

# The Devil's River News

Volume 121 • Issue 25

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, July 2, 2009

## Future Rooted In Past in Sweet Home Sonora

By Justin Zamudio

Sheriff Elijah Briant may be long gone, but the action he took one April afternoon is a story the city of Sonora wants to tell for a long time.

William Carver rode with the wildest of outlaws in the late 1800s, including Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch. A life of crime took Carver up and down the United States, from train robberies in Montana and Wisconsin to bank robberies throughout Texas and New Mexico.

He became so notorious in those days that his name appeared in the newspapers quite frequently, which led to his nickname, "News." He loved to see his name appear in print for his dastardly deeds.

On April 1, 1901, everything went south for the outlaw when Briant and his deputies ambushed him on a back street of downtown Sonora. Briant got the best of Carver in an ensuing gun battle that ultimately left the outlaw dead as he lay in the middle of the courthouse, and he was later buried near there.

Historical stories such as Carver's, and many others dating to the late 1800s and early 1900s, is what Sonora looks to capitalize on. Tourism is one of the biggest selling points for Sonora, 65 miles south of San Angelo.

"We've had a 30 percent increase in European tourists. They're getting on the Internet, and they're finding us. We've had people from England, the Netherlands, Germany, and recently some from Brazil," said Ann Kay, manager of Friends of Historic Sonora. "The reason tourists come here is because of the legends of the outlaws."

Friends of Historic Sonora is a Main Street program dedicated to maintaining the



historic preservation of downtown through economic development, promotion, organization and design.

"We've been a nationally recognized Main Street city by the National Trust and by the National Main Street since 1999," she said. "We just received the endorsement again this year."

Since starting the program in 1994, the community has pumped more than \$8 million into the downtown area, Kay said.

One of the biggest improvements is the historic courthouse. It was completely restored recently with a \$3 million-plus grant.

Adjacent to the courthouse is one of Sonora's three museums. The Old Sonora Ice House Ranch Museum, which opened in October, offers a peek of life decades ago. Arrowheads and antique farming equipment adorn the walls and floor of the museum. Even the gun Briant used to kill Carver

is on display. The museum showcases Sonora's role in the agricultural and ranching industry since the city's beginning in the 1800s.

Even today, the agriculture and ranching industries play a big role in the city's economy. The total agricultural income excluding government support programs is about \$15 million annually, according to the Sonora Chamber of Commerce's Web site.

The recent decline in the oil patch has delivered a tremendous hit on Sonora's economy. A handful of employers have been forced to cut back or completely stop operation because of the declining industry.

Highmount Exploration & Production, an oil and gas company, and Carl J. Cahill Inc., a dirt contractor, have seen business drop off.

"In the '80s, we had slow-downs. You know, that's just part of the oil field. This one has been kind of like going

off a cliff," said Carl J. Cahill, III, a manager of Carl J. Cahill Inc. "I've heard probably 10 different business owners here tell me that 2008 was their best year ever — we would be included. Two thousand and nine is just going to be a struggle to tread water."

The dirt contracting company has been a major contributor to the city since the company began in 1947. He said he has employed more than 60 people at any given time for the past 30 years or so, but his work force dropped to 47 in 2009.

Despite the oil field woes, some businesses are holding steady during these tough economic times.

The First National Bank of Sonora is growing, with a new branch in San Angelo.

Other major employers in the city are: Sonora Independent School District with 160 employees, the Lillian Hudspeth Memorial Hospital with 65, Sutton County

government offices with 55, the City of Sonora with 35, and the Texas Department of Transportation with 30.

Dean Carrell, the city manager, has big plans for Sonora in the coming months.

His top priority is to build a wastewater treatment plant and upgrade infrastructure.

"The most important thing by far is the \$9 million the city has borrowed to upgrade its infrastructure," he said. "We definitely want to utilize every grant we can — USDA, anything from the stimulus package to Ortho Grant to whatever we may have — and we are out there looking for it," he said. "As a matter of fact, I applied for a \$14 million grant right now."

"In order to grow or even get the opportunity to have more business here, we are going to have to fix the infrastructure before we can go any further."

Carrell said he wants to expand the city's economy by attracting other industry to the community so it's not dependent solely on the petroleum industry.

"Everyone knows that we need a couple of businesses here that can hold stable employment. We're looking for a manufacturing company, where people can keep a job all the time, instead of every once in a while," he said. "I can give you examples of Rubbermaid or something like that hires up to 200 people. I've been looking into that and been pushing really hard."

With Sonora sitting off U.S. Highway 277 and Interstate 10, it's in an enticing location.

"Hopefully, we can take advantage of that positioning to develop some transportation-

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The Devil's River News will be closed Friday July 3, 2009



Nicholson's Meat Company

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An Experience to Remember

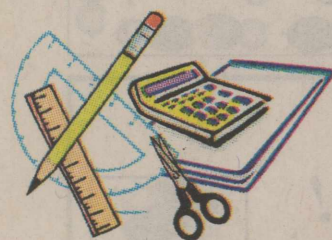


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## All District Softball Selections

By: Tammy Fisher



Morgan Smith, (Soph.)  
1st Team All-District - 1st Base



Azeneith Villanueva, (Sr.)  
1st Team All-District - Catcher  
All West Texas - Catcher



Leandra Castaneda, (Soph.)  
1st Team All-District - 3rd Base  
All West Texas - 3rd Base



Steely Ingham, (Sr.)  
1st Team All-District - Pitcher



Photo by William Scherz  
Sara Gillit, (Jr.)  
2nd Team All-District - Right Field



Jessica Snyder, (Sr.)  
1st Team All-District - Left Field



Photo by William Scherz  
Cassie Krieg, (Jr.)  
1st Team All-District - Center Field  
All West Texas - Center Field  
TGCA All State

## Photos Wanted!!

The Historical Society, Friends of Downtown Sonora Main Street, Eaton Hill and the Chamber of Commerce are working together on a Sutton County History book which will be available for sale later this year or early next year. Our deadline for the publisher has been moved back a bit and we are still desperately searching for some photos and stories of Sonora and Sutton County.

We need your photos! You've got them: they are hanging on your walls, in your photo albums or just tucked away in a drawer or shoebox, but we want to borrow them and use them to tell the story of Sonora and Sutton County from the 1800s to today.

Some of the biggest necessities are photos of Sonora happenings and sited during the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s. We are looking for photos of Sonora folks, family photos, work and business photos that depict Sonora life. We are also searching for any good photographs of Sonora or Sutton County events or activities such as Sutton County Days, Los Compadres, La Tarantella, Fling Ding, etc. Any photos and stories of the oil and gas industry's history in Sonora

would be most appreciated. Ranching photos, family events, buildings, businesses, wildlife, activities, sporting events, school life, church life, people working, people having fun, people being silly, people being serious, people just living life in West Texas between 1890 and 1990...any photos that you might have.

All photos must be an identifiable person, place or thing associated with Sutton County and/or Sonora, Texas. Other than that, the field is wide open for submissions. There is no guarantee that your photos will be used, but we would love to see them.

All photos will be scanned and sent in to the publisher with your permission and returned to you in August. Photos will be kept in the Archives vault at the Sutton County Historical Society until they are used.

Photos may be submitted to the Sutton County Historical Society (307 Oak), Main Street (corner of Main and Concho), or the Chamber of Commerce (across from Ol Sonora). If you have any questions, please leave a message for Tammy Fisher at 325-387-5084. Deadline for submissions is July 15th.

### Lighthouse Community Church

CAN A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD  
**Be Real, Personal & Practical?**  
THE ANSWER IS YES!

1705 N. Crockett

### Senior Center Activities

**Thur. July 2-** AAA reports due.  
Happy Birthday *Eddie Smith, Manuel Flores*  
**Fri. July 3-** Center Closed for holiday  
**Mon. July 6-** Bingo, Happy Birthday *Jinx Merry*  
**Tues. July 7-** Happy Birthday *Maria Carrasco*  
**Wed. July 8-** Happy Birthday *Carroll McAfee*

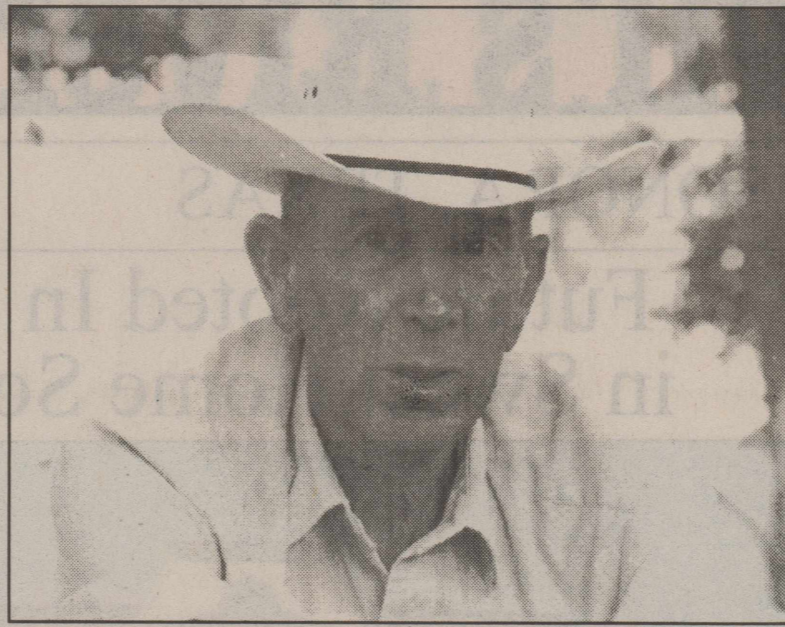
### Senior Center Menu

**Thur. July 2-** Hot dog on a bun w/chili & cheese, chips, Pineapple Waldorf, brownie w/nuts and milk  
**Fri. July 3-** Happy 4th of July. Center Closed.  
**Mon. July 6-** Spanish meatballs w/rice, peas, milk sliced tomatoes, rolls, pineapple rings  
**Tues. July 7-** Chicken strips w/gravy, baked potato, milk broccoli w/cheese, rolls, peach cobbler  
**Wed. July 8-** Chopped beef steak w/onions/gravy, milk whipped potatoes, green beans, rolls, apple crisp

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 \$2.00; \$5.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go).

### Obituary

## Jack Melton Hearn, Sr.



SONORA - Jack Melton Hearn, Sr. ("Son") passed away Saturday, June 20, 2009, at his home, surrounded by his family, at age 83. He was born Oct. 19, 1925, to Joe and Ellen Hearn in Sonora. Jack attended schools in Sonora and Comstock. Jack served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II.

After his discharge from the Marines, he returned home to marry his sweetheart, Bernice McKee. They were married May 2, 1946. Jack was in the feed and trucking business most of his life. Jack and his boys owned and operated H&H Feed and Trucking Company for many years. Jack continued his trucking tradition even in retirement by operating a truck with his son, Jack, Jr. Jack and Bernice spent many enjoyable years working on their farm near Eldorado.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Lorene Taliaferro; and his youngest granddaughter, Melissa Bernice Hearn. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bernice Hearn; four children, Jack Hearn, Jr. and wife Judy of Weatherford, Hoot (Allen) and wife Kathy of San Angelo, Betty Moore and husband Wayland of San Saba, and Doris Hearn of Arlington.

Jack is also survived by four grandchildren, Jason Hearn of Brady, Laura Hearn Wolff of San Angelo, Jodie Weant Evans and husband Tony of San Angelo, Jared Weant of Arlington; and eight great-grandchildren. Services were at 4:00 p.m. Monday, June 22, at the First Baptist Church with burial following in Sonora Cemetery. Pallbearers were Russell Chalk, Larry Chalk, Jason Hearn, Jared Weant, Tony Evans, and Wayford Tyler. Honorary pallbearers were Herb McKee, Quinton Rogers, Lee Armentrout, Dick Hearn, John Wade, John Allen Ward, Albert Ward, Dick McCalmont, Bud Whitehead, George Wallace, Joe David Ross, and Bill Karnes.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of San Angelo or your favorite charity.

### Thank You Note

Many thanks to our friends and the citizens of Sonora and Sutton County for supporting us with our bake sales this week. We would like to especially thank Carol and Brianna Jarratt and Belle Webb for donating baked goodies and lemonade to our cause. Our bake sales are a few of the ways that we are trying to raise money for our out-of-state trips next summer for the National Leadership Conferences. We would also like to thank the folks at Alco and the Mercantile on Main for letting us have our bake sales outside their businesses. Once again thank you for all of your help and donations. It is very much appreciated.

Kallie and Kory Humphrey

## Kids Helping Kids



Sonora Snack Shacker's: *Katelyn Lipham, Mary Kyle Johnson, Rebeckah Owen, Shana Edwards, Catherine Zook, Avery Leamon, Mattye Davenport, Hayden Davenport, Wilson Johnson, Lane Cahill, Kayla Grace Edwards, Reagan Owen*

Last Friday afternoon a group of local kids handed out ice cold lemonade and Rice Krispie treats from their very own "Sonora Snack Shack" in exchange for donations. The children were inspired by a book called *The Toothpaste Millionaire* by Jean Merrill, about a 12-year-old boy who made and sold his own toothpaste for less than it could be bought at the store. However, these local kids decided to give their profits to help other kids. In fact, they collected over \$330 that hot afternoon! All of the money will be used to purchase school supplies for needy children this fall.

## Sonora Church Directory

<p><b>Primera Iglesia Bautista</b> 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p><b>The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian</b> 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p><b>Lighthouse Community Church</b> 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100</p> <p><b>Pentecostal Calvary Temple United</b> 509 Amistad 387-5266</p> <p><b>St. Ann's Catholic Church</b> 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p><b>Jehovah's Witness</b> 310 St. Ann's St 387-5658/387-5518</p>	<p><b>Church of Christ</b> 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 11 E. Oak 387-2951</p> <p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b> 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p><b>Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios</b> 306 W. 4th St 387-5713</p> <p><b>Hope Lutheran Church</b> 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p>
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Brought to you by:  
**Kerbow Funeral Home**  
387-2266

### SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your memorial gift helps preserve access to quality health care for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, PO Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950. All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

### Happy 40th Birthday, Coach Sine (The Golden Boy)

*Lordy, Lordy*      *Look Who's 40*

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Brandon, Amber, Sterling and Jackson

### Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Fourth of July!

From,  
*The Devil's River News*

*He's not OLD, just ANTIQUE!!!*

Happy Birthday John!  
**The BIG 5-0**

### Happy Birthday!

<b>July 2</b>
Manuel Flores, David Benson, John Creek, Jimalee Dutton
<b>July 3</b>
Carol Leonard, Rigoberto Hernandez, Harvey Santana
<b>July 4</b>
Danielle Matthews, Janie Marshall
<b>July 5</b>
Shirley Vickers, Janice Caruthers, Ida Mae Black, John Lopez, Jr., Charlotte McNeill
<b>July 6</b>
Rosa Sanchez, Mark MacArthur, Juanita Herrera
<b>July 7</b>
Cesia Hernandez, Lesa Gamez, Leslie Levario
<b>July 8</b>
Jamie Braly, Glenda Barton, Ernie Mayer, Everson Flores

### The Devil's River News

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**MEMBER 2009**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 NW WATER (325)387-2466

*Picnic lunch*  
May 17

*Youth Group*  
Call for info

**Sundays**  
9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
*Last Sunday of each month*  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:55 a.m. Worship  
(Nursery provided from 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

<b>Tuesdays</b> Noon Downtown Lions Club	<b>Wednesdays</b> 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. Beth Moore
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# Chamber Chatter

Submitted By: Donna Garrett

Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, which declared us separate from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, picnics, concerts, baseball games, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is marked by patriotic displays, patriotic songs such as the "National Anthem", "The Star-Spangled Banner", and "God Bless America" and so on.

This Fourth of July as we raise Old Glory, take a moment and remember the American Soldiers for the sacrifices they have made and make daily for our freedom. God Bless you, God Bless your family, and God Bless America.

We wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July weekend!

Upcoming events:

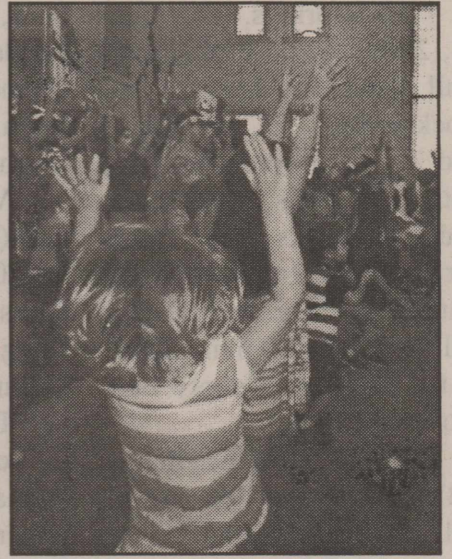
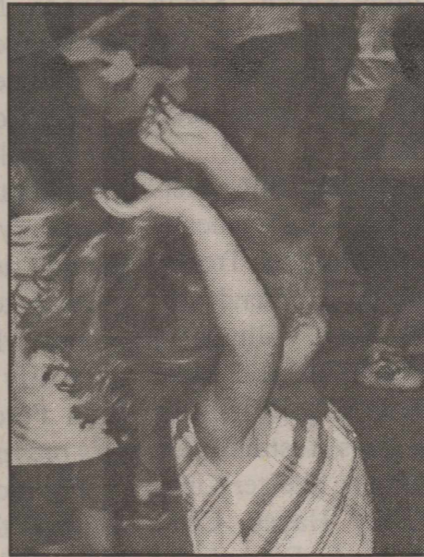
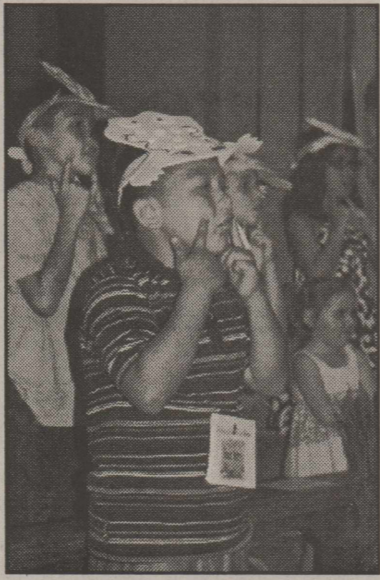
**Thursday, July 2nd** is the Grand Opening for "Nicholson's Meat Company". The Ribbon Cutting will be at 10:00 a.m. and there will be a radio remote, door prizes and party trays throughout the day. Come help us support and welcome this new business to Sonora.

**Sutton County Days and Outlaw Pro Rodeo** are coming, **August 14-15** with rodeo performances and dances both Friday and Saturday nights. "The Peace, Love and Rodeo" parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15. Booths open at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning and will remain open until 5:00 p.m.; there will be entertainment and children's activities throughout the day.

By now you should have received your sponsorship opportunity in the mail. We understand with the downturn in the economy it will be difficult for some to sponsor in the way they have in the past, but any amount will be appreciated.

For more information please call the Sonora Chamber of Commerce at 325-387-2880.

# Vacation Bible School



By Ben D. Taylor

This year's Vacation Bible School had over 90 children in attendance. School Coordinator Erin Burnham commented that, "this year's Bible School had about the same as previous years, but we could not have been able to do anything without the help of our many volunteers." This year's Bible School was a collaborative effort between the Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian Churches.



Nicholson's Meat Company will be having their grand opening and ribbon cutting on Thursday, July 2nd at 10:00 a.m. They will be having party trays and door prizes all day and KHOS will be doing a live radio remote from the location. Please welcome this new business to Sonora.

## F.Y.I.

**Lions Club Youth Camps.** The Lions Camp for the disabled (July 26-August 1) and children with diabetes (July 19-25) is now taking applications for their summer camp to be held in Kerrville. These camps are free of charge for those that qualify. Anybody interested in these camps can contact Col. Pete Bradley at 325-387-6282.

**Due to conflicts,** the next regular meeting of the Sonora ISD Board of Trustees has been changed to Monday, July 20.

**The Game Dinner Meetings** will be held on July 7, Sept. 8, and Nov. 3, 2009. Anyone interested that would like to participate in the preparations and the event are welcome to attend. All meetings will be held at Fire Dept. meeting room at 6:30 p.m.

**Reunion for Graduating Classes 1984, 1985, 1986,** August 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ Bill & Judy Webster's home, 115 Manor St. For more info, visit [www.sonorahighalumni.com](http://www.sonorahighalumni.com).

**Sutton County Friends of NRA** will be holding their 2nd Annual Auction/Banquet event on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Donations and auction items are being sought for this event. If you would like to be an active participant or would like to donate, please contact Tonya Brown @ 325-387-3861 or 325-387-5929. A pre-event raffle will begin April 2009. A gun safe and 5 firearms will be raffled, with one winner taking all!

**The 144th Narcotics Anonymous Group** meets every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Hall of The Church of the Good Shepherd, 319 N.E. Mulberry. FMI, call 387-4941 or 450-8922.

**Rent the Depot!** For more information please call 387-5084. Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**The Sutton County Historical Society Ranch Museum** is looking for a pair of handmade boots, made by Ramirez Boot Shop in Sonora, Texas, to display in the museum.

**Fundraiser for Liberty Park Veteran's Memorial Wall**-Buy a permanently engraved brick for the new sidewalks at Liberty Park. We are raising money for the engraving of the names to go on the Memorial Wall. 4x8 brick \$35.00, 8x8 brick \$60.00, 12x12 \$150.00-with logos. Pick up forms at The Bank & Trust or at City Hall.

**Liberty Park Veterans Memorial Wall**-Submit a veteran's name to be engraved on the wall. Include the name of the veteran, branch of service, submitted by, mailing address. Veterans must be residents or former residents of Sonora or Sutton County. Mail to: Liberty Park Veterans Wall, PO Box 824, Sonora, TX 76950. You can also pick up a form at The Bank & Trust or City Hall.

**Sonora High School Alumni** - Register at [www.sonorahighalumni.com](http://www.sonorahighalumni.com). For more information log on to [sonoraalum@aol.com](mailto:sonoraalum@aol.com).

**Fellow Friends and Co-Workers.** A trust fund has been set up at the First National Bank of Sonora. Anyone interested in making a donation (Tax Deductible) to Roy J. while he is recovering from his accident can do so by cash or check. Make checks payable to Sutton County Community Trust, and on the memo line write: Roy J Eisenbach Jr. Drop payments off at the bank or give them to Pat Day or Randy Sparks. Thank you very much.



Member FDIC  
P.O. Box 798  
Sonora, Texas 76950  
325-387-3861



Member FDIC  
229 Hwy 277 N  
Sonora, Texas 76950  
325-387-2593

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phone: (325) 387-3093  
fax: (325) 387-5543  
mobile: (325) 206-0497

**Goldline Mechanic Service**  
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**Bridal Selections Available**  
for

Lanna Smith ♥ Clayton Hubbard  
Swade Draper ♥ Michele Morgan

**Gifts Galore & More**  
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(325) 387-5871

**Bridal Registry**

Lanna Smith~bride elect~Clayton Hubbard  
Michele Morgan~bride elect~ Swade Draper  
Logan Grissom~bride elect~Brady Lock

**Great Gift Selections Available!**

**Ol' Sonora Trading Co.**  
121 Hwy 277 N. 325-387-5507

**Bridal Selections**

Logan Grissom~bride elect~Brady Lock  
Margie Becknell~bride elect~ Paul Maloney  
Michele Morgan~bride elect~Swade Draper  
Lanna Smith~bride elect~Clayton Hubbard

**Baby Selections**

TJ & Pam Thorp  
Cole & Heather Cearley

# The PBR Invades Rocksprings!



Rocksprings, TX. (June 24, 2009) – The Professional Bull Riders are bucking into Rocksprings, TX on July 3 and 4, for a weekend filled with rank bulls, high scores and big wrecks. The Rocksprings Slick Rock Challenge, Enterprise Tour Bull Riding will begin at 7:00 p.m. nightly at the Edwards County Fairgrounds complex.

The Slick Rock Challenge, PBR Enterprise Tour Event will showcase some of the most promising rising stars of the PBR, riding alongside fan favorites and veterans, as all the competitors face off against the most famous bucking bulls in the industry. Stock contractors Tino Mar-

tinez, Lufkin Ranch, Kevin Loudamy, Cody Hebert and Diamond S are expected to again this year bring their toughest stock.

Veteran rider, Brian Herman (Victoria, TX), winner of the 2008 Rocksprings Trophy Spurs will be in attendance, along with Sean Willingham (Summerville, GA) and Mike Lee (Decatur, TX). Be looking for young guns Austin Meier, Michael Manes, Skeeter King-solver, Kasey Hayes, Cody Campbell, Cody Ford, Luke Snyder, Ben Jones "The Danc-ing Australian" and Mexican champion Rocky McDonald. Eighteen of the top 40 riders will compete on Friday night. Riders from Australia, Brazil,

Canada, Mexico and 18 from the United States of America have signed up to ride.

The Copenhagen Bull Riding Challenger Tour, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Tour and the Discovery Tour offer upcoming bull riders the opportunity to compete in PBR-sanctioned events, while earning money to qualify for the PBR's elite Built Ford Tough World Finals presented by Wrangler.

For more information concerning this event, contact Betty Schnack at 830/683-3112 or visit the website at [www.edwardscountyfair.com](http://www.edwardscountyfair.com).

# An Experience to Remember



Kory Humphrey is using Radio Telemetry to track a quail. Kory attended the North Texas Bobwhite Brigade Camp in Coleman, Texas.

By: Kory Humphrey

My experience at the Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade Camp was amazing. This camp not only taught me about quail but taught me how to lead. While learning about the quail's habitat and the quail itself, we learned how to express our thoughts and speak in front of people.

At the Brigade we had to do different teambuilding activities that taught us the importance of communication. These consisted of the human knot, the cane pole, run for your life, and more. We learned about quail habitat through activities such as the habitat lap-sit, collecting and pressing plants, analysis of seeds in quail crops and much more.

The camp was intense because we had to get up early and go to bed late, plus ac-

complish other things during the day such as teambuilding, marching, gun safety, radio telemetry, how to do a public presentation and do lots of field work to learn about quail. Sometimes our day was so full of activities that by the end of the day I had already forgotten what we had done in the morning. The most important jobs of the camp instructors were to make sure each cadet knew about quail and knew how important leadership is in life.

During the camp each cadet was given an inspirational saying called a 'silver bullet'. The exercise of learning a silver bullet was to help us face our fears of speaking in public. We had to memorize and learn our silver bullet and be able to recite it and its meaning in front of a crowd. My

silver bullet was "The urge to comprehend must precede the urge to reform" by Aldo Leopold. This silver bullet was the one that I recited throughout camp. What this means to me is that you have to understand the things around you in order to change them.

The things that I took away from this camp will help me throughout my life. This camp helped me in so many ways that I recommend it to anybody willing to make a difference in their community. Anybody, whether they are shy or not, can take something away from this camp that will help them tremendously in their life.

I would like to thank the West Side Lions Club, Jackie and David Lee, and my parents for sponsoring me at the camp. The Brigade Camp is put on by the Texas Brigades, which is part of the Texas Wildlife Association. There are many volunteers from many professional organizations who help out at the camp, teach the cadets, and supervise all activities.

If you would like more information you can log onto [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org).

## PBR Enterprise Tour Bull Riding in Rocksprings, TX

WHO: Edwards County Fair Association

WHAT: PBR Enterprise Tour Bull Riding

WHEN: July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> performances begin at 7:00 p.m.  
Gen. Admission: Adults \$10/Children 12 & under \$5  
Dances begin at 9:00 p.m.  
Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. Sat.

WHERE: Edwards County Fairgrounds, Rocksprings, TX

Friday night dance features the Tejano sound of Eddie Reyes & Destino.

Saturday night dance entertainment will be "The Members of the Ace in the Hole Band" and "The Dead End Road Band"

Saturday events include the parade, food & beverages, washer and horseshoe pitching, shearing contest, stock dog field trials, goat cook-off and afternoon Musicfest.

Don't miss this "rockin" weekend in Rocksprings!

For additional information call 830/683-3112 or visit the website at [www.edwardscountyfair.com](http://www.edwardscountyfair.com).

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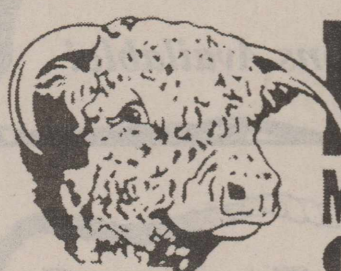
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### Tuesday - El Rancho Grande

1 Guizo Burrito topped with Chile con Queso, 1 Crispy Beef Taco, 1 Cheese Enchilada served with Spanish Rice and Refried Beans

### Wednesday - Chicken Fried Steak or Chicken Fried Steak Ranchero

Chicken Fried Steak served with Country Gravy, your choice of Mashed Potatoes or French Fries, Buttered Corn, and Texas Toast. Or Chicken Fried Steak Ranchero topped with Spicy Ranchero Sauce served with Refried Beans, French Fries and Flour Tortillas.

### Thursday - El Capitan

1 Beef Burrito topped with Ranchero Sauce, 1 Beef and Bean Chalupa, 1 Cheese Enchilada served with Spanish Rice.

### Friday - Jose's Special

2 Crispy Chicken Flautas, 1 cheese Enchilada, 1 Beef Taco served with Spanish Rice and Refried Beans

## Oil & Agribusiness

### Mosquito Facts, Protection from West Nile Disease

Submitted:

After a mild winter and recent early summer rains in West Texas, mosquitoes are coming. People will be suffering from the annoying itch of mosquito bites. Before you worry about West Nile infection, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center epidemiologist Ronald Warner, D.V.M., Ph.D., reminds us of some facts and methods to prevent this mosquito-borne disease.

Dr. Warner, in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, said between March and June, "West Nile" mosquitoes prefer to feed on birds such as crows, ravens, robins, sparrows and jays. July to October, these mosquitoes shift their feeding preference to mammals, including humans. The female mosquitoes need to feast on protein enriched foods (blood) to develop and form their eggs. Once winter arrives, adult mosquitoes will seek shelter in attics and under shingles and the bark on trees. Some unhatched mosquito eggs will be resistant to winter weather and survive until the return of spring rains.

"Domestic pets, such as dogs and cats, are rarely infected with West Nile but horses, mules and donkeys are much more susceptible," Warner said. "There are several vaccinations to help prevent your horses from being infected by the West Nile virus."

Depending on a person's age and health condition, some may have serious effects from West Nile virus, if infected. Underlying diseases such as hypertension and kidney disease appear to increase the severity of West Nile disease. Younger people, especially transplant patients and others with immune suppression (e.g., cancer treatment), can also suffer severe effects.

On average, most West Nile diseases are acquired near the home because that is where people spend most of their outdoor time. Outdoor candles, torches and/or coils may be burned to produce a smoke that repels mosquitoes, but make sure the active ingredient contains the oil of citronella. Be aware of

general fire hazards and use only under calm or windless weather conditions. A few more household tips to keep in mind: keep your grass fairly short, remove weeds in your alley, and always remember to practice the "4 Ds":

\*DEET is the active ingredient in "Off," but avoid applying high-concentrations (no more than 50% DEET); no more than 10% on small children. Also, use skin repellents sparingly; one application should last 4 to 6 hours, but apply after profuse sweating or swimming.

\*Dress appropriately if outdoors; wear long sleeves, long pants and apply mosquito repellent to the remaining area of skin that is not covered by your clothing. Permethrin-containing repellents (permanone) may be put on clothing, shoes and camping gear. Permethrin-treated clothing repels ticks, mosquitoes and other arthropods and retains this effect even after repeated washings. However, if a garment is dry-cleaned, the repellent will need to be re-applied.

\*Dusk and Dawn are the times during the day when mosquitoes are the most active.

\*Drain ALL standing water around your home. Wadding pools - drain every other day; also flower pot basins, dog bowls, and kids' toys. Any standing water will attract mosquitoes and provide a place for their eggs to develop and hatch.

There are many myths about mosquitoes. Warner said one myth is mosquitoes become larger with more rain; that is false.

"In Texas alone there are approximately 80 different documented species of mosquitoes. The time of year and local weather conditions determine what type of species we will have," Warner said.

Warner added that eating bananas, washing your mouth with Listerine and wearing dark clothes will not protect you from mosquito bites. Just remember to practice the 4 Ds and look for the active ingredients that help protect you and your loved ones.

### Forage Testing for Nitrates and Prussic Acid

By Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Agricultural Extension Agent



We had a good April and May, but not all parts of the state were as fortunate. The drought has many producers attempting to salvage failed corn, sorghum and similar crops by grazing or baling the stover for later use as animal feed. However, nitrate and prussic acid toxicity are always something to be wary of when forages have been grown under stress conditions.

Toxicity generally occurs when cattle consume large amounts of forage containing over 1% nitrate ion on a dry matter basis. Symptoms of lethal nitrate poisoning include labored breathing, frothing at the mouth, rapid pulse, weakness, diarrhea, frequent urination, muscle tremors, incoordination and convulsions, collapse and death. Cattle are the most susceptible domestic species to nitrate toxicity. This is because in their rumen, nitrate (from plants) is converted to nitrite. When this occurs, nitrite accumulates and is absorbed into the bloodstream where it binds to hemoglobin, thus reducing the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. The animals die by asphyxiation. Post-mortem examination reveals dark, chocolate-colored blood.

Prussic acid, also called hydrocyanic (HCN), normally is not present in plants. However, several common plants can accumulate large quantities of cyanogenetic glycoside. As with nitrate buildup, some stress usually triggers accumulation of cyanogenetic glycoside in plant tissue. The potential for accumulation and HCN toxicity increases during drought. Unfortunately, often the only indication of prussic acid poisoning is dead animals. HCN is one of the most potent, rapid-acting poisons known. When seen, clinical signs occur in rapid succession. Initially there

is excitement and muscle tremors. Rapid and difficult breathing follows. The animal goes down, gasps for breath and may convulse. The pupils are dilated and mucous membranes are bright pink. A characteristic sign of HCN toxicity is a bright cherry-red color to the blood, a symptom that persists for several hours after death. Although blood is oxygenated, HCN interferes with the release of oxygen from oxyhemoglobin to other tissues.

There are several plants that can have high levels of nitrate. One of the most common are pigweed (a.k.a. carelessnessweed), Johnson grass, mallow, and nightshades. In general, concern for prussic HCN is mostly directed to sudangrass, sorghum, Johnson grass, and hybrids of these species. Nitrate accumulation and prussic acid formation occur in different parts of the plant. Nitrate levels are highest in the lower stalks, while prussic acid can form in the newest leaves or recently damaged leaves. Unlike nitrates, prussic acid will dissipate after cutting; however, tight bales may require more than 9 months for prussic acid levels to decline below levels of concern.

If the crop is still green and good rain is in the near-term forecast, delaying cutting may allow for nitrates in the plant to be converted to protein and other nitrogen containing compounds and structures. Generally, 3-5 days is required, following adequate rainfall, for significant nitrate reductions. Laboratory testing can be done to indicate levels of both compounds in forages. Contact the County Extension office for more information.

### Unusual Happening Strikes Twice at National 4-H Wool Judging Event

By Steve Byrns

SONORA - For the second time in as many years, each team at this year's National 4-H Wool Judging Contest at Sonora yielded a high individual point score which, according to a contest official, is very unusual.

"Each of the four teams, two from Texas, one from Wyoming and one from New Mexico, had at least one individual in the top five of the contest," said Dr. Frank Craddock, Texas AgriLife Extension Service sheep and goat specialist at San Angelo. "This very seldom ever happens and to have it happen twice in consecutive years at the same contest is phenomenal."

"It's sure good once in awhile to see the accolades divided among several teams and not all the glory going to just the one or two teams who dominate," Craddock said. "It's also proof-positive of the knowledge these young people and their coaches have when it comes to judging wool."

The 49th annual National 4-H Wool Judging Contest, the premier contest of the 72nd annual Sonora Wool and Mohair Show, was won by the Kerr County 4-H team with a score of 1,842. The show and its many associated contests were held June 17-18 in Sonora.

Winning team members were Chase Lantz (632 points), Amanda Weaver (633 points) and Jackie Netwlich (577 points). Coaches were Roy Walston, AgriLife Extension agent in Kerr County, and Fred Speck, Kerr County

producer. Second place team honors went to the Tom Green County 4-H club with a score of 1,744 points. Team members were Connor Hoelscher (592 points), Corey Schwartz (590 points) and Meredith Wilde (562 points).

Third place was taken by the Campbell County 4-H team of Wyoming with 1,740 points, and fourth place went to the Grant County, N.M., team with 1,656 points.

Winning the FFA wool judging contest, another major contest of the show, with a score of 1,778 points was the James Madison High School team from San Antonio. The team also took top honors in last year's contest. Team members included Patricia Ward (609 points), Tasha Womack (605 points) and Kaeley Treptow (564 points). Ward was the contest's high point winner with 609 points. The team's coach was Mike Wallace.

Second place team honors went to Wylie FFA with 1,701 points.

The national 4-H and FFA wool judging contests are two highlights of the Sonora Wool and Mohair Show. The show features youth judging contests and wool and mohair fleece competitions. The event is sponsored by the Sonora Lions Club and Sonora Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Sonora Wool and Mohair Company and AgriLife Extension.

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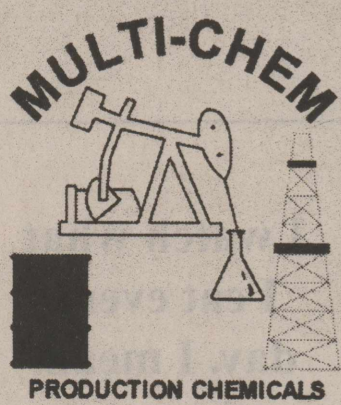
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# Sonora Elementary School Supply List

## Prekindergarten

- 1 large box tissues (Kleenex)
  - 2- 4 oz. bottles of white glue
  - 1 package of 2 glue sticks (white, not purple)
  - 2- sets of crayons (regular, thin crayons)
  - 1- 1" 3-ring binder (any color)
  - 1 portfolio folder with pockets and brads (any color)
  - 1 pair Fiskar safety scissors
  - 1 box of "wipes" ("baby wipes")
  - 1 box of quart-sized storage bags (Ziploc/other)
  - 1 box of gallon-sized storage bags (any brand)
  - 1 FULL-SIZE backpack or school bag
  - 1 towel or SMALL blanket (for naptime)
  - 1 change of clothes (for any type of accident)
  - 1 large bottle of hand sanitizer (10 oz. or larger)
  - 1 container of sanitizing wipes (like Lysol or Clorox)
  - 1 pkg. of notebook paper
  - 1 pkg. of plain, white paper plates OR small paper sacks
- \*Pencil boxes/bags are not needed at this level.
- \*\*Please write your child's name on each item with a permanent marker.

## Kindergarten

- 4 - 8oz. Bottles Elmer's School glue
  - 1 - 24 ct. box crayons (Crayola brand only)
  - 2 - 10 pack of #2 lead pencils (regular size, yellow only)
  - 1 - blunt-end scissors (FISCAR only)
  - 1 - large box tissue
  - 1 - backpack (regular size)
  - 1 - pkg. assorted construction paper
  - 2 - watercolor paint sets
  - 1 - box (10) classic CRAYOLA markers
  - 1 - box of quart One-Zip FREEZER Ziploc bags, girls
  - 1 - box of gallon One-Zip FREEZER Ziploc bags, boys
  - 1 - set of dry erase markers
  - 1 - large eraser
  - 1 - red pocket folder (brads only)
  - 1 - green pocket folders (brads only)
  - 1 - spiral notebook
  - 1 - 4-pack standard size cans of play dough
  - 1- box of map pencils
  - 1- standard towel labeled with child's name
  - 1- box of "wipes" ("baby wipes")
- \*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT write your child's name on ANY of the school supplies\*\*\*

## First Grade

- 1 - box for supplies (no larger than 6"x9")
  - 1 - zippered pencil pouch
  - 2 - boxes 24 count CRAYOLA crayons
  - 20 - #2 lead pencils (regular size)
  - 1 - pair metal scissors (FISCAR only)
  - 2 - large erasers
  - 1 - Classic colors washable CRAYOLA markers
  - 1 - watercolor set (CRAYOLA or PRANG)
  - 3 - medium sized bottles ELMERS glue
  - 2 - sets of 12 CRAYOLA colored pencils
  - 1 - large box of Kleenex
  - 1 - box ziplock type bags - any size
  - 1 - Backpack
  - 1 - package of index cards
  - 1 - box of "wipes" ("baby wipes")
- \*Your child's name must be on each item (each pencil, crayon, marker, etc.) with a permanent marker
- \*Additional items may be requested on the first day and throughout the school year.

## Second Grade

- 1 - Box of Crayons (16 count or over)
  - 3- Package of pencils
  - 2 - Big pink erasers
  - 1 - Pair of Fiskar scissors
  - 1 - Package of assorted markers
  - 1 - Package of colored pencils
  - 2 - Large bottles of glue
  - 3- Glue sticks
  - 2 - Boxes of Kleenex
  - 4 - Plastic Pocket folders (1-red, 1-yellow, 1-green, 1-blue)
  - 1 - Box of zip-lock baggies (quart)
  - 1- Package of notebook paper
  - 1- box of "wipes" ("baby wipes")
- \*Please write your child's name on each item with a permanent marker.

## Third Grade

- Scissors
  - Pencils
  - Eraser
  - Glue
  - Map colors
  - Markers
  - Crayons
  - Watercolors
  - 1 dry erase marker
  - 4 folders WITHOUT brads- red, blue, yellow, green
  - 1 Mead Composition book
  - Box for supplies
  - Ziploc baggies-1 box any size
  - Tissues-1 boxes
  - 1 box of "wipes" ("baby wipes")
- Please put name on all items.

## Future Rooted in Past (Contd From Front Page)

related businesses," said Max Howorth, president and managing director of the Sonora Industrial Development Corp.

"We're acting members of the Ports-to-Plains Coalition because we know Sonora is strategically positioned to do something in transportation, whether it be warehousing, off-loading from Mexico or whatever. That is one of the things we are lucky for having."

The SIDC, funded by Sonora's half-cent sales tax, has a seven-member board charged with seeking out economic development opportunities.

"We're currently sitting on a portfolio of open projects that totals about \$400,000 — those are in various stages of funding and completion. Some of them have basically been completed except for reporting requirements," he said.

While its economic development future is a work in progress, Sonora is already a special place for tourists and outdoor lovers.

The community is home to antiques stores, a top-rated steakhouse, a nine-hole golf course and natural attractions in the nearby Caverns of Sonora and Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, a 37-acre nature park created in the city through the SIDC that offers hiking, biking, wildlife, native flora, and geological and historical interests.

"The caverns would definitely have to be Sonora's biggest draw," said Donna Garrett, executive director for the Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

The Caverns of Sonora, eight miles west of the city, is privately owned and is regarded as one of the most beautiful and active caverns in the world. The national natural landmark sits on the Mayfield Ranch and features a 1.75-mile tour, which takes roughly two hours to complete.

Ed Mayfield, an operator at the Caverns of Sonora, said attendance numbers have dropped in the past few decades.

"We're trying to increase attendance right now," Mayfield said.

"We're gradually increasing that number by impressing people that come here and having them spread the word around."

## School Starts August 24, 2009

## Fourth Grade

- Large binder (with 3-inch rings)
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Covered pencil sharpener
- Elmer's school glue (not a glue stick)
- 2 large pkgs. wide rule notebook paper (not college rule)
- Pencils
- Fiskar scissors with a pointed tip
- 2 one-subject spiral notebooks
- 5 pocket folders with holes for notebook
- 3 red pens for grading (not pencils)
- Large eraser
- Pencil pouch for notebook
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 2 large boxes of Kleenex
- Composition book (MEAD-wide rule)
- 1 box of "wipes" ("baby wipes")

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Now Hiring LVN or Medical Assistant. Please submit resume at 301 A Hudspeth Ave. in Sonora or call 325-387-6557 FMI.

Convergence Marketing is seeking experienced merchandisers with planogram experience for a 6 week candy reset. Contact Brandee 1 866-249 6128 ext 157.

Sutton County EMS is seeking an office assistant. Applicant must have ECA or EMT Certification. Duties include clerical, computer work and ambulance maintenance. Applicant must be willing to take ambulance calls as needed. Applications may be picked up at the EMS Building at 211 East Third Street, during normal business hours. Completed applications should be returned to the EMS office by July 9, 2009. Sutton County is an equal opportunity employer.

For Sale

Take Over Payments: 3 bedroom/2 bath mobile home. Pay transfer fee. Please call 830-313-1060. or 387-2934.

Owner In Jail- Make up back payments. We also have zero down home packages if you own your own land. 1-800-934-9644 LUV Homes RBI 03190.

For Sale: '97- GMC Crew Cab Pick-Up, 2 wheel drive, 350 Automatic engine, 8' Long bed, 150,000 miles, Runs good, Cold AC, New tires, New brakes and New compressor, \$4,000 FIRM. Call 337-298-7735 - Truck is in Sonora.

For Sale: '90 Jeep Wrangler (White), 78,000 miles, auto, power, tow hitch, great condition. Call 325-226-0084.

For Sale: Instyler Curling iron (never been used) \$15, New Wave Infrared Oven \$60, '86 Buick LeSabre \$1250. Call Ben or Kayla 325-450-6177 or 853-3350.

For Rent

Mobile Home Lots for Lease. Bronco Mobile Home Estates, Long Term RV's welcome. 830-313-1060 or 325-387-2934.

Premium Office Space Available, Historical Mercantile Building, all utilities paid. For more information 387-9000.

For Rent- 2-Three bedroom trailers to rent and 2-Commercial shop buildings to rent. FMI call 325-387-3154.

Office Space Available: Beside Chamber of Commerce on HWY 277. FMI call Sharon @ 325-226-1973.

Misc.

0 Down on your land. 800-934-9644 RBI #03190 Luv Homes.

Renters Wanted: Pay 1st and last rent & own your own home. 800-934-9644. RBI # 03190 Luv Homes

Special Government Program Zero Down if you own your land or your family owns land. Credit doesn't matter. 1-888-277-2758 RBI # 35624.

Public Notice

Sutton County is hereby requesting for sealed bids on the following:

One (1) 2009 New Mower Tractor, 95 to 100 HP with Cab with A/C, Two (2) Wheel Drive, 3 Remote Valves with Hydraulic Control, AM-FM Radio with CD, Financing/Rental Purchase will be considered

Sealed bids will be opened on July 27, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the regular meeting of Commissioners Court at the Sutton County Annex at which time bids will either be accepted or rejected. "Sealed Bids" must be delivered or mailed to Judge Carla Garner, Box 1212, Sonora, Texas 76950. For Specifications, please contact the County Road & Bridge Administrator, Oscar Jimenez, 325/387-3010 or 325/206-1883 or County Auditor, Maura Weingart, 325/387-5380.

J.J.

Caruthers Realty

"The Best of the Best"

Drive a little, Save a lot

Sutton Co. acreage close to I-10 with highway frontage.

2300 ac. east of Sonora, large liveoaks, deep soil, very little cedar, abundant wildlife, white tailed deer and turkey, highway frontage, some minerals. Camp house, barn, pens, water wells, partial new low fence. \$1395/ac.

Buffalo Well Division

523 ac. Camp house, well, large liveoaks and white tailed deer and turkey. 15 miles east of Sonora on paved road. \$1495/ac.

650 ac. Highway frontage, deer, turkey, large liveoaks, very little cedar, electricity, \$1495/ac.

These properties are 15 minutes from I-10 on state highway less than 1 1/2 hr. from the Kerrville area.

Bob Caruthers - Broker

325-226-3003 Anytime

email: bobc@sonoratlx.net

Scott Jacoby

Real Estate

www.scottjacobyrealestate.

P.O. Box 295  
802 S. Concho  
Sonora, TX 76950

325-226-2768

sjacoby@dishmail.net

Advertising Works! Call Lynn at 387-2507

4,515 acres (Sutton Co.)

STONE KEY ESTATES

Historic HQ's, Hill Country, Oak Trees, Improvements, Paved County Road Frontage priced to sell & can divide 325.374.2597

1+ ac. parcels Wall ISD protective covenants community water system 6 mi. S of San Angelo priced to sell, can finance 325.374.2597

Stephens Ranch Real Estate

Jay S. Garrett

917 S. Bryant St. San Angelo, Tx 76903

(325) 634-1801

Office: 325-942-0769 Fax: 325-942-0319

Toll Free: 1-800-880-0769

TAKE A LOOK

30 acres—great location 6 miles from Sonora, remodeled 3/3 house w/CH&A, attached carport, sprinkler system, well, outbuildings, fences, views, abundant wildlife, pictures on website; \$310,000.

R.D. Kothmann Real Estate

www.kothmannrealestate.com

325-446-3013

GOLD CANYON

INDEPENDENT DEMONSTRATOR

Rhonda Wilson

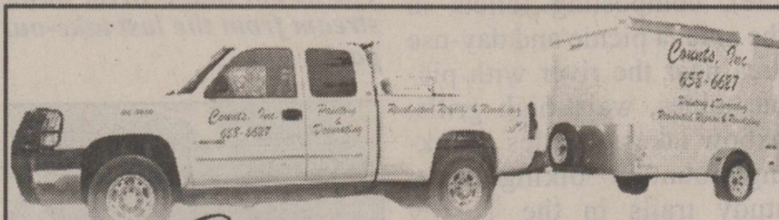
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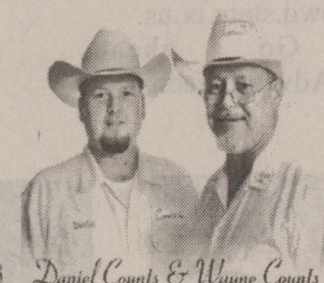


Counts, Inc. "A Tradition of Excellence"

Residential Painting & Decorating Repair & Remodeling

325-658-6627

Daniel - 325-234-8776 • Wayne - 325-234-5173



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

Dave Hernandez-Salesman 325-206-0572

New Listing\*

102 Sawyer Ct. • 3BR/2 BA • Double Garage • Covered Patio • Swimming Pool • Fenced Backyard

Call for details.

Main Street REALTY

Anita Hudson, Broker ~ Stacy Turney, Broker

215 E. Main • Sonora, TX 76950

325-387-6115

www.SonoraTexasRealEstate.com

New Listing!

104 Oakwood

• 3 BR/2 BA • 1307 Sq.Ft. (SCAD) • Great Location • \$124,500

Residential Properties

Table listing residential properties with addresses and prices, including Martin St, Glasscock, E. 2nd, Poplar, Oakwood, Brookside, etc.

Commercial

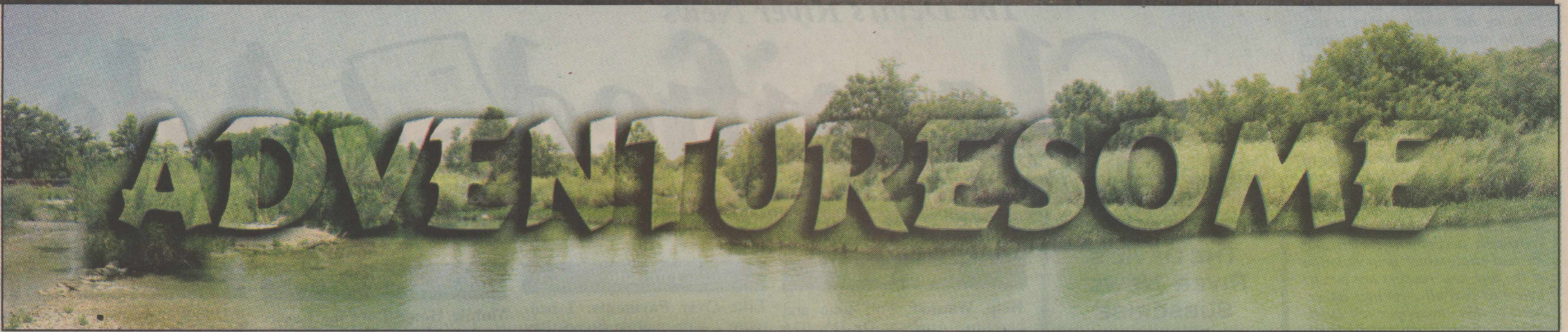
Table listing commercial properties: 606 Crockett \$89,500, 226 E. Main \$110,000

Acreage & Lots

Table listing acreage and lots: 75 Acres-Sutton Co. \$150,000, 88.444 Acres - Sutton County \$176,888, etc.

Western Heritage Builders, LLC advertisement featuring Craig L. Nalen, contact info, and a list of features for 102 Kings Court including 2100 liveable square feet, 3 bedrooms, 1 office, 2 baths, and various interior finishes.

Sonora Office Supply advertisement listing address (228 E. Main St.), phone (325-387-2498), office hours (9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.), and services for office supply needs.



Staying cool, water enthusiasts kayak, float and swim in the South Llano River State Park. Being small in size makes it a great family-oriented area, which has over 60,000 visitors a year.



Waiting for a bite, a park visitor fishes on the bank of Buck Lake in the South Llano River State Park, south of Junction. State parks do not require a fishing license to enjoy the fun.

**Adventuresome:** daring, willing, or eager to participate in exciting or risky activities (Encarta Dictionary). "Adventuresome" is a new section we are adding to the Devil's River News for the summer. We hope you will use it as a guide to help you get out and explore the treasures of West Texas. Each issue will explore a different state park or nature area and highlight the attractions and adventure to be found.

**South Llano River SP**  
**Travel Time: 50 min.**  
**Distance: 60 miles from Sonora**

**Story and Photos**  
 by James Ricks

I ventured to the South Llano River State Park, looking for cool relief from the heat of the day, and found life thriving along the river banks. Apart from the abundant plant and animal life, people were fishing, floating on tubes, and kayaking by.

The water moves at a gentle pace, great for floating and wading, with shallow banks for fishing. The campsites are well maintained, the roads are all paved and park staff were helpful and friendly.

The river is the main attraction at the park, but there is plenty to do with the 18 miles of hiking and biking trails, bird blinds, and a small lake that is great for fishing. The trails are an easy ride through a canopy of pecan, cedar, elm, juniper, oak and sycamore trees in the park,

and extend to a more intermediate level if you head into the adjoining Walter Buck Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The bird blinds are well-kept, with many pictures and guides identifying many of the 220 species native to the area, and provide a nice place to sit away from the heat of the day to watch the birds feed and bathe while providing a great photo op. Deer, lizards, squirrels and many other animals are also easily spotted from the river banks and trails in the park.

"People come from all over and other countries to see the birds here," said Christopher Hanson, a park officer. "We have one of the biggest turkey roosts and habitats in Texas and are in a unique position where the state park is joined with a wildlife management area."

In the winter months, the park is home to 600-800 turkeys and a large portion of the park closes from October-March to protect the turkeys' habitat.

The park entry road is located 5 miles south of Junction on US Hwy 377. The TPWD lists the following facilities: multi-use campsites with water and electricity at each site and a dump station and restrooms with showers in the area; walk-in campsites with picnic tables and fire rings (30- to 70-yard walk from where the car is parked - drinking water is available to every 4 sites. No vehicle camping is allowed at the walk-in sites and capacity is 4 people per site), composting toilets in the area; a picnic and day-use area near the river with picnic tables, waist-high grills; oxbow lakes; 4 miles of hiking/mountain biking/nature study trails in the Turkey Roost area; and hunting blinds available for wildlife photography.

For more information on the area and activities available, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

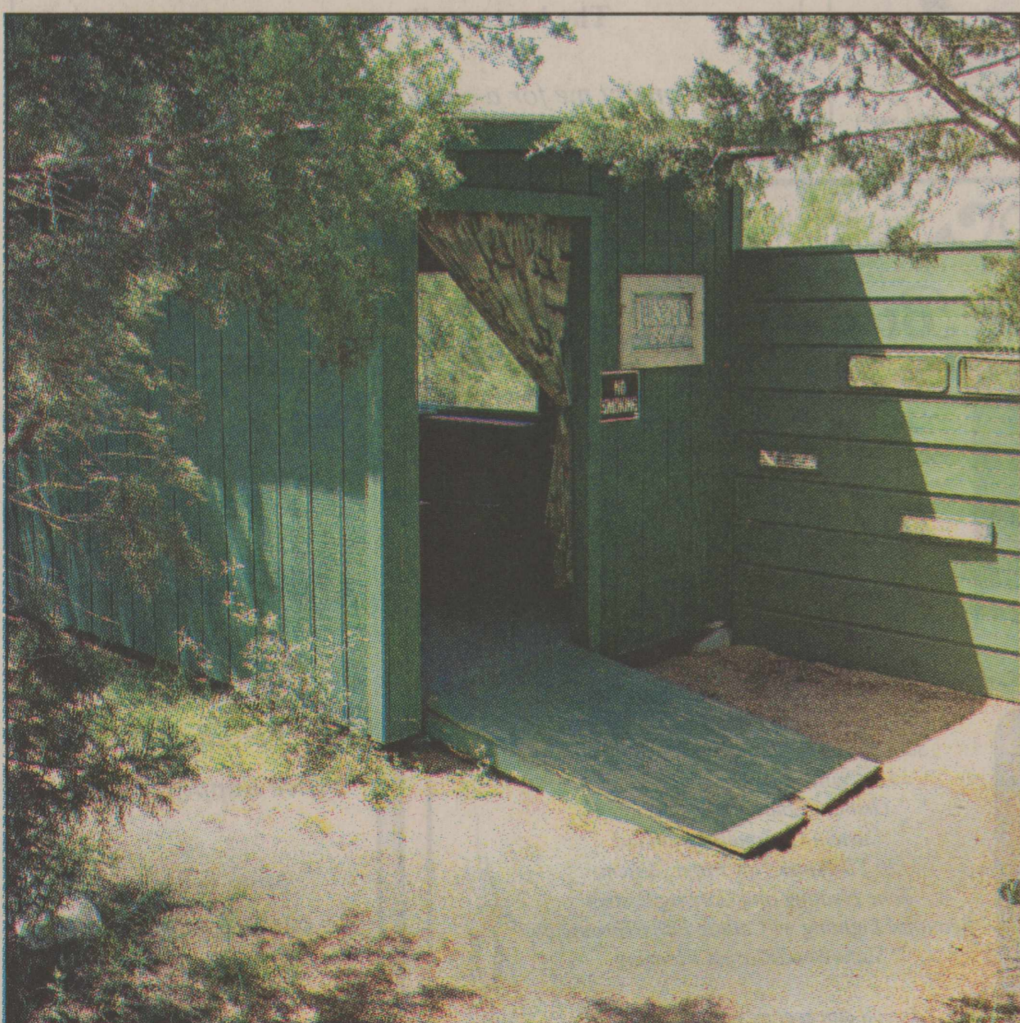
Go ahead, be "Adventuresome."



The South Llano River flows lazily downstream from the last take-out point at the park.



A hiking and biking trail follows the eastern boundary of the park fence.



Sitting off of Fawn Trail, one of the four bird blinds in South Llano River State Park provides an ideal setting for birdwatching.



Visitors taking a stroll down a trail next to Buck Lake. The trail that heads toward the campsites located at South Llano River State Park.