

The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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Volume 123 • Issue 18

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, May 5, 2011

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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

School Bond Election: As May 14 Approaches The Conversation Continues

Editors Note In order to continue the discussion over the upcoming May 14th bond election; School Board of Trustees member Dawn Cahill submitted the following article. She examines a detailed history of how the bond proposal came to be, and includes factual data to its future use.

I would like to thank Mr. Blackbird for voicing his concern and bringing an issue that is much talked about into a public forum in his letter to the editor last week. I am glad to have the opportunity to address the questions he and others of the community have raised and try to clarify this issue.

Pursuing a new field house was never an "either/or" decision over educational infrastructure; rather it was an issue of health and safety. The field house was planned and money for it was saved for many years. During this planning and saving time frame, Sonora's economy was booming. For several years, we saw an upturn. The school operated efficiently and effectively, all the while adding money to savings. Exactly two years ago this month, the board voted on beginning construction of the field house. Perhaps knowing then what we all know now about what happened not only to Sonora's economy but also

the nation's, that vote might have been different. But... we didn't know. Accordingly, any concerns about the cost of the field house needed to be raised 2-3 years ago. While on the other hand, the science lab renovations were only brought to the school board's attention after actual construction on the field house commenced. Once this matter was brought to the board's attention, the board pursued it (even though over one million dollars had just been spent for a much needed heating/air conditioning update in the middle and high schools). The board moved forward with the science lab project until our student population and property values declined so sharply, it became apparent the science labs would need to wait.

It has been said that athletics holds priority over academics, but please consider the following facts: last year when cuts were being made, the board specifically requested keeping 2 retired teachers as part time tutors because the administrators felt these teachers had a direct impact on the education of our students. As requested by administrators, the board added an English Language Arts teacher at the Middle School to better serve our children, as those classes were becoming too large. An

additional math teacher was hired last year so students would not have to change teachers in the middle of the year, as a teacher would be retiring in December. We have a large number of aides who help in the classroom. We strive to keep a low student to teacher ratio. It is hard to believe people say athletics is our priority when our EXEMPLARY Elementary School has the highest accountability rating given and was recently honored as a Title One Distinguished School. The district as a whole has the second highest rating and is recognized. These things do not happen by accident.

In Sonora, we are fortunate to excel at academics and extra-curricular activities. As a board member, my goal is excellence in ALL areas.

A quality school should provide students with a balance of quality academic programs and successful extracurricular opportunities. There is no doubt a direct correlation between them. Just as low academic standards are detrimental to the education of our children, so would be the lack of extracurricular options. Students participating

Continued on Page 8

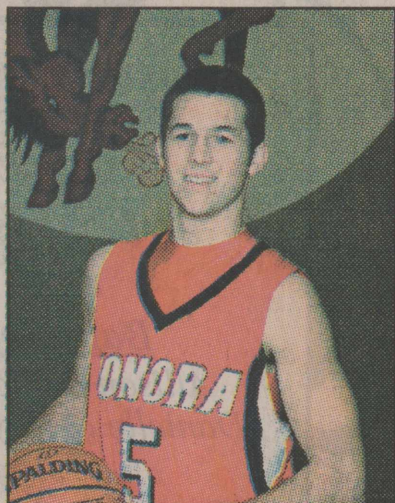


Sonora Represented Well at State UIL Meet

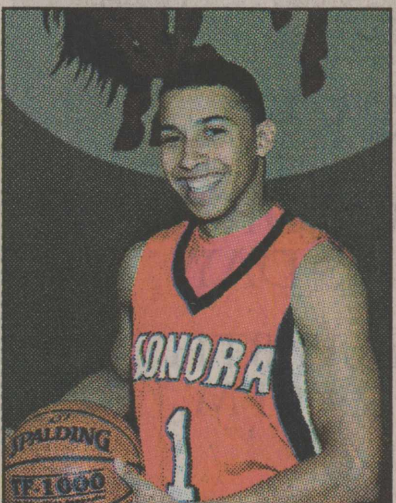
Sonora High School will be well represented at the upcoming State UIL Academic meet. Colyer Dermody and Zachary Leonard advanced in their respective events. Rose Karnes will attend as an alternate.

Colyer placed first in Prose Interpretation. Zachary advanced to the State Competition for the second time. Last year, Zachary earned a second place in Poetry Interpretation. This year, he advanced from Regional Competition with a third place in Informative Speaking. Rose Karnes is attending as an alternate in Poetry Interpretation having placed fourth at the Regional Academic meet in Odessa. UIL sponsors and coaches are Molly Morris and Cy Scroggins. All three; Dermody, Karnes and Leonard will be attending State One-Act Play competition for the second time in three years. "The Handler", performed by Sonora High School Students, advanced at the recent Regional Competition in Odessa along with Ballinger High School's rendition of "The Three Musketeers". The cast and crew from "The Handler" include: Clayton Parks, Rose Karnes, Colyer Dermody, Zachary Leonard, Kash McGee, Marci Parks, Ryan Garmon, Christian Kenney, James Bean, Dallas Payne, Austin Hampton, Paige Sykes, Jasmine Daniels, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Liz Chavarria, Becca Hudson, Sidney Dermody, Deatra Ortiz, Kelsey Velez, Ali Castro, Cody Snyder, Jaime Braly, and Taylor Hampton. The Play is directed by Cy Scroggins and Lindsey Geske. Sonora One-Act Play, another State winning tradition, will be making its 17th appearance at the University of Texas' McCullough Auditorium on May 10th. It will be a repeat appearance in this auditorium; their last appearance on this stage was the State Championship performance of "Unexpected Tenderness" in 2006.

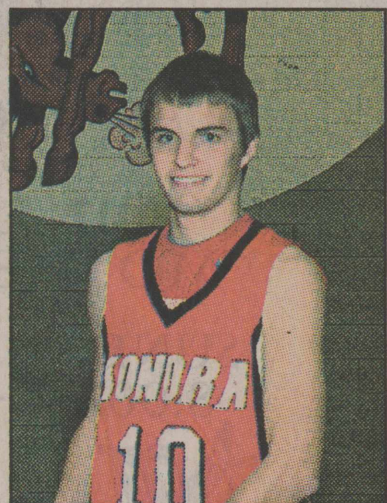
Bronco Basketball Team District Honors



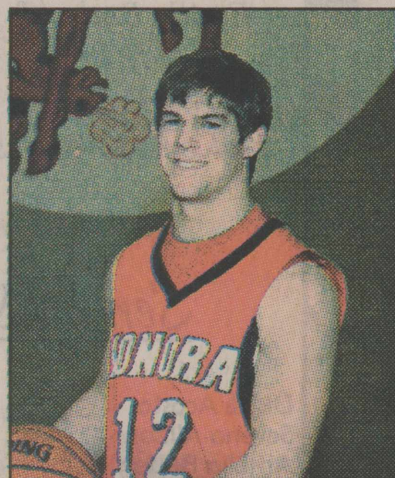
Co-Defensive MVP:
Word Hudson



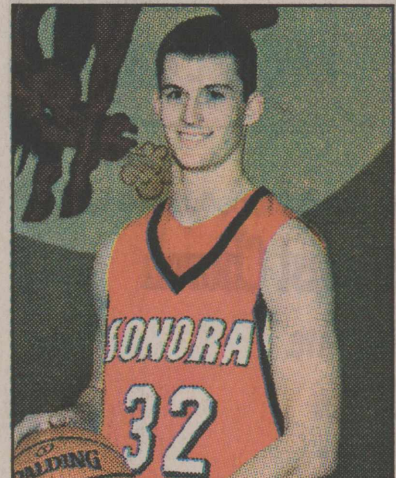
1st Team:
Imoni Cross



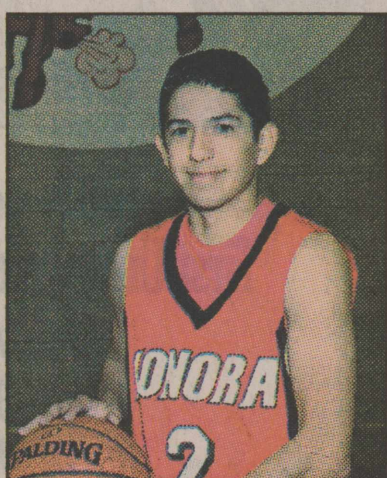
1st Team:
Austin Hampton



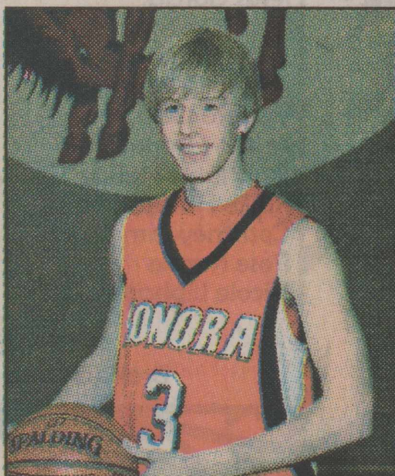
1st Team:
Ethan Morriss



2nd Team:
Cadesman Pope



Honorable Mention:
Davis Jimenez



Honorable Mention:
Zach Leonard

All Photos by Sherz Studios



Honorable Mention:
Dallas Payne

Sonora Elementary Receives Distinguished Performance Award for 2010-2011

Sonora Elementary School has been recognized by the Division of NCLB Program Coordination at the Texas Education Agency for their outstanding academic performance in 2010-2011.

The criteria for Distinguished Performance Schools in Texas include:

- Title I, Part A campus in 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011;
- Maintained a campus residing population of 40% or more low-income in 2010-2011;
- Met AYP in 2009 and 2010;
- Achieved a campus rating in Spring 2010 of Exemplary;
- Achieved a campus rating in Spring 2009 of either Exemplary or Recognized; and
- Achieved a campus rating in Spring 2008 of either Exemplary or Recognized.

Congratulations to the staff and students at Sonora Elementary for your accomplishments!!!

Senior Center Activities

- Thurs. May 5 - Happy Birthday *Bill Basil*
- Fri. May 6 - Honor "Senior" Mother's
- Mon. May 9 - Happy Birthday *Robert Duran*
Dee Martinez
- Tues. May 10- CEAP Energy Assistance
- Wed. May 11- Students... Volunteer to deliver meals this summer!

Senior Center Menu

- Thurs. May 5 - Tacos w/cheese, tossed salad, pinto beans, Mexican corn, mixed fruit, milk
- Fri. May 6- Oven fried fish, peas/carrots, spinach, Wheat bread, Jell-O w/fruit, milk
- Mon. May 9 - Roasted chicken, pinto beans, spinach, Cornbread, cherry cobbler, milk
- Tues. May 10 - Hamburger on a bun, lettuce, onions, milk tomatoes, French fries, carrot salad, apple
- Wed. May 11 - Chicken/rice casserole, broccoli, roll Peach halves, chocolate cake, 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).

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to specifically answer questions posed in Mr. Blackbird's letter:

- The field house cost seems high for the size of the building because state and federal code (ADA and Title XI) requires a certain number of commodes, sinks and showers based on the number of students the building serves. Plumbing fixtures are always expensive, and we were required to have a large number of these in the building.
- The cracks in the floor are not structural, merely cosmetic, an issue the board and I discussed at length many times. We decided not to spend additional money to cover the cracks.
- The field house was not a priority over the science labs or doors/windows. These "educational infrastructure" items were not deemed needed until after construction of the field house had begun.
- All of our teachers are paid \$5,000.00 above the state required base pay. Coaches are teachers and paid on the same scale. Of 25 schools in our region that responded to a TASB survey regarding Salaries and Wages in Texas Public Schools, Sonora has the 4th highest pay rate for 0-5 year teachers. We do pay stipends for teachers having duties outside of the classroom. These stipends are paid for various responsibilities ranging from athletic coaches to U.I.L. coaches and sponsors of certain organizations.
- Administrators are usually paid more than their employees because they have added responsibilities and greater accountability.

Don Gibson
Sonora ISD Superintendent

Thank You Notes

The family of Armando Martinez would like to express sincere appreciation to everyone in this community. Thank you for prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, flowers, plants, food, paper goods, drinks, hugs, and monetary donations. Every moment of prayer comforted him and our family and helped him reach peace during his illness. The strong support of our community has helped us move on with our daily lives, as we promised him. We reassured him "we would be okay because we are not alone". Thanks to each and every one of you whom accompanied us in anyway during our difficult time of sorrow.

A special thanks to Oscar Jiminez, Judge Carla Garner, and Sutton County Employees, Dr. Pajestka and his staff, Keith Butler and all LMH staff, Fathre Lionel, Our Sisters in Christ Prayer group, St. Ann's choir, The Guadalupana's and their volunteers, Pallbearers, Honorary Pallbearers, Fidelis Prayer group, and Basic Energy staff.

"Lord, if for some reason it is not Your perfect will that I be restored to health at this time, please give me the grace to accept Your will, the humility to receive others' help, and the joy of knowing I am safe in your arms, now and for all eternity. To You be all the honor, glory, and praise, through Christ our Lord, in union with our Blessed Mother and all the saints. Amen"

Sincerely,
Lydia and Senida Martinez
Albert, Selina, Dustin and Stefani Trevino
Sammy, Sonia, Samantha, Savannah, and Sabrinah Castro

Tips For Selecting Summer Fruit

(SPM Wire) Some shoppers thump fresh summer fruit before buying it. Others squeeze it, sniff it or hold it aloft as they try to discern which is the freshest or sweetest or juiciest.

So what's the proper way to pick the best summer fruits for your family?


Shoppers should remember that each fruit is different. With this in mind, the experts at FruitAndVeggieGuru.com have put together some guidelines to help savvy consumers find the freshest fruits for their table:

- * Peaches: The reddest peaches aren't always the ripest. The ones that taste the best should give with some pressure, have a strong aroma and no mushy or dark spots. If you need to ripen peaches put them into a brown paper bag on your countertop to soften over the course of a day or two.
- * Watermelons: If you want to thump a watermelon, go ahead, but be sure it has a hollow sound. A better test of freshness is to look for one that's heavy for its size and that has a mild yellow underside.
- * Cherries: When picking cherries, opt for ones with a firm texture and deep red color. Beware of ones that are very soft or too dark.
- * Cantaloupes: These melons should give under soft pressure from your thumb and should have a yellowish tinge to their rinds. Cantaloupes with the stem attached are immature and won't be the tastiest.

Be sure to wash all fruit before slicing into it, since any germs or bacteria on the skin will enter the fruit when your knife goes into it.

For more tips for choosing and eating fresh produce, visit FruitandVeggieGuru.com.


Summer is the best time to incorporate more fruits and vegetables into your family's diet, since so many different varieties are at their freshest and tastiest.



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 2011

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

TACO GRILL

JOIN US FOR MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

8:00AM - 2:00PM



First United Methodist Church

201 NW Water Ave.
(325) 387-2466
Ray Wells, Pastor

<p>Sunday</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>10:55 Worship</p> <p><i>Nursery available from 9:30 - 12:30</i></p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>12:00 Lion's Club</p>
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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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OK/TX AG EQUIPMENT INTERNET AUCTION

Bidding closes **Thurs., May 5 | 10 A.M. CDT**



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Item #3553

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Heavy Trucks: (4) '00-'99 Mack RD688S semi trk **Hay/Forage:** '05 JD 640B pickup forage hdr, '06 NH 1475 center pivot 16' swather, '91 Hesston 8400 self propelled swather **Tillage:** Flex-King 5'x5' sweep plow and more

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Baby Selections

Allison & Rich Ramseyer
Danielle & Hayden Chandler



Bridal Selections

Emilly Butler & Evan Foxworth
Mandy Brister & Cody Knott
Georgia Bissett & Zac Kerbow
McKenzie Watkins & Embre Smith

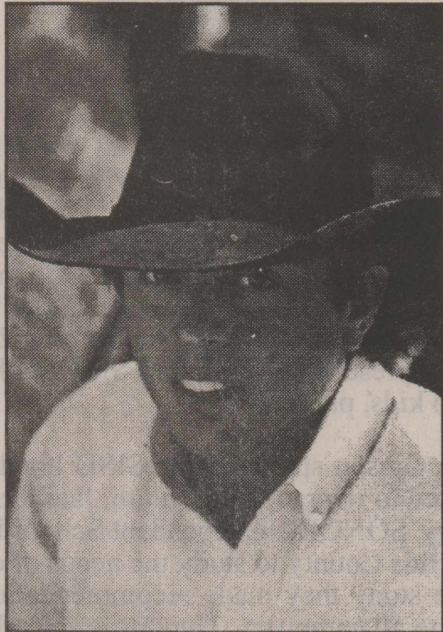
A flower for everyday...

Senior Selections

Dulce Acosta Serena Allison Amelia Butler Chelsey Lou Campbell Dustin Crittendon Colyer Dermody Jesus Garcia Ryan Garmon Jorge Gaytan Ashley Guerra Yaricxa Guerrero Austin Hampton Stephanie Hulsey Kallie Humphrey Courtney James Rose Karnes Nicole Lipham	Lizette Lira Damian Lopez Preston Lopez Matthew Martinez Kashmiere McGee Ethan Morris Shane Patlan Bailey Joe Pennington Ashley Perez Marilee Reyna Christina Robbins Christina Rodriguez Morgan Smith Cody Snyder Ariella Trevino Morgan Vvylecka
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Out of Town:
Brandon Velz - San Antonio

Leonard Named Outstanding Graduation Senior



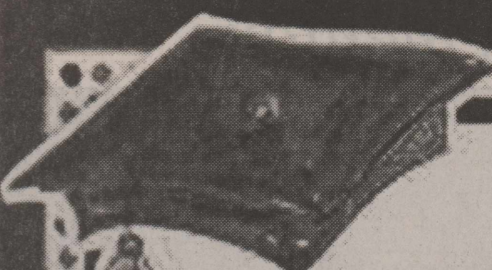
Craig Leonard, Animal Science Major at Texas Tech was recently honored by The Department of Animal Food and Sciences as an outstanding Graduating Senior at a Ceremony held at Cagle's Steak House. Craig, a 2007 Sonora High School Graduate, was selected for the Senior Leadership Award. As a freshman, Craig participated on a National Championship Wool Judging team; the three remaining years at Tech, he served as a coach for the Wool Judging Team, resulting in a Co-National Championship Season in 2010-2011. He is an active member of The Texas Tech Rodeo Team and Block and Bridal. A third generation Red-Raider, Craig holds a 3.5 GPA. Craig was recently awarded an Assistantship and Scholarship to pursue a Master's Degree in Reproductive Physiology from Angelo State University. Growing up on a ranch 50 miles south of Sonora, Craig developed a passion for the Ranching and Livestock Industry, which he has carried forward to a successful academic experience at Texas Tech.

7th Grade Visits Holocaust Memorial Museum



The 7th grade took a field trip to The San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum this past Friday. We were honored to hear in person the story of Holocaust survivor, Rose Williams (she is the one in red in the middle of all the children). She is an incredible lady and our students were in awe of her bravery. This brought the unit they studied about the Holocaust to life for them. They are even more energized to continue with our Butterfly Project. Our goal is to be able to give 1000 butterflies to the Houston Holocaust Museum to represent the 1.5 million children lost in the Holocaust. The 8th grade Art class is building a beautiful box to carry our butterflies to Houston. We are asking all community groups and churches to help us reach our goal. We do not want to ever forget so that we may not ever repeat the atrocities of that time. For information please contact Pamela Crenwelge at Sonora Middle School. 387-6940

Sonora Independent School District Bond Election May 14, 2011



Senior Selections

Dulce Acosta	Rose Karnes
Amelia Butler	Nicole Lipham
Dustin Crittendon	Kash McGee
Colyer Dermody	Ethan Morriss
Austin Hampton	Bailey Joe Pennington
Kallie Humphrey	Christina Robbins
Courtney James	Morgan Smith
Morgan Vvylecka	Chelsey Lou Campbell

The Mercantile Garden
232 E. Main
325-387-9000



The Mercantile Garden

232 E. Main
325-387-9000

Bridal Selections Available for

Mandy Brister	♥	Cody Knott
Ashley Brockman	♥	Jeff Sanders
McKenzie Watkins	♥	Embre Smith

Sonora Service Directory

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Big C Automotive 501 S. Crockett Sonora, Texas 76950 325-387-5167	Mata Fence and Dozer Services, LLC Specializing In All Types Fencing, Welding, Landscaping, Dozer & Auger Services Sam Mata Adrian Mata Office: 325-387-5913 Cell: 325-226-2899
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Charles Howard Construction, Inc.  Oilfield Contractor Asphalt & Concrete Construction email: chowardconst@sonoratax.net phone: (325) 387-3093 fax: (325) 387-5543 mobile: (325) 206-0497	Order Your T-Shirts Today! Call Ben @ 325-387-2507
Judy Edwards Licensed Massage Therapist The Cutting Edge 1001 St. Anns St. 325-234-5554	Tom Davidson Attorney at Law Specializing in Criminal Law Free Advice & Referrals 325-632-2000
Wack Shack Catering 325-226-364 Custom Made BBQ Pits	

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Bridal Selections

McKenzie Watkins ~ Embre Smith
Mandy Brister ~ Cody Knott

Senior Class Gift Certificates

Fredericksburg Farms All Natural Mixes, Dips, Breads, Rubs, Seasoning, and Soy Candles.

F.Y.I.

The Eighth Annual Help Your Fellow Man Golf Tournament, sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Sonora, will be held at the Sonora Golf Club on Saturday, May 7, 2011, beginning at 1:00 PM. All proceeds go to the Sonora Ministerial Alliance Benevolence Fund. For more information call the First Baptist Church at (325) 387-2951 or the Sonora Golf Club at (325) 387-3680.

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.

Expenses Paid to Teacher's Workshop: Teachers' workshop studies in Conservation of Natural Resources June 7-9, 2011. 16 hours of professional continuing education units at a retreat at the Franklin Family Ranch near Blanco, Texas. The Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District will pay expenses (meals, lodging, and workshop materials) for two local teachers, but you must provide your own transportation. Call Iris or Tom at 387-2730 immediately to register or for more information.

Sutton County Friends of NRA Pre-event raffle is underway! Tickets are \$10 each with one winner taking home five firearms and a 14 gun fire resistant safe. Tickets may be purchased at Buck N Bass/Sonora Air Cooled Engines, by contacting Tonya @ 387-3861 or 206-0454 or by contacting any committee member. The winning ticket will be drawn during our 4th Annual Auction/Banquet, Saturday, September 17, 2011. Your support is appreciated!

LIONS CAMP AT KERRVILLE FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED is available on a first come basis and is free. This one week camp is for Diabetics children on insulin, Physically disabled children and Down Syndrome children. For additional information contact Col. Pete Bradley 325.387.6282 or go to Lions camp.com

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.

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.

Under New Management!

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- *Storage
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Frontier/Dunes Mini Storages

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Look for the white and blue storage buildings

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Electricity Included

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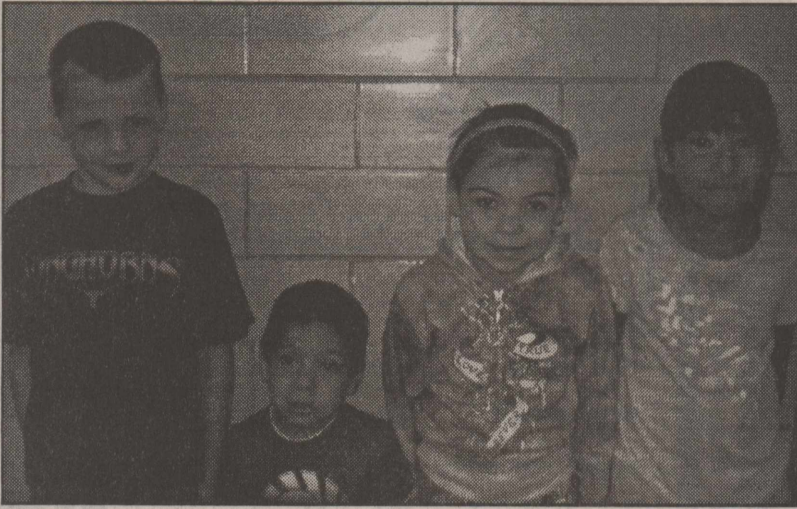
Member FDIC
P.O. Box 798
Sonora, Texas 76950
325-387-3861



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

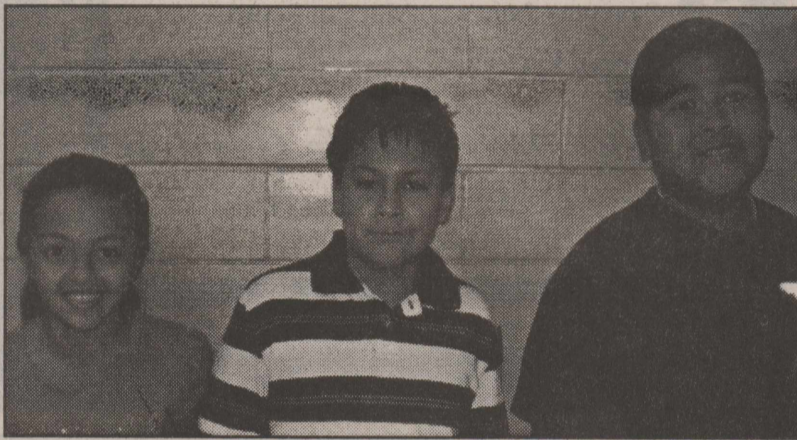
Students of the Week

Elementary



L to R: Kameryn O'Brien, Jorge Leija, Makinna Price, and Mariana Montoya

Intermediate



L to R: Danica Jimenez, Mark Chavez, and Alex Castilleja

Middle School



L to R: Bryan Garcia, Dionne Hinojosa, Katherine Bean

MARTY ACTON MEMORIAL

4th Annual Ranch Rodeo & Dance
 SC Rodeo Arena, Eldorado, TX
May 14, 2011 @ 6:00 PM

Events
 Double Mugging, Doctoring,
 Goat Event, Wild Cow Milking

Taking first 20 teams paid
4 Man Teams/\$500 Entry Fee

Competing for: Buckles/Money/Tack

Sponsor: Schleicher County Rodeo Assoc.
 FMI: Jim Sullivan 325.650.1604
 Doug Ward 325.853.2339
 Stanley Spinks 325.450.5558

\$10.00 Admission to Rodeo & Dance

Proceeds to Fund
 Marty Acton Memorial Scholarship

Dance to Music
 By "277 South"

All men who have achieved great things have been great dreamers.

Orison Swett Marden

Sir Figalot Wins Again!

BEXAR COUNTY - Ricky Taylor, after using Thera-Gesic® on his sore shoulder due to a tip from local resident Tom W., was able to win his 4th Fig Eating Contest in a row. He ate 3.9 lbs. of figs in 10 minutes to secure the Blue Ribbon and retain his title of "Sir Figalot."



Go Painlessly.
BUY, SAVE, WIN
 with **THERA-GESIC®**



NOTICE OF A BOND ELECTION

1. TAKE NOTICE THAT a bond election shall be held between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on May 14, 2011 in the Sonora Independent School District (the "District") at the following designated polling place:

Sonora ISD Administration Office
 807 S Concho Avenue
 Sonora Texas 76950

The District shall constitute a single election precinct for the election, and the following election officers are hereby appointed to hold the election:

Presiding Judge: Valree Draper
 Alternate Presiding Judge: Mary Sue Perez

2. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two qualified election clerks to serve and assist in conducting the election; provided that if the Presiding Judge actually serves as expected, the Alternate Presiding Judge shall be one of such clerks.

3. Early voting shall be conducted by personal appearance and by mail at:

Sonora ISD Administration Office
 807 S Concho Avenue
 Sonora Texas 76950

and during the period early voting is required or permitted by law, being May 2, 2011 through May 10, 2011, the hours designated for early voting by personal appearance shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on each day except Saturdays, Sundays and legal state holidays; and the early voting clerk shall keep the early voting place open during such hours for early voting by personal appearance.

4. An early ballot board is hereby created to process early voting results, and Valree Draper is hereby appointed as the presiding judge of said board. The presiding judge shall appoint at least two other members of the board.

5. All resident, qualified electors of the District shall be entitled to vote at the election. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is May 6, 2011 and requests must be received by that date.

6. At the election the following PROPOSITION shall be submitted in accordance with law:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Trustees of Sonora Independent School District be authorized to issue the bonds of the District, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of \$5,000,000, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing renovating and equipping school facilities and acquiring school buses; with the bonds to mature, bear interest, and be issued and sold in accordance with law at the time of issuance; and shall the Board of Trustees be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes, on all taxable property in the District, sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds?

7. The official ballots for the election shall be prepared in accordance with the Texas Election Code (the "Code") so as to permit the electors to vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the aforesaid PROPOSITION with the ballots to contain such provisions, markings and language as required by law, and with such PROPOSITION to be expressed substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION

FOR _____) THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,000,000 OF BONDS FOR SONORA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING AND RENOVATING AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL FACILITIES AND ACQUIRING SCHOOL BUSES, AND LEVYING THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF.

AGAINST _____)

8. In all respects, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the Code. Pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act ("HAVA") and the Code, at each polling place there shall be at least one voting system that is equipped for disabled individuals, and each such voting system shall be a system that has been certified by the Texas Secretary of State as compliant with HAVA and the Code.

Lions Roar



After a great chopped sirloin meal and wonderful fellowship the Lions by acclamation voted to provide a financial donation to the Sonora Relay for Life Committee. We had three interesting speakers this past week. Sutton County Queen Rose Karnes shared her joy as a member of Sonora's Championship One Act Play, which is headed for the Texas State Championship on May 10. How proud we should be of these 23 students and mentors who represent our City and SISD with such distinction. Great job kids, parents, and teachers!

Lion Don Gibson spoke on the SISD bond election. This bond is required to upgrade curriculum, facilities, science labs and technology. SONORA independent School District drafted 22 citizens of this County to study the needs of our school system. After the study they made recommendations for needed improvement to all campuses. They recommended funding the improvements with a bond offering. SISD administrators then made recommendations to our SISD Board of Trustees who approved the bond election. The bottom line requires us to keep our children's educational system on the cutting edge of educational excellence. This successful bond issue will not only enable us to accomplish this goal but in the most cost effective manner. Bond dollars are not subject to revenue sharing (robin hood, redistribution of Sonora wealth).

Tonya Brown, spokesperson for the Friends of National Rifle Association (NRA), was our invited guest to share the goals and activity of the NRA here in our county. This extraordinary group of individuals and businesses are dedicated to furthering the future of shooting sports in America. Friends of NRA are vital to the existence of worthwhile projects funded by The NRA Foundation, including preservation of 2nd Amendment Rights, youth education, firearms training and safety, conservation and range development.

Friends of NRA will host a Gala Dinner and raffle/auction @ Sutton County Civic Center on September 17, 2011. Tickets are available from Tonya Brown 325.387.3861 or Buck N Bass in Sonora 325.387.3400, in Eldorado - Dr. Rico For. 325.853.3331 or in Ozona @ Gregory Guns & Gear 325.392.3355.

Upcoming events:

- May 2 School Bond early voting @District Annex
- May 2-3 Regional Track Odessa (31 Sonora Men & Women Student Athletics Qualified)
- May 6 Sonora Baseball Playoffs
- May 10 One Act Play @ Austin for State Competition
- May 21 - Relay for Life
- May 27- Graduation and Project Graduation
- May 28 - Football 7 on 7 Bronco Stadium
- June 22-23 - National Wool Show @ Civic Center
- June 24-25 - Rodeo & Sutton County Days
- GO BRONCOS ---SHOP SONORA!

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AVISO DE ELECCIÓN DE BONOS

1. TOME CONOCIMIENTO de que el 14 de mayo de 2011 se celebrará una elección de bonos en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sonora (el "Distrito"), entre las 7:00 a.m. y las 7:00 p.m., en los siguientes centros de votación designados:

Sonora ISD Administration Office
 807 S Concho Avenue
 Sonora Texas 76950

El Distrito constituirá un único precinto electoral para la elección, y por el presente se designa a los siguientes oficiales electorales para que celebren la elección:

Juez Presidente: Valree Draper
 Juez Presidente Suplente: Mary Sue Perez

2. La Juez Presidente designará a no menos de dos secretarios electorales calificados para que presten servicios y asistan en la administración de la elección siempre que si la Juez Presidente llega realmente a desempeñarse como es esperado, la Juez Presidente Suplente será uno de dichos secretarios.

3. La votación adelantada debe llevarse a cabo personalmente y por correo en:

Sonora ISD Administration Office
 807 S Concho Avenue
 Sonora Texas 76950

y durante el periodo de votación adelantada requerido o permitido por la ley, que se extiende desde el 2 de mayo de 2011 hasta el 10 de mayo de 2011, el horario designado para la votación adelantada en persona será de 8:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m., cada día excepto los sábados, domingos y feriados legales del estado; y los secretarios de votación adelantada mantendrán el sitio de votación adelantada abierto durante dicho horario para la votación adelantada en persona.

4. Por el presente documento se crea una junta de votación adelantada para procesar los resultados de la votación adelantada, y se designa a Valree Draper como juez presidente de dicha junta. La juez presidente designará al menos a otros dos miembros de la junta.

5. Todos los electores habilitados que residan en el Distrito tendrán derecho a votar en la elección. El último día para solicitar una boleta por correo es el 6 de mayo de 2011 y los pedidos deben recibirse para esa fecha.

6. En dicha elección se someterá la siguiente PROPOSICIÓN de acuerdo con la ley:

PROPOSICIÓN

¿Se autorizará a la Junta de Regentes del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sonora a emitir bonos del Distrito, en una o más series, por un importe total de capital de \$5,000,000 para la adquisición, construcción, renovación y equipamiento de instalaciones escolares y la compra de buses escolares, y dichos bonos devengarán interés a su vencimiento, y se emitirán y venderán de acuerdo con la ley vigente al momento de la emisión; y se autorizará a la Junta de Regentes a imponer y preñar, y a hacer que se evalúen y recauden, impuestos ad valorem anuales sobre todas las propiedades gravables en el Distrito, sin límites en cuanto a la tasa o el importe, suficientes para pagar el capital y el interés sobre los bonos y el costo de todo arreglo crediticio ejecutado en relación con los bonos?

7. Las boletas oficiales para la elección se prepararán de acuerdo con el Código Electoral de Texas (el "Código") a fin de permitir que los electores voten "A FAVOR" o "EN CONTRA" de la PROPOSICIÓN anteriormente mencionada, y las boletas contendrán dichas disposiciones, marcas y lenguaje exigidos por la ley, y dicha PROPOSICIÓN deberá expresarse sustancialmente como sigue:

PROPOSICIÓN

A FAVOR _____) LA EMISIÓN DE BONOS POR EL IMPORTE DE \$5,000,000 PARA EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE SONORA PARA LA ADQUISICIÓN, CONSTRUCCIÓN, RENOVACIÓN Y EQUIPAMIENTO DE INSTALACIONES ESCOLARES Y LA COMPRA DE BUSES ESCOLARES, Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE IMPUESTOS PARA EL PAGO DE DICHOS BONOS.

EN CONTRA _____)

8. En todos los aspectos, la elección se administrará de acuerdo con el Código. De acuerdo con la Ley Ayuda a América a Votar ("HAVA", por sus siglas en inglés) federal y el Código, en cada sitio de votación deberá haber por lo menos un sistema de votación dotado para personas discapacitadas, y cada uno de dichos sistemas de votación deberá haber sido certificado por el Secretario de Estado de Texas como un sistema que cumple con la ley HAVA y el Código.

Oil & Agribusiness

Rangeland Water Conference Slated For May 17 in Sonora

By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent



The Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices in Sutton, Schleicher and Crockett counties will conduct the West Texas Water Conference from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. May 17 in Sutton County's Civic Center. Though La Niña conditions weakened in mid-April (according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), its recent tight grip is responsible for the ongoing drought, which raises concerns ranging from grazing losses to wildfire danger. To that effect, this year's "Ranchers' RoundUp" will have as its theme the "West Texas Water Conference".

The program will cover a wide variety of water-related topics in response to the ongoing drought. The aim is to provide land managers with strategies so they can more easily implement their management plans during this trying time. Information will include a drought outlook as well as address stocking concerns, range nutrition changes and recovery once the drought finally breaks. Other topics will include a discussion of how drought impacts water rights and cloud seeding.

The drought outlook, weather modification and water rights talks should be of interest to everybody, no matter what their level of ranching experience is. However, new landowners should also have many questions answered that relate to remote watering systems and maintaining water quality.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for those with a pesticide applicator license. Individual registration is \$20 by May 13 and \$25 thereafter. The fee includes a catered lunch. For more information or to RSVP, call the AgriLife Extension office in Sutton County at 325-387-3101.

Volunteers Vital for Wildlife, Parks, Outdoor Education

AUSTIN – April is National Volunteer Month, and folks who love state parks, hunting and fishing in Texas have plenty to celebrate. In 2010, volunteers provided close to 955,000 hours of service worth an estimated \$16.9 million to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Texas State Parks and Historic Sites alone receive volunteer service worth approximately 290 FTEs annually, saving TPWD's State Parks Division almost \$10 million per year in avoided costs for administrative, maintenance, interpretive, and park host duties throughout the state.

But volunteers are also vital for wildlife management areas and state fish hatcheries. And TPWD has entire education programs that are built upon and could not function without large and well-trained corps of statewide volunteers, including hunter, boater and angler education and archery instruction.

Volunteers support TPWD's traveling Life's Better Outside Experience at partner events. They also make possible programs like Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Nature Trackers, the Texas Youth Hunting Program, Coastal Expos, and more.

Links to volunteer opportunities are on TPWD's Get Involved web page.

Game Wardens Say Safe Boating's All About Education

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens working with other law enforcement agencies will be concentrating their efforts on enforcing boating while intoxicated (BWI) laws this summer, but they'd just as soon see boaters go to school than jail.

"In real estate the old saying is 'Location, Location, Location,'" said Asst. Chief Jeffery Parrish, TPWD's boating law administrator. "In safe boating the saying should be 'Education, Education, Education.'"

Unfortunately, he said, many boaters don't realize that BWI carries the same penalty as driving while intoxicated. When it comes to alcohol, the only difference between a boat and an automobile is that open alcoholic beverage containers on board a vessel are still legal in Texas.

"But that's where the difference stops," Parrish said. "All other Texas laws relating to alcohol and the operation of a vehicle or a boat are identical."

He said Texas law enforcement officers, prosecutors, educators, and various other agencies and organizations will be using news media events, personal contacts, posters, public service announcements, Facebook and other social media to get the safe boating message out this summer.

Last year game wardens arrested 316 persons in Texas for operating a boat under the influence of alcohol. TPWD also reported 10 boating-related water fatalities that were alcohol related.

Game wardens offer these tips to avoid a ride from the lake to jail this summer:

- Always have a designated driver.
- Minimize your consumption of alcohol.
- Take a boater education course.
- File a float plan – let folks where you will be and what time you expect to be home.
- Wear your personal flotation device (PFD).
- If you observe an intoxicated boat or water craft operator, notify your local law enforcement agency.

"The last thing an officer wants to do is spend an entire afternoon taking someone to the county jail for BWI," Parrish said. "Booking someone takes them away from the place where their time and resources can best be utilized, which is out on the water helping people. But if they find someone who's boating while intoxicated, they will be going to jail."

Boater education covers legal requirements for boating, safe handling and practical tips such as reading weather signs. Boating courses are available three ways: online, a home study course or in-person courses taught by certified volunteer instructors, game wardens, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and US Power Squadron. Find course information at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education/.

WILDFIRES LEAVE MORE THAN ASHES BEHIND

AMARILLO – Across the state of Texas, it's the same story over and over – the grass is gone, destroyed by fire, hay is short and soil moisture is almost non-existent.

Some tough decisions lie ahead for ranchers caught in the wake of the recent fast-moving wildfires, a Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialist said.

"Something that is important, after they get through the emotional part of this, is looking at the long-term," said Dr. Ted McCollum, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist. "With current conditions, if we don't get significant rain in the next several weeks, those rangelands that burned aren't going to be able to carry many cattle, if any, until next fall. And then, grazing will be limited."

Ranchers planning to feed cattle after the fires need to consider that, because of the drought in other parts of the state, hay supplies are going to be short, McCollum said. Hay will probably have to come from some other region.

Ranchers opting to continue feeding their animals have several options, he said.

Low-quality hay, or another roughage source such as cotton burs, can be supplemented with concentrated nutrients to balance out what the cattle need, McCollum said.

The other option may be to get away from the traditional thinking of feeding hay and feed a more concentrated diet, he said. Less total pounds of feed would be required, but this option may present some problems with handling and delivering of feed.

The other option that some might have to look at is selling the cattle, he said.

"Look at de-stocking partially or fully," McCollum said. "The net loss or net gain of selling out now and buying back later may be relatively the same as trying to figure out how to feed those cows for several months."

"Immediate selling may be a necessary move for cattle that have been injured by the fire. Any cattle that have suffered heating of the feet, blistering of the udder, excessive smoke inhalation and other insults should be marketed before the injuries progress to the point that the cattle are unmerchantable."

The potential for pasture recovery is another factor to consider when keeping cattle.

The timing and the rate at which the fires moved may mean the damage to the plant community might not be as bad as some think it is, he said, but the problem is soil moisture. The recovery of those areas is going to be slow.

"If we get any rainfall in the next month or so, the recovery may be better than people think it is," McCollum said. "The key factor – can we get any timely rainfall?"

But regardless of whether the rain comes, the carrying capacity is going to be lower than normal. Ranchers may face stocking at less than half of the normal rates, he said.

The primary grasses need to accumulate some forage and have adequate soil moisture to continue growth before any grazing should be considered, McCollum said. Without moisture, it may be next fall, after forage goes dormant, before any animals can be put on the pasture.

Buying hay or finding pasture now is a temporary stop-gap management measure, he said. Without rain, purchasing hay and feed is simply delaying some decisions.

"I know it is hard to do, but they need to be thinking about contingencies one, three and six months down the road," McCollum said.

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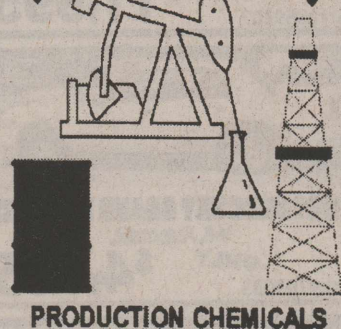
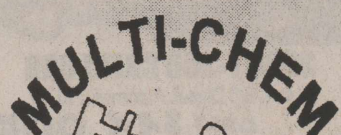


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6500' Eog Resources University 40-14 #4 H Cactus Drilling #102 1/13/11 9 O/G Hor Od

9000' Approach Operating West #2315 Nabors Drilling #709 1/10/11 12 O/G Ver Od

9000' Approach Operating Cinco Terry -M- #901 H Nabors Drilling #714 1/3/11 19 O/G Hor Od

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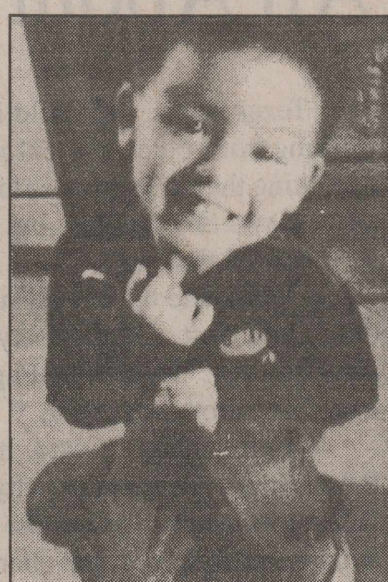
Mariana Noemi De la Fuente

Dianika Noveah Mendez

Ladainian Saiz

Sicily Alessandra Gutierrez

Ryan Nathaniel Mendez



Parent's:
Patty Covarrubiaz

Favorite Food:
Chinese

Favorite Toy:
Ben 10

Interests:
Singing dancing,
playing with older sisters

Parent's:
Noe Andres and
Gladys De la Fuente

Favorite Food:
Spaghetti and Pizza

Favorite Toy:
Bike and Baby Doll

Interests:
TV

Parent's:
Ruben Mendez and
Michelle Hernandez

Favorite Food:
Grandma's Menudo and
Chicken

Favorite Toy:
Doll

Interests:
Ballet, Tap,
Playing with Brother

Parent's:
Delilah Alvizo and
Manuel Saiz

Favorite Food:
Macaroni and Cheese

Favorite Toy:
Football and
18 Wheeler Trucks

Interests:
Playing ball and hanging
out with cousins and
feeding the horses

Parent's:
Juan and Marisol
Gutierrez

Favorite Food:
Caldo, Pepperoni Pizza
with cheese in the crust

Favorite Toy:
Woody, Buzz and Jesse

Interests:
Driving my mustang,
Reading and being in
pageants

Parent's:
Ruben Mendez and
Michelle Hernandez

Favorite Food:
Chicken and
Hamburger

Favorite Toy:
cars

Interests:
Jumping on the trampoline
and roping with Papaw

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Appraisal Notices for Tax Year 2011 Are in the Mail to Area Property Owners

If your property value has increased in the last year, you should soon receive a notice of your 2011 appraised value from the Sutton County Appraisal District. The appraisal district mailed notices on April 29, 2011. Your city, county, school district and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set your 2011 property taxes.

State law requires county appraisal districts to notify property owners about changes in their property's value. The notice also contains important information about the property's location, its ownership and property tax exemptions that have been applied to the property. It must include an estimate of 2011 taxes by local taxing units.

Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the Sutton County Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property owner protests. The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and the Comptroller's Property Taxpayer Remedies. The deadline for filing a protest with the ARB is June 1 or 30 days after the appraisal district mailed you a notice of appraised value, whichever is later.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' publication, Property Taxpayer Remedies, explains in detail how to protest your property appraisal, what issues the ARB can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option of taking your case to court or entering into binding arbitration if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your ARB hearing.

Property Taxpayer Remedies is available from the Sutton County Appraisal District at 300 E. Oak St. Ste. 2, Sonora, Texas 76950. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121, ext. 2.

Salinas Named NRCS Texas State Conservationist

TEMPLE, TEXAS – April 25, 2011 – Salvador Salinas has been selected as Texas' State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) effective April 24, 2011.

He will be responsible for NRCS operations in Texas which includes 764 employees and 217 field offices throughout the state. NRCS is a federal agency that works with private landowners on conservation practices to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources.

"I am extremely honored to be selected as the state conservationist. We face challenging times ahead, and together we will continue to work hard to serve our customers with technical expertise on the land," Salinas said.

Salinas was serving as Texas' acting state conservationist. He succeeds Donald W. Gohmert who retired from NRCS in 2010 after serving 3 1/2 years as state conservationist. Salinas also has served as Acting State Conservationist in Florida and Michigan, Assistant State Conservationist in Massachusetts and Texas, and Deputy State Conservationist in Texas.

He also has served on a two-year international assignment in Cuernavaca, Mexico, along with many details to NRCS national headquarters in Washington, D.C. He is currently serving in an advisory capacity to the National Grazing Lands Coalition.

Salvador, a native of Rio Grande City, Texas, started his career as a range conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, now NRCS, in 1978. He received his bachelor's of science degree in range science from Texas A&M University in 1977.

Salinas is Texas' 12th NRCS State Conservationist.

April Business Landscape of the Month



L to R: Oscar Galindo, Elaine Donaldson, David Fisher & Victor Coronado

The First National Bank of Sonora was selected as Business Landscape of the Month for April by the Sonora Chamber of Commerce. The First National Bank continually keeps its landscape beautiful year around. Thank you and Congratulations!

Finding The Right Mother's Day Gift

(StatePoint) No two moms are alike. Whatever her interests, finding a gift that fits mom just right shows you've put thought into it, rather than simply choosing something off the shelf.

This Mother's Day, why not thank Mom for everything she does, with a gift that celebrates her one-of-a-kind personality?

"Most moms don't pamper themselves a lot, so customizing a gift that speaks to her hobbies and personal style will feel like a real indulgence," says Amy Myers, vice president of creative services for Things Remembered.

Here are some ideas to help you find the perfect gift:
 * Mom that Needs Me Time: When Mom needs to recharge her batteries between play dates and grocery trips, she'll appreciate a gift that helps her unwind. A gift certificate to her favorite place to relax -- a spa, coffee shop or even a bookstore -- can be just what she wanted. Or you can hire a cleaning service and babysitter for the day.

* Techie Mom: Maybe she has her own blog, or she's always first in line to buy the latest tech gadget. If so, look for techie gifts with a personal touch. Nameplates are now available on

everything from iPad cases to laptops. And by adding a simple engraving, like "Chief Executive Mother," you can make the gift more meaningful.

Alternatively, you can look for portable gifts that make her life easier. For example, Things Remembered offers a USB photo keychain that lets Mom keep her loved ones -- and her work -- with her at all times.

* Matriarch Moms: Proud moms and grandmas love to brag about their families. Between smart phones and computers, photo sharing has never been easier. Grandmothers, however, are often left out in this digital age. Consider researching the family genealogy online and create a family tree. Or you can give a traditional gift a twist by engraving a personalized message on a picture frame or photo album. Some retailers even offer multiple birthstone jewelry as a way to cherish each child.

* On-The-Go Mom: After having kids, it seems like there are never enough hours in the day. For the mom who makes the most out of every second, opt for a practical and portable gift. Tote bags make a stylish gift and are great for pool days or shopping trips, especially when monogrammed with her initials.

Or, to help mom freshen up on the way to her next event, consider getting her a perfume atomizer and matching compact. When engraved with a special message, her one-minute makeover will remind her how beautiful and loved she is.

For more personalized gift ideas, visit www.ThingsRemembered.com.

With a little thought and foresight, you can get your mother a gift she'll treasure for years.

HIP IMPLANT RECALL

Johnson & Johnson has recalled the DePuy ASR XL Acetabular hip socket implant system due to an unacceptably high failure rate. One in eight patients experience symptoms like infection, bone fracture, dislocation and pain. Other complications include increased metal ion levels in the blood, bone staining, necro-

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Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or appraised value of your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review
 (Insert description of appraisal district's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

Review by the Appraisal Review Board
 If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. The CAD might ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The law provides that before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your agent and the CAD shall each provide the other with a copy of any written material intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests where the owner has submitted an independent appraisal before the hearing, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at:

(Insert address.)
300 EAST OAK STREET, SUITE 2
SONORA, TEXAS 76950

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court or an Arbitrator or SOAH
 After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. In certain cases, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may file, not later than the 45th day after you receive notice of the ARB order, a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district. In certain cases originating in certain counties, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). An appeal to SOAH is initiated by, not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order, filing with the chief appraiser of the county appraisal district a notice of appeal with the applicable filing fee.

Tax Payment
 You must pay either the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information
 You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at (Insert appraisal district name, address, telephone number.)
SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
300 EAST OAK STREET, SUITE 2
SONORA, TEXAS 76950 (325) 387-2809

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline
 On or before May 31 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the ARB approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadlines
 For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

Are you eligible for tax relief?

Pick up a free copy of our pamphlet

Property Taxpayer Remedies

Learn about property tax remedies available in the following:

- How to protest property value
- What can be protested
- What is an ARB
- When are protests filed

- You'll learn steps to take to prepare for a protest hearing so you can decide if the appraisal district's value is reasonable. And if you decide it isn't, **Property Taxpayer Remedies** will tell you how to prepare an appeal to the appraisal review board.
- You'll learn the kinds of protests the appraisal review board can hear—and what kind of evidence you need to bring to your hearing.
- Key dates are listed, so you'll know what you must do and when you're required to act.

Property Taxpayer Remedies is free.
 A Spanish language version is also available.

Ask for yours today at:

SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
300 EAST OAK STREET, SUITE 2
SONORA, TEXAS 76950
(325) 387-2809

or e-mail: ptad.cpa@cpa.state.tx.us

or write to:
 Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
 Property Tax Assistance Division
 P.O. Box 13528
 Austin, Texas 78711-3528

or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 2

or on the Web at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

Are Kindness, Honor, and Respect Endangered Species?

An Editorial

By Ben D. Taylor

Over the course of my lifetime I have seen our world shrink. It has not decreased in size, but in distance. As a child raised in a world without cell phones, internet, or email, I had a sense of wonder in me about the wider world. As a young adult my wonder increased as the development of the internet showed me that world. Computer screens became the window to the soul of humanity, for both the beautiful and the grotesque, and all of us started to become tuned in to a worldwide community. At first we were simply observers, but it wasn't long before email made us direct participants in this new world.

We began interacting with each other on a level never seen before in the history of humanity. Our world became smaller as the days of handwritten letters were replaced by instant typeset messages. True sentiment was replaced by immediate contact, and we blazed forward with text mes-

saging. Gone are the days of party lines, and even the use of human voice to pass messages. Text messages allow all of us the ability of communication without the hassle of true connection. It is here that each of us started to become detached from kindness, because real kindness cannot be read. It must be heard and felt. The inflections of love, sorrow, and regret are only truly passed on with the subtle tones of the human voice. How many text conversations have each of us been a party of where things were taken in the wrong context? In those situations the best you can hope for is hurt feelings, and the worst is a misunderstanding of intent. This kind of communication set us all free. We are now free to tell people things without the burden of accountability that kindness used to require from all of us. How much easier is it to text or email someone unkind words or bad news, than to do

it in person? The next step we made into this new world gave us constant contact with each other. Before social interaction websites like Facebook and Myspace, we only visited this world but now these websites allow each of us to build a home in this new frontier. We decorate our houses with pictures and videos. We tend our garden of friends by posting messages of what we are doing and how we feel. We have created digital cities of homes, businesses, and art. These cities have hundreds of millions of occupants, but no neighbors. Unlike the neighborhoods of brick and wood, our digital homes are free to do whatever we want without the accountability of honor. We can say hateful things without ever having to look our neighbors in the eye.

Everything with creation happens in sequence. Over the first seven days in which God created our existence, He started with light, then the heavens and the earth, and finally life. The thing about creation is that every time you make something, you create its opposite. God created light, but its absence became known as darkness. When He made the heavens the absence of heaven became Hell, and with His creation of life came death. The new world we have created is no different. We created the

internet, and gave up true interaction. With our insatiable hunger for instant communication we created email and text messaging, and we sold kindness to pay for it. We took ownership of this creation and built our homes of unaccountability on the ruins of honor.

I am not separated from this creation. As a child I looked with wonder through this digital window of humanity's making and boldly stepped through the threshold. Nor am I claiming that email, text messaging, and facebook are evil as I use all of them. Just as the human beings that created them, they can at times be both kind and cruel. It's how we choose to interact in this world that defines its purpose.

This world we created is still young, and as with the young it can say hateful things out of ignorance. I suppose my current conflict comes with the fact that while I grew up with this young world; I am no longer a child. This new world is still a child, and each of us that live in it must learn to respect each other. I fear though that while our world has become smaller the people in it have become smaller as a consequence. Please remember to respect kindness and honor before you press 'send'.

School Board: Continued From Front Page

in extracurricular activities show higher performance in the classroom. They are typically more responsible, disciplined, goal oriented, well rounded, psychologically and socially adjusted children. These experiences arm our children with the skills required for success after graduation; skills that cannot be learned in the classroom. The mission of Sonora Independent School District is to provide an education which best meets the needs of each individual student, assuring each the opportunity to be a responsible and productive citizen in the 21st century. Both extracurricular and academic experiences are necessary for us to achieve this goal.

The priority should not be framed in terms of "athletics or academics"; rather, the priority should be our children. I understand that without looking at the picture as a whole, there may be some misconceptions. I would ask that before you jump to conclusions or make assumptions, you take a moment to visit with our Superintendent Don Gibson, or speak to a board member. We are happy to meet with you and answer any questions. Sonora has a wonderful school—one that we should be proud of, one that we should build up, and one that we should promote.

Last fall the school board developed a committee consisting of 22 community members to evaluate the district's financial situation and to consider the merits of a possible bond issue. They met numerous times with Mr. Gibson and financial representatives of the school. The committee spent hours of volunteer time touring school facilities and discussing future needs necessary to maintain and enhance the educational experience for our students. They were charged with determining and prioritizing the districts needs and to ascertain whether or not a bond issue would be a viable option to maximize the district's funding. The committee consisted of members with a wide range of views and opinions; however, almost all of the members concluded and recommended to the board to pursue a bond election, especially considering and understanding the concepts of recapture and what it means to be a Chapter 41 school district. For example, our current recapture rate is 36%. (In recent years it has been as high as 48%.) This means that for every tax dollar collected, 36 cents of it goes to the State of Texas leaving our district 64 cents. Bond issue funds are not subject to recapture and, therefore, would result in the district retaining more local tax dollars. Additionally and, more importantly, our existing tax rates (1.04 M&O and .08 I&S) would remain the same, even if property values declined to the \$500 million level from the \$1.1 billion level where we stand today. Of note, a comparison of tax rates shows Sonora's current rate to be lower than 70% of the schools in our region. The committee evaluated our financial situation as well as the multi-billion dollar budget shortfall facing the state of Texas and determined a bond issue to be in the best interest of our students and the taxpayers. It would be the most efficient means to maximize funding necessary to properly educate our children. The board and I commended the committee for their diligent work and sincere efforts and we accepted their recommendation to pursue the bond election.

During the April 11th regular school board meeting, the board appointed a Bond Oversight Committee to ensure money is spent only on the items presented as part of the bond, should it be successful. Subject to their acceptance, the committee will consist of Rex Ann Friess, Diane Jacoby, Brady Johnson, Gary Leonard, Gloria Lopez Bob Malone, and Shelly Shannon.

The school board is not asking for a bond election because we built a field house. All schools across the state are facing financial crisis. Our student population has decreased, while at the same time our tax values have fallen. This unfortunate scenario results in a significant decrease to the tax dollars we are entitled to keep and an increase to tax dollars we are required to pay back to the state. In addition, it appears the funding we typically receive from the state will be reduced in the coming year as well.

While we made significant cuts before adopting our budget last year, without cutting teaching positions, it is difficult to make much of an impact. Last year, we all but eliminated technology and transportation from the budget along with a 10% cut in all budgets across the board. Our maintenance/operating expenses stay relatively the same, whether we have 1000 students or 900. We are still making cuts, trying to absorb as many positions as we can without affecting education while at the same time maintaining highly qualified (certified to teach the subject taught) teachers in all areas. Without the bond, we will be forced to continue with a bare minimum (if any) budget for transportation and technology, and our student to teacher ratio will have to substantially increase. A vote in favor of the bond is one way to help maintain the standard our children deserve. A vote in favor of the bond will be keeping our children the priority.

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Jesus Garcia, Jr.	Jorge Pena
Ryan Garmon	Ashley Perez
Jorge Gaytan, Jr.	Marilee Reyna
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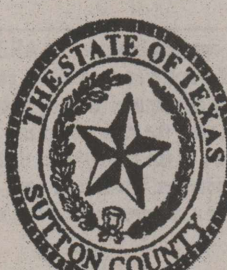
The State of Texas
 To all persons interest in the Estate of

JUAN G. MENDEZ, Deceased,
 Cause No. 1375,
 in County Court, Sutton County, Texas.

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an application to Determine Heirship in this estate on 25th day of April, 2011, A.D., requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of JUAN G MENDEZ, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

This Application may acted on by this Court at any call of the docket on or after 10 o'clock A.M., on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Sutton County, Texas on or before the above-noted date and time.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Sonora Texas, this the 2nd day of May, 2011, A.D.



Rachel Chavez Duran
 Clerk of the County Court,
 300 E. Oak, Ste 3
 Sonora, Sutton County, Texas 76950

By Paul Thompson
 Deputy

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.

The Devil's River News Classified Ads

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Employment

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Sutton County is now accepting applications for a seasonal part-time position for the Road & Bridge. Part-time student positions for the following: maintenance for the Cemetery (1), Park (1), Courthouse/Annex (2), and Road & Bridge Departments (3).

Applications for the positions mentioned above may be obtained at the Auditor's office and must be returned by May 13, 2011.

Applicants applying for Library positions; **must obtain and return** application to the Library.

Sutton County is an equal opportunity employer.

Immediate Position Available: I-10 Exxon is looking for candidates to join our winning team. The following position is available: Sales Associates, FT. We offer a great benefits package including paid vacation, 401K, and health insurance. Starting pay is \$8.00 per hour. Apply at I-10 Exxon, 1009 N. Water St., Sonora, TX. A drug-free work place. EOE

Employment

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The City of Sonora is now accepting applications for the City Secretary position. A Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from four-year college or university; or one to two years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience is required. The City Secretary keeps official city governmental records and executes administrative policies. An application and complete list of job responsibilities and requirements may be picked up at City Hall, 201 E. Main St., Sonora, Texas 76950. The City of Sonora is an equal opportunity employer.

Misc.

Second Hand Rose, 11 W. Louis Please make a note of New phone number 325-226-2729

Second Hand Rose Mini-mall/ Flea Market (furniture store off Hwy. 277) Rooms for Rent \$100-\$150/month; Call Judy at 226-2729.

For Sale

For Sale: Pony - 8 year old gelding. \$650; rides w/o leading rope. Call 325-226-5540 FMI.

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: Eldorado- 3BR/2BA home on approx. 2 acres, .75 miles south of 190 East on Hwy 2596, CH/A, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, updated paint and flooring, fenced yard and pecan orchard on sprinkler system, 8x10 storage bldg., pen w/10x24 barn and 10x20 storage bldg. (w/ electric), 15x30 metal shop (w/ electric), carport, earthen tank, \$92,500. Shown by appointment only. 325-853-1400 or 325-277-7787.

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Daniel ~ 325-234-8776 • Wayne ~ 325-234-5173
Daniel Counts & Wayne Counts

Public Notices

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR FUEL FROM A DISPENSING CONTRATOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL FLEET

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Sonora will receive bids for fuel from a Dispensing Contractor for the Municipal Fleet that has a fuel security system operating within close vicinity of the city. Envelopes should be sealed and marked "FUEL BIDS" and shall be received in the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas 76950 no later than 2:00 p.m. May 16, 2011, at which time bids shall be opened publicly and read aloud. Bid specifications are available by calling the City Manager's office at (325) 387-2558. The City Council has the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual report of the Allison Educational Trust will be available at the address noted below, for inspection during regular business hours, by any citizen who so requests within 180 days after May 16, 2011.

Allison Educational Trust c/o The First National Bank
102 N. Main
Sonora, Texas 76950
The principal manager is:
Bob Malone, Trustee

PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual report of the John and Mildred Cauthorn Charitable Trust will be available at the address noted below, for inspection during regular business hours, by any citizen who so requests within 180 days after May 16, 2011.

John and Mildred Cauthorn Charitable Trust c/o Albert C. Elliott
213 East Main
Sonora, Texas 76950
The principal manager is:
Jo Ann Jones, Trustee

For Rent

Storage Room Available at Devils River Storage, 1312 N. Service Road, 12x40 w/electricity, \$150 month, 325-387-3516



Openings in Sonora Full and Part Time food service experienced team members. Background checks & drug screens will be administered. We pay above minimum wage & offer a pay raise upon ServSafe Certification. Apply online as a Team Member www.richesondq.com

COME JOIN A WINNING TEAM!
Now Hiring
Sales Associates
Food Service Associates
Full- and Part-Time
Great Pay & Benefits
Apply at your local Stripes or online at www.susser.com
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.
Drug-Free Workplace - EOE

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.

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Sonora is now accepting applications for Lifeguard for the summer season. Contingent on employment, Life Guard Training, First Aid Certification, and C.P.R. Certification is required. Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas, and should be returned to the City Secretary's Office. Questions should be directed to Juanita Gomez at (325) 387-2558 ext. 312 or (325) 226-2361. Applications will be received until the positions are filled. The City of Sonora is an equal opportunity employer.

Wanted: Experienced power line foreman. Must be able to supervise crew, as well as build power line. Must have valid driver's license and pass drug screen. Excellent pay and benefits. Mail resume to PO Box 444, Big Lake, TX 76932.

F/T and P/T Teller Positions
Excellent customer service and computer proficient skills. Cash handling experience a plus. Must be able to meet deadlines H. S. diploma. Flexible hours. Background and credit checks will be obtained on each applicant.

Apply in person at First Natl Bank, 102 E Main, Sonora, Tx Completed applications will be accepted until 5 PM on Friday, May 13, 2011.
EOE/AA

Building Materials

Steel Building Brute Strength - Big & Small Grain, Equipment, Utility - Storage Placement to site available www.marvelbrute.com Source#1B4 866-605-2007

Get wise to age-fighting.
Think fine lines should be quoted — not appear on your face? A simple and effective daily program with TimeWise® skin care can help reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. So skin looks firmer. And feels softer. Start looking younger now! Contact me to experience TimeWise® for yourself.
Wendy Shurley
Mary Kay
Independent Beauty Consultant
325-387-3172

Texas Department of Transportation

Job Title: Summer Engineering Tech
Location: Sonora Area Office
708 N. US 277
Sonora TX 76950

Closing Date: 5/11/11 at 5:00 p.m.
Salary: \$9.07 - \$14.25 per hour

Minimum Requirements: Must be at least 18 years old and have a valid drivers license. Must have been a high school student or full-time college student during the spring 2011 semester, and be accepted into an educational institution (high school or college) for the fall semester. Must pass drivers record check, physical, and drug test.

Duties: Assist with construction and maintenance contract inspection. Will drive a state vehicle (pick-up) as needed to perform these duties.

Applicants must submit a paper application found on our web site: <http://ttdot.gov/careers> For additional information or to request an accommodation in order to apply for the above job, please contact Human Resources at 4502 Knickerbocker Rd. San Angelo TX 76904 or call 325/944-1501.

An Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

Caruthers Realty
"The Best of the Best"
~SOLD~
600+ Acres, Large Live Oak, Heavy Mesquite, Seller To Pay Water Well Allowance, Abundant Deer and Turkey, Hwy frontage, some minerals, 14 miles E of Sonora, \$1395/Acre
~Commercial Property~
Large Price Reduction
277 and W. 2nd St.
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

COLDWELL BANKER

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
1167 S. Concho - 3 BR/2BA
312 Railroad St. - 3 BR/ 1.5 BA
1105 Tayloe - 2 BR/1 BA

NEW LISTING

207 11th - Ozona, Texas
3 BR/2BA - Beautifully updated indoors, this home is in the heart of historical Ozona. Restored original wood floors, ceramic tile, carpet, many amenities. This house is a MUST SEE! Priced to sell at \$135,000.

HANDLER

2011 One Act Play State Qualifier
Sonora High School



The cast and crew from "The Handler" include: Clayton Parks, Rose Karnes, Colyer Dermody, Zachary Leonard, Kash McGee, Marci Parks, Ryan Garmon, Christian Kenney, James Bean, Dallas Payne, Austin Hampton, Paige Sykes, Jasmine Daniels, Ana-Lesa Samaniego, Liz Chavarria, Becca Hudson, Sidney Dermody, Deatra Ortiz, Kelsey Velez, Ali Castro, Cody Snyder, Jaime Braly, and Taylor Hampton.

**3/24/11 Sonora
District Awards:**

- All Star Tech Award: Rebecca Hudson
- Overall Best Crew: Sonora High School
- Rebecca Hudson
- Ali Castro
- Sidney Dermody
- Deatra Ortiz
- Kelsey Velez
- Honorable Mention All Star Cast:
- Clayton Parks
- Kash McGee
- Best Actress: Rose Karnes
- Best Actor: Colyer Dermody

**4/7/11 Llano
Area Awards:**

- All Star Crew: Rebecca Hudson
- Honorable Mention All Star Cast:
- Clayton Parks
- Zachary Leonard
- All Star Cast: Rose Karnes
- Colyer Dermody

**4/15/11 Odessa
Regional Awards**

- Honorable Mention All Star Cast: Zachary Leonard
- Special Group Award to the Congregants
- Jasmine Daniels
- Liz Chavarria
- Ana-Lesa Samaniego
- Paige Sykes
- Dallas Payne
- Austin Hampton
- Christian Kenney
- James Bean
- All Star Cast: Rose Karnes

State Competition May 10th at UT Austin

Tax Rates Region 15

Region 15	M&O Rate	I&S Rate	TOTAL
1 Junction ISD	0.95		0.95
2 Bronte ISD	1.04		1.04
3 Eden ISD	1.04		1.04
4 Menard ISD	1.04		1.04
5 Novice ISD	1.04		1.04
6 Rochelle ISD	1.04		1.04
7 Rocksprings ISD	1.04		1.04
8 Winters ISD	1.04		1.04
9 Wall ISD	1.04	0.052	1.092
10 Blanket ISD	1.04	0.065	1.105
11 Lohn ISD	1.04	0.07	1.11
12 Santa Anna ISD	1.04	0.078	1.118
13 Sonora ISD	1.04	0.07969	1.11969
14 San Saba ISD	1.04	0.09	1.13
15 Schleicher County ISD	1.1366		1.1366
16 Mason ISD	1.1375		1.1375
17 Crockett Coutny CCSD	1.04	0.1	1.14
18 May ISD	1.04	0.114	1.154
19 Brookesmith ISD	1.04	0.1226	1.1626
20 San Felipe Del Rio CIST	1.04	0.1237	1.1637
21 Ballinger ISD	1.17		1.17
22 Cherokee ISD	1.17		1.17
23 Nueces Canyon ISD	1.17		1.17
24 Panther Creek ISD	1.17		1.17
25 Richland Springs ISD	1.17		1.17
26 San Angelo ISD	1.04	0.145	1.185
27 Comstock ISD	1.04	0.16	1.2
28 Bangs ISD	1.04	0.165	1.205
29 Olfen ISD	1.17	0.064825	1.234825
30 Miles ISD	1.17	0.068608	1.238608
31 Sterling City ISD	1.04	0.1998	1.2398
32 Christoval ISD	1.17	0.076	1.246
33 Coleman ISD	1.17	0.08	1.25
34 Veribest ISD	1.17	0.12	1.29
35 Irion County ISD	1.04	0.27015	1.31015
36 Brownwood ISD	1.04	0.2747	1.3147
37 Brady ISD	1.04	0.3275	1.3675
38 Water Valley ISD	1.17	0.2	1.37
39 Grape Creek ISD	1.17	0.22224	1.39224
40 Zephyr ISD	1.04	0.3581	1.3981
41 Early ISD	1.04	0.3595	1.3995
42 Paint Rock ISD	1.17	0.27	1.44
43 Robert Lee ISD	1.04	0.44	1.48



Directors Cy Scroggins and Lindsey Geske.



Quality Paints

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Come and Join Us at Parker Lumber
For a Fun Filled Day Just for All Our Customers!
Have Lunch On Us From 11:00AM - 1:00PM

We Will Have Door Prizes
Along With Some Great Deals!
We Hope to See You Here!

Parker Lumber

Hardware & Building Materials

www.parkerlumber.net

Theatre is simply what cannot be expressed by any other means; a complexity of words, movements, gestures that convey a vision of the world inexpressible in any other way.

- Eugene Ionesco