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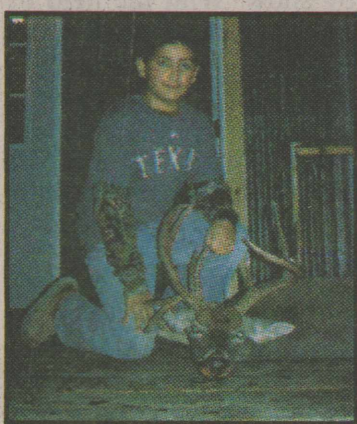
The Devil's River News

Volume 122 • Issue 47

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 2, 2010

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Recognized



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IN THE UNITED STATES OF DEBT WE TRUST

A History of The Federal Debt Part 1

-\$13,797,019,568,761.64



By Ben D. Taylor

It's likely that one of the top three topics discussed over thanksgiving dinner last week was the national debt. In a perfect world this particular topic should be easy to understand, because if there is one thing all Americans comprehend its debt (simply put-don't spend more than you make). The problem arises when you realize that our national debt has been managed by politicians for over 200 years. The resulting quagmire is anything but simple! In order to have any meaningful discussion about the federal debt you must first accept two things: 1) the United States of America has grown to be the most powerful nation in the world based mainly on our economy 2) our country has always been in debt.

The United States of America was bought on credit. Due to debts from the Revolutionary War and under the Articles of Confederation our first national debt was around \$75 million on January 1, 1791. That debt grew over the next half century until President Andrew Jackson was elected in 1829. President Jackson considered the debt as a "national curse" and virtually eliminated the debt down to \$33,000. It would be a short

lived trend, as it quickly rose into the millions. The civil war pushed our debt past the billion dollar mark for the first time (grew from \$65 million in 1860 to 1 billion in 1863). The buildup and involvement in World War II along with the social programs of Roosevelt and Truman in the 1930's and 40's increased our debt sixteen times from \$16 billion to \$260 billion. From that point the debt continued to increase. In the 1980's our debt increased by 30% from \$900 billion to 3 trillion, from there it slowly increased to 9 trillion over the next 18 years. In 2009 the debt increased to 12 trillion dollars (as of press time the current debt is 13.7 trillion).

The human mind lacks the ability to comprehend the value of a trillion of anything, so trying to understand what it means to be \$13.7 trillion in debt has no real value other than shock value. This does not really matter though when discussing debt and its impacts, because a person can be \$50,000 in debt but makes \$100,000 meaning that they have the ability to service that debt. The real questions that need clear answers are: 1) who do we owe it to, 2) do we have the resources to service our 13 trillion dollar debt?

The first question is much easier to answer than the second.

Our national debt is broken down into two different categories, the debt held by government accounts and the debt held by the public. Debt held by the government accounts is money the government owes itself, and usually does not play a real important factor. It's the same thing as operating a business out of property you own and charging yourself rent. What most of the discussions center around is the amount of debt held by the public, because that is what could potentially cause widespread economic problems.

The U.S. Treasury defines public debt as "securities held by institutions outside the United States Government", which can include foreign governments and private citizens. That debt is in the form of bonds, securities, and notes. Most reports discuss public debt as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Let's say that you buy a car for \$20,000, and you make \$30,000 a year-that means that your debt ratio is at 66%. If you go back to the bank at a later date and try to get a home repair loan, or any other kind of financing your debt load could limit their ability to loan you more money. If you cannot pay the vehicle loan the bank can reposes it, increase your interest rate, or foreclose on property and collateral to re-coup their losses.

There are several similarities between the federal government's debt held by the public and the debt of a private citizen.

Next weeks edition will include further discussion on debt owned by the public, who actually owns it, and what that could mean.

Sonora's Main Street Among Those Receiving National Recognition

EL PASO, Texas — The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently recognized Sonora, Texas as one of the 52 National Main Street Cities in Texas. Other 2011 National Main Street Cities, which represent the real places of Texas, include: Amarillo, Bastrop, Bay City, Beaumont, Brenham, Canton, Canyon, Carthage, Celina, Clifton, Comanche, Cotulla, Denton, Elgin, Farmersville, Gainesville, Georgetown, Goliad, Gonzales, Grapevine, Greenville, Harlingen, Henderson, Hillsboro, Huntsville, Kilgore, La Grange, Laredo, Levelland, Livingston, Llano, Longview, Lufkin, Luling, McKinney, Mineola, Mount

Pleasant, Mount Vernon, Nacogdoches, New Braunfels, Odessa, Plainview, Rockwall, Royse City, San Angelo, San Marcos, Seguin, Taylor, Tyler, Waxahachie and Weatherford.

"In 2011, the Texas Main Street Program celebrates its 30th anniversary and that means we have not only newer programs but also many cities whose Main Street programs have stood the test of time. This recognition honors the many partners of Main Street in each community as well as the progress each program has made. Whether recently designated or long-time programs, year to year, the hard work of the many community members involved in the Main Street process pays off. Through a

focus on preserving their authentic historic downtowns, the whole community benefits," said Debra Farst, state coordinator of the Texas Main Street Program.

The cities were honored at the recent Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference in El Paso. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center will honor these cities at the 2011 National Main Streets Conference to be held in Des Moines, Iowa in May. NATIONAL RECOGNITION, 2-2

Story and Picture Contd. on Page 4

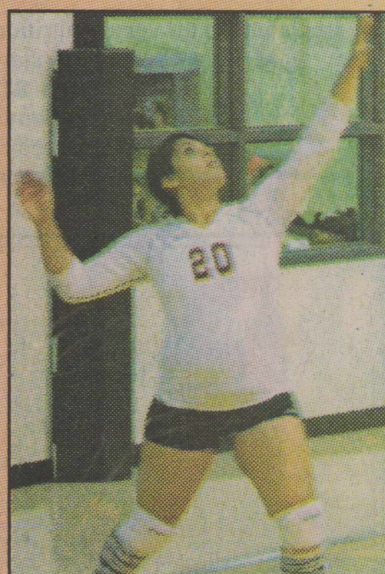
Lady Broncos Volleyball: All District Selections

Newcomer of the Year

Outstanding Blocker



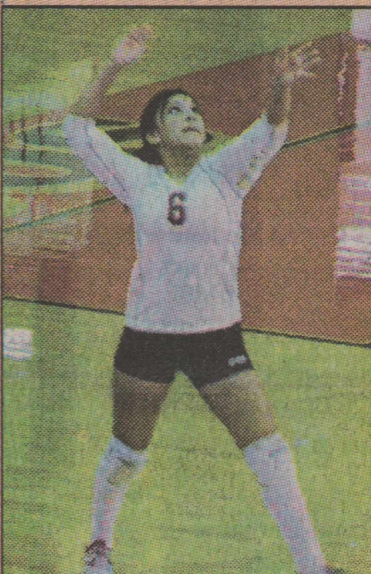
Morgan Smith



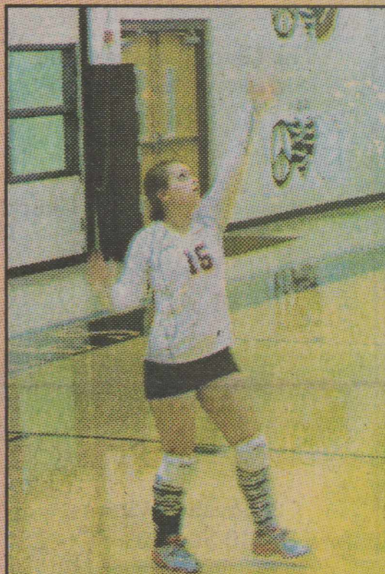
LeAndra Castaneda

First Team All District

First Team All District



Ashley Perez



Liz Chavarria

First Team All District

2nd Team All District



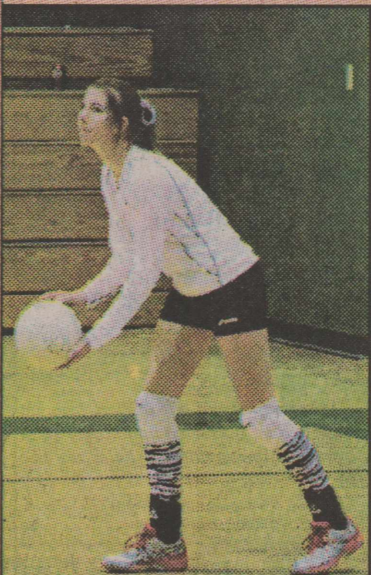
Delilah Aguero



Sarah Carrillo

Honorable Mention

Academic All District



Serena Allison

(have to have a 90 average for the 1st and 2nd six weeks):

- Morgan Smith
- Serena Allison
- LeAndra Castaneda
- Ashley Perez
- Delilah Aguero
- Sarah Carrillo
- Liz Chavarria
- Evelyn Solis

Senior Center Activities

Thurs. December 2 - Happy Birthday *Olivia Longoria*
 Fri. December 3 - Happy Birthday *Sam Perez*
 Mon. December 6 - Happy Birthday *Fred Adkins*
 Tues. December 7 -
 Wed. December 8 - Van to San Angelo

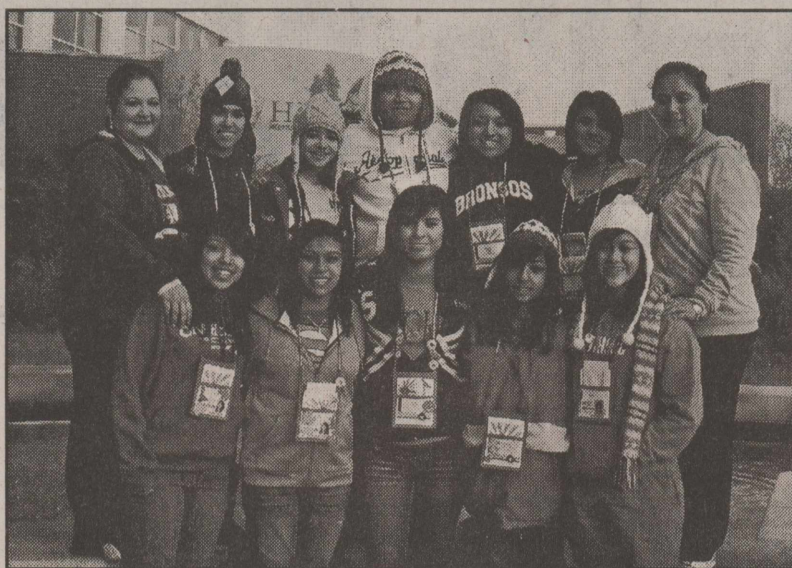
Senior Center Menu

Thurs. December 2 -
 Fri. December 3 -
 Mon. December 6 -
 Tues. December 7 -
 Wed. December 8 -

Menu not available at press time

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).

Thank You Notes



On November 12, 13 and 14, St. Ann's Youth Group traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas to attend the Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference.

We want to thank all of the community for your support throughout these past 6 months. Thank you for supporting all of our fundraisers, your snacks for the trip but specifically your prayers. Thank you to our sponsors, Marrisa Faz and Mona Prieto, our drivers to and from San Angelo, Betty Garza, Sonia Hernandez and Santiago Faz.

Thank You,
 Christina Rodriguez, Jesus Garcia,
 April Castillo, Marissa Prieto, Adriana Faz,
 Clarissa Hernandez, Olivia Banda, Emilce Hernandez,
 Cassandra Garza, Rebekah Infante

Thank you to everyone that purchased raffle tickets for my fundraising trip to Washington, D.C. and New York City. The winners of the Avon baskets were Ari Deluna and Lilia Flores. The winner of the Italian Cream cake was Wanda Neville. A huge thanks to my aunt, Florie, and grandma, Maggie, for their generous donation of items and their time! It is ver much appreciated! I, along with other classmates, will be making this trip in early June 2011, so please keep your eyes and ears open, as we will be having more fundraisers until then.

Thank you,
 Kali Mendez

The family of Ernestina Sanchez would like to thank everyone that called and by to offer their condolences and prayers. Thank you for the beautiful flowers and plants, food, and cards. Thank you to everyone who assisted in providing a beautiful church service - the choir, mass servers and lector. Also, a special thanks to her caregiver, Ada Vigil, for always being there and to the Hospice of San Angelo nurses, Veronica and Laura, for the care they provided.

With our deepest thanks,
 The Sanchez family, The Carrasco Family,
 The Hernandez Family and the Alfano Family

Fun Indoor Activities For Kids

(StatePoint) Outdoor play is great for kids, but what do you do on those cold, rainy or blustery days when Mother Nature seems to be conspiring against you?

"Most parents aren't comfortable with the television or video game console acting as babysitter," says Emily Kilpatrick, Vice President of the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), "but they also struggle to find indoor activities that really nurture their children's minds."

Parents can encourage their children's natural curiosity by finding fun indoor activities that spark their imaginations while they're away from the classroom.

To help, here are some of the most popular indoor activities from the NCFL's new educational website, www.Wonderopolis.org, which features a novel "Wonder of the Day" daily for parents to explore with children:

* Let It Snow: Whether you live in a warm or cold climate, almost all children are fascinated by snow. With the help of some pipe cleaners and a few other simple supplies, you and your kids can learn how to make your own ice crystals in a jar.
 * Do-It-Yourself Aromatherapy: Recycling takes on a fun twist when you help your kids turn old wax crayons and empty soup cans into homemade candles. Add some scented oil or a few drops of vanilla extract to create a calming atmosphere in your home. Just make sure to never leave a lit candle unattended or in reach of small children.

* Create Virtual Biographies: Are your kids fascinated with a historical legend like King Tut or a children's author like J.K. Rowling? If so, have them create a modern-day biography by researching them online. Then have some real fun by asking your children to imagine what it would be like to be Facebook friends with that person. What would his profile look like? What would she talk about? Would Jacques Cousteau like "Jaws" or "Titanic"?

* Go Stargazing: Not many people live far enough north to view the beauty of the northern lights. Even if you do, artificial light and inclement weather can make stargazing difficult. But the AuroraMAX Observatory in Yellowknife, Canada, conveniently broadcasts live video via Webcam every night, allowing viewers all over the world to experience the beauty of aurora borealis firsthand.

* Plan a Staycation: Is the economy putting a crimp in your normal travel plans this year? Check out the Wonder of the Day titled "What Would You Do on a Staycation?" to get ideas on how to get your kids excited about not going away for vacation. A basement camping trip can be just as fun as an authentic camping trip, while still enjoying the luxuries of home.

For more fun indoor activities to explore with your kids, visit www.Wonderopolis.org.

Remember, you can make learning fun for your kids and explore the world without ever leaving your family room.

Beware Of These Job Hunting Scams

(SPM Wire) With high rates of unemployment nationwide, almost everybody knows someone who is out of work and actively looking for a job. Adding insult to injury, many scammers are now taking advantage of this opportunity to prey on these job seekers, according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

"The dismal employment rate means that a lot of people are desperate for work and may be grasping for any job which creates a great opportunity for scammers," said Stephen A. Cox, President and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. "Not thoroughly researching a job opportunity can make a bad situation even worse and a victim can lose hundreds or even thousands of dollars to any number of job-related scams."

The experts at the BBB recommend looking out for these red flags when searching for a job:

* The employer offers the opportunity to become rich without leaving home. While many legitimate businesses allow employees to work from home, there are also many scammers trying to take advantage of senior citizens, stay-at-home moms, students and disabled workers looking to make money conveniently at home. Job hunters should use extreme caution when considering a work-at-home offer and always research the company first.

* The salary and benefits offered seem too-good-to-be-true. Phony employers might brag about exceptionally high salary potential and excellent benefits for little work and no experience necessary, in order to lure unsuspecting job hunters into their scams.

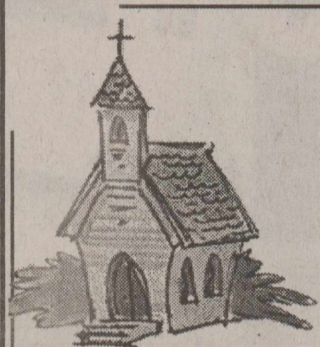
* Employer e-mails are rife with grammatical and spelling errors. Online fraud is often perpetrated by scammers located outside the U.S. Their first language usually isn't English and this is often evident in their poor grasp of the language.

* The employer is quick to ask for personal information. A typical scam involves awarding someone a job without an interview and then asking for personal information, such as social security or bank account numbers. A job applicant should never give out his or her Social Security or bank account numbers over the phone or email. It should be done in person, even for a telecommuting job, and only after he or she has confirmed the job is legitimate.

* The job requires you to wire money. Many phony jobs require the employee to cash a check sent by the company through the mail and then wire a portion of the money on to another entity. Reasons given for this requirement vary from scam to scam. The check might clear the employee's bank account but will eventually turn out to be a fake and the employee is out the money he or she wired back to the scammers.

To make sure you are working for a legitimate company, you can ask to speak with the previous person in your position, do a quick Internet search for the company, and check with your local Better Business Bureau. You also can visit bbb.org for more tips and information.

Sonora Church Directory



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

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The Devil's River News

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MEMBER
 2010

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Happy 4th Birthday, Jayla!



We love you, Gordita!



Mama, Gigi,
 Uncle Harley, Nana Stella,
 Papa Mando, Tio Tony, Adam,
 Dalissa, Uncle J & Aunt Armie

First United Methodist Church

201 NW Water Ave.

(325) 387-2466

Ray Wells, Pastor

Sunday

9:45 Sunday School

10:55 Worship

Nursery available from 9:30 - 12:30

Tuesday

12:00 Lion's Club

Wednesday

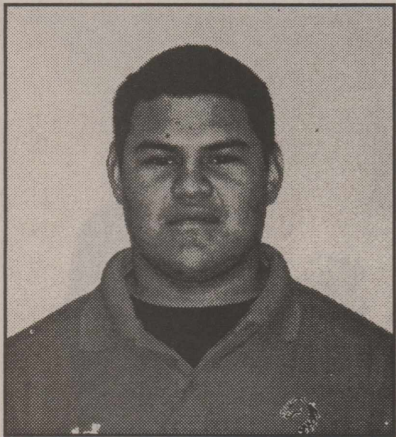
6:00 Beth Moore Study - Fellowship Hall

6:00 Jr. High Youth - St. John's Sunday House

7:00 Sr. High Youth - St. John's Sunday House

Students of the Week

Lion's Roar



Kyle Patlan

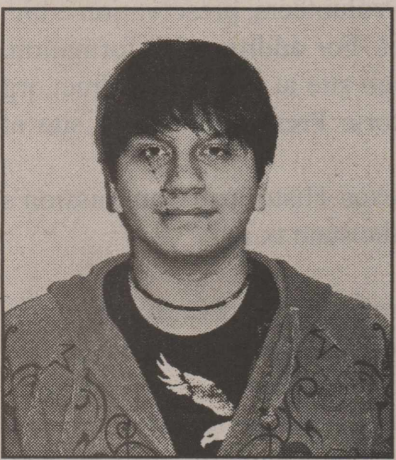


Kassie Monroe

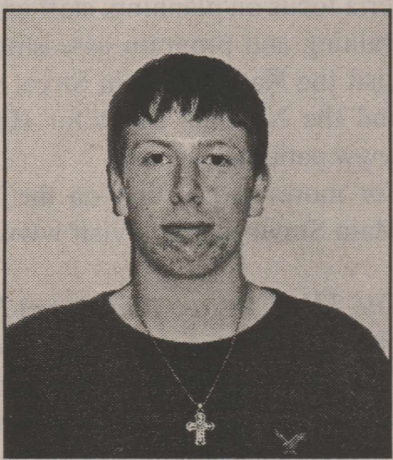
Junior Kyle Patlan and Freshman Kassie Monroe were announced as Sonora High School's Students of the Week for the week of November 22nd.

Junior Kyle Patlan is the son of Melinda Patlan. His favorite class is Ag. He likes football and dislikes Rock music. Kyle has lived in Sonora all his life and says his favorite thing about Sonora High is the sports. He is a part of the Football, Power Lifting, and Track teams. Kyle plans to go to college after high school and major in Petroleum Engineering, but is undecided on what college he will attend.

Kassie is the daughter of Larry and Gay Monroe. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Chance and her favorite class is Human Services. She likes books and dislikes shoes. She is part of the Mighty Bronco Band. She plans to attend college after graduation, but is undecided about her major.



Ryan Contreras



Cody Barber

Sophomore Ryan Contreras and Freshman Cody Barber were announced as Sonora High School's Students of the Week for the week of November 29th.

Ryan is the son of Amy Jimenez and Martin Contreras. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Garcia and favorite subject is band. He likes music that has a good beat and dislikes incorrect spelling and bad grammar. He is involved in Marching Band where he plays the French horn. Ryan also plays the guitar and piano and likes to write songs and draw and paint with acrylics. He has lived in Sonora since 1st grade when he moved from Rocksprings. His favorite thing about Sonora High is all the nice teachers and the effort they put into their classes. Ryan plans to attend college after graduation and says he would love to attend Juilliard for music.

Cody is the son of Charles and Lynn Barber. He likes all of his teachers and really enjoys his Math and Science classes. Cody likes roping, football, and basketball and dislikes homework but can see the need for why it is given. He is involved in Student Council, UIL Mathematics, Calculator, and number sense. Cody also is in 4H Rodeo and attends Youth Group. He has lived in Sonora his whole life. His favorite thing about Sonora High is the off campus lunch so he can go places other than the cafeteria. Cody plans to attend Texas A&M and would like to get an Engineering degree.

Deadline Nears for Native Grass and Improved Pastures

Jan G. Wanoreck, County Executive Director for the Schleicher-Sutton/Val Verde County Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds local farmers and ranchers that the application closing date to sign up for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for 2011 native grass and improved pastures for grazing and mechanical hay forage is December 1, 2010.

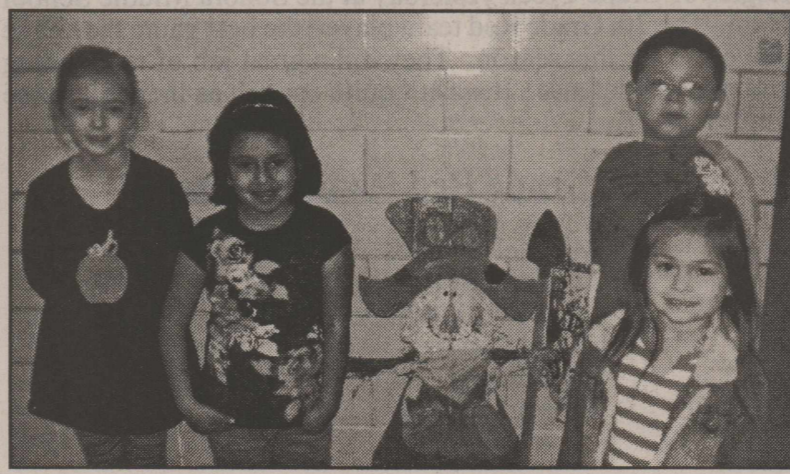
NAP covers crops damaged by severe weather that result in a loss of 50 percent or greater. Losses are generally determined by percentage of loss compared to the producer's actual yield history or average grazing loss for the county. NAP coverage through FSA or PRF Rainfall Insurance coverage purchased through a Crop Insurance Agent is required for participation in the new 2011 Livestock Forage Program.

"Producers interested in obtaining NAP coverage on these crops should visit their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to complete an application for their 2011 acres," said Wanoreck.

NAP coverage is available for crops where coverage is not available under the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC). "For all native grass and improved pastures, producers must report 2011 acres by December 15, 2010 and file notices of loss in a timely manner to insure eligibility.

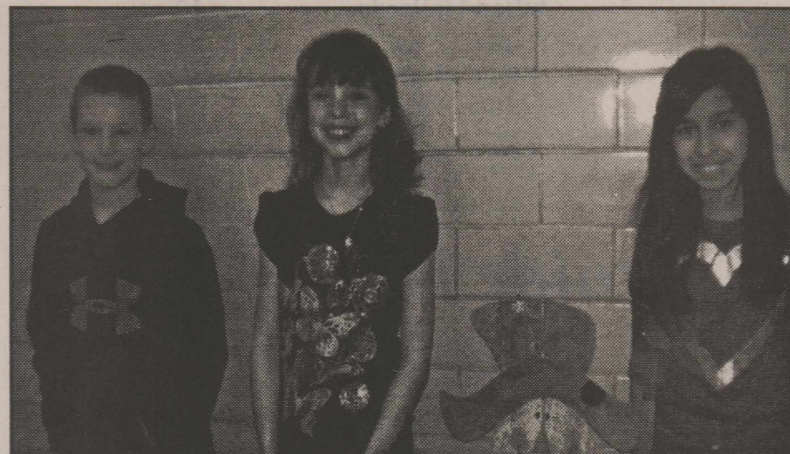
For detailed NAP information and applicant eligibility criteria contact either the Schleicher-Sutton/Val Verde County office at (325) 853-3535 or visit FSA on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Sonora Elementary School



L to R: Madalyn Fisher, Lorena Reyes, Shawn Estrada, and Larissa Galindo

Sonora Intermediate School



L to R: 3rd grade, Wilson Johnson; 4th grade, Avery Leamon; 5th grade, Yesenia Lujan.

A great member turnout for THANKSGIVING Week. Hope everyone's Holiday meal was as wonderful as the meal and program at the Club this past week. We had a wonderful professional at lunch. Judge Carla Garner was scheduled as a luncheon program but gave her time to the Red Cross program which was also scheduled. Judge Garner will return in the not too distant future to discuss the business of Sutton County and we look forward to that program.

It was our pleasure to hear from the Hill Country Chapter of the American Red Cross, Director of Emergency Services Mary Beth Haney and Mr. Dan Thompson, a Red Cross trainer (picture above). Sutton County is supported by the Hill Country Chapter of the Red Cross. Should there be a disaster in our county we would notify Mary Beth at: 830-257-4677 of our requirements and would expect Red Cross help in short order. The Red Cross strongly stresses family Disaster readiness. They suggest each family assemble a disaster kit, make a plan and stay informed. The following checklist is recommended: I know what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in my community. I have a family disaster plan and have practiced it. I have an emergency preparedness kit. At least one member of my family is trained in CPR/AED. I have taken action to help my community prepare. The Red Cross will be in Sonora in January to conduct training classes. They are looking for local volunteers to assist in Red Cross duties at the local level. Dates and times will be posted in the Devils River News. A special thanks to Coach David Sine, staff and student athletes for the amazing football campaign, rekindling the Bronco Nation Spirit and warming our hearts each Friday night. We look forward to supporting our Bronco Teams throughout the 2010-2011 UIL season! Have a Happy Christmas Season -Go Broncos and Shop Sonora!

Sonora Service Directory

Allison Well Service

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Sonora, Texas 76950
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325-234-5554

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Bridal Selections Available

Kaleb Murr ♥ Krista Galindo
Ashley Brockman ♥ Jeff Sanders

Jane ♥ Josh Payton

232 E. Main
325-387-9000

Everett's Pharmacy

417 N. Hwy 277

Bridal Selections
Hillary Hodges ~ Kurt Bueker
Krista Galindo ~ Kaleb Murr

F.Y.I.

Attention Students: If you are interested in attending Howard College or Angelo State University in the fall of 2011, a representative from the Howard College Financial Aid Department will be on the High School Campus Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 6:00PM to talk about financial aid opportunities. Parents are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Marilyn Wood, HS counselor @ 325-387-6940 ext. 3304 or marilyn.wood@sonoraaid.net

2011 Miss Cinco de Mayo: Viva Sonora is accepting registration for the 2011 MISS CINCO DE MAYO. If you would like the opportunity to be the next MISS CINCO DE MAYO and win a \$1000.00 scholarship, please contact Michelle Faz at The Bank & Trust. Applicants must be in 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

2011 Little Mr. & Miss Cinco de Mayo: Viva Sonora is accepting registration for 2011 LITTLE MR. & MISS CINCO DE MAYO. To register or for more information, please contact Jo Ann Hernandez at The Bank & Trust.

2011 Mrs. Cinco de Mayo: Viva Sonora is also looking for a 2011 MRS. CINCO DE MAYO. The winner will receive a one night two day weekend getaway for two. For more information, please contact Jo Ann Hernandez & Michelle Faz at The Bank & Trust.

Farmer's Market every Thursday @ 4:00 p.m. next to Ol' Sonora Trading Co.

The Primary Purpose Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church, 404 NE Poplar. FMI call 325-387-9765 or 325-206-1311.

Rent the Depot or Icehouse Ranch Museum for your special party or event. Call 325-387-5084 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.



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Legend Jewelers

7th Grade Boys Basketball

The Sonora Colt 7th grade Red and White team took on the Eagles of Grape Creek yesterday at the Sonora Middle School Gym. The 7th Grade Red team played the best game they have played so far this season. They did a great job of rebounding and playing defense. It wasn't quite enough as they fell to the Eagles 23-27.

7th Grade Red leading scorers.

Michael Campos	9 pts.
Arturo Lopez	4 pts.
Jonathon Martinez	4 pts.
Harold Luna	2 pts.
Trent Harris	2 pts.
Bubba Santana	2 pts.

The 7th Grade White extended their winning streak by defeating the Eagles 42-11. The team played great overall basketball but was really impressed with their passing and defense. They will look to extend their streak next Thursday at 4:00 at Brady.

7th Grade White leading scorers.

Julian Gallardo	12 pts.
Juan Gamez	12 pts.
Edgar Hernandez	10 pts.
James Freeman	2 pts.
Daniel Coronado	2 pts.
Garrett Jaeger	2 pts.
Queley Shain	2 pts.

Junior High Girls Basketball

The JH Lady Colts traveled to Grape Creek Monday night to take on the Lady Eagles. The 7th grade Red team lost a close one 16-17. They only had 4 seals, but made up for it with 15 rebounds.

Players Points

Destany Velasquez	6
Kelisha Alvarado	6
McKenzie Murphy	2
Ambar Limon	2

The 7th grade Black team improved their record to 4-3 for the season with a win over Grape Creek. It was a close game until the Lady Colts

took control in the 4th quarter. The final score was 33-22. As a team they had 20 steals and 12 rebounds.

Players Points

Janelle Vasquez	13
Cip Tobias	8
(two - 3's)	
Tyler Hampton	6
(50% from the	
free throw line)	
Julia Pope	6

Many of these Student/Athletes will be participating in the UIL meet on Monday, so the next time your Lady Colts will take the floor is Thursday, December 9 against Brady in Sonora. 7th Black will play at 5:30 and 7th Red will play at 6:30. Hope to see you there!

Contd. From Front Page



Cities chosen as National Main Street Cities must show above average performance in 10 categories. The selection criteria focus on planning, staff and volunteers, preservation ethic, training and program assessment. For additional information, visit the National Main Street web site at www.mainstreet.org and the National Trust for Historic Preservation web site at www.nationaltrust.org.

For more information on the Texas Historical Commission's Main Street program visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

The THC's Texas Main Street Program is a revitalization program for historic downtown and neighborhood commercial districts. It is based on a four-point approach — organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring, all within the context of historic preservation. Implemented in 1981, the program has assisted more than 140 communities throughout the state. For more information, contact Debra Farst at 512/463-5758.

Lady Bronco JV Take On Reagan County

The Sonora Lady Broncos JV Red traveled to Reagan County to play their third game this season and beat the Lady Owls 45-22. Zella Powers got the Lady Broncos started by scoring the first 4 points of the game. The rest of the team followed suit by adding to the lead and never looking back. Shea Holmes, Megan Yourgolite, and Crystal Lopez did outstanding work trapping the Lady Owls before they could even pass half court, and in many cases the girls stole the ball and added to the Sonora lead.

Zella was a perfect 2 for 2 on her free throws, and Megan Yourgolite scored a personal best of 21 points versus Reagan County. Morgan Badgett, who is new to the Lady Bronco basketball program, also contributed 6 points off the block. All the girls played their best thus far and were able to im-

prove their overall record to 2-1. These girls will travel to the Eldorado Tournament this Thursday and Saturday. Their first game is against Ozona at 6:15 Thursday at the Eldorado Middle School. Thanks to all who continue to support these girls. They are doing some great things and look forward to many more victories this season. Go Big Red!

Shea Holmes—6 points
Crystal Lopez—4 points
Zella Powers—8 points
Morgan Badgett—6 points
Megan Yourgolite—21 points

Sonora 45
Reagan County 22

Basketball is like war in that offensive weapons are developed first, and it always takes a while for the defense to catch up.

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Oil & Agribusiness

Sonora Fourth-Graders Take Part In Water Fair

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



Before leaving for Thanksgiving break, Sonora Elementary 4th graders attended the annual "Water Fair". This curriculum enrichment effort is intended to heighten awareness of the need for water conservation. The students enhanced their knowledge of hydrology, conservation methods, and much more.

The 67 fourth-graders attended the Water Fair on November 22nd at the Sutton County Civic Center. Instruction topics included The Science of Water, Windmills, How Wet Is Our Planet, Home Water Conservation, and Water & Soil.

The day-long workshop has a fair-type atmosphere in which groups attend demonstration sessions at one station then rotate to a new station. Instructors are agricultural professionals who work in the area of water conservation and natural resources. This year, instructors included Jim Polonis and Gary Hargrave (Sutton Underground Water

District), Tom Payton and Nathan Shrode, with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) are currently being accepted at all NRCS offices across Texas.

Lunch was provided courtesy of the Sutton County Underground Water District. Following the meal, the students completed their day by taking a post-test to assess their new knowledge. The school day wouldn't be complete without taking a test.

This water education event is sponsored annually by personnel from Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Sutton Underground Water Conservation District, Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

A word of thanks to the Instructors, Underground Water District, and Sonora Elementary for providing this learning opportunity for the students.

Conservation Program Applications For Financial Assistance Currently Being Accepted At NRCS Office In Sutton County

TEMPLE, Nov. 8, 2010— Applications for funding opportunities with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) are currently being accepted at all NRCS offices across Texas.

NRCS in Texas has received its initial allocation of program funding recently and will begin obligating EQIP and WHIP contracts after January 28, 2011.

"These programs support conservation of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources," said Sutton County NRCS District Conservationist Tom Payton.

EQIP is a "working lands" conservation program that assists private landowners with conservation measures that address priority resource concerns as identified by local farmers and ranchers.

WHIP is designed to benefit wildlife on primarily wild- life land although agricultur-

ally productive operations may qualify for funding.

All of NRCS Farm Bill Programs are voluntary and have a continuous sign-up with periodic ranking cut off periods. NRCS encourages any person interested in participating in their programs to contact their local field office, usually located at the county seat.

The NRCS administers both programs and provides technical assistance to landowners. 2010 represents the 75th year of NRCS "helping people help the land." Since its inception in 1935, NRCS has advanced a unique partnership with state and local governments and private landowners delivering conservation based on specific, local conservation needs, while accommodating state and national interests.

For more information on these programs, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Sonora at (325) 387-2730 or on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

Brady To Host Multi-County Ag Day Dec. 2

BRADY – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will conduct a multi-county ag day beginning at 8 a.m. Dec. 2 in Brady's Ed Davenport Civic Center.

The cooperating counties are McCulloch, Concho and Menard.

Five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be offered to pesticide license holders—three general, one laws and regulations and one integrated pest management.

Vance Christie, AgriLife Extension agent in McCulloch County, said the program is geared toward new, absentee and small-acreage landowners in the area.

"With the influx of new landowners in these three counties, our committee members wanted to offer a training that would help new and small acreage landowners manage their properties," Christie said. "However, the program will also offer plenty of new information for our traditional producers while giving them a chance to earn continuing education units toward their pesticide license renewal as well."

The program topics will include:

- Dynamics of Overpopulation on Whitetail Deer Populations, Kory Perlichek, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department district wildlife biologist, Mason.

- Care and Maintenance of Pecan Trees for Small Acreage and Home Production, Dr. Bill Ree, AgriLife Extension pecan entomologist, College Station.

- Best Management Practices for Sheep and Goat Production on Small Acreages, Dr. Frank Craddock, AgriLife Extension sheep and goat specialist, San Angelo.

- Ag Exemptions Requirements, Zane Brandenberger, McCulloch County tax assessor/collector.

- Mesquite Biology and Control and Brush Busters Tactics for Unwanted Brush, Dr. Charlie Hart, AgriLife Extension program leader for ecosystem science and management, Stephenville.

- Laws and Regulations Pertaining to Texas Pesticide Applicators, Cory Pence, San Angelo.

Individual pre-registration is \$15 by Nov. 30 and \$20 thereafter.

For more information and to pre-register call the AgriLife Extension offices in McCulloch County at 325-597-1295, Concho County at 325-732-4304 or Menard County at 325-396-4787.

A Trip To Heaven

Father Murphy walked into a pub and said to the first man he met, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

The man said, "I do Father."

The priest said, "Leave this pub right now!"

He then approached a second man. Father Murphy asked, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

"Certainly, Father," was the man's reply.

"Then leave this den of Satan!" said the priest.

Father Murphy then walked up to O'Toole and asked, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole replied: "No, I don't Father."

The priest looked him right in the eye and said, "You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole smiled, "Oh, when I die. Yes Father. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

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New 2 Approach Operating 9000' University 45-21 #8 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 353 07/30/10 Assigned
New 3 Approach Operating 9000' Baker -A- #107 Dw Nabors Drilling (O) 709 07/17/10 7 Drlg Ahead
4 Approach Operating 9000' University 42-23 #12 Ft Ringo Drilling I Lp 18 07/11/10 13 Drlg Ahead 8000'
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Chamber Chatter

By: Donna Garrett

As we come to cyber Monday after a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday; the Sonora Chamber of Commerce is working on the annual More the Merrier Christmas Bazaar that will be held this Friday, December 3rd. The chamber puts this event on every year at the Sutton County Civic Center to give our locals a chance to come under one roof to kick off the Christmas shopping season. This event is a free event to our local businesses, local crafters and bakers. There is a small fee for our out of town vendors to help offset some of the expenses.

This year we will open the doors at 9:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m. The West Side Lions Club will be serving food all day long for your convenience. There will be drawings every hour for door prizes that are donated by the vendors, and as in the past the chamber will be giving away a few Poinsettias for door prizes. So don't forget when you get there to register at the chamber table which will be located beside the stage.

If you have something you would like to donate you may contact Tibba or me at 325-387-2880. Santa Claus will

be there at 3:30 to take photos with your children or even some adults who love Santa too. (Photos will be ready for pick-up on Friday, December 10th at the chamber office.) From 5:30 - 6:30 the Sonora Academy of Arts will perform to be followed by the Sonora Youth Choir. So come out and support this wonderful event and all the wonderful vendors. There will be baked goods, jewelry, clothing, goat soaps and lotion, purses, t-shirts, hand crafted items and much more. The chamber will be giving away a special prize to the first 100 shoppers to come

through the door.

HO HO HO! See ya there!

With the downturn of the economy a few businesses have partnered in order to cut costs and to better serve our wonderful little community. Petal Pushers Flowers and

Gifts partnered with Adobe Signs and T-Shirts a couple of months ago. Devils River News has added Benny Tees, and now Wild Bill's Boutique has partnered with Fashion Cleaners and will begin to be open all day starting Monday,


December 13, 2010. Katy Harrell is very excited to be able to offer this service which will allow her to continue to teach and have her store open all day. Congratulations to all of our businesses and we wish you all well. Sonora Air Cooled Engines & Equipment Rental has purchased the building located at 115 N Concho Ave., formerly Lone Star Collision and will be moving to that location during December. They will be adding an outdoor sporting goods business to be called Buck -N-Bass. They will offer hunting and fishing equipment and supplies. This location will allow them to expand their current business as well as offer a new business to the locals and the surrounding communities. At some point they plan to offer front end alignments for vehicles. We would like to congratulate Carl and Terry Johnson on their new business endeavor. They can still be reached at 325-387-3400. Remember every penny spent local helps to keep our businesses open! For your job and mine shop Sonora!

Sonora Tumbler Gymnastics

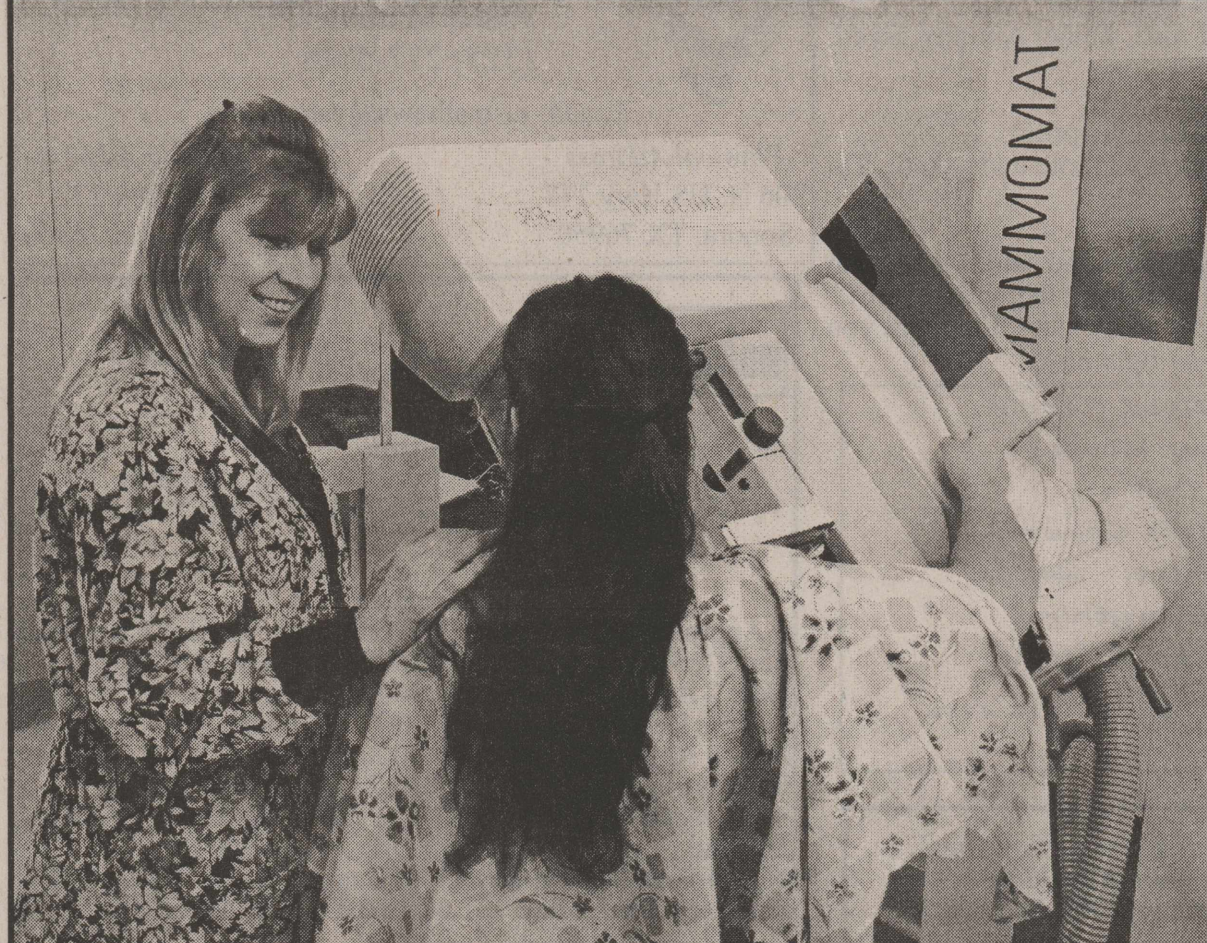
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David Brinkley

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Texas Partnership for Children in Nature Calls For "Happier, Healthier, Smarter" Kids

Statewide Conference Dec. 3-4 in Austin to Probe Problems, Solutions

AUSTIN — "Go outside and play." How many times did today's parents hear that familiar phrase while growing up? Studies say kids today don't hear it enough, and that it's time for a change.

Mobile devices and video games have all but replaced the days of playing "Kick the Can" on neighborhood streets with friends, or just hanging out at a park all day. In fact, kids today spend just four to seven minutes outside each day in unstructured outdoor play (like climbing trees), yet more than seven hours each day in front of an electronic screen.

"If we don't address this issue today, then what we're facing in the next generation is that children will have a much shorter life span than their parents," said Dr. Kimberly Avila Edwards, a pediatrician at the Texas Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas and chair of the Texas Pediatric Society obesity committee.

Avila's talking about the link between childhood obesity and sedentary indoor lifestyles. She's part of a growing chorus of expert voices from diverse disciplines, all urging steps to reconnect kids and families with nature and the outdoors.

The Texas Partnership for Children in Nature will host a conference to address the problem Dec. 3-4 in Austin. The purpose is to present the partnership's strategic plan to educators, conservationists, health practitioners, policy-makers and others who care about the issue and can work to implement the plan in their communities.

Conference speakers include Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director; Joe Frost, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin professor emeritus; Kevin Coyle, National Wildlife Federation vice president of education; Elizabeth Goodenough, Ph.D., creator of the PBS documentary *Where Do the Children Play?*; and Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas vice president and chief medical officer and former Texas Department of State Health Services commissioner.

"As the trend away from outdoor play and learning deepens, we are witnessing sobering consequences for children's health and well-being," said TPWD's Smith. "Additionally, this youngest generation is missing out on critical experiences that lay the foundation for future stewardship of our natural resources."

The good news: experts say the problem is solvable. Unlike complex environmental or economic problems, getting families and children back to nature is relatively straightforward and inexpensive. "We can reverse this trend," Smith said. "We can restore our children's well-being and their relationship with Texas's rich natural and cultural heritage."

The partnership's roots trace to fall 2009, when a bipartisan group of Texas legislators asked TPWD, the Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of State Health Services and Texas Department of Agriculture to form a public-private partnership and

develop a strategic plan. Over 80 professionals answered the call, including representatives from state and federal agencies, non-profits, businesses, and health, education, natural resource and community organizations.

Their discoveries include some sobering statistics:

- Children ages 8-to-18 spend an average of 7.5 hours a day, over 50 hours per week, connected to a television, computer, video games and other electronic media.

- A child is six times more likely to play a video game than ride a bike.

- Texas is home to three of the five cities with the highest obesity rates in the nation.

- In the 2009-2010 Fitnessgram school year report, only a little over 8 percent of 12th grade girls and boys were deemed physically fit.

- Today's children may be the first generation at risk of having a shorter lifespan than their parents.

Conversely, experts found children who play and learn in nature are:

- Healthier. Active nature play improves physical conditioning and has a positive effect on emotional well-being and child development. Outdoor play has been linked to reduced risk of myopia and vitamin D deficiency.

- Happier. Nature play increases self esteem and reduces stress. Children learn self-discipline and are more cooperative with others. Children feel more capable, confident and connected to nature.

- Smarter. Nature play stimulates creativity and improves problem solving. Schools using environmental themes report improved academic performance. And, children who play in nature are more likely to become tomorrow's conservation leaders.

Author Richard Louv coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to describe the situation in his best-selling book *Last Child in the Woods* (Algonquin Books, 2005). While the term isn't a medical diagnosis, it cites evidence of psychological, physical and cognitive costs associated with the lack of outdoor time.

Experts have responded with practical solutions for parents and schools. For example, the Texas Pediatric Society has developed a Childhood Obesity Toolkit for health care providers that encourages limiting the time children spend on TV, video games, and computers and promoting physical activity, including a "healthy lifestyle prescription" that recommends an hour of outdoor play every day.

The National Wildlife Federation recently released a comprehensive report "Whole Child: Developing Mind, Body and Spirit through Outdoor Play" that details how the benefits of playing outside are essential to not only physical wellness, but also mental health. The report notes family time can be a child's best bet to connect with nature.

The Austin conference is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Winkler Family Foundation. Registration costs \$50 and includes meals. See the conference website for the complete agenda and list of speakers and topics.

Food Safety Tips For The Holidays

(StatePoint) With the holiday cooking season upon us, more Americans are worried about becoming sick of an annoying relative than they are of getting sick from the food on the table.

But a new survey indicates that their relatives should be the least of their concerns, as more than one in five Americans (22 percent) admit their kitchen would fail a food safety inspection.

The new survey, sponsored by the Water Quality and Health Council, also found that less than half of Americans (47 percent) typically use a disinfectant or disinfecting wipes after using the kitchen counter, despite knowing that chlorine bleach kills germs that cause foodborne illnesses.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 76 million Americans get sick from foodborne illnesses every year and more than 300,000 of them are hospitalized. The CDC also warns that raw foods of animal origin (including turkey) are the most likely to be contaminated.

"Holiday cooking introduces increased risks of foodborne illness as raw meats and vegetables are processed on kitchen surfaces that are not properly disinfected," says Linda Golodner, president emerita of the National Consumers League.

"Practicing good kitchen hygiene is not very complicated," says Golodner. "Thoroughly wash surfaces with hot, soapy water and rinse. Then apply a simple chlorine bleach solution and let air dry to properly disinfect the area. Follow these steps before and after handling raw foods on kitchen surfaces."

Just one-half tablespoon of bleach in one half-gallon of water effectively kills common foodborne germs on kitchen surfaces. Golodner says that most people may not realize this, however. Many people overestimate the amount of bleach per gallon of water needed to effectively kill common foodborne germs.

"Chlorine-based disinfectants are registered as safe to use by the Environmental Protection Agency and proven to destroy the germs that spread foodborne illness," notes Golodner. The survey also found that by more than a seven to one margin, Americans trust chlorine-based disinfectants over green cleaners to kill germs.

The Water Quality & Health Council lists the following guidelines for safe food handling:

- * Clean: Wash all food contact surfaces with hot, soapy water followed by disinfecting with 1/2 tablespoon chlorine bleach in 1/2 gallon of water.

- * Separate: Keep fresh fruits and vegetables separate from raw meat, poultry and seafood.

- * Cook: To kill any bacteria that might be present, thoroughly cook meat, poultry and eggs to the appropriate temperature.

- * Chill: Refrigerate leftover perishables at 40 degrees within two hours of cooking or serving.

In addition, this holiday season, the Water Quality and Health Council is offering consumers a free refrigerator magnet featuring simple directions for disinfecting kitchen surfaces, available at www.disinfect-for-health.org.

Updated Educators' Ethics Code Addresses Social Media

AUSTIN - Teachers must refrain from inappropriately communicating with students through the use of social media under the requirements of an updated Educators' Code of Ethics endorsed by the State Board of Education today.

The Code of Ethics was updated by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC), which oversees educator certification issues. Rules proposed by SBEC must come to the State Board of Education for review before they become effective.

Texas Education Agency staff requested the change to the ethics code because they said they are receiving disciplinary case referrals in which teachers were found to have sent students thousands of text messages. Sometimes the content of the messages was not inappropriate on their face but the volume of messages and time of day the messages were sent indicated that the educator was "grooming" the student for a future sexual relationship.

A school district employee commits a second-degree felony under Penal Code Section 21.12 if the employee engages in sexual contact with a student who is not

their spouse.

The new provision in the Code of Ethics says:

(I) Standard 3.9. The educator shall refrain from inappropriate communication with a student or minor, including, but not limited to, electronic communication such as cell phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, or other social network communication. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether the communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:

(i) the nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication;

(ii) the subject matter of the communication;

(iii) whether the communication was made openly or the educator attempted to conceal the communication;

(iv) whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship;

(v) whether the communication was sexually explicit; and

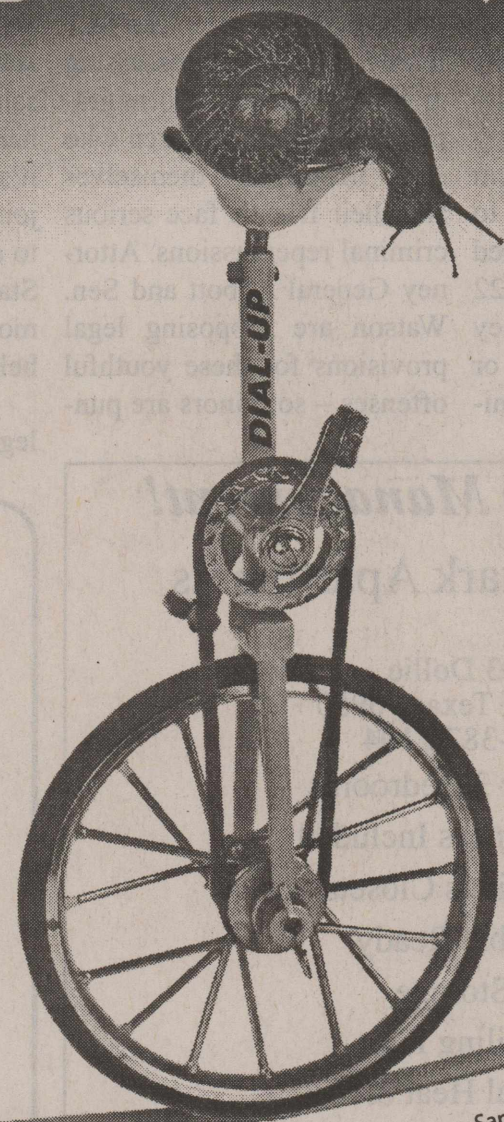
(vi) whether the communication involved discussion(s) of

the physical or sexual attractiveness or the sexual history, activities, preferences, or fantasies of either the educator or the student.

The board also adopted instructional materials under Proclamation 2011. This action will make new textbooks and other materials available to students next fall in the areas of Prekindergarten systems; English Language Arts, grade 2-8; Spanish Language Arts, grades 2-5; English as a Second Language, grades K-8; Handwriting, grades 1-3; Spelling, grades 1-6; and English 1-IV. The materials are estimated to cost \$490 million but the board asked publishers to re-examine the prices they bid to see if they can be reduced.

Board members also supported efforts to purchase supplemental science materials for grades 5-8 and high school biology, chemistry, physics and Integrated Physics and Chemistry. These materials, which will only be available in an electronic format, will cost approximately \$60 million.

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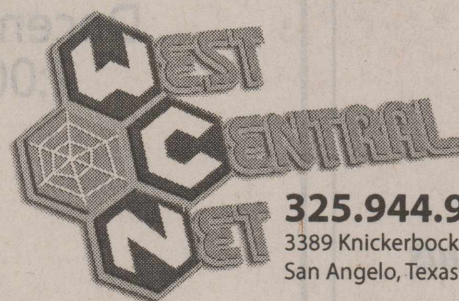
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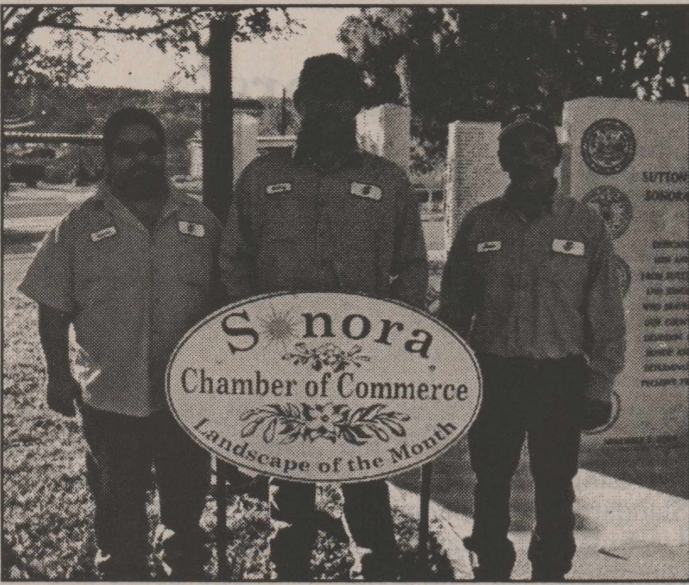
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The Sonora Chamber of Commerce has chosen Liberty Park as Landscape of the Month for November 2010. The City of Sonora has worked very hard enhancing the grounds of the park for everyone to enjoy. Pictured above are City of Sonora employees, Sesario Lozano, Mickey Jackson and Juan Capuchina. Congratulations!

8th Grade Boys Basketball Vs Grape Creek

The 8th grade boys basketball played Grape Creek Eagles here last night. The White team came out on fire with aggressive play from Santi Garza, Gus Barrera and Rico Rodriguez. These boys combined for a total of 16 steals in the first half alone. Great instinct for the ball the Colts took the game with a series of fast breaks, great defensive play and extreme hustle from Johnathan Salazar, Justin Garmon and Lionel Deleon. Colts White 36 Eagles 10

White team scoring totals:

Santi Garza: 10pts
Rico Rodriguez: 8pts
Lionel Deleon: 8pts
Justin Garmon: 6pts
Gus Barrera: 4pts

The 8th grade Red team worked really hard to run our offense and aggressive zone press. These boys showed a lot of improvement from their last outing. Great rebounding by Brett Castillo, Andres Acevedo, Elijah Cross and Dub Latham really kept the Colts strong throughout the game. Great passes

from Hunter Hughes and Tanner Esparza gave recently added player from the white team Ethan Patlan and chance to show his skills down low. Colts Red 48- Eagles 15

Red Team scoring totals:

Elijah Cross: 14pts
Brett Castillo: 12 pts
Andres Acevedo: 10 pts
Ethan Patlan: 7pts
Hunter Hughes: 3pts
Tanner Esparza: 2pts

TPW Commission Delays Consideration of Devils River Land Acquisition

AUSTIN – The Conservation Committee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission today directed state agency staff to continue exploring options to acquire land for a new state park or natural area on the Devils River while strengthening a commitment to protect the river's sensitive resources. The move in essence delays a final vote on the project until a future commission meeting and gives the agency more time to explore alternatives in response to recent stakeholder input.

"We took this off the [Nov. 4] agenda because we've received great feedback from a lot of people around the state who felt the process may be moving too quickly," said Peter Holt of San Antonio, commission chairman. "Also, several people have brought to us some very interesting alternatives. We want the staff to go forward and figure out how to make this work. We understand the concerns of landowners, paddlers and conservationists and want to make sure we take all that into consideration. On the other hand, we represent a state with about 24 million people. The Devils River Ranch is a real opportunity to add something to our park system that is second to none in terms of wildness, but at the same time would allow more people to experience this phenomenal

area in appropriate ways." A proposal was originally on the commission agenda for both Nov. 3 and 4. But the topic was pulled from the Nov. 4 full commission agenda. Today the commission discussed the matter in executive session before hearing a public briefing.

"We will continue considering the entire range of options for conservation and recreation on the river, working with all stakeholders, with a goal to bring back to the commission a suite of alternatives to achieve both the conservation and recreational access elements of our mission," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director. "We're committed to an open and transparent process and will continue to communicate our progress to all who care about this wonderful river."

The department has compiled maps, photos, questions and answers, conservation easement documents and other resources to explain the complex project in a Devils River Land Acquisition News Roundup on its website.

Questions or comments about the proposal can be sent by email to ted.hollingsworth@tpwd.state.tx.us or by regular mail to Ted Hollingsworth, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.

Attorney General Abbott, Sen. Watson Announce Sexting Prevention Legislation

Under Proposed Law, Teens Would Be Subject To Restricted Cell Phone Usage, Criminal Offense

AUSTIN – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and state Sen. Kirk Watson today announced an initiative to help prevent sexting.

Sexting – a harmful and dangerous practice – typically occurs when teenage students use cell phones to send each other sexually explicit messages or images electronically, primarily between cell phones. Improvements in cellular technology over recent years have dramatically expanded young Texans' access to mobile telephones that can transmit sexual photographs and videos – which is why the problem is increasingly prevalent. A 2008 report from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy indicates that 22 percent of teen girls said they have electronically sent or posted online nude or semi-

nude images of themselves. Sexting message senders have no control of their message's ultimate distribution. Embarrassing or sexually explicit messages can be forwarded to other students and later spread quickly through a school or across the country. In some cases, sexting images can even get posted on public websites or fall into law enforcement authorities' jurisdiction.

Under current Texas law, anyone who transmits an explicit image of a teen can face felony charges of possessing or trafficking child pornography. As a result, children who send images of themselves and their friends face serious criminal repercussions. Attorney General Abbott and Sen. Watson are proposing legal provisions for these youthful offenses – so minors are pun-

ished for improper behavior but do not face life-altering charges. Under their proposal, teen sexting would become a misdemeanor offense punishable by probation and restricted cell phone usage. Judges would also be authorized to sentence minors to participate in an education program about sexting's long-term harmful consequences.

"Studies show that teenage students are increasingly taking, sending and receiving explicit pictures of themselves on their mobile telephones," Attorney General Abbott said. "This practice is not just harmful to young Texans – it's potentially illegal. We are joining with Sen. Kirk Watson to address this problem in the State of Texas and offer common-sense solutions that will help protect young Texans."

Sen. Watson added: "The legislation that we are work-

ing on recognizes that sexting is wrong and illegal. This proposed new law would provide education for our children regarding the harm sexting causes, and it will give prosecutors an appropriate tool to stop this problem."

In a study released this year, the Cyberbullying Research Center surveyed approximately 4,400 11-18 year-old individuals from a large school district in the southern United States. The results indicated that five percent of boys and three percent of girls acknowledged uploading or sharing a humiliating or harassing picture of their romantic partner online or through their cell phone. Six percent of boys and girls said their romantic partner posted something publicly online to make fun of, threaten or embarrass them.

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1209 Mesquite Ave.	\$175,000
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Residential Properties W/Acreage	
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606 Crockett Ave. - Vacant Gas Station	\$64,500
226 E. Main St. - In-line Downtown Bldg.	\$90,000
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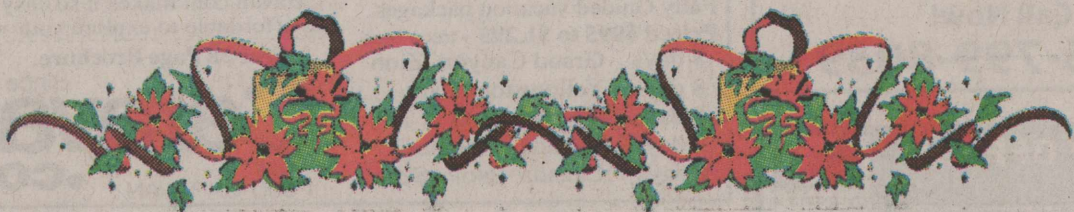
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