammy Favila. Those positions are not up for election this year.

The last day for candidates to file for a place on the spring ballot is March 10th. March 17th is the last day for write-in candidates to file. Early voting in the school board election begins at 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 28th.

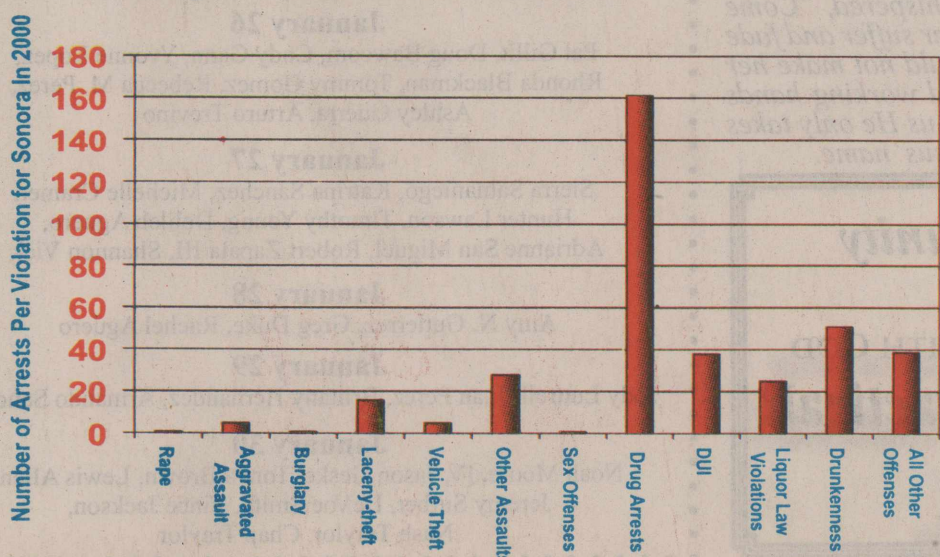
Homicide Investigation Continues

By Ben D. Taylor

As the dust settles around the events of last Tuesday, the picture is not much clearer regarding the body found at the Stadium Trailer Park. According to the incident report supplied by city attorney Beth Wallace, Sonora resident Joel Harrell (originally from Sanderson, Texas) was the victim of foul play. Harrell was found by his employer Robert Mittel at approximately 7:00 a.m. January 15, 2008, and officer Jarratt from the Sonora Police Department responded on scene. At the time of press, there was no indication that the investigators had any suspects or were looking at any person of interest.

While Sonora's crime rate was about 60% less than the national average between 2001 and 2006 (based on a crime index compiled from FBI and census data), our close approximation to Mexico and being on Interstate 10 makes us particularly susceptible to the drug trade. In 2000, drugs accounted for over 40% of the total violations in Sonora, while all the assaults, thefts, and DUIs combined only accounted for 22% of the crime rate.

Living in a small town, we tend to think of ourselves as sheltered from much of the crime associated with the big city, but last week served as a sobering reality that we are not immune.



Just One Night

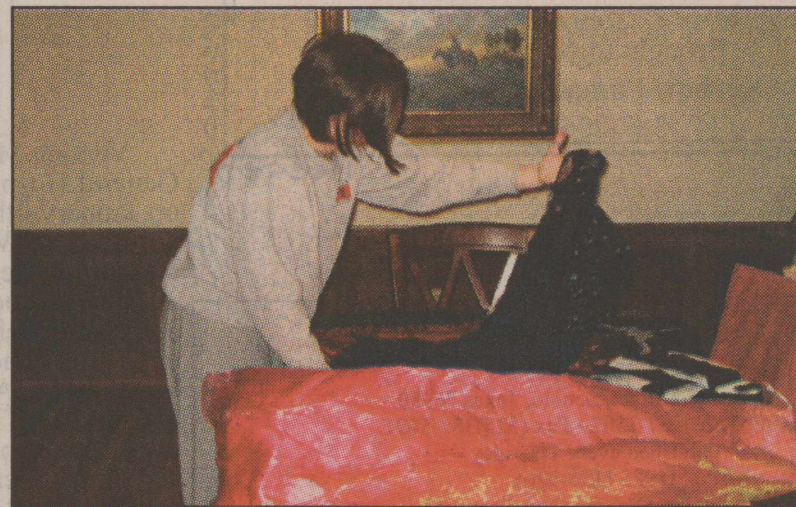


Photo by David Fisher
Stacy Fisher goes through formal gowns to donate to "Just One Night".

By Stacy Fisher

I remember my first dance like it was yesterday, the 6th grade Valentine's Dance at the old 4-H Center. As a girl, the most important part of that event was finding the perfect dress to wear that night for my first date.

My family was middle class, but buying an expensive dress didn't fit into the budget as easily as I thought it did back then. All I knew was that I wanted to go to the dance and look pretty. My mom took me to San Angelo to shop for my dress and it was a beautiful little fuchsia

number. I thanked her repeatedly, but I think the smile on my face was all she needed to know that I appreciated my parent's hard work.

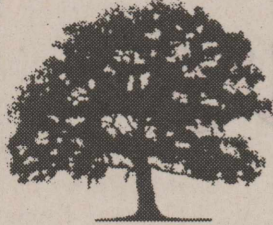
I am now older, wiser and realize that there are many families that go through the same struggles that my parents went through each time I needed a new dress for some formal event. In high school, I went to 3 or 4 formal events a year, and I am sure that wasn't easy on a pocketbook.

Now days I get to buy my own dresses, and after I wear

it once it hangs in my closet until I finally decide to donate it to an organization. This got me to thinking about what else could come of that beautiful dress I purchase each year.

After staring at the dresses in my closet for several minutes, I decided I wanted to give those dresses to the girls of our great community, and I just knew that there were several more ladies like myself that would do the same. Goodness, I still have dresses from high school that I will never be able to fit into again

Continued on Page 4



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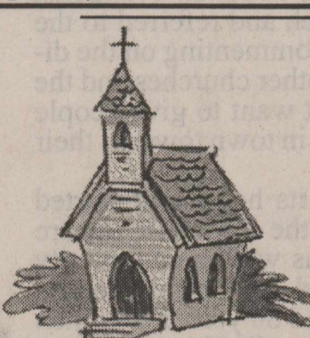
Senior Center Activities

Thur. Jan. 24 - Blood pressure checks 12:00 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 25 - Happy B-Day Lupe Mendez, Maggie Mesa-Vol.
B-Day party for Jan. babies at 12:00 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 26 - Happy B-Day Arturo Trevino, Rebecca Perez
Mon. Jan. 28 - BINGO
Tues. Jan. 29 - Happy B-Day Nilda Hernandez
Wed. Jan. 30 - Happy B-Day Virginia Ramirez

Senior Center Menu

Thur. Jan. 24 - Spaghetti with Meat sauce, zucchini, garlic beard,
white cake with caramel icing, juice, milk
Fri. Jan. 25 - Chicken Enchiladas, pinto beans, mexican corn,
crackers, tossed salad, fruit cup, milk
Mon. Jan. 28 - Salisbury Steak with Gravy, baked beans,
mustard greens, bread, peaches, milk
Tues. Jan. 29 - Oven Baked Chicken, lima beans, broccoli,
wheat bread, chunky fruit mix, milk
Wed. Jan. 30 - Steak Fingers with Gravy, whipped potatoes,
steamed broccoli, roll, peach cobbler, 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).



**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 11E. Oak 387-3190
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

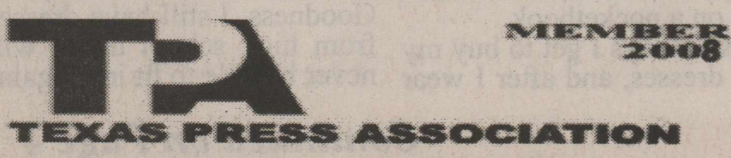
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**MEMBER
2008**



Obituaries

Julio Robles Samaniego

Julio Robles Samaniego Sr. 82, of Sonora, Texas peacefully passed away on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at his home. Funeral services were on Monday, January 14, 2008 at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial was in the Sonora Cemetery under the direction of Kerbow Funeral Home. He was born July 19, 1925 in Eden, Texas. He was a retired ranch foreman and a member of the Catholic Church. He and his beloved wife, Eulogia, of 64 years, married on April 3, 1943 and had four children. He was preceded in death by his father, Jose Samaniego Sr.; his brother, Jose Samaniego Jr., from Del Rio, Texas; his sister, Jesucita Gutierrez, from Santa Clara, California; and great granddaughter, Analesa Samaniego, from San Antonio, Texas.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Eulogia Samaniego; sons Julio Samaniego Jr. and wife Margarita, Ricardo Samaniego all of Sonora, Texas, Daniel Samaniego and wife Marcie from Big Lake, Texas, and his daughter Yolanda Martinez from Sonora, Texas; and 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild. Pall Bearers were Osbaldo Castaneda, Lalo Gonzales, Sam David Hernandez, Eddie Gutierrez, Mario Gonzales and Arnold Samaniego. Honorary pallbearers were Rudy Perez, Alvin Hernandez, Richard Perez and Mikeal Gonzales. God blessed us with a loving husband, father, "Tata," father-in-law, tio and friend. In our hearts his spirit will be with us always.

Thomas A. "Tommy" Morriss

Thomas A. "Tommy" Morriss passed from this life on Thursday, January 17, 2008. Tommy was born February 2, 1930, in Kerrville, TX to Thomas and Lucy Mae Morriss. He grew up on the Divide and attended a one-room schoolhouse until the sixth grade. He finished his schooling at Tivy High School in Kerrville. He then attended Texas Tech University for two years where he studied Agriculture. Tommy married Doris Ann Brown of Rocksprings on June 10, 1950. Tommy and Doris have three children: Mindy, Ann, and Steve.

Education of our youth was of importance to Tommy. He served on the Jeff Davis Co. School Board, Uvalde ISD Board of Education for seven years, and on the Board of Educators for the Education Service Center Region 20 for eighteen years. Family, faith and livestock were Tommy's life. He enjoyed farming, ranching, and, most recently, became a leader in the Boer goat industry. While living in Uvalde, he owned Uvalde Equipment Company for thirty-four years; a John Deere dealership. He always said his "hobby" was M&M Trucking Co. owned by him and his brother, Bill Morriss.

Tommy has friends and admirers from far and wide through his many endeavors and love of Boer goats. He was a very patient, kind, gentleman and "gentle man." He took great joy and pride in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was a very soft spoken individual with a beautiful smile and tremendous faith. For the past three years, Tommy accepted health difficulties with courage and graciousness.

Tommy was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Bill Morriss.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, and their three children: Mindy and Richard Hurt of Dilley, Ann Morriss, and Steve Morriss of Sonora. His grandchildren: Travis and Jamie Hurt of Dilley, Holly and Trey Preston of Pearland, Morriss and Erin Hurt of San Antonio, Ashlie and Cody Schenkel of Sonora, Desirae Bolt of Austin, Stephani Morriss and Ethan Morriss of Sonora. His great-grandchildren: Cooper Hurt, Clay Tom Hurt, and Payton Armbrister. He is also survived by an aunt, Patti Beall Morriss of Kerrville and three nieces: Shelley Brooks of Waco, Molly Morriss of Sonora, and Lucy Dingel of Dallas.

As he was a member of the First Methodist Church, there was a memorial service held at the First Methodist Church in Sonora at 11:00 AM Saturday, January 19, 2008. Burial followed at the Sunset Cemetery in Mountain Home, Texas at 3:30 PM.

Memorials may be made to the First Methodist Church of Sonora, Hospice of San Angelo, or the charity of your choice.

Viviana M. Reyna



Viviana M. Reyna, 89, died January 2, 2008, at Palo Pinto General Hospital, in Mineral Wells, TX. Services were held on January 4th at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church with burial in the Woodland Park Cemetery where she was laid to rest next to her husband, Alfonso Reyna.

She was born on December 2, 1918 in Sonora to Francisco and Bruna Delgado Martinez, but was raised by the only mother she ever knew, Dolores Chico Delgado. She is survived by her children, Alfonso Reyna Jr. of Waco, TX; Armando Reyna of Houston, TX; Amparo Gonzales of Mineral Wells, TX; Andrea Chavez of Sonora, TX; Anabelia Flores of Minearl Wells, TX and Leticia Dorrell of Sanger, TX; 13 grandchildren, of which two, Rachel Duran and Monica Buitron reside in Sonora; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Viviana was preceded in death by her husband in 1981; daughter Adriana Garcia; grandchildren Freddy Reyna and Alberto Gonzales; mother, Dolores Chico Delgado; brothers; Pedro Martinez, Agustine Martinez, Lazaro Martinez and Jose Chico; sisters, Anita Gonzales and Rosario Ibarra.

God saw she was getting tired and a cure was not to be found. So he put his arms around her and whispered, "Come with Me." With tear filled eyes we watched her suffer and fade away. Although we loved her deeply, we could not make her stay. A Golden Heart stopped beating, hard working hands put to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. Viviana M. Reyna was healed in Jesus' name.

**Lighthouse Community
Church**

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Cards of Thanks

The family of Tommy Morriss would like to express their appreciation and thanks for all the prayers, acts of kindness, encouragement and love shown toward Tommy in the last three years. A special thanks to Dr. Charles Pajestka and his staff, Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital staff and employees, and Hospice of San Angelo. You will never know how much you blessed him and his family.

Sincerely,
Doris Morriss
Richard and Mindy Hurt and family
Ann Morriss and family
Steve Morriss and family

The family of Julio Samaniego Sr. would like to thank all of the people who assisted us during Dad's illness and passing. We are blessed to live in a community of friends and family that come together to help one of their own. For the prayers, the floral arrangements and the delicious meals, thanks from the bottom of our hearts. To super nurses Julie Lozano and Marilee Seargent, your patience, care and thorough knowledge provided us those extra wonderful days with Dad. To Dr. Pajestka and staff, thank you for your patience and care. Special thanks to Kerbow Funeral Home (Bruce and Glen) for the wonderful job they did with Dad. To our special friends and neighbors Rudy and Ervenia Perez and family, words cannot express the gratitude we have for you. You are the "guardian angels" sent by God to watch over Dad and Mom. To Primos Cale and Maggie Mesa and Compadres Osbaldo and Belia Castaneda, you all were wonderful during our time of sorrow. To the ladies from the Catholic Church, for the preparation of the delicious family meal after Dad's funeral, we truly appreciate your long hours. We love and are truly blessed to have all of you in our lives.

Eulogia Samaniego and Family



Dear Sutton County,
We would like to say thank you for everyone's help, support and donations for our trip to London. Everything the community did for us, we greatly appreciate.

We would also like to thank our families for every little and big things they did for us on our trip. It was an experience we will never forget.

During our trip, we were able to tour St. Paul's Cathedral, The Tower of London, Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, and the London Dungeon. We gained a whole new knowledge of London and the differences over the "great pond".

We had a blast cheering in the New Year's Day Parade, our main event of the trip. We would again like to thank everyone for all their help.

Sincerely,
Stephani Morriss and Monica Traylor

How can I express my appreciation to everyone for all they have done for me through this ordeal. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of the guys I work with at HighMount for the support they have given me and for not allowing me to get down when things were really bad. The one person out of all I really want to know of my appreciation and love is Pat Day, this lady was always there, made sure I always had what I needed, but most of all, she always knew the right things to say and do to keep me going. I really don't know how to express my gratitude and thanks for everyone who participated in the benefit golf tournament. I hope and pray to be deserving of the love and kindness everyone has shown me. From the bottom of my heart, I hope to be there for all, as everyone has been there for me.

I love you all,
Gene Hunt

Happy Birthday

January 24
Tecka Mobley, Louise Dermody, Edward Mata, Claudia Dempsey, Stevie Hernandez, Travis Traylor, Halle Samaniego, Meghan Hernandez, Joetta Friess, Jonathan Martin

January 25
Tori Harris, Diana Arteiga, Guadalupe Mendez, Amanda Sanchez, Mike Routh, Richard Espinosa, Jr., Jaden Sanchez, Luis Lira, Jr.

January 26
Pat Gillit, Doug Bawcom, Cody Gann, Yvonne Lopez, Rhonda Blackman, Tommy Gomez, Rebecca M. Perez, Ashley Guerra, Arturo Trevino

January 27
Sierra Samaniego, Katrina Sanchez, Michelle Cramer, Hunter Lawson, Timothy Young, Delilah Agüero, Adrienne San Miguel, Robert Zapata III, Shannon Vick

January 28
Amy N. Gutierrez, Greg Duke, Rachel Agüero

January 29
Jody Luttrell, Juan Perez, Brittany Hernandez, Armando Sanchez

January 30
Noah Moore, IV, Jason Geske, Tonya Brown, Lewis Allen, Jeremy Surber, DeVoe Smith, Vince Jackson, Nash Traylor, Chap Traylor

Historical Society



Pictured - Jesse Lott Cook

Ask the Historical Society by Jo-Ann E. Palmer, Secretary

Sutton County Historical Society NOTICE -There will be a meeting of the Sutton County Historical Society on April 26th at noon at the Sutton County Steak House. We ask that as many of you as can, attend. This is an important planning meeting and we need as many there as possible. Lunch is dutch treat. Thank You!

Q. Do you have any information on the death of one Buck O'Connor in 1926?

A. "The Devil's River News," November 6, 1926 - Buck O'Connor, age 25, of Glitner, Nebraska, is dead and Jack Jones, of Chester, Pennsylvania, is in jail here, charged with murder, as the result of a shooting Tuesday afternoon on the Sim Glasscock Ranch 25 miles southwest of Sonora, which Jones claims was accidental. The verdict of Justice of the Peace, S. H. Stokes was that O'Connor met his death through a gunshot wound inflicted by Jones.

O'Connor was shot in the pit of the stomach and lived only a few hours. Reviving shortly before he died, he termed the shooting "just foolishness" according to Dr. A. J. Smith. Jones said that he had shot a diseased sheep with a 25-20 caliber rifle and, starting toward the ranch house, had turned to O'Connor, a distance of about thirty steps, with the remark, "let's go get something to eat," when the rifle accidentally was discharged. He said he believed that when he ejected the shell after shooting the sheep, the rifle was left cocked but he could not account for its firing the second time.

Both men worked on the Glasscock Ranch. O'Connor died on the way here. His body was taken to San Angelo, Wednesday morning, in the Sonora Motor Company's hearse and will be sent by the Robert Massie Co., to Glitner, Nebraska, per telegraphic request of O'Connor's mother to Sheriff B. W. Hutcherson.

Leavenworth, Kansas, was taken to Ft. Sam Houston at San Antonio by Deputy Sheriff, Jesse Cook last week and turned over to authorities there.

Q. Please tell the story of the baby climbing the windmill if you still have it?

A. "The Devil's River News," November 13, 1909 - Betsy Windrow and Lawrence Lewis, the hopeful two year olds of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Windrow and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Lewis were playing in the Lewis yard Monday afternoon, as had been their custom. Mrs. Lewis was attracted from her work by the baby Lawrence pulling at her dress and talking in infant language to her. Mother instinct told her that her son wanted her attention and thinking that Betsy might have gotten into trouble went with the child to investigate and find Betsy. Mrs. Lewis looked all around the place for Betsy but Lawrence kept taking his mother to the windmill and at last by pointing his hand caused his mother to look up—and there on the platform, 20 feet above ground was Betsy. Mrs. Lewis called Mrs. Windrow who was so frightened she could scarcely stand and Mrs. Berger and another neighbor seeing the predicament climbed the ladder and held Betsy until Mr. Windrow could be brought from town to take Betsy down from her perilous predicament. The lower rounds have been taken from the ladder and there is no danger of a repetition of the scene.

Q. Has there ever been an earthquake in Sonora?

A. We have not been the epicenter of a quake but we have felt tremors, at least once since I lived here and in "The Devil's River News," of Friday, August 21, 1931 we found the following: Sonora citizens were among those in the state to experience the earth quake which traveled a five hundred mile trip through Texas on last Sunday morning.

The quake here was of a light nature and a short duration, disturbing the rest of a few but a great many were unaware of nature's phenomenon until hearing of it later in the morning. It had been more than a quarter of a century since Texas has had a disturbance of this sort.

It was reported on the streets that a chimney on the house of Thomas Adams had been destroyed by the shock, but upon investigation proved to be false. Other towns in West Texas were

not so fortunate, however. At Valentine it is estimated that \$75,000 damage was done. Although many houses, of the 'dobe variety, were shaken down no loss of life was reported. Valentine, which seems to have been the center of the quake, has later experienced a second shock somewhat less severe than the first. San Antonio citizens had some of their choice china broken and window lights knocked out, but fell heir to no great damage.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton County his-

tory please send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonoratlx.net.

If you wish to use our research facility, you may stop in any Tuesday or Thursday morning from 9-12:30 or Saturday morning from 8-12. Rentals of the Depot and grounds should be made during the same times. Our phone number is 325-387-5084, and we will be happy to answer any of your questions when we are in the office. Tours of the Miers Home Museum

will resume after the roofing job is finished. Workmen should be here from April 24-26 to roof the museum. Hopefully we can get the new light in front of the Miers Home installed at the end of that week.

We do charge a fee of \$10 an hour and 35 cents a copy for research work that we do. If you do the research yourself, we only have to charge you for copies. Photographs reproduced on photo grade paper cost \$4.95 each.

TEAM GRAPHICS

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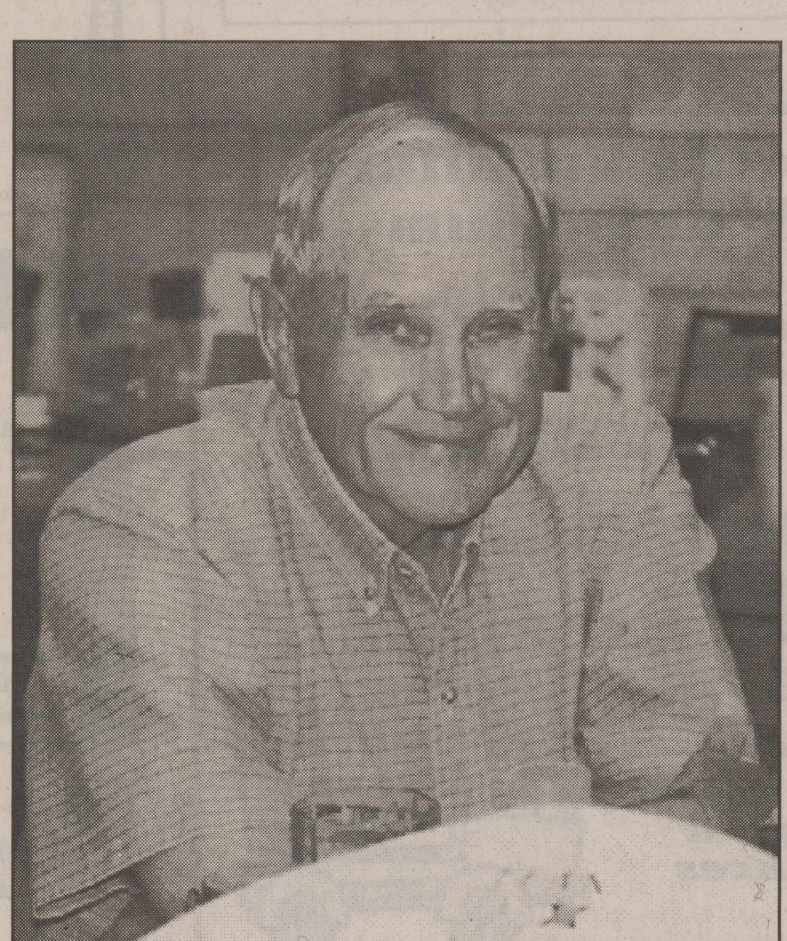
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**IN MEMORY
OF
TOMMY MORRISS**

Continued from Page 1
Trustee Denies Superintendent

tion project after receiving bids, the firm will still receive 8% of the lowest bona fide bid or the district's budgeted cost. With a proposed budget of \$1 million for Phase 1, the firm could receive \$80,000 for preparing the construction documents and for architectural and engineering services through the bidding phase, even if nothing is constructed on the site. Additionally, the firm proposes recovery of reimbursable costs with a 15% markup for costs including travel, postage and copying fees.

The board discussed time lines for approving the architectural and engineering contract as well as preparation of the construction documents and putting the project out for bid. "Time is critical, Harvey told the board, "the construction documents need to be out by April so that the bid can be let, and when the kids are walking out the door for summer vacation, your construction is ready to begin." Trustees are expected to review the proposal with their legal advisor and vote on the contract at either their February or March meeting.

In other business: The board was informed that the district has an enrollment of 1004 students and an attendance rate of 96.6%. "Our elementary is full," Superintendent Bawcom observed.

The board approved the corrected minutes of the November 12, 2007 meeting and the minutes from the December 10th meeting.

Trustee Tammy Favila complimented the junior high athletes on their appearance at the recent basketball tournament and commented that these young people represented Sonora well.

Superintendent Doug Bawcom, in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, thanked the trustees for their invaluable volunteer service to the community as members of the school board.

Rex Ann Friess expressed her concern with the school district's In School Suspension program, particularly with the "inconsistencies" she has observed in the application of this discipline tool. "I believe students should be in the classroom and teachers and administrators should exhaust all avenues of discipline procedures in order to keep students in the classroom," Mrs. Friess cited several examples of inconsistency in the ISS program and requested that the board review the guidelines for its implementation.

Continued from Page 1
Local Church Looks to the Future

we want to put it into the people."

Jane continues the tradition of innovation set forth through the church in her upcoming program targeted for young women. Lighthouse Church will participate in a live satellite telecast of the Girls Of Grace Nation program broadcast from Southlake Methodist Church in Southlake, Texas. "Our goal is to create a foundation experience, compelling each girl to build her life with purpose through a refreshed, hope filled heart, a renewed self-confidence and a deep desire for a relational, daily walk with Jesus Christ," says Shelley Breen, member of the platinum-selling band "Point of Grace." The program will be shown on the large screen in the Lighthouse Church on February the 23rd starting at 9:00 a.m. with a praise and worship service and ending with the "Point of Grace" concert at 2:30 p.m., and will cost \$10 to attend, which includes a lunch. "We don't want money or travel to be a deterrent for people to come to this. We have vehicles

and scholarships available for those who would like to attend but can't afford either the cost or the travel." Lighthouse Community Church continues giving back to the community with several upcoming programs geared to the community as a whole. "We have movie night this Friday (the 25th) where we are going to show "Evan Almighty" and serve popcorn and sodas for anyone who would like to attend. Then this Saturday (the 26th), we are bringing in the Christian Rock band Vendetta from San Angelo for a concert," said Longoria.

In the course of my conversation with Jane and Don about their church, I found that theirs is a church and more. It is an idea formed by need, nurtured with love, grown by work, and built on faith. "Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the Church." -- Bridget Williams.

Continued from Page 1
Just one Night

I am sure a young girl would make it shine again.

This is where the idea came up for 'Just One Night.' I thought it might be possible to get the ladies of Sonora involved by having them donate their gently used dresses, or dresses that their daughters no longer need, to help make the night of some lucky young ladies in junior high and high school. 'Just One Night' will be open to all the girls in our community, and I encourage them to participate.

The First National Bank and the Bank and Trust have been kind enough to allow us to use their facilities as drop stations for the 1st annual donation drive. The donation drive will be January 24th through February 15th. There will be a box inside those locations for you to drop your semi-formal and formal dresses.

Once the dresses have been gathered, Balhman's Cleaners has been generous enough to donate the dry cleaning on those dresses that are donated and need a little freshening up before they are made available to the girls of our community.

The dresses will be available about 1 month prior to

the 2008 Junior/Senior Prom by offering a night of 'free' shopping at Team Graphics, who has kindly offered to donate their location and clothing racks to display the dresses. We plan to have drinks and finger foods available to the girls so they can really enjoy themselves. Additional information about the night of shopping will be provided to our community and schools as we get closer to the event.

I hope we are able to make this an event that we carry on each year for the Peppermint Ball, Valentine's Dance, and the Junior/Senior Prom. In order to make this successful, we need the help of our community, and I think our community will make this effort a huge success.

It isn't about the dresses that you donate but about the confidence that you would be giving one young lady. That one night could give her the confidence needed to become the woman she sees herself being but never thought she could be.

For more information, or if you would like to donate your time, please contact Stacy Fisher at rdr@sonoratx.net.

Obtaining Better Fuel Economy Easily

With no end in sight to gas prices and the possibility of a coming recession, consumers need to save all the money that they can. Some basic common sense tips can help get better fuel economy. There is no need to buy high priced fuel additives or special fuel saving gadgets, which usually don't work anyway.

Americans on average waste four million gallons of gas each day for every one pound per square inch that their tire pressure is off. Just making sure your tires have the correct pressure can improve your fuel economy by at least 3%.

Another neglected part of our automobiles is the air filter. A clogged air filter can decrease your fuel economy by as much as 10%.

There are many factors that can affect how many miles you can get out of a tank of gas; most of which you have control of. For example, did you know that driving aggressively can lower your fuel economy by as much as 33%, or that for every 5 mph that you drive over 60, you are spending the equivalent of 20 to 30 cents more per gallon?

Obtaining better fuel economy isn't rocket science, it's common sense. Check out these and more free common sense tips at: <http://www.fuelthrifty.com>.

Two Historic Sites in Texas Change Jurisdictions

AUSTIN - The start of a new year marked the beginning of a bright future for two of the region's historic sites, as both Fort McKavett in Menard County and Fort Lancaster in Crockett County officially transferred from the Texas Parks and Wildlife's jurisdiction to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on January 1st.

"The transfer of Fort McKavett and Fort Lancaster to the Texas Historical Commission will bring many positive changes and enhancements to these unique sites," said Rep. Harvey Hilderbran (R-Kerrville).

The sites were two of 18 across Texas to be transferred to THC as a result of legislation authored by Rep. Hilderbran during the 80th legislative session.

"Fort Lancaster has stood in the Pecos River Valley for over 150 years protecting the people of Texas," said Fort Lancaster site manager Chris Elliot. "This transfer is an opportunity for the people of Texas to protect it, for their heritage and their children's heritage. It will allow Fort Lancaster to expand its operation to provide an unforgettable visitor experience."

Prior to the passage of H.B. 12, parks and historic sites were funded from the same account. The historic sites will now be funded through a historic site fund which will receive six percent of the sporting goods tax revenue.

"Creating a separate fund exclusively for historic sites means that whether in good times or bad, our historical sites will receive sufficient funding without having to compete with more popular recreational sites," Rep. Hilderbran said. "In the long run, this will help protect the funding and ensure the success of the state's historic sites."

In December, Rep. Hilderbran presented flags to Elliott and Michael Garza, site manager at Fort McKavett, at the State Capitol to commemorate the transfers.

"Fort McKavett is very excited to be a part of the Texas Historical Commission and we are looking forward to more actively promoting Heritage Tourism in this area," Garza said. "Because of the increase in funding and staff we will be able to offer additional interpretive programs, outreach to the public, and preservation of the site."

The other transferred sites include Magoffin Home; Acton in Johnson County, Caddoan Mounds in Cherokee County, Casa Navarro in Bexar County, Confederate Reunion Grounds in Limestone County, Eisenhower Birthplace in Grayson County, Fannin Battleground in Goliad County, Fort Griffin in Shackelford County, Fulton Mansion in Aransas County, Landmark Inn in Medina County, Levi Jordan in Brazoria County, Sabine Pass Battleground in Jefferson County, Sam Bell Maxey House in Lamar County, San Felipe in Austin County, Starr Family Home in Harrison County and the Varner-Hogg Plantation in Brazoria County.

The THC presently oversees the successful operation of two additional historic sites, the Sam Rayburn House Museum in Bonham and the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg.

TPWD Fishing Report

AMISTAD: Water clear; 64 degrees; 7.31' low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed, crankbaits and spinnerbaits, and tequila sunrise soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on silver slabs and large redds. White bass are good on silver slabs and small crankbaits. Catfish are good on cheesebait, shrimp, and liver. Yellow catfish are slow.

CHOKE CANYON: Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 0.83' low. Black bass are good on heavy jigs and large soft plastic lizards in the grass, and fair on crankbaits. White bass are fair on minnows upriver. Crappie are slow, but some large ones caught on minnows. Drum are fair on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait in 2 - 7 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

FALCON: Water stained; 60 degrees. Black bass are slow to fair on white and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp and cut bait. Yellow catfish are slow. Mexican fishing licenses and boat permits are required to fish in Mexican waters. Everyone in the boat must have a Mexican Fishing License whether fishing or not.

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Bridal Registry

Megan Fitzgerald bride-elect Burke Headrick
Dani Barker bride-elect Chance Dillard
Lynzie Custer bride-elect Jake Trainer
Mrs. Stetson Hall-nee Mary Armstrong

Colts Win Big in Llano



photo by Jana Miller
 Third Row: Soyla Rivera, Alba Glorig, Emily Gonzalez, Mylasy DeLuna
 Second Row: Liz Chavarria, Junter Jennings, Coach Lilly, Delilah Aguero, Logan Luttrell, Sandra Hernandez
 Front Row: Evelyn Solos, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Selena Mesa, Sarah Carrillo

By Jennifer Lilly

The 8th grade girls won the 1st place trophy at the Llano Tournament this weekend defeating Mason and Llano. Congratulate the girls on some well-executed plays and press breaks. Their record is 9-3. They will play in Brady this Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

Sonora 32 – Mason 30

Sarah Carrillo – 12 points
 Liz Chavarria – 10 points
 Evelyn Solis – 7 points
 Alba Gloria – 2 points
 Hunter Jennings – 1 point

Sonora 27 – Llano 25

Sarah Carrillo – 10 points
 Hunter Jennings – 7 point
 Evelyn Solis – 6 points
 Liz Chavarria – 2 points
 Sandra Hernandez – 2 points

Submitted

The 7th and 8th grade boys traveled to Llano Saturday for a Jr. High Basketball tournament. The boys did an outstanding job. The 7th grade boys took second defeating Mason in the first round. The boys then took on Llano in the Championship game and lost a close one. Congratulations gentlemen. On the 8th grade side, the Mason Punchers once again stood in our way but, with nerves of steel, we managed to hang on to a 3pt victory. We handled our business on the floor and we had some good shots that fell. The 8th grade squad had Llano starting them down for the championship, and with the opening tip, we never looked back. The boys won the championship and the first place trophy.

7th grade scoring first game

D. Lopez 4
 M. Bonilla 3
 J. Vaquez 5
 D. Evans 4
 B. Ezparza 1
 J. McBride 4
 J. Lopez 8
 N. kinder 3
 P. Onofre

8th grade scoring first game

B. Snyder 2
 Z. Baudeaux 4
 C. Pope 2
 M. Young 8
 R. Hernandez 2

7th grade second game

D. Lopez 1
 J. Vaquez 1
 D. Evans 4
 J. McBride 1
 J. Lopez 8
 P. Onofre 6

8th grade scoring second game

D. Jimeiez 11
 B. Snyder 4
 D. Daniels 5
 C. Shirtum 4
 M. Young 2
 R. Hernandez 2
 C. Pope 8

January is School Board Recognition Month

Submitted

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month and Sonora ISD is joining other districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their commitment and contributions to our public schools.

"School board members serve countless hours working to make public education the best it can be for every child," said Doug Bawcom, Sonora ISD Superintendent. "In a climate of change and challenge, they develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues that affect the entire community and the lives of individual students.

They bear responsibility and oversight in Sonora ISD for an annual budget of 21 million; over 1000 students in grades PK through 12; more than 170 employees; and 3 campuses. Preparing today's students to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow is a tremendous task. As elected officials, school board members are the voice of their communities, serving first and foremost in the best interest of our school children," said Bawcom. "We proudly join educators and community members in saluting these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding, and

school facilities. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of our community's children and families. These dedicated individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their unflinching commitment to the continuing success of our students now and in the future," Bawcom commented.

The men and women serving Sonora ISD as school trustees are Dean Dermody, President; and Jesse Bustamante, Tammy Favila, Scott Jacoby, Barbara Jennings, and Mallory Rousselot.

New Junior State Record Bass Caught

AUSTIN, Texas — By the slimmest of margins, Tyler Goetzman of Willis is Texas' newest junior state record holder for largemouth bass.

Goetzman's 13.06 pounder caught on Lake Conroe Jan. 13 th eclipses a 13.00-pound largemouth taken by Kenny Schuette on Lake Alan Henry in June 2005.

The 15-year-old was fishing a tournament when the big bass took a Rat-L-Trap in six feet of water. The fish was 24 inches long and 20.25 inches in girth. By comparison, Schuette's fish measured nearly two inches longer.

The big bass is also a new junior lake record for Lake Conroe.

Goetzman donated his record catch to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Budweiser ShareLunker program. This is only the fourth time in the ShareLunker program's 21-year history that the season's first entry came in January.

Lake Conroe has now produced 12 ShareLunkers and ranks fourth in the number of entries from public waters, behind Lake Fork, Lake Alan Henry and Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Goetzman's fish is number 442 in the list of ShareLunker entries.

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 JUNCTION*
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 5:00 6:30 8:00

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 MASON*
 AWAY
 5:00 6:30 8:00

FEB-5
 BRADY*
 HOME
 5:00 6:30 8:00



Jamie and Raul Chavarria

Oil & Agribusiness

State's Agricultural Agencies Change Names, Renew Missions

COLLEGE STATION – Two state agricultural agencies that have served Texans for a combined 224 years are beginning 2008 with new names and renewed missions.

Texas AgriLife Research is the new name for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, which annually conducts more than \$150 million in agriculture and life sciences research in such areas as improving food and fiber pro-

duction, enhancing human and animal health, and conserving water, soils, wildlife and other natural resources.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is the new name of Texas Cooperative Extension, which provides Texans in all 254 counties with non-biased, research-based education programs and services in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and youth development, family and consumer

sciences, and community economic development.

"We are making these changes to better communicate the life-sustaining and life-changing impacts that both AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension deliver to the people of Texas and beyond," said Dr. Mark Hussey, director of AgriLife Research.

Both agencies remain members of The Texas A&M University System, with the same commitment to their partners, clients and mission.

"But we also want to tell our story to a larger audience and a changing state population, attract new resources and build new partnerships, while strengthening our existing ones," Hussey said. "In this way, we hope to better serve the people of this great state."

The name changes are part of a re-branding initiative launching this year after two years of study and planning. These efforts were led by former vice chancellor Dr. Elsa Murano, who was named president of Texas A&M University on Jan. 3rd.

"The re-branding efforts are centered on one foundational message: 'Agriculture is Life!'" Hussey said. "The central idea is that life itself is the core value that our agencies seek to sustain and enhance.

"People usually don't realize how much we all depend on agriculture and the life sciences. Discoveries and innovations in these fields directly impact the quality of the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the homes we live in, and, more and more, even the fuels we pump into our vehicles."

"This is more than a name change, or even a new logo design," said Dr. Ed Smith, director of AgriLife Extension. "These new brands will impact not only our marketing materials and signage, but also the way we position and prioritize our programs and work with our federal, state and county partners to serve the state of Texas. It is vitally important to tell our story and that people connect our agencies to the tremendous impacts they have on the state."

"We hope to help people better understand the vital role that agriculture and life sciences still play in improving the prosperity of their lives," said Smith. "We believe that if they come to know us bet-

ter, they will see that connection more clearly, even within a state population that is now 85 percent urbanized."

AgriLife Research, established in 1887, employs a team of 425 scientists on the campus of Texas A&M University and at 13 centers across the state. Research has made many innovative advances over the years, including development of the Texas 1015 onion and the TAM Mild Jalapeño pepper, which revolutionized the U.S. salsa industry.

Current major research includes the efficient use and conservation of water resources, the development of

fruits and vegetables with higher levels of disease-fighting compounds, and the adaptation of crops and other agricultural products for making biofuels.

AgriLife Extension, established in 1915, provides Texans with continuing education programs and services. More than 900 professional educators teamed with some 90,000 volunteers to serve families, youth, communities and businesses throughout the state. Some 600,000 children annually participate in Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

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- New 2 Approach Operating 9000' Bailey #327 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 710 01/08/08 4 Drlg Ahead
- New 3 Highmount E&P Tx 8975' Clayton -2- #6 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 742 01/09/08 3 Drlg Ahead
- New 4 Anadarko E & P Co Lp 7200' Pierce-Henderson -7- #7 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 38 01/12/08 Rigging Up
- New 5 Fiml Natural Res 6200' Sudderth #4-11c Dw Patterson Drilling/A 721 01/07/08 5 Drlg Ahead
- 6 Sigma Energy&Exp Co 2000' Sigma Meadows #10 Ft Hope Drilling 1 01/10/08 2 Drlg Ahead
- New 7 Approach Operating University 42-23 #1 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 01/16/08 Assigned

Sutton

- 1 Highmount E&P Tx 9350' Duke Wilson -187- #17 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 120 01/11/08 1 Drlg Ahead
- New 2 Highmount E&P Tx 9300' Shurley Rr -2a- #7 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 40 01/14/08 Assigned
- New 3 Highmount E&P Tx 8995' Duke Wilson #21-13 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 120 01/18/08 Assigned
- New 4 Highmount E&P Tx 8975' L R Valliant #3-7 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 303 01/05/08 7 Drlg Ahead
- New 5 Highmount E&P Tx 8975' Gerald Nicks -5- #7 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 39 01/10/08 2 Drlg Ahead
- New 6 Highmount E&P Tx 8850' Mayfield -33- #24 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 301 01/05/08 7 Drlg Ahead
- New 7 Highmount E&P Tx 8850' Gerald Nicks -8- #1 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 39 01/15/08 Assigned
- New 8 Highmount E&P Tx 8650' Richardson -4- #12 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 302 01/15/08 Assigned
- New 9 Highmount E&P Tx 8620' Richardson -4- #11 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 302 01/07/08 5 Drlg Ahead
- New 10 Highmount E&P Tx 8475' Shurley Rr -2a- #9 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 40 01/08/08 4 Drlg Ahead
- New 11 Highmount E&P Tx 8250' Simmons -72- #14 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 301 01/15/08 Assigned
- New 12 Highmount E&P Tx 7400' R H Mittel #11 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 105 01/14/08 Assigned
- New 13 Highmount E&P Tx 7250' Canyon Ranch -207- #19s Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 305 01/14/08 Assigned
- New 14 Highmount E&P Tx 7250' Canyon Ranch -207- #18s Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 305 01/08/08 4 Drlg Ahead
- New 15 Highmount E&P Tx 7150' Kelly -125- #36 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 303 01/16/08 Assigned
- New 16 Highmount E&P Tx 5950' Canyon Ranch #1-16s Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 304 01/07/08 5 Drlg Ahead

Terrell

- 1 Conocophillips/Odess 12700' Alex Mitchell -1- #11 Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 214 12/20/07 23 Drlg Ahead
- New 2 Fasken Oil & Ranch 7500' Brown Nw -212- #73 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 42 01/07/08 5 Drlg Ahead
- 3 Encore Operating Lp 6000' Banner Estate #81 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 12/25/07 18 Drlg Ahead

Edwards

- 1 Newfield Exploration 15500' F H Whitehead #8601 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 471 01/03/08 9 Drlg Ahead
- 2 Newfield Exploration 15000' W L Whitehead #1801 Dw Patterson Drilling/A 118 01/02/08 10 Drlg Ahead
- New 3 Highmount E&P Tx 6950' Canyon Ranch #106-8e Dw Helmerich & Payne/S 304 01/17/08 Assigned
- 4 Stonegate Prod Co 5000' Peterson Gas Unit -1- #2 H Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 442 12/08/07 35 Drlg Ahead

Val Verde

- 1 Winn Exploration Co 14000' Leonard -32- #1 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 294 12/24/07 19 Drlg Ahead

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Chilling Requirements of a Fruit Tree

by Pascual Hernandez
Sutton County Agricultural Extension Agent

The cold weather during winter is stressful to livestock and wildlife, but it can be a positive for plants. Some trees, for example, benefit from the cold. In fact, they require cold weather in order to produce properly.

Many fruit trees require a certain amount of "chilling" each winter in order to bloom and begin growth the next spring. Most years we do not worry about it much, because it just happens. However, it is those warm winters which give us fits. So the questions are, what is chilling and why is it important?

Fruit trees with chilling requirements begin to go dormant in the fall in response to shorter day lengths and cooler temperatures, regardless of the weather conditions. Plants without a chilling requirement, such as grapes, continue to grow as long as conditions are favorable for growth.

Most fruit trees have typically already formed buds for the next growing season by mid to late summer. Hence, dormancy is necessary to protect the tree from freezing temperatures during the winter. By the same token, the chilling requirement is needed to maintain the tree dormant for the remainder of the winter and not let it bud out too early, or not only will the fruit crop be lost, but the entire tree could be killed.

There are visible signs of inadequate chilling. A clas-

sical symptom of insufficient chill is delayed foliation or "leafing" in the spring. Trees may have small tufts of leaves on a few branches, but for the most part, the branches are bare.

The fruit trees which are most affected by chilling are peaches, plums, apples, and pears. The chilling requirement for peaches can range from a low of 200 hours or so to over 1000 hours. Therefore, it is very crucial that the proper variety be selected for our zone or the planting is doomed to failure. For additional or related information, contact the County Extension Office or visit the website at <http://sutton-co.tamu.edu>.

Location Builders

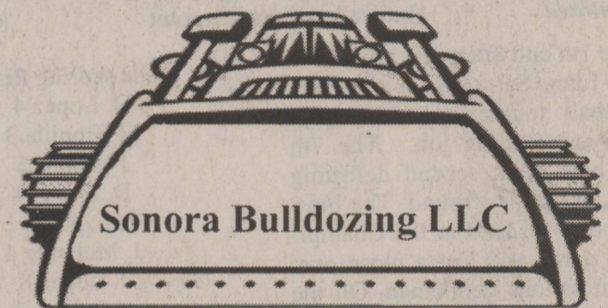
203 S. Hwy 277
387-3881
As of
January 21st, 2007

Gas
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MMBtu.
Crude Oil
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Glyn Hutto Livestock

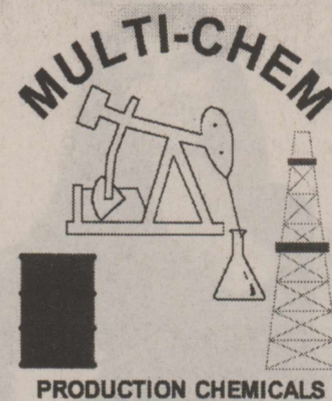
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Fire Department Receives New Equipment

by Jacqui Thomas
S.V.F.D. Reporter

Monday, January 14th, the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department received training on its new breathing air compressor system. The new system has come to Sonora in stages, over a period of about a year.

Sonora has long needed to upgrade its system for filling its self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air bottles, but the cost has been prohibitive. When the Texas Fire Commission made available funds for such upgrades, fire department members researched systems and applied for funding. The Fire Commission awarded just under \$17,000 in grant money to the Sonora department and the upgrade was under way.

The new system, manufactured by Scott Health and Safety, consists of a compressor, a charge station, and air storage bottles. The equipment was recently received and installed at the fire hall, awaiting the final installation by a manufacturer representative. Casey Smith, a Scott Master Technician from Municipal Emergency Services Incorporated of Houston, took care of the final touches and conducted a training lasting most of the morning. Department members learned to operate and maintain the equipment, which has numerous state-of-the-art operating and safety features. The controller on the charging station is of a new digital design; Mr. Smith commented that here in Sonora was the first time he had seen the new controller in the field.

The training was attended by Chief Rick Cearley, Kyle Donaldson, Carl Johnson, Carl Teaff, Wayford Tyler, and Jacqui Thomas.

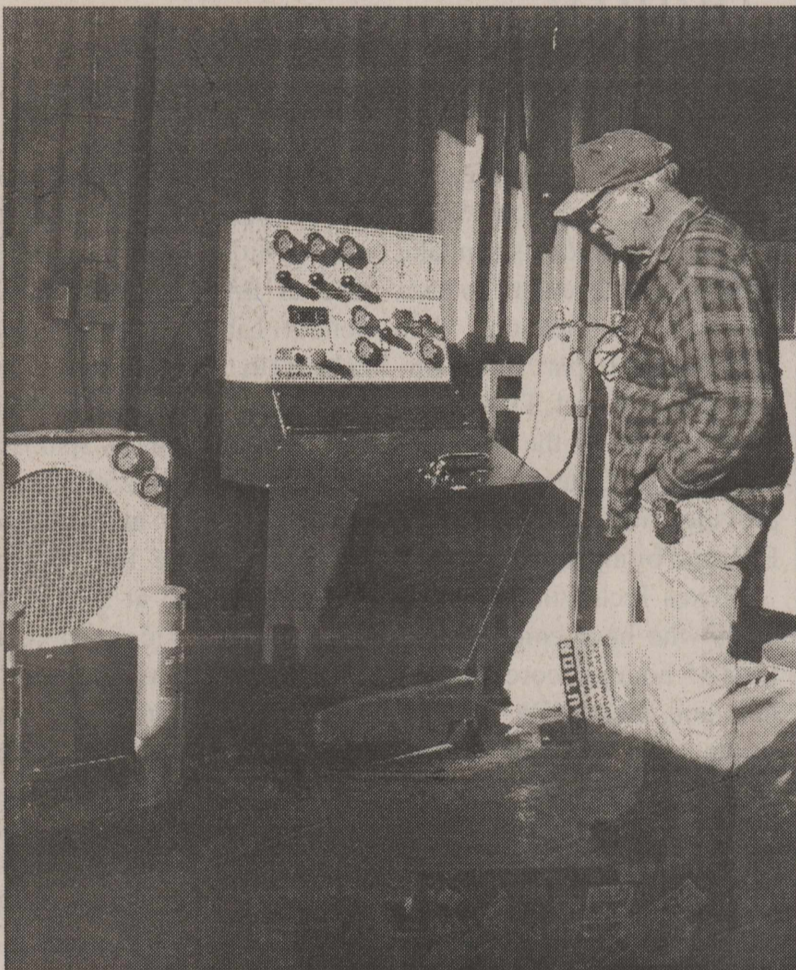


Photo by J. Thomas

Sonora firefighter Kyle Donaldson takes a moment to inspect S.V.F.D.'s new breathing air compressor system.

Sutton County UWCD Strives to Improve Rainfall

Submitted

In 1996 the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District joined a cloud seeding program that now includes Glasscock, Sterling, Reagan, Crockett, Irion, and Schleicher Counties as well as a portion of Tom Green County. The science of cloud seeding and weather modification is fascinating and impacts one of our most important resources. This refresher will bring you up to date on the latest happenings in West Texas weather modification. Much of this information is also available at www.texasweathermodification.com, www.wtwma.com, and www.license.state.tx.us/weather/summary.htm.

Currently, cloud-seeding projects are conducted in some 37 million acres of the state (or about one-fifth of the state's land area). The Texas Department of Licensing administers the Texas Weather Modification Act (enacted by the Texas Legislature in 1967) and the program issues licenses and permits to organizations and individuals responsible for carrying out both cloud seeding and other weather modification operations.

The West Texas Weather Modification Association (WTWMA), based in San Angelo, is in its eleventh consecutive year of operation. Its target is the third largest in the state—some 6.4 million acres in West Central Texas between Midland and San Angelo. The WTWMA decides when and how rain enhancement operations are done through a governing board with representation from each of the seven counties participating in the project, as well as from the City of San Angelo. The WTWMA owns four airplanes and employs a full-time meteorologist and pilots who use Doppler weather radar data produced by the National Weather Service. The meteorologist is based at Mathis Field, while aircraft are located at the San Angelo airport and other locations within the target area. The staff of the WTWMA can provide more information about this project (325-949-1950; www.wtwma.com). The cost of cloud seeding is assessed uniformly over the entire target, using acreage in each county as the basis for cost assessment. Eight other cloud-seeding projects

operate elsewhere in West and South Texas during the warmer half of the year. The counties' water-conservation districts serve as a method to finance the cost of a cloud-seeding operation through ad valorem taxes.

Clouds—the billowy, cauliflower-shaped clouds often seen in Texas skies during much of the year—are important rain producers in every sector of the state. As the predominant cloud type during the warmest eight months of the year (March-October), cumulus (or convective) clouds are responsible for producing the bulk of rainwater given by the atmosphere in any given year in Texas. These towering cloud formations form from strong updrafts of warm, moist air into an atmosphere that is unstable. Intense daytime heating of the near-surface layer of air, or a wedge of cold air moving across the state (as a cold front), usually triggers the formation of convective clouds.

Not all cumulus clouds become rain producers. In fact, only a small percentage of them ever develop the capability to yield an appreciable amount of rainfall. Those convective clouds that do produce rainwater are often inefficient. For all the moisture they incorporate from below, only a tiny fraction of that moisture (as cloud droplets) is ever used to grow large raindrops, which ultimately fall to the ground as rainfall. This may be due to the fact that an insufficient number of ice particles exist within the cloud, thereby limiting the amount of cloud droplets that can coalesce to create raindrops. Or the clouds simply do not live long enough, on their own, to allow those tiny cloud droplets to collide enough times with neighboring droplets to yield larger drops—and eventually rainwater. Seeding is intended to introduce into the cloud many more of these ice crystals (also called cloud nuclei) to allow much more of the moisture supply within the cloud to be converted into rainwater.

If done in a timely way and properly, cloud seeding can assist the natural process in clouds by giving them enough "seeds" to make a meaningful number of large raindrops. Silver iodide is a favored seeding agent because its crystalline structure is nearly identical to the natural ice crystal. In a matter of moments, the ice crystal is transformed into a large raindrop which is heavy enough to fall through the cloud mass as a rain shaft. Questions often arise regarding the impact of cloud seeding on hail. Though very little research on hail suppression has been done in Texas, we do know from sound research conducted in other parts of the U. S. that seeding for enhancing rainfall very likely lessens the amount, and size, of hailstones. This is because the additional ice crystals injected into a growing thundercloud compete with the hail seeds (or "embryos") for the available cloud moisture, thereby reducing the chance that many hailstones would grow large. With the ice crystals using more of the available cloud droplets to grow large raindrops, there would be less cloud moisture available to grow the embryos into damaging hailstones.

The Texas Department of Agriculture has conducted independent evaluations of ongoing seeding activities in Texas. A statistical analysis of all seeded thunderstorms in Texas during 2002 (which totaled 897) estimated that an additional 481,252 acre-feet of water was generated as a consequence of seeding. Comparing the seeded storms with neighboring untreated storms (designated as "control clouds" for the sake of analysis) revealed that seeded storms lived 39 percent longer, covered 18 percent more territory, and produced a "precipitation mass" that was 89 percent greater than cloud

towers left unseeded.

Sutton County experienced substantial amounts of rainfall in 2007 due to the abnormal pattern of the jet stream and several unusual weather systems. Unfortunately the clouds were not the best type for cloud seeding and the wet pattern ceased quickly in September, failing to produce additional clouds for rain during the fall. Despite these conditions, Sutton County received an extra inch of rain this year due to cloud seeding. That calculates to 76,400 acre feet, with an acre foot being

enough water to cover one acre of land one foot deep. In our arid climate an extra inch of rain is a blessing. 2006 was an even better year due to the type of clouds crossing the county, and we received an additional 256,800 acre feet of rain, which is tantamount to 3.31". Weather modification is an important facet of the Water District, and we will continue our endeavor to increase rainfall in Sutton County. Please call 325/387-2369 if you would like additional information.

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◆ HOW SHE MOVE (2:00pm) 5:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm (PG-13)	◆ FIRST SUNDAY (2:00pm) 5:00pm 8:00pm 10:45pm (PG-13)
◆ MEET THE SPARTANS (1:20pm) 4:20pm 7:20pm 10:20pm (PG-13)	◆ MAD MONEY (1:45pm) 4:45pm 7:45pm 10:35pm (PG-13)
◆ RAMBO (1:00pm) 4:00pm 7:00pm 9:40pm (R)	◆ I AM LEGEND 10:00pm (PG-13)
◆ UNTRACEABLE (1:40pm) 4:40pm 7:40pm 10:20pm (R)	◆ NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)
◆ 27 DRESSES (1:25pm) 4:25pm 7:25pm 10:15pm (PG-13)	◆ ONE MISSED CALL (PG-13)
◆ ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (1:35pm) 4:35pm 7:35pm (R)	◆ THE BUCKET LIST (1:30pm) 4:30pm 7:30pm 10:30pm (PG-13)
◆ ATONEMENT (1:55pm) 4:55pm 7:55pm 10:55pm (PG-13)	◆ THE PIRATES WHO DON'T ANYTHING - A VEGGIE TALES MOVIE (1:30pm) 4:30pm (G)

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Our home is located in a rural setting in Eldorado, Texas. We are a small 34 bed home, that offers personal care, in a family, friendly atmosphere. Activities are plentiful both inside and outside of our home. Come by and take a tour and visit with our staff. We are proud of our staff, who are focused on giving the best of care to our residents in order for them to attain and maintain their maximum interests and abilities. Contact: Sarah Huge Administrator or Anita Jones RN, Director of Nurses, at 325-853-3026.

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F.Y.I.

The Sutton County Commissioners Court has enacted a **Burn Ban** and a **Fireworks Ban**, prohibiting all outdoor burning and all fireworks until further notice.

Interested in Emergency Medical Medicine? Sutton County EMS and BSA are looking for youths between 14 and 20 years of age to participate in a local Emergency Medical Exploring Post. Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults in a certain career. For more information, please contact: Roberta Tanguma 325-277-7189

Sonora GED Classes are held Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. For more information call Kathleen Freeman at 387-3736.

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Sonora PD Dispatch Log

Incidents:

January 14, 2008

- 3:25 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
- 6:00 PM: Caller reported a reckless driver. Officer responded.
- 6:40 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
- 8:50 PM: Caller reported loud music. Officer responded.

January 15, 2008

- 1:50 AM: Caller reported a suspicious vehicle. Officer responded.
- 7:18 AM: Caller reported a dead animal on roadway. Animal Control Officer responded.
- 8:05 PM: Caller reported a disturbance. Officer responded.

January 16, 2008

- 1:40 AM: Caller reported a disturbance. Officer responded.
- 8:22 AM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking a vehicle. Officer responded.
- 1:05 PM: Caller reported an assault. Officer

responded.

January 17, 2008

- 9:00 AM: Caller reported a dog on roadway. Animal Control Officer responded.
- 9:29 AM: Caller reported a dog on roadway. Animal Control Officer responded.
- 8:35 PM: Caller requested welfare assistance. Officer responded.

January 18, 2008

- 5:00 PM: Caller reported vandalism to property. Officer responded.

January 19, 2008

- 3:15 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking vehicle. Officer responded.

January 20, 2008

- 12:00 PM: Caller requested assistance with unlocking vehicle. Officer responded.

January 21, 2008

- 11:15 AM: Caller reported a minor traffic accident. Officer

New Businesses Opened at the Mercantile Building



The Sonora Chamber of Commerce along with several Sonorans were on hand for the grand opening of Rio Diablo Realty and Sierra Verde Horticulture at the Mercantile Building this Monday January 21, 2008.

Stacy Fisher (owner of Rio Diablo Realty and member of Sonora High school class of 1999) expressed her feeling of being back in Sonora, "I am excited to be back here. Being home has filled a void in my life." She has a business plan designed around the customer, citing communication as her first priority. She also plans to educate home buyers to the many different options available for them in buying and selling their home. "I plan to bring city real estate to a small town," Fisher commented.

Her husband, David Fisher, is the owner of Sierra Verde Horticulture, and is also a Sonora Graduate. He received a B.S. in Horticulture from Texas Tech University and uses that education to work with landowners in designing and maintaining landscape projects. David considers honesty to be his main attribute when working with customers on their landscaping needs.

New Undergraduate Teaching Degree Available for Hill Country

Submitted

Texas Tech University, Austin Community College (ACC) and Central Texas College (CTC) are partnering to deliver an undergraduate degree with preparation for elementary teacher certification to residents of the Hill Country.

Anyone who would like to become a certified elementary teacher can now earn a complete undergraduate degree in teaching with a new 2+2 program called Hill Country Project TEACH (HC Project TEACH). Long

commutes to a city for a teaching degree are no longer necessary. Students attend Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg, Highland Lakes or the Center at Junction.

This program is designed for recent high school graduates as well as the working adult. School paraprofessionals can earn this degree while they work and may qualify for free tuition and fees through the State Education Aide Exemption.

With this degree, a student can earn a generalist certification to teach Early Childhood

through 6th grade (EC-6) as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) certification preparation. Proficient Spanish speaking students can take additional coursework to earn bilingual certification. This new degree is part of an initiative of Project TEACH, a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, which provides financial aid for the ESL and bilingual courses.

Texas Tech will admit students who have completed at least 45 hours of core curriculum and meet GPA requirements into our first cohort beginning in August. Students who have fewer than 45 hours can start working at ACC or CTC to complete an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree, then seamlessly transfer to Texas Tech to complete the degree.

Courses will include a blended delivery of face-to-face, interactive video conferencing, and online with ample opportunity for students to

gain actual classroom experiences.

Information sessions on HC Project TEACH and financial aid workshops will be held at Fredericksburg High School Library on Monday, Feb. 11th at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. The financial aid portion will be provided in Spanish. On Monday, Feb. 25th, Texas Tech University at Highland Lakes will have HC Project TEACH session at 5:30 p.m. and financial aid session at 7:00 p.m. both in Room 111. The Spanish financial aid session will be Feb. 11th at 6:30 p.m. All potential students, school paraprofessionals, and parents, regardless of where the student plans to attend college, are invited to attend any session.

For more information, call Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg, 830.990.2717, Texas Tech University at Highland Lakes, 830.798.9548 or Texas Tech University Center at Junction, 325.446.2301.

He is richest who is content with the least, for content is the wealth of nature. -Socrates

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The Sutton County Extension Office is seeking a full time secretary. Duties will also include overseeing civic center rentals. Applications may be picked up at the Sutton County Extension Office located at 1700 N. Crockett. Equal Opportunity Employment.

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Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo
Contract 6171-12-001 for **MOWING HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY** in SUTTON County, etc will be received on January 30, 2008 until 1:00 pm and opened on January 30, 2008 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$157,344.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 25952

State Office

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Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

San Angelo District
District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd
San Angelo, Tx 76904
Phone: 325-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Immediate Opening, Carrier wanted! Sign-On Bonus San Angelo Standard times seeking someone to deliver newspapers to houses in Sonora. Makes approximately \$1,400 working morning hours. 1-800-981-8299 help needed Full time with 2 Sat. a month. Quickbook and livestock knowledge preferred. Please apply at Rafter W Feed or you may fax your resume to 387-3194

Become A Cottage Parent Cottage Parents needed for a family based child-care facility in rural setting. Must be committed to provide care, leadership and guidance to 8 boys in a cottage home. Related experience and/or college a plus. Salary starting at \$42000 per couple and benefits package, plus a 6-day work schedule. Private apartment provided. Send resume to: West Texas Boys Ranch 10223 Boys Ranch Rd. San Angelo, TX 76904 or wtrbhoicare@wcc.net

Sonora ISD is accepting applications for the following positions: Custodial Supervisor - bilingual and supervisory skills preferred. Mechanic - CDL license required. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled and may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 807 S. Concho. EOE

Sonora ISD is accepting applications for a part time custodian for the Elementary Cafeteria. This position is for 4 hours per day. 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 ISD is accepting applications for the position of Food Service Director. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 807 S. Concho. EOE

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For Rent
For Rent 2 months free Bronco Mobile Home Estates, 2nd & 3rd month free on single & double wides. 1305 N. Crockett, Sonora. Call 387-2934 or 830-313-1060.

Ruidoso NM, John and Chris Beckham have 4 FULLY FURNISHED Vacation Cabins for rent. ANTLER'S ECHO-BECKHAM CABIN-BECKHAM-HILL-THE BARE BEAR. 1-800-822-7654. See/Book online www.ruidosocabins2rent.com.

Misc.
"We Will Pay To Hunt Your Predators"-also wanted spring turkey lease for 2008 season. Jim & Melony (325) 853-1555.

HUNTING LEASE WANTED FOR 2008 for 4 to 6 hunters. Looking for good deer, not meat hunters. Long term lease if possible. Prefer to deal with landowner. 830-438-7111 or 210-269-7101.

Garage Sale
Small antique oak roll top desk, small antique round oak table w/2 chairs, brown tweed hide-a-bed, wooden bunk bed w/mattress, walnut armorie and night stand, child's play kitchen, beautiful area rug, Color TV's, Serta like new queen mattress set, knotty pine King headboard, 2 pine decorative mirrors, dresser, desks, lots more, SECOND HAND ROSE, 853-3736, Eldorado. Consignors must call ahead before bringing any items in.

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FOR SALE: 4 BR/2BA/FP doublewide mobile home. Corner lot, lots of trees, covered carport, fenced yard. 309 E. Warner, Eldorado. Call 277-0472 or 325-853-2431. Asking \$78,000.

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Elmer Kelton, Knel's Tracy Pitcox, and Steven Fromholz to Lead Distinguished Lineup Of Texas Authors at Menard Celebration

Joining Fromholz, Kelton, and Pitcox at the 5th Annual Free State of Menard Celebrates Texas Authors and Books, February 15 and 16, 2008, are Ann Thompson, widow of the late great Country/Western star Hank Thompson, and James Peyton, internationally recognized chef, restaurant consultant, and cookbook author. Pitcox, a KNEL disc jockey, will discuss and sign copies of his book, *Legendary Conversations with a Texas Disc Jockey*.

Two events are planned: A Champagne & Beer Reception and Silent Auction on Friday, February 15th at the ranch home of Jerry and Diana Baker. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the gala reception features a substantial board, with several recipes from James Peyton's four cookbooks. His books along with those of all event authors will be available for purchase and signing during the evening.

The Celebration Luncheon and formal book signing, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 16th, at the Menard Country Club, features a menu designed and prepared by Chef Mike Hennessey and Sideoats Bakery and Café. This past year Hennessey was named "Best Restaurant Manager of the Year" by the Texas Restaurant Association and Restaurateur of the Year by the San Angelo Area Restaurant Association. After lunch, each author will address the diners and sign copies of their books. Books will be on sale at the Menard Country Club before and after the luncheon, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Admission is by reservation only. Admission price is a suggested donation of \$50 per person for each event. A combination of one each for reception and luncheon is \$90 per person. Reservations are available through Marjorie May Russell at 325.396.4621.

All proceeds benefit the building and operating funds for the Menard Public Library. Sponsor of the events, the Library Club of Menard, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

AUTHOR PROFILES

STEVEN FROMHOLZ, a native Texan, is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, poet, author, storyteller, humorist, white water river guide, and humorist. He is often heralded as one of the last Texas Troubadours. He considers himself all the above and, of course, a cowboy. Fromholz was named 2007 Poet Laureate of Texas. His song, *Texas Trilogy*, is considered by many to be the best Texas song ever written. Fromholz's books include *The Texas Trilogy* and *When the Sun Hits This Land*.

Known as a songwriter's songwriter, Steven Fromholz's songs have been recorded by John Denver, Lyle Lovett, Willy Nelson, Michael Martin Murphy, and Hoyt Axton, among many. Willy Nelson recorded Fromholz's "I'd Have to be Crazy" with Fromholz singing backup. The record went to number two nationally and garnered Fromholz two double-platinum records. Fromholz claimed the song

was "too weird to make it to number one."

ELMER KELTON, one of Texas' best known and most loved authors, will discuss and autograph his latest fiction releases: *Hard Trail to Follow* is a January 2008 release from Forge Books. In this, the seventh novel in Kelton's acclaimed Texas Ranger series, Andy Pickard (Badger Boy, as he was known in his youth) leaves his fiancée's farm in north Texas to track the man he believes killed his friend, Sheriff Tom Blessing. Kelton's February release, *Eye of the Hawk*, was inspired by a Texas legend about an embittered father who swore to kill the town that killed his son. Copies of Kelton's autobiography, *Sandhills Boy: The Winding Trail of a Texas Author*, will also be available for purchase and signing.

TRACY PITCOX, is a KNEL (Brady, Texas) disc jockey. A member of the Heart of Texas Country Music Association, Pitcox was instrumental in founding the Heart of Texas Country Museum and building a facility to house the memorabilia he had collected over a lifetime. *Legendary Conversations with a Texas Disc Jockey* is a compilation of interviews Pitcox conducted with over eighty Country music legends, including George Jones, Dolly Parton, Tom T. Hall, Ray Price, Ferlin Husky, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson.

ANN THOMPSON, widow of the late Hank Thompson, will discuss and sign copies of Hank's autobiography, *My Side of Life*. Married for thirty-seven years, the couple was inseparable.

JAMES PEYTON, is an internationally recognized chef, restaurant consultant, and cookbook author; Peyton's specialty is the cuisine of Northern Mexico. Recipes from his books will be featured at the Friday evening reception, with Peyton on hand to meet guests and discuss various aspects of cooking.

The Idle American: Uncle Mort and the Paparazzi...

By Dr. Don Newbury

Sometimes phone calls from my Uncle Mort down in the thicket call for considerable dissection.

A recent one certainly did when he asked if the word "paparazzi" is singular or plural.

It seemed to me that an "I'm not sure" answer might be safest....

"It's definitely plural," he cackled, adding that there's "no need for singular designation for meddling photographers who travel in packs."

Again, he was certain that his foresight is better than the collective 20/20 hindsight of the rest of us.

"If you ever run into just one paparazzo, let me know," said my uncle before turning serious....

Mort then explained why the Dallas Cowboys imploded in their first play-off game.

"If they had listened to me, they'd still be playing," he claimed. "We invited Tony Romo and his buddies to hang out down here in the thicket during the bye week."

He said Jessica Simpson would have been welcome, too, figuring that she would add a spark down at the fire hall where the guys gathered to watch games on TV....

Then, he switched back to the paparazzi.

"We learned how to handle those guys when they showed up at Cut 'N Shoot 50 years ago," Mort said. "They thought they'd barge in here to get the goods on good-old-boy Roy Harris when he was training for the world heavyweight boxing championship."

He said none of the "stalkarazzi" had ever been in East Texas, and got so interested in frog-gigging that they forgot all about why they were there in the first place....

Rambling continued. (Those lacking sensitivity might call it babbling.)

Whatever, Mort talked about the importance of keeping an eye on the ball, setting the tone, leading the team, rallying the troops, thrilling the fans, etc.

"I think Jessica rearranged priorities," Mort said. "If Tony shows up at training camp with a shaved head, they'd best check to make sure Jessica's middle name isn't 'Delilah.'"

My uncle said that if outcomes could be choreographed, the game with the

New York Giants could have turned out like *The Sound of Music*.

But reality has a way of trumping choreography.

Dallas fans were urged to "wear white" to the game that became a wash-out. And the "rally towels" handed out to the first 40,000 fans became "crying towels." Fans WERE ready for some football....

My old uncle was hoping for a Dallas/Seattle division championship game. New York and Green Bay, however, made the plan moot.

"I heard that Seahawk fans were going to smuggle double-barrel distractions into Texas Stadium," Mort said.

He claimed they were going to wave cardboard fans of Jessica's face with one hand and Tony Romo "bobble-thumb" dolls with the other. The dolls were to remind Tony of the fumbled extra-point snap last year in Seattle. (No doubt this shenanigan would have gotten a good ride on ESPN)....

Uncle Mort reminded that despite the Cowboys' loss, the sun is still rising in the east and setting in the west daily.

"Time heals all wounds and

wounds all heels," he joked.

Mort and some of his plumber friends are determined to salvage good memories from the 2007 season. "After all, we named Tony's East Texas fan club," Mort bragged, promising to send me a "Romo Root-er" coffee mug....

Finally, he "waxed poetic," quoting his altered version of the late Grantland Rice's lines.

Here's the way Mort put it:

For when the One Great Scorer comes, to write 'gainst the Cowboys' names, he marks down that they won or lost, and how Romo played the game....

He ended our visit calling for a more balanced Dallas offense next year.

"I took a vote in the thicket, and it's unanimous that Marion Barber will give the ground game a boost," Mort believes. "It was detailed, in-depth balloting," he assured.

Mort called it "The Barber Poll"....

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