

The Devil's River News

Volume 123 • Issue 3

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mother Son Date Night



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Lions Roar



Page 4

Middle School One Act Play

SERVES UP ONE HOT PERFORMANCE



By Shannon Gillispie

The Sonora Middle School One Act Play group performed after a report on the Gifted and Talented Program, the board listened to a presentation by the Jr. High Cheer Leading sponsors. They proposed that Jr. High should return to a system of "try outs for cheer leaders. Those try outs would be held in the spring with 8 girls being chosen from 7th grade and 8 girls from the 8th grade". They cited financial issues as the principal reason, but also commented that a smaller squad would ensure more direct interaction with the

(Big Lake) also had productions in the contest. Elizabeth Bean (7th grade) earned the Best Actress award. Straton Rushing (7th), Annalisa Perez (8th), and Kaitlyn Lopez (7th) were awarded medals for the All Star Cast. Jeremy Doran (8th), Sky McGuffin (7th), and James Freeman (7th) received

medals for Honorable Mention. Justin Garmon received a medal for the Crew award. A public performance will be held Thursday January 20th in the Middle School Auditorium at 6 pm. Entry fee for adults is \$2, children are \$1 (up to age 12).

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Polar Bear Classic:

Sonora Golfers Brave The Weather

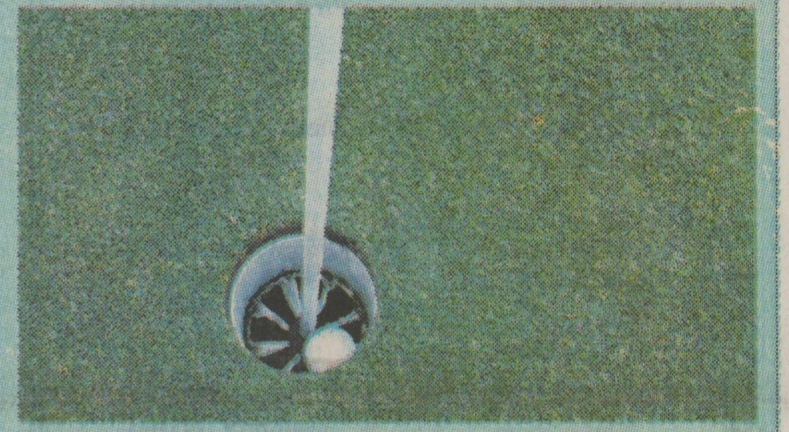


Photo by Anita Hudson

These jacket clad golfers put from the short grass on number 9.

This past Saturday the Sonora Golf Course was unusually busy for this time of year. The greens and fairways were accented by hordes of intrepid golfers for the Polar Bear Classic.

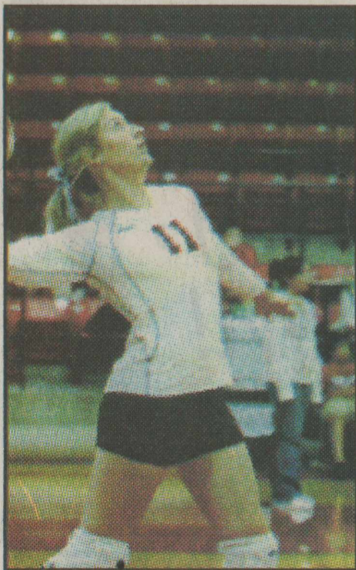
This tournament is the annual fund-raising event for the Sonora Golf Team. All the proceeds from the Polar Bear Classic go to help feed and lodge the athletes during their season. Local businesses also donated door prizes for all those who participated.



Sports

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Smith Named to All West Texas Volleyball Team



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School Board Meeting:

Junior High Cheer Leading and Cost Saving Measures Discussed

By Ben D. Taylor

On January 10, 2011 the School Board of Trustees convened for their regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

After a report on the Gifted and Talented Program, the board listened to a presentation by the Jr. High Cheer Leading sponsors. They proposed that Jr. High should return to a system of "try outs for cheer leaders. Those try outs would be held in the spring with 8 girls being chosen from 7th grade and 8 girls from the 8th grade". They cited financial issues as the principal reason, but also commented that a smaller squad would ensure more direct interaction with the

coaches. The sponsors concluded by stating that they had asked the girls what they wanted and "out of 23 responses, 6 wanted tryouts, and 6 wanted to be able to do stunts. We had told the girls from the beginning that there were too many of them so we were not doing stunts. In order to do that we need a better coach to cheerleader ratio".

Members of the board expressed the concern that if a return to tryouts were adopted a lot of the girls would be left out. School Board Member Tommy Van Winkle commented, "there are some kids that just can't do UIL. I mean not everyone can be a quarter-

back". Board president Cahill asked Superintendent of Schools Don Gibson for his recommendation. Gibson commented that, "we have looked at the past minutes, and the board never made decisions like this before. I am not sure this is something we can't just leave up to that campus' administrator". After brief discussion the board decided to leave the decision to Junior High Principal Brandon Duncan, but Gibson stated that the board would need to "support him in whatever he decides to do".

The board then listened to presentations from the different campus administrators on

possible cost saving measures for the 2011-2012 school year. The discussion opened with a statement from board President Cahill.

"This item has been on our agenda for the past few meetings. We are trying to keep cost savings in mind; we have not acted on any of these items. Reduction in force has not been discussed, and is something that we are not considering".

The measures presented by each of the four principals ranged from consolidating administrative staff to eliminating a conference period for teachers.

Following the superinten-

dant's report board member Chris Berry asked Gibson when the school was going to be "done paying for the field house". Gibson responded that, "we will be through by the end of this next week". He added that the total cost is just over 4 million dollars. Diane Jacoby, the school's business manager added that, "right now we are about \$100,000 over budget not counting the bills outstanding".

The board called a short recess at 6:50, then convened into executive session. There were no issues requiring the board to take action during the executive session.

Texas Association of School Boards Report on Teacher Salaries

(Austin) — Average teacher salaries are up by 1.4 percent according to the 2010-11 Salaries and Benefits in Texas Public Schools Teacher Report recently released by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). The TASB/TASA survey, conducted annually by the TASB HR Services Division, is the second of a series of four that is the most definitive study of compensation and benefits practices in Texas. This information is used by policy makers at the local and state levels to make decisions about educator pay and benefits.

Of the 1,029 public school districts asked to participate in the survey, 638 districts responded, representing 62

percent of total districts in the state.

Teacher Salaries

The weighted average teacher salary in responding districts is \$48,950 for 2010-11, up 1.4 percent from the 2009-10 average salary of \$48,263. Weighted average salaries by enrollment range from \$41,459 in districts with fewer than 500 students to \$51,224 in districts with more than 50,000 students:

Education Service Center (ESC) Region 11 (Fort Worth) has the highest weighted average salary for 2010-11 at \$51,370. Twelve percent (34,893) of teachers in the sample work in Region 11 districts.

Region 8 (Mount Pleasant) has the lowest weighted average salary at \$41,836. One

percent (3,543) of teachers in the sample work in Region 8 districts.

Regions 4 (Houston), 10 (Dallas), 11 (Fort Worth), and 20 (San Antonio) all have average teacher salaries above \$50,000. Fifty-eight percent (173,333) of teachers in the survey work in these ESC regions.

Pay Increases

While the average salary paid to Texas teachers grew by 1.4 percent, individual districts provided returning teachers an average pay increase of 2.2 percent. This year's average teacher pay increase is lower than the increase levels seen over the past 10 years. Increases over the past decade have ranged from a low of 2.7 percent for the 2003-04 school year to a high of 8.6 percent for 2006-

07. Districts were required by legislative mandate to provide a \$2,500 increase to teachers that year. This year, as part of House Bill 3646 (81st Legislature, 2009), districts were required to provide at least "step" increases based on their local salary schedule from the prior year. All districts were required to provide a pay increase of at least \$800 for the 2009-10 school year.

Districts with more than 10,000 students gave the smallest teacher pay increase at 1.8 percent on average. ESC Regions 19 (El Paso) and 20 (San Antonio) had the smallest average increases with both areas of the state at 1.7 percent.

Pay increases for other job families were lower than seen in previous years as well. Av-

erage pay increases ranged from 2.1 percent for administrators and professional support employees to 2.3 percent and 2.4 percent for auxiliary and clerical/paraprofessional support employees, respectively. More districts froze the salaries of their nonteacher employees than in previous years as well. Seven percent of districts (47) gave pay raises to teachers only. Twenty-three percent of districts (146) froze the salaries of at least one employee group for 2010-11. Administrators were most likely to have their salaries frozen. Twenty percent of responding districts did not provide salary increases to district or campus administrators this year.

Starting Pay

The average starting salary for

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Senior Center Activities

Thurs. January 20 - Happy Birthday *Anna Eustace*
 Fri. January 21 - Crafts for Valentine's Day
 Mon. January 24 - Bingo
 Tues. January 25 - Happy Birthday *Lupe Mendez*
Maggie Mesa
 Wed. January 26 - Happy Birthday *Rebecca Perez*

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. January 20 - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, noodles, milk zucchini squash, garlic bread, white cake
 Fri. January 21- Roast beef w/gravy, mashed potatoes, milk green beans, coleslaw, roll, carrot cake
 Mon. January 24 - Chicken fried steak w/gravy, baked potato Italian vegetables, roll, vanilla pudding
 Tues. January 25 - BBQ pork chops, beans, carrot/pea mix, cornbread, mixed fruit salad, milk
 Wed. January 26 - Chicken enchiladas, pinto beans, crackers Mexican corn, tossed salad, lemon pie, milk

Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older. Meals are served Monday - Friday at 12:00 p.m.
Donations are accepted
 (suggested donation for Seniors is \$2.00; \$5.00 for under 60 and all other meals-to-go).

Middle School Performs Hot Fudge Sunday: A Behind the Scenes Account

By Shannon Gillispie

Love is a Hot Fudge Sundae by Stephen Hotchner, is a play that focuses on the neglect and abuse at school of a withdrawn but talented and seemingly psychic girl named Nicky whose stories are read aloud in class against her will by an insensitive English teacher. Nicky's classmates cruelly reject her as "weird" and a "witch," even while believing that in one of her stories she foretells the suicide of Rosy, an overweight newcomer to the school. The question of whether it is Nicky or Rosy who is the potential suicide victim becomes an element of suspense in the drama's unfolding... (The Denver Post)

Our middle school One Act Play group began working on another play originally. In mid November we were informed by UIL that the play we had spent many hours rehearsing would not be eligible for District contest. I ordered Love is a Hot Fudge Sundae and we were under a lot of pressure to get our lines down to perform in time for District. Luck was on our side, when we got the news that the District contest had been postponed till January. Based on our practice prior to contest we thought for sure we would get 3rd or 4th place at contest. There were several parts of the dialogue that the actors were having difficulty remembering, not

to mention cues as to when to enter or exit the stage. After we arrived in Big Lake and had our last practice on stage before competition, I told the group that we had a fighting chance. They only had a couple of areas to fix. The group came together and gave the performance of a lifetime. We overcame many obstacles during the play. The sound system was not working and rather than panic the group handled the scenes very professionally to accommodate for the missing cues. At one part during the play, our leading actress left the stage to keep the others from repeating dialogue when they began to realize they missed a

part. Two other members of the cast stepped up to fill in the dialogue for her part and managed to finish the scene without a problem.

The judge's critique of the play was very intriguing, especially when she said the group's performance was the quality of a high school cast and she was amazed by their delivery and acting abilities considering their age.

Our public performance will be this Thursday, Jan. 20th at 6 pm. Tickets are \$1 for children 12 & under and students of Sonora ISD, \$2 for anyone over 12.

Continued from Front Page Teacher Salary Trends

a new teacher is \$36,009, a 0.6 percent increase from the 2009-10 average of \$35,793. This year's average starting salary is 32 percent higher than the state minimum starting salary of \$27,320. The average starting salary in districts with more than 10,000 students is \$43,706, a 1.0 percent increase from last year. Thirty percent of districts (192) have an entry-level salary of \$40,000 or greater. These districts employ 80 percent of teachers in the sample. The highest reported entry salary is \$50,000. Sixteen districts (2.5 percent) employing 660 teachers (0.2 percent) report paying teachers on the State Minimum Salary Schedule.

Teacher Stipends and Incentives
 Master's Degree Stipends: Sixty-nine percent of districts (443) pay more to teachers

with master's degrees, typically paid as a stipend. Of those districts, most (90 percent) pay extra for any type of master's degree (e.g., educational administration, counselor, etc.). Six percent (43) limit the incentive to only those teachers with a master's degree in their assigned teaching field. The other 4 percent pay for all master's degrees but pay a larger stipend to teachers with advanced degrees in their subject area. The average stipend paid for a master's degree in any area of study is \$1,137. The average stipend paid for a master's degree in the assigned teaching field is \$1,812.

Shortage Stipends: Seventy-five percent of respondents (480 districts) pay shortage stipends to teachers in at least one shortage area, which is unchanged from 2009-10. Most districts (90 percent) with more than 3,000 students

pay critical shortage stipends in at least one area.

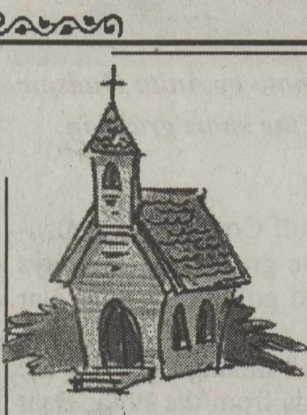
Mathematics is the most frequently reported stipend paid with nearly half of districts (49 percent) paying an average stipend of \$2,419. The average math stipend increased 4 percent this year. The average science stipend is \$2,369, up 6 percent from 2009-10. As in the previous several years, math and science stipends are the most frequently paid but bilingual education stipends are generally higher. The average bilingual stipend is \$2,532.

Other Incentives: In 2010-11, 95 districts (15 percent) indicated that the district provides signing bonuses to some newly hired teachers. The average reported signing bonus is \$2,878. Of those, 73 (77 percent) restrict the signing bonus to critical shortage areas or high-needs campus assignments only. For those

that restrict the signing bonus to critical shortage areas, the most commonly reported bonus is paid to math and science teachers. Only five districts (5 percent) that provide a signing bonus indicated that it is given to all newly hired teachers.

Sixteen districts (2.5 percent) pay stipends to teachers for taking an assignment at a hard-to-staff campus. The average stipend is \$2,052. There is wide variation in the amounts paid and the regional location of these districts. Campus assignment stipends range from \$500 to more than \$5,000.


Twenty-six districts (4 percent) pay an average stipend of \$2,299 to teachers with National Board Certification® from the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards (NBPTS).



Sonora Church Directory

<p>Primera Iglesia Bautista 504 Santa Clara 387-2035</p> <p>The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian 319 E. Mulberry 387-2616</p> <p>Lighthouse Community Church 1705 N. Crockett 387-9100</p> <p>St. Ann's Catholic Church 229 W. Plum 387-2278</p> <p>Jehovah's Witness 310 St. Ann's St 387-5658/387-5518</p>	<p>Church of Christ 304 N. Water 387-3190</p> <p>First Baptist Church 11 E. Oak 387-2951</p> <p>St. John's Episcopal Church 404 E. Poplar 387-2955</p> <p>First United Methodist Church 201 N. Water 387-2466</p> <p>Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St 387-5713</p> <p>Hope Lutheran Church 417 E. 2nd St. 387-5366</p>
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MEMBER 2010

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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	


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Chamber Chatter

By: Donna Garrett



Things were hopping at the Sutton County Civic Center on Friday night as Mother's brought their sons out for a night of dancing. Jody Luttrell entertained the crowd with songs from YMCA, the electric slide, acumbia songs and even a little George Strait. Boys from Pre-K through 8th grade were invited to attend along with their mom or "special date" and dance from 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. Cookies and punch were served to keep everyone energized throughout the night. Janell Sparks with Sparkle Images was set up to take photos of all the handsome young men and their dates. The photos should be at the chamber office in about two weeks for you to pick up. We would like to thank Janell for taking her time to take such wonderful photos for us to enjoy for years to come. The theme for the event was "Monster Truck Bash", and every child received a goody bag just for attending. This year the chamber tried to make it more interesting for the boys and held a raffle for a chance to win a remote controlled monster truck. The only stipulation was you had to be present at 8:30 p.m. for the drawing to be eligible to win. The winner was Ariel Salazar, and I know he left the dance with a big smile on his face while carrying his prize for the night. I would like to thank the board of directors for helping to put on this event every year, without volunteers these events would not be possible.

The chamber continues to work on other events, with the next one being "Daddy-Daughter Date Nite" which will be held on Friday, February 4th. The registration forms will be delivered to the schools within the next few days. If you have any questions feel free to call the chamber at 325-387-2880

Middle School Bookfair

It's Bookfair Time Again!!! The Sonora Middle School Library will be hosting a Scholastic Bookfair beginning Monday, February 21st - 25th, 2011.

Hours will be 7:30 am till 4:00 pm daily for the duration of the Bookfair.

Family night will be held on Tuesday, February 22nd from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Make your plans now to attend that evening to play Bookfair bingo, win prizes, and shop for your favorite someone, all the while supporting the Sonora Middle School Library.

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Sonora's Snowbirds Have Landed

Submitted

Patty and James Lynn, from Cass Lake, Minnesota, are delighted to be Sonora's semi-permanent snowbirds. How, we wonder, did they find and settle in Sonora? Well, the cold helped them decide that they needed a warmer climate in a small community. Patty's sister lived in San Angelo and kept talking about this wonderful part of the world, so the Lynn's came to see for themselves and loved it as well. They bought a house and called it home.

They really love our golf course, the tennis courts and certainly put the Wellness Center to great use. Our town appealed to their sense of closeness and togetherness.

Although they are a long way from their grown children, they are beginning to feel at home here. Patty enjoys the "More the Merrier" plus all the other amenities of our community. The Senior Center certainly appreciates the time she donates there, and all of the dedicated golfers have surely met James on the course since that is his favorite hang out. He also enjoys exercising his big yellow lab, hot or cold.

The Lynn's usually arrive in October and head back north in March. How fortunate Sonora is to have their very own Snowbirds!

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F.Y.I.

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.

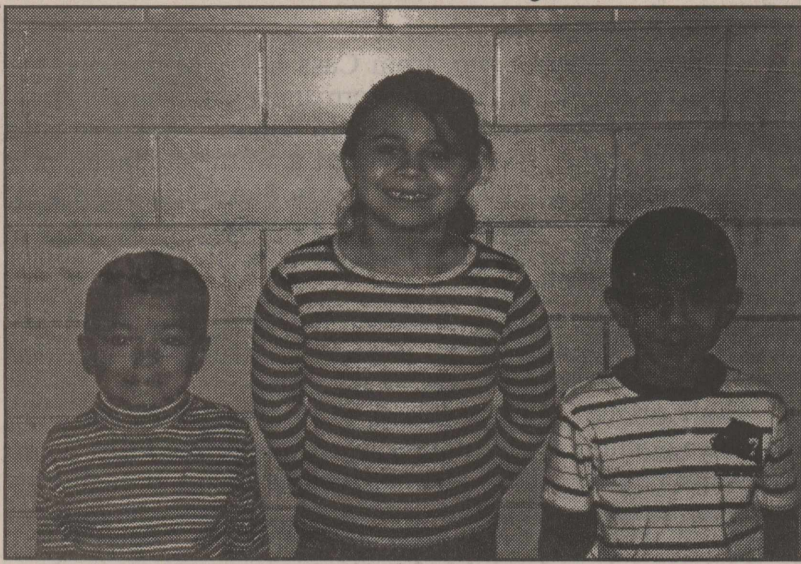
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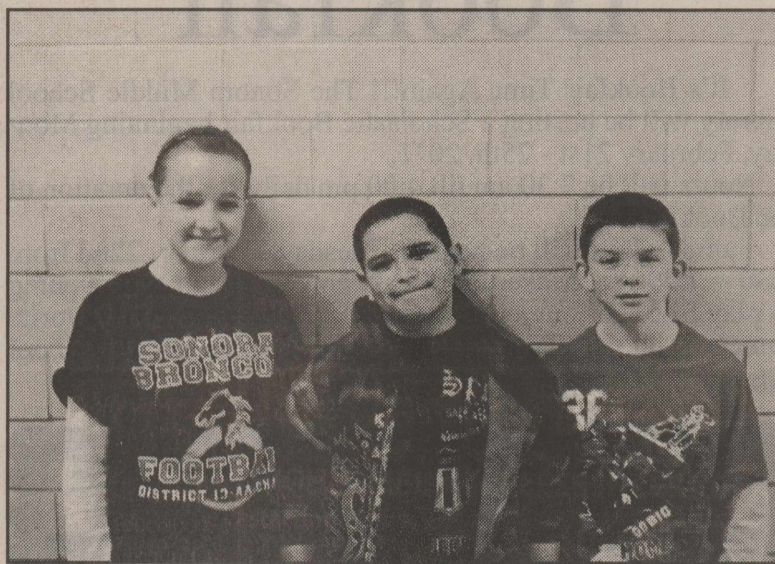
Students of the Week

Elementary



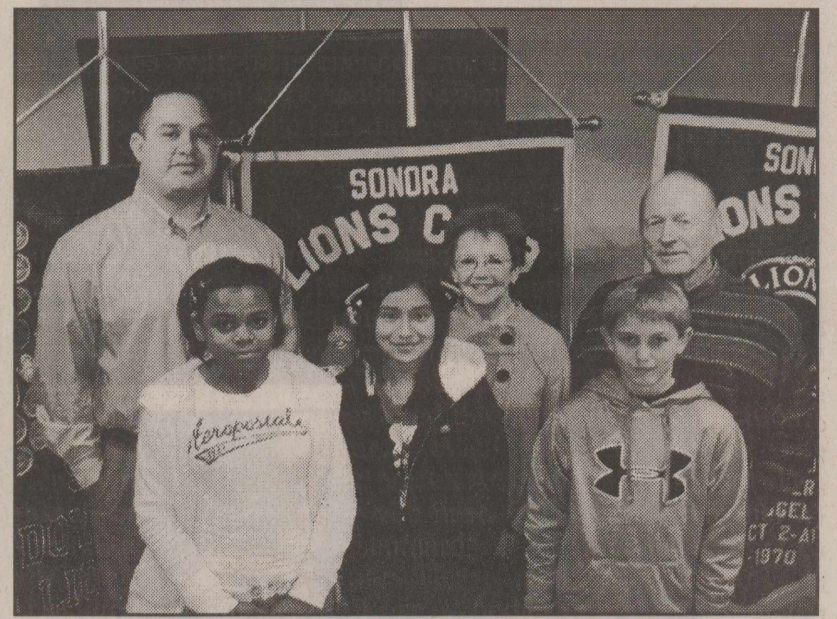
L to R: Jasiel Galindo, Sarah Kanady, Ignacio Coranado
Not Pictured: Sean Mungia

Intermediate



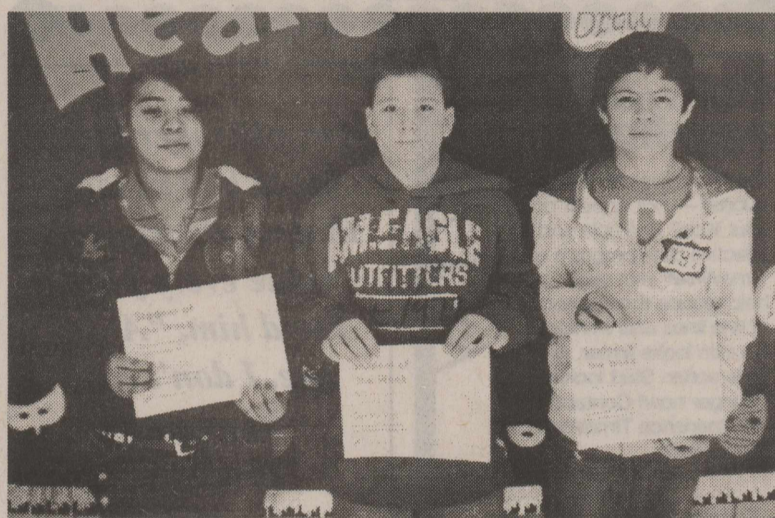
L to R: Audry Nolen, Anthony Velez, Dylan Taylor

Lions Roar



L to R Back: Principal Brandon Duncan, Judge Carla Garner and Leonard Leinfelder. Front: Jazmin Ramos - 8th grade, Marlena Hernandez - 7th grade and Grady Bush - 6th grade

Middle School



L to R: 6th- Marlene Ortiz, 7th-Quealy Shain, 8th-Gus Barera

Little Dribblers Sign-Ups

Sonora City League would like to announce the beginning of Little Dribblers program for 2011. The program will have two divisions: 3rd & 4th grade girls and boys; 5th & 6th grade girls and boys.

Any students interested in playing basketball SIGN UP ONLY at the little gym middle school campus on (FRIDAY) January 21, 2011 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost will be \$30.00 per player. Enrollment form & money must be turned in before your child may participate. Please accompany your child to the gym and fill out an enrollment form. We need a good turn out to have a successful program.

The only group practice will be held on Sunday, January 23RD for both divisions.

GIRLS at 2:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.:

3rd and 4th grade group practice at Middle School little gym
5th and 6th grade group practice at Middle School big gym

BOYS at 4:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m.:

3rd and 4th grade group practice at Middle School little gym
5th and 6th grade group practice at Middle School big gym

Games are scheduled to start February 7, 2011.

Volunteers to coach will need to have their forms in on 01/21/11 to be considered for any position working with the youth. Anyone interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, contact President, Jesse Garza at (325)226-3898 or Vice-President, Michael Ramirez at (325)650-1454.

It amazes this author how rapidly the Sonora Lions get ready for action after a long holiday break. Our 1st students of the week for 2011 arrived, 8th grader Jazmin Ramos, 7th grader Marlena Hernandez and 6th grader Grady Bush along with Lion Principal Brandon Duncan. Our program speaker was Judge Carla Garner the Chief Executive of Sutton County. In addition, we welcomed two new members to our Club, Lion Charlie Graves the Acting City (all Pictured above) and Lion Leonard Leinfelder Director of Sonora's Public Works and Manager of Sonora.

The Middle School students of the week each had an opportunity to address the members on topics of their choice. We enjoyed their company and an opportunity to dine with these future leaders.

Judge Garner spoke of the challenges facing Sutton with particular emphasis on the shrinking revenue stream as a result of the economic downturn. Intensive management of County budget and resources characterize the Sutton County game plan. Judge Garner invited all citizens to visit Commissioners Court at any of their bi-monthly sessions. This superb Executive and her staff are always available to discuss issue affecting her citizens. Thanks Judge for providing The Lions Club insight into the challenges facing our County. You are always welcome at your Sonora Lions Club.

Some dates which we need to remember :January Boy Scout Troop 19 re-registration, February 4 Sonora High School Speech and Debate Hamburger Supper
March 15 Pay all dues to Lions District and International
March Broom Sale date TBD
March Lions Club Officer Nominating Committee
Go Broncos! Shop Sonora!

Three Helpful Tips for Renting Out Your Home

(NewsUSA) - Home ownership has always been a part of the American dream, but that may be changing. Uncertainty in the housing market has led many would-be buyers to believe that renting's the better option.

According to a May 2010 online survey commissioned by the National Apartment Association, 76 percent of consumers think that renting is preferable to owning a home in today's market.

Likewise, some homeowners believe it's better to rent out their home than to sell it for less than its worth, if they can sell it all. Those considering renting out their property shouldn't make a hasty decision. Neglecting to weigh the costs and potential risks could put first-time landlords in a poor situation. Moco, Inc., a company that provides screening services to property owners, managers and employers throughout the United States, offers the following tips:

* Look at the numbers. Renting might not be the best option. If you're going to lose money each month, it might make more sense to sell, even if you won't get your asking price. Consider all potential costs, including property taxes, income taxes on your tenants' rent, maintenance, and the normal wear and tear your property will experience. Remember that you won't be able to pocket all of the rent money; you will have to put a portion of it back into the property.

* Find quality tenants. Nightmare tenants can be, well, a nightmare. Prepare for a careful screening process. Many private landlords can't access the quality screening products available to larger businesses without going through a lengthy certification process. However, you can avoid time and expense by asking your applicants to visit MyScreeningReport.com. The report includes a consumer credit report, SSN verification, comprehensive criminal search, eviction search, national sex offender registry search and an OFAC (federal terrorism database) search -- everything you need to determine whether a potential tenant meets your standards.

* Use an all-encompassing lease. Whether you use a template or hire an attorney to write your lease, make sure that the lease clearly states your expectations. The lease should state who is responsible for what, when you expect rent to be paid and what.

ATTENTION ALL RECIPIENTS OF DE PUY DEFECTIVE HIP IMPLANTS
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Reportedly, Johnson & Johnson has been seeking medical releases from recipients so that their claims adjusters can speak with you directly and possibly take down statements without your having counsel present — an unwise action for any recipient to do.

Having a defective hip implant in your body clearly demands having your own lawyer. You must be very cautious with dealing with the manufacturer or its representative without proper legal representation.

If you have a DePuy ASR™ product, please call us immediately, as there are time limits for filing a claim. You might already have problems with the implant about which you are unaware, so please contact us — and certainly do not forfeit your legal rights without talking to us.

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Time to Prune

Birds Falling From the Sky?

Experts Provide Answers

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



Now is the time to start thinking about pruning trees. You may have heard that pruning should be done in the dormant season. There are three advantages to pruning at this time of the year. First, wound closure is most rapid if it's done just prior to when new shoots emerge. Second, there are few insects and disease spores to infest pruning cuts. Third, deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, so it's easier to see what you're pruning! Light pruning to remove a few small branches of trees can be done at any time of year.

We should note that not every tree needs pruning. So, what are the main reasons to prune? 1) To remove dead wood. 2) To shape the tree by removing low-hanging limbs, asymmetrical limbs, etc. 3) To remove narrow "v-shaped" limb crotches that are prone to split under a crop load or in ice or wind storms. This is essential in training young trees to develop into strong mature trees. 4) To thin out crowded, heavily shaded limbs and branches in order to allow more light into the trees. This is particularly critical to fruit and nut trees since branches that receive little sunlight will not form fruit buds. 5) To quicken the growth rate of the branches that remain after pruning. This is important in stimulating older, low vigor fruit trees to produce fruit bearing shoots.

Some folks get the urge to "top" landscape trees with the assumption that the trees will be better off. On the con-

trary, topping is one of the worst practices that can be employed against shade trees. Topping refers to cutting back branches to stubs and sometimes all the way to the trunk. This severely injures trees and sets them up for attack by diseases and insects.

Severe topping causes a proliferation of buds at the point where the branch was cut. Shoots then arise from these buds, forming a dense mat at the end of the branch. This dense growth is shallowly attached and subject to easy breakage by wind storms. This new mass of growth also puts a strain on a tree's root system since food reserves have to go to support it. Thus the tree's root system is weakened and overall vigor is reduced, making the tree more susceptible to attack from insects, diseases, and other environmental conditions. Unfortunately, many trees are senselessly topped rather than pruned.

Topping also reduces tree's life expectancy and therefore affects its value in the landscape. Knowledgeable appraisers will severely reduce the value of a topped tree. Good pruning practices will retain a tree's natural form and enable it to be a much greater asset to the landowner. Considering how long it takes a tree to reach full size, proper pruning care should be a top priority for the homeowner.

For additional information, visit the Sutton County Extension website at <http://suttonco.tamu.edu>.



Some estimates for U.S. bird mortality approach one billion deaths annually. Experts note that multiple instances of hundreds of birds dying 'en masse' every year is normal -- and that pretty much all bird mortality is from natural or logical causes, not X-Files-type reasons. (Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo)

Submitted

Each year in the U.S., hundreds of millions of birds die from a variety of causes, according to Dr. Thomas Lacher, head of the wildlife and fisheries sciences department at Texas A&M University in College Station.

"The larger bird die-offs we see in Texas this time of year are not all that unusual given the kind of weather related to the season, storm fronts and mass roosts of birds, especially blackbirds," Lacher said. "Mass bird die-offs in the hundreds happen all the time, but we seldom see evidence of them."

However, Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist Dr. Jim Gallagher, who works at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Uvalde, is someone who has witnessed a sudden, unexpected mass bird die-off.

"Many years ago, while I was living in upstate New York, I saw dozens of geese crash to the ground when they were suddenly caught in a freezing rain," he said. "The weight of accumulated ice on them made it impossible to sustain flight."

Disease and parasites may also be factors in some mass bird deaths, according to experts at the Texas Veterinary Medical and Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station.

Necropsies done by the lab on birds from a 60-plus bird die-off Jan. 8, 2007 in Austin revealed they were "heavily parasitized." But the unusually cold weather the night before was given as a "principal

factor" in this die-off, which led to the temporary closure of several downtown streets by state health officials until the incident was dismissed as a public health threat.

"There has been evidence that a few wild-bird deaths in Texas over the past several years have been associated with West Nile virus," said Dr. Randy Moore, resident director of the diagnostic lab's poultry laboratory in Center. "We historically have seen instances of West Nile, which is predominantly carried by mosquitoes, affecting birds here in Texas, but the number of birds is very small. And currently there is no evidence that avian influenza (bird flu) or other avian viruses have been associated with mass die-offs in wild bird species in the United States."

Moore said mortality from parasites or disease is more often associated with individual or small groups of birds and is usually a "contributing factor" in these situations as opposed to a singular cause of death.

While recent mass bird die-offs in Texas and elsewhere have grabbed the headlines and spurred the imagination of conspiracy theorists — other "explanations" range from secret military or government testing to bioterrorism and biblical portents — the real causes of the bird mortality are far more banal, according to experts.

So what are the main causes of bird death? The Sibley

ing into windows is by far the continent's single-greatest cause of bird mortality, killing an estimated 900 million a year. The second-leading cause is feral cats, which kill about 500 million birds annually, followed by high-tension wires, which take a yearly toll of around 190 million. Some lesser causes of bird mortality noted on the chart include cars, pesticides, communications towers and hunting, with hunting responsible for the fewest deaths of that group.

Data from other sources indicate U.S. bird mortality figures represent roughly half of those on the Sibley chart. Additionally, the National Audubon Society and U.S. Parks and Wildlife Department state that "loss of habitat" is truly the single-largest threat to birds, and that this factor is most responsible for the overall reduction in U.S. bird populations. However, the figures are nebulous. "The die-offs we've been hearing about in Texas are a normal occurrence," said Lacher. "But when put together with reports of other die-offs in other states or countries that are posted in blogs and on the Internet and shown on national television, they appear to be greater and stranger than they really are."

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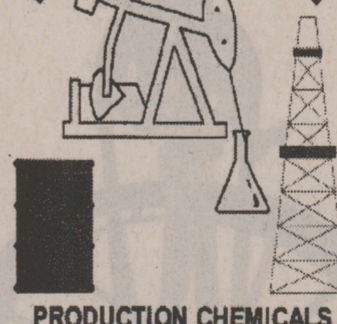
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7th Grade Boys Basketball

By Jay Immel

Last night the 7th Grade White Boys Basketball team tried to complete a sweep against Ozona. The boys started out with a 6-0 lead at the end of the first. They maintained a 12-6 lead at half, but by the end of the third quarter Ozona had closed the gap and made the score 16-12. The boys really stepped up their defense in the 4th quarter and played with a lot of emotion. The boys won a very hard fought game 18-17 and have improved considerably throughout the season.

7th Grade White top scorers

- Harold Luna 10pts.
- Adrian Garcia 2 pts.
- James Freeman 2 pts.
- Sergio Solis 2 pts.
- Garrett Jaeger 2 pts.

The 7th Grade Red tried to even the series against Ozona. In the first the boys just couldn't quite get it together and trailed Ozona 6-16 at half. The Boys played great overall Basketball in the fourth quarter, but it was too little too late as they fell 20-34. The Boys play next Monday at Grape Creek with the 7th grade white beginning at 4.

Freshman Lady Broncos: Bring Down Lions

By Jamie Waites

Friday night the Lady Bronco Freshman team took on their rivals, the Ozona Lady Lions. After a hard week of practice and a tough loss against Wall on Tuesday, the girls were fired up and ready to win the battle of the I-10 teams! The ladies accomplished their first goal: score first, get a lead, and not look back.

Although she had been very sick all week, Zella Powers was able to step up and play an amazing defensive game. She said her goal was to play the best defense she could, something every coach loves to hear. Crystal Lopez, Megan Yourgolite, Morgan Badgett, and Glenna McKenzie also played amazing defense by executing our press the way we've worked on the whole week prior. Ozona was unable to get past half-court a majority of the time and their turnovers resulted in many Lady Bronco fast-break points.

Tori Harris, Cassandra Medina, and Maria Mata had some great rebounds on offense and defense and found the open outlet pass for many fast-break assists. The Lady Broncos finished off the

Ozona Lady Lions 31-11, a decisive 20 point win. The gym was full of purple t-shirts and these girls were great representatives of Bronco Nation. On Saturday January 22, Sonora will be hosting the district JV and 9th Grade Girls Basketball Tournament, so come out and watch these young ladies compete for the 2011 district title.

Sonora	10	17	25	31
Ozona	2	3	9	11

Points:

- Crystal Lopez 5
- Megan Yourgolite 7
- Morgan Badgett 6
- Zella Powers 5
- Shea Holmes 2
- Glenna McKenzie 4
- Maria Mata 2

Tuesday Jan. 11:

Sonora	2	7	11	21
Wall	8	14	19	39

Points:

- Crystal Lopez 2
- Megan Yourgolite 7
- Zella Powers 8
- Shea Holmes 4

Arguing Victory:

Sonora Debate Season Begins.

By Cy Scroggins

This weekend the Sonora debate team went to Ozona for the first debate meet of this semester. The kids have been working very hard and were excited to try out their new debate cases at this meet.

Freshman Lincoln Douglas debater Kelsey Velez finished the day with a 2-1 record and barley missed breaking to the semi finals. Junior Ali Castro ended up winning the whole tournament with a 5-0 mark on the day. This is Ali's second tournament championship of the year.

For the CX debate, Whitley Hernandez and Chenel Cauthorn worked really hard and won the first round, but fell to some tough teams to finish the day 1-2. The team of Zachary Leonard and Kash McGee brought home the silver medal and finished the day 4-1.

These kids are working very hard to prepare for some tough debaters from Wall and Ballinger in District competition next month. If you see them, please congratulate them on their great work.

Bronco Math Team: Adding To Success

The Sonora High school UIL math team traveled to San Antonio Saturday to participate in a TMSCA meet. The students were in a very competitive field of larger and specialized schools. The results are:

- 9th Number Sense: Cody Barber 5th place
- 11th Number Sense: Bryce Smith 6th place
- 11th Calculator Applications: Selena Mesa 4th place
- Robert Hernandez 5th place
- Brianah Creek 7th place
- Eric Hernandez 10th place

Congratulations to all that competed. You did a great job of representing Sonora! Our next competition will be in Mertzon on January 29.

8th Grade Boys Basketball

On Monday evening Jan. 17 2011 the 8th grade boys basketball hosted their rival Ozona. The White team started very slow and sluggish and trailed early 14-4 but, with the help of some good decisions on their transitions they bridged the gap in the 3rd quarter 16-14. The Colts showed a lot of heart and determination but fell to Ozona 25-21.

- Santi Garza 4pts
- Justin Garmon 4 pts
- Rico Rodriguez 3pts
- Lionel Deleon 8pts
- Johnathan Salazar 2pts

The 8th grade Red team was excited to show that they had improved a lot since the beginning of the season. These boys knew that every opportunity would be a crucial one. The score was tied 9-9 at half. There was a lot of missed shots in first half and we had to make some adjustments vs their press. Our kids came out collected and confident that they could give everything for the next two periods. The score was 21-21 and end of 3rd quarter. The 4th quarter was a strategy game to see who would have most energy left and who would dominate the boards. With 2:20 left in

the game Ozona continued to full court press which proved to be costly for them. A few boards that the Colts grabbed and a key free throw made paved the way for some easy buckets and a win for the Colts. FINAL: 39-32 Colts.

- Brett Castillo 9pts
- Tanner Esparza 2pts
- Andres Acevedo 9pts
- Hunter Hughes 8pts
- Elijah Cross 9pts
- Ethan Patlan 2pts

8th grade boys will travel to Grape Creek Monday Jan. 24th.

Lady Colts Basketball: 7th Grade

By Kasey Immel

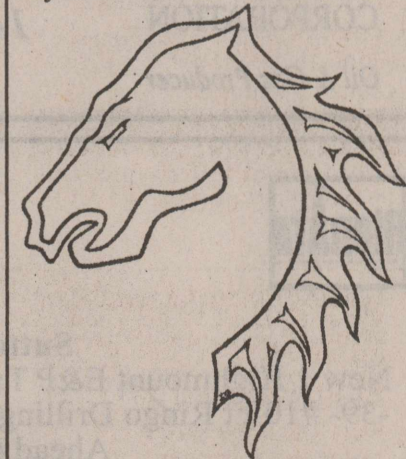
The Lady Colts traveled to Ozona on Monday to take on the Lions. The last time the 7th grade played Ozona they won both games. I told the girls that the Lions were going to come at us hard looking for revenge. That is exactly what they did but the Lady Colt Black team showed up looking for a fight. They played a very physical basketball game that came down to the last 5 seconds. Ozona had to throw

the ball in on their side of the court with 5 seconds left. The Lady Colts played tight on their girls, and a steal from Tyler Hampton gave the Lady Colts the ball in the final seconds. Your Lady Colts were able to hang on to the lead when the final buzzer went off clinching a 19-17 win.

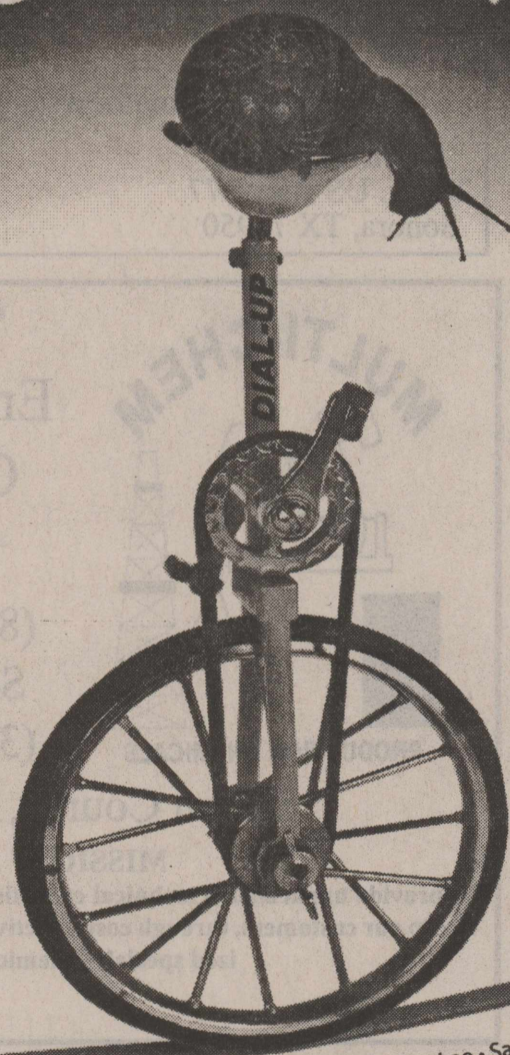
- Janelle Vasquez 8pts
- Elizabeth Bean 7pts
- Tyler Hampton 4pts

The 7th grade Red team was missing a few players from when they played Ozona last (winning 18-8). Alyssa Zamora scored her first two points of the season and Dionne Hinojosa added two more baskets. They played really hard however lost 6-23.

The Lady Colts next game will be home on Monday January 24 against Grape Creek. They will also be traveling to Junction on January 29 to compete in a tournament. The 7th grade girls will play their first game of the tournament at 12 in the Middle School Gym.



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FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	TRANSFER IN	DISBURSEMENTS	TRANSFERRED OUT	BALANCE
General	\$ 4,308,143.20	\$ 1,002,550.54	\$ 33.00	\$ 1,171,172.10		\$ 4,139,554.64
FMFC	\$ 751,704.44	\$ 169,003.42		\$ 179,534.23		\$ 741,173.63
Flood Control	\$ 11,911.83					\$ 11,911.83
Law Library	\$ (11,575.58)			\$ 964.50		\$ (12,540.08)
Lateral Road	\$ 2,349.47	\$ 12,169.29				\$ 14,518.76
112th D A Hot Check Fund	\$ 487.84					\$ 487.84
State Bond Fees	\$ 330.00	\$ 390.00		\$ 297.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 390.00
Employee Benefit Fund	\$ 86,325.10	\$ 9,000.00		\$ 14,580.79		\$ 80,744.31
Sutton County 911	\$ 6,688.49	\$ 9.28				\$ 6,697.77
Appellate Fund	\$ 395.00	\$ 185.00		\$ 465.00		\$ 115.00
Sheriff Seizure Fund	\$ 431,748.19	\$ 1,851.20		\$ 4,136.86		\$ 429,462.53
					TOTAL	\$ 5,412,516.23
CHECKING ACCOUNTS						
General-B&T	\$ 252,300.78	General-1st Natl	\$ 9,970.69	FMFC	\$ 43,969.75	
Appellate Fund	\$ 115.00	Sutton County 911	\$ 6,697.77	Sheriff Seizure	\$ 75,441.36	
112th D A Hot Check Fund	\$ 487.84					\$ 388,983.19
MONEY MARKET ACCTS	General	\$ 629,795.54	FMFC	\$ 188,208.38		\$ 818,003.92
C D ACCOUNTS	General	\$ 3,342,512.45	FMFC	\$ 508,995.50		\$ 4,205,529.12
	Sheriff Seizure	\$ 354,021.17				\$ 4,205,529.12
					TOTAL	\$ 5,412,516.23

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

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

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo Contract 6220-79-001 for REPAIR BRIDGE RAIL, POSTS AND CONNECTION IN SUTTON County, etc will be received on February 09, 2011 until 1:00 pm and opened on February 09, 2011 at 1:10 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$296,524.55.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 35259.

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Dist/Div Office(s)

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District Engineer
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San Angelo, Texas 76904
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For Sale

For Sale: '05 GMC Sierra 1500 Reg. Cab Work Truck, V6 4.3 Liter, 2 door, 8 ft. bed, 150,350 miles. Runs but needs work. \$2,000 obo. Call 325-387-3843.

For Sale: 16' x 66', 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Oak Knoll trailer. FMI call 325-387-3154

Owner Finance: 3BR/2BA, \$2,950 down and \$411 per month. Lots for rent. Long term RV's welcome. Bronco Mobile Home Estates. 830-313-1313.

For Sale: 1999 GMC 1/2 ton supercab, 5.3L. Damaged right front, good drive train, interior, bed, doors. 3-American Racing 18" wheels w/tires on truck. Will part out individual parts. \$2,000 OBO. FMI call Steve at 325-206-0895.

For Sale: 1966 Plymouth Belvedere II 318 CID-Auto A/C, Interior OK, Needs restoring, Runs & Drives. FMI call Steve at 325-206-0895.

Stripes
NOW HIRING
Store Manager
Assistant Managers
Food Service Associates
Apply at your local Stripes or online at www.stripes.jobs
Company offers a competitive salary and benefit package including medical, dental, vision and life coverage, 401(k) plan, tuition reimbursement, paid vacation, career opportunities and an employee referral program.
EOE

228 E. Main St.

sales@sonoratlx.net

Employment

Help Wanted: Full time and part time. Apply at Mr. D's, 216 Hwy. 277 N. from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.

Help Wanted: Children's Home Health is accepting applications for full-time LVN or RN. Full benefits package for full-time employees, competitive salary, mileage paid. Contact Andrew @ 972-661-3737. www.childrenshha.com

Help Wanted: Sonora area ranch needs someone to feed cattle and check water. Part-time or possible full-time for the right person. Prefer non-smoker & non-drinker. References required. FMI call 325-456-0130.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for (1) one full time clerical position in the Appraisal District Office. Computer experience necessary. Applicant must have excellent typing skills and be able to communicate with the public. Applications may be obtained in the Sutton County Appraisal District Office at the Sutton County Annex building and must be returned no later than Jan. 26th, 2011. Sutton County Appraisal District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted: NAPA Auto Parts - Big C Automotive is hiring for Inside/Outside Sales, Experience preferred, not required., Bilingual Preferred. Must have working knowledge of cars and trucks. Call (325) 387-5167

Leases

Sutton County Hunting Lease: 4,000 acres, game managed, available for season lease, rolling live oak terrain. Good cabin, sleeps 10, camper hookups, some blinds and feeders. FMI call 325-387-3222.


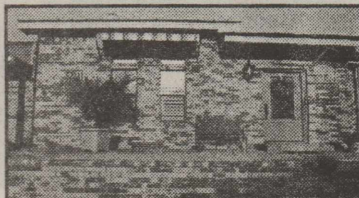
2006 H-2 Hummer
* Gray
* Fixed running boards
* Power Sunroof
* 6.0 Vortec Enging
* 59K miles
* Very Nice, Must See!!
* \$27,000 \$25,500

FMI call 325-226-2899

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Challenging Job and an Exciting Future!
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Daniel Counts & Wayne Counts


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• 3 BR/4BA plus Office & Dining
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• Sautillo Tiled Floors
• Fireplace and Vaulted Ceilings
• Detached Shop/Game Room
• \$159,000 \$149,000
• 3 BR/2B- 2254 sq. ft. (SCAD)
• Spacious 2-story Town Home
• Attached 2 car garage
• \$189,500 \$175,000

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984 square feet
2/1 w/ carport
\$71,000

REDUCED
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\$650 per acre, surface only
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Caruthers Realty

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Great location & Fenced yard
Bob Caruthers - Broker
325-226-3003 Anytime
email: bobc@sonoratlx.net

Scott Jacoby Real Estate

www.scottjacobyrealestate.com

P.O. Box 295 325-226-2768
Sonora, TX 76950 sjacoby@dishmail.net

The Voice of the Sonora Broncos

8:30 Morning Show
with Eddy and Eligio



Mondays - Agriculture
Tuesday -
Sonora ISD News & Sonora Bronco
Coach's Corner
Wednesday -
Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital News with
Dr. Kristy D. Edwards, M.D.
Friday -

Voice Of The Sonora Bronco's Sports ...
GO BRONCOS!!!

COLDWELL BANKER

PATTERSON PROPERTIES
3017 Knickerbocker Rd.
San Angelo, Texas 76904
325-944-9559 OFFICE
cbpatterson.com

Irene Casillas, REALTOR®
Sonora, Texas 76950
(325) 226-4475
irene@cbpatterson.com

LISTINGS:
110 Deerwood Drive - 4 BR/3BA
1039 Eaton St. - 80'x120' lot
1011 Eaton St. - 80'x120' lot
603 Tom Green - 5 BR/3BA
1107 S. Concho - 3 BR/2BA
312 Railroad St. - 3 BR/ 1.5 BA

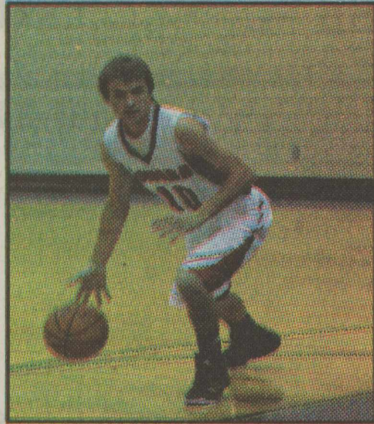
NEW LISTING



1105 Taylor

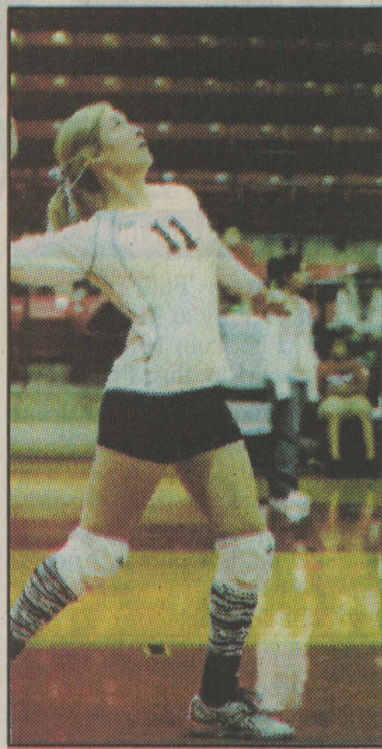
2BR/1 BA - Rock home - perfect starter home or investment property!
This property features a storm cellar and a detached game room. Large trees on the completely fenced lot. Come see!

LOCALS RECEIVE PRE-SEASON BASKETBALL AWARDS



Sonora High School boys basketball players Austin Hampton, Word Hudson, Zach Leonard, and Cadesman Pope have been named as Pre-Season All State Honorable Mention award recipients by Bob Springer's TEXAS BASKETBALL MAGAZINE. The magazine gives team outlines, as well as Texas high school basketball records, both individually and team related. Hampton, a senior, is a three year letterman for the Broncos basketball team, and Hudson, Leonard, and Pope are juniors, and are two year letterman. These players are active in AAU, summer league play and/or individual skills camps to prepare for the season. Congratulations to all of these young men for their award.

Smith Named to All West Texas Volleyball Team



Courtesy of San Angelo Standard Times

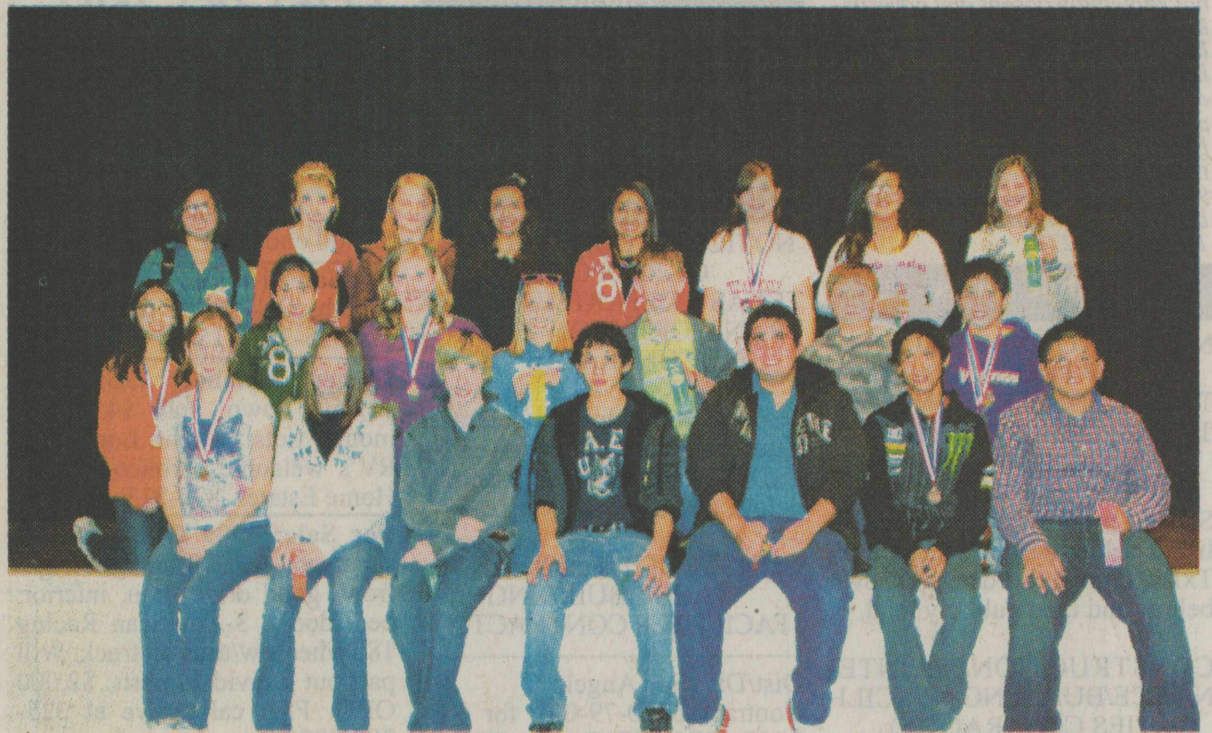
In her first year to play the sport, Morgan Smith shined for the Lady Broncos, tallying 95 kills, 47 aces and 34 digs as she helped Sonora reach the postseason.

"People don't wind because they are physically stronger. It's because they are stronger between the ears."

Alex Shaffer

Sonora Middle School UIL Academic District Meet

Wall, Texas
Monday, December 6th, 2010
Results:



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Art 8th grade
6th place Miranda Perez | Listening 7th grade
4th place Elizabeth Bean | 4th place Jonathan Salazar
6th place Santiago Garza |
| Art Team 6th grade--
3rd place
Art Team 7th Grade--
3rd place
Art Team 8th Grade--
2nd place | Listening 8th grade
6th place Annalisa Perez
Maps, Graphs, and Charts 8th grade
3rd place Beverly Velasquez
Tie for 4th place Kaitlyn Gibbens | Oral Reading 7th grade
4th place Elizabeth Bean
5th place Brianna Jarratt
6th place Trent Harris

Oral Reading 8th grade
3rd place Kaitlyn Gibbens
4th place Logan Sine |
| Dictionary Skills 6th grade
4th place Angel De Luna
6th place Autumn Ayala | Mathematics 6th grade
4th place Autumn Ayala | Ready Writing 6th grade
3rd place Kristy Sanchez |
| Dictionary Skills 8th grade
Tie for 1st place Beverly Velasquez | Mathematics 7th grade
1st place JD Garza | Ready Writing 7th grade
4th place Darby Ramsdell |
| Editorial Writing 8th grade
6th place Jeremy Doran | Modern Oratory 7th grade
6th place James Freeman | Social Studies 8th grade
Tie for 6th place Lisette Ortiz |
| Impromptu Speaking
7th grade
3rd place Sky McGuffin
6th place Katelynn Lopez | Music Memory 6th grade
6th place Holly Sparks | Spelling 8th grade
4th place Beverly Velasquez |
| Impromptu Speaking
8th grade
3rd place Lillian Kent | Music Memory Team 6th grade
4th place | Overall standing:
1st place Wall
2nd Place Ozona
3rd place Ballinger
4th place Sonora
5th place Brady
6th place Grape Creek |
| Listening 6th grade
3rd place Ariel Lugo | Number Sense 7th grade
2nd place JD Garza
3rd place Darby Ramsdell | |
| | Number Sense 8th grade | |

DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY AT HUDSPETH MEMORIAL



Hudspeth Memorial has the most advanced mammography system available.

Thanks to improvements in detection and treatment, more people survive breast cancer than ever before.

A mammogram at Hudspeth Memorial is equal or superior to those performed at a big city medical facility. Advantages of Hudspeth's digital system include:

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- ▶ Only detector that can image virtually all breast sizes.
- ▶ Provides screening and diagnostic capabilities.

Contact Hudspeth Memorial to find out more and schedule your next breast cancer screening.

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(325) 387-2521 • www.sonora-hospital.org

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CITY OF SONORA WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION

Sealed bids addressed to the City Secretary, City Hall, City of Sonora, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950 until 2:00 p.m. Thursday, February 10, 2011, and then publicly opened and read in the City of Sonora's City Council Chambers, for furnishing all labor, material and equipment, and performing all work required for construction of the Water Distribution System Rehabilitation. Approximately quantities for the Base Bid include, 6,200 linear feet of 8" waterline, 21,750 linear feet of 6" water line by open cut and 525 linear feet of 8" water line with steel encasement, by other than open cut, 1,700 linear feet of 8" water line by horizontal directional drilling and 370 linear feet of 8" water line with steel encasement, by other than open cut, together with all necessary appurtenances. Additive alternate bids for approximately an additional 1,260 linear feet of 8" water line and 9,895 linear feet of 6" water line by open cut and 1,078 linear feet of 6" water line with steel encasement, by other than open cut, are included in the bid.

Proposals shall be accompanied by a cashier's or certified check upon a national, state bank or savings and loan in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total maximum bid price, payable without recourse to the City of Sonora, or a bid bond in the same amount from a reliable surety company, holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute performance bond and payment bond within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

The notice of award of contract will be given by the Owner within ninety (90) days following the opening of bids.

Bidders shall be required to hold bids for at least 90 days after bid opening. Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bids are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the Texas Water Development Board, and shall be referred to as Project (DWSRF 61318). Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this Invitation for Bids or any resulting contract.

The successful bidder must furnish performance bond upon the form provided in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price and a Material and Labor Payment Bond upon the form provided in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price from an approved surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety or other sureties acceptable to the Owner. The right is reserved, as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. Bidders are allowed to modify and/or withdraw bids prior to the bid opening.

Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda in the spaces provided in the Proposal, on the outer envelope of bid and the fax cover sheet provided with each addenda.

Plans, specifications and bidding documents may be examined at the office of Birkhoff, Hendricks & Carter, L.L.P. 11910 Greenville Ave., Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75243, and purchased for the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per set, non-refundable.

CITY OF SONORA

By s/ Lemuel D. Lopez
Lemuel D. Lopez, Mayor