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The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, January 10, 2013

Oil From Algae Closer to Reality

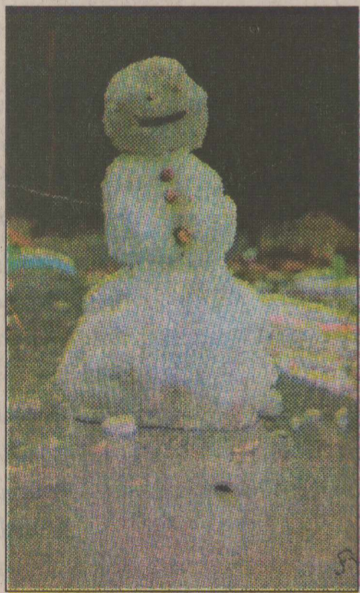
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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Looking At The Past: The Establishment of New Settlements

By David Smith

The earliest European civilization in this area of the Texas wilderness was begun, as for much of Texas, by the Spanish missionaries who established Santa Cruz de SanSaba Mission, East of where Menard is now located in 1775 and San Luis de Las Amarillas just East of where Menard is now located in 1755 and San Luis de Las Amarillas just West of present day Menard in 1756. These beginnings came to naught in 1758 when hordes of Comanches descended on the mission San Saba and burned it to its foundations, leaving San Luis de Las Amarillas as a speck of hope in the vast wilderness until it was abandoned in 1790 as the Spanish presence receded to South of the Rio Grande.

The next such development in this area came from the United States Army's attempts to protect travelers from San Antonio and the settled portion of Texas to and from the El Paso area and to protect the settlements to the East from the marauding Indians, whose ancestors had pushed the Spaniards out of the area in 1790.

Fort Terrett, East of Sonora about 40 miles on the Llano River, and Fort McKavett on the San Saba River, Northeast of Sonora about 50 miles were both established in 1852. Fort Terrett, actually called Camp Terrett by the army, was aban-

doned in 1854. Fort McKavett, originally, Camp San Saba, had a longer existence; it was abandoned in 1859 and then reestablished in 1868 as Ft. McKavett and continued to be occupied by the Army until it was permanently abandoned in 1883. A small village called Scabtown, developed outside the compound at Ft. McKavett and many of the buildings were then occupied by settlers when the army left and it was from that many of Sonora's original settlers migrated.

To the south, about 21 miles North of Comstock, was Fort Hudson, established in 1857 and closed in 1877. Ft. Lancaster, on Live Oak Creek, West of present Ozona and near the Pecos River, was established in 1855 and abandoned in 1873.

One would assume that Del Rio would be an old city, and records indicate that in that area before the Mexican Revolution, however, San Felipe del Rio, later Del Rio, was established by Anglo settlers in the development of the San Felipe Springs and adjacent lands in 1868 and Ciudad Acuna, formerly Villa Acuna was not established until later.

Actually the earliest town in the area was Menardville, now called Menard, established in the early 1870's with the County being organized in 1871. Junction was the next town, in 1876, established as Denman, the

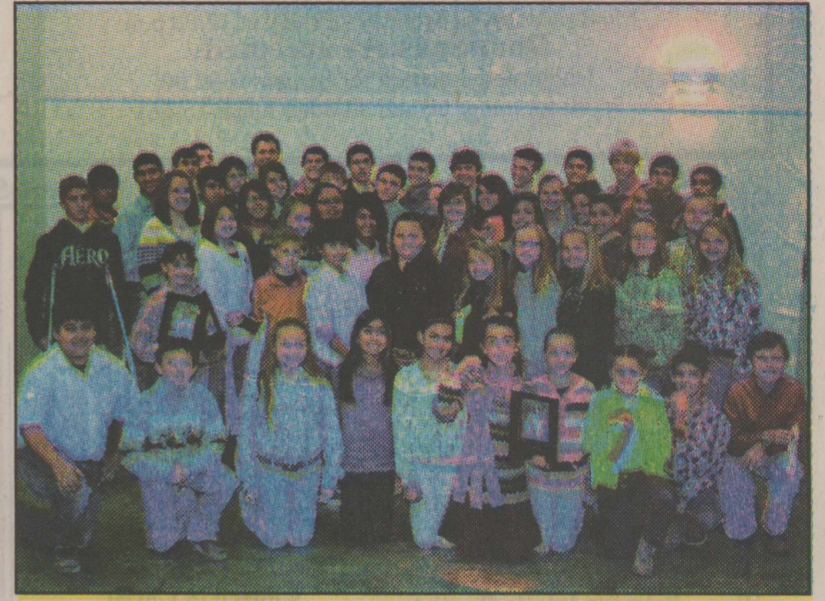
becoming Junction City and then Junction on the Llano River. Surprisingly, Juno was probably next, it was established on the Devil's River, South of Sonora, in the early 1880's, with it's post office established in 1885. The establishment of these villages along surface water made their earlier creation possible.

Sonora came next. Adams established his ranch in 1885 and drilled the well in early 1889 on what is now our Courthouse front yard, which got our town started. Sonora was preceded by Winkler's Well, later called Wentworth, established in 1885 about four miles Southwest of Sonora, but when Sonora was designated the County Seat, Wentworth quickly perished, leaving Sonora as Sutton County's only town, as it remains.

Christoval was also established in 1889 on the South Concho River. Ozona, with a drilled well and Rocksprings, settled adjacent to springs, were established in 1891, followed by our neighbor to the North, Eldorado, also watered by deep wells, in 1895.

By 1895, thanks to the ability to drill water wells and the advent of barbed wire fencing, the area changed from a nomadic society to permanent ranching locations, which in turn supported the existence of the towns.

It's Show Time in Sutton County!



It's that time of year when our 4-H and FFA youth get busy exhibiting the livestock they've been working for the last few months. They've had to gentle animals, halter-break them, weigh, exercise, doctor, and everything else necessary to prepare animals for the show ring.

Our Sutton County show activities begin this Thursday, January 10th with weigh-in at the 4-H Barn from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Shows will be at the Civic Center and start at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, beginning with market lambs and followed by the meat goats.

Next in the order will be Angora goats. The swine show will conclude the day's activities. For any interested, we will offer a "PeeWee Class" for any first or second-grader who wants to try their hand at showing. They will be able to borrow a goat and will have an older youth to assist them. Call the Extension Office at 387-3101 for more details or to sign your youth up for the Pee

Wee show. So, make plans to attend the Sutton County Livestock Show this Tuesday.

The buyer appreciation supper is at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 12th. The premium "auction" begins at 6:45. We ask any interested sponsors to support the auction if they can.

Participating in stock shows can help youngsters develop self-confidence through competition. They are given the opportunity to learn patience, commitment, and work ethic, but can also learn to overcome obstacles and to deal with disappointment. Livestock exhibition is also an excellent opportunity for family involvement in competitive events which reinforce time and resource management skills. We encourage families new to the program to seek help from us. We are happy to assist you and to help make livestock exhibition a pleasant learning experience.

For questions, call us at the Sutton County Extension Office at 387-3101.

The Lions Roar

James Hartman was acting president to conduct business. He announced that the annual Mop and Broom Sale for the Lighthouse of the Blind will be on April 2nd. Lions need to begin working on the Preorder. There was a review of the Box Tops for Education which Lions was the underwriter for awards. Stacie Fisher organized the effort and Corbin Crenwelge was the individual winner. Mrs Matthews Kindergarten class was the winner of the ice cream party. This effort gained about a thousand dollars to help our school system. Bids were received for the new roofs for both Scout Huts. An anonymous donor has given a gift toward this need and the club decided to accept the gift and award the contract on the new roofs to

Hartman roofing.

Col. Pete Bradley was the program of the meeting. He shared with the Lions the things that are needed in preparation for death. He suggested a Living Will with regards to medical procedures to life, a Will, Power of Attorney, and the wishes for organ donations. He reported that he was alive today because there was defibrulators at the civic center and people present who were trained in their use and in CPR. He reported that on 4 out of 100 people survive such a heart attack as his and that within 5 minutes of the attack without heart action brain damage occurs. He stated his appreciation for a loving and concerned community which were there to meet his needs when the heart attack occurred.

Texas Has 101.4 Billion Dollars: A 12% Increase

Under state law, the Comptroller's office issues the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) before the beginning of each session of the Texas Legislature. The BRE is a formal estimate of the funds likely to be available from taxes and other revenue sources over the next two years, in effect telling the Legislature how much money it can spend over the state's two-year budget cycle.

Excerpted from the Transmittal Letter:

"For 2014-15, the state can expect to have \$101.4 billion in funds available for general-purpose spending. This represents a 12.4 percent increase

from the corresponding amount of funds available for 2012-13."

"General Revenue-related tax and fee collections in 2014-15 are estimated to total \$96.2 billion, with tax revenues accounting for approximately 89 percent of the total. Referred from \$96.2 billion is an estimated \$3.6 billion representing oil and natural gas revenues that will be deposited to the Economic Stabilization Fund."

"Significantly bolstering the anticipated revenue collections of \$96.2 billion for 2014-15 is the ending 2012-13 General Revenue-related balance, projected to be \$8.8 bil-

lion. This projected ending balance is a reflection of better-than-expected revenue collections as the state rebounded from the recession and the positive effects of robust oil and natural gas activity over the past several years."

"In addition to the General Revenue-related funds, the state stands to collect \$112.0 billion in federal receipts and other revenues dedicated for specific purposes and therefore unavailable for general-purpose spending. Revenue collections from all sources and for all purposes should total \$208.2 billion."

Senior Center Activities

Thurs. November 29 - Happy Birthday Richard Palmer
 Fri. November 30 - Run errands
 Mon. December 3 -
 Tues. December 4 -
 Wed. December 5 -

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. November 29 - Smothered steak, Mashed potato, Mix greens, Roll, Peach shortcake, milk
 Fri. November 30 - Chicken Fajitas, Spanish rice, Pinto beans, Flour tortilla, Fruit cocktail, milk
 Mon. December 3 -
 Tues. December 4 -
 Wed. December 5 -

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).

Girl Scouts Get To Work



"On Saturday, December 1, 2012, Sonora's Girl Scout Troop #5263 woke up early to do some work on our scout hut! It was pretty inspiring for us leaders to see these girls clearing things out, adding a coat of primer to the outside of the hut, and completely cleaning the inside of the hut, but none of the wonderful changes to the hut would've been possible without the help of some pretty amazing people. While the girls' work is not done, they still wanted to take the time to give thanks! First of all, we would all like to thank the Sonora Lions Club not only for providing the space for us, but for providing us with the primer and some tools to work. Your constant support does not go unnoticed. We would also like to thank Mr. Crow and Parker Lumber. Your donation of paint was way above and beyond any help we had hoped for! We hope that the people of our community continue to support Parker Lumber the way that you support the youth in our community. We would also like to thank Mrs. Alicia Salazar who stayed at the hut all day with us to help us clean - she's a Super Parent Volunteer! Thanks to everyone who showed up, and to everyone who helped out. We feel very blessed to represent our community. Sincerely,
 Sonora's GS Troop #5263"

Sonora Church Directory



- | | |
|--|---|
| Primera Iglesia Bautista
504 Santa Clara
387-2035 | Church of Christ
304 N. Water
387-3190 |
| The Church of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian
319 E. Mulberry
387-2616 | First Baptist Church
11 E. Oak
387-2951 |
| Lighthouse Community Church
1705 N. Crockett
387-9100 | St. John's Episcopal Church
404 E. Poplar
387-2955 |
| St. Ann's Catholic Church
229 W. Plum
387-2278 | First United Methodist Church
201 N. Water
387-2466 |
| Jehovah's Witness
310 St. Ann's St
387-5658/387-5518 | Templo Jerusalem Asamblea De Dios
306 W. 4th St
387-5713 |
| Faith Apostolic Church
120 N. Concho Ave.
206-0277 | Hope Lutheran Church
417 E. 2nd St.
387-5366 |

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Engagement Announcements

PHOTOGRAPHY



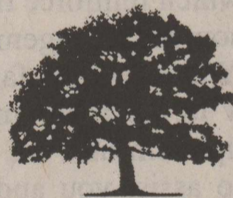
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Newton of Sonora, TX, announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Michelle Newton, to Tyson Morgan Heaton, son of Lana and Chuck Heaton of Salina, KS.

The future bride graduated from Baylor University with a bachelor of science degree. She is employed as a crime scene investigator with the Waco Police Department.

The future groom received a bachelor of science degree from Dallas Christian College and is pursuing a master of divinity degree in Youth, Student, and Family Ministries at Truett Seminary. He is employed as a chaplain for the Baylor University undergraduate community.

A June 2013 wedding is planned at Truett Seminary and the couple will live in Waco, TX.

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Lady Broncos 'Double Up' Alpine

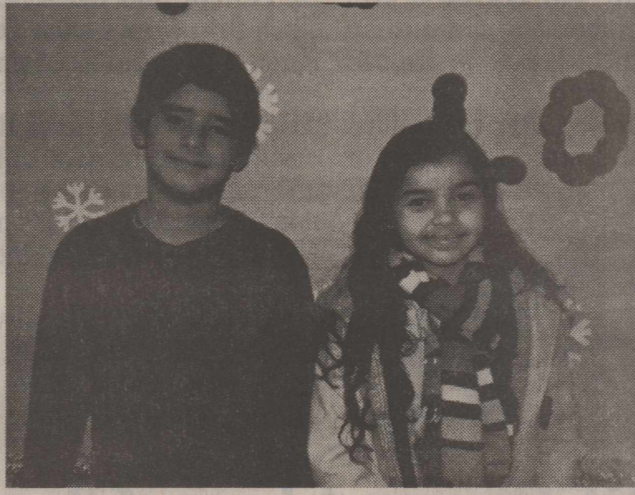
In basketball lingo a "Double-Double" signifies that a player's stat line has double digits in two categories. The Lady Broncos definitely doubled up Alpine with their first district win. Sonora doubled the score winning 62-30 while three players recorded the difficult 'double-double'. Jaye Sanchez led the way with 12 steals (career high) and 11 points, Kylie Love doubled up with 17 points and 11 rebounds and Gracie Dozier added to the double with 10 assists and 15 points. Abby Creek had a solid performance with 8 points and 6 rebounds while Zella Powers had 8 rebounds in her first start. The super subs again played extended minutes with Tyler Hampton (6 rebounds), Naomi Dozier (2 rebounds), JoJo Guterrez (3 steals) and Katie Hartman (7 points) all playing well. The Lady Broncos have a season record of 22-2 and are 1-0 in district. Sonora battles at Reagan County on Tuesday and in Sonora Friday against Tor-delite with 10 assists and 15

Students of the Week

January 4, 2013

Aldo De Luna

Kaitlyn Daniels



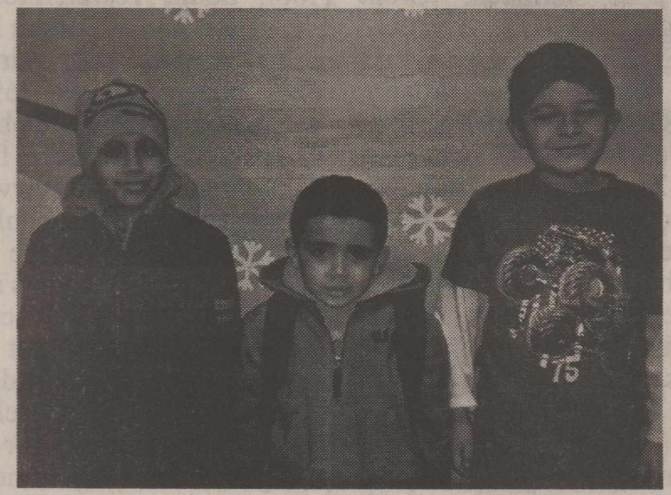
Not Pictured: Seth Davis

Students of the Week

January 4, 2013

Aaron Martinez

Emilio Garcia



Sean Paul Van Winkle

Not Pictured: Jacqui Saucedo

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Gov. Rick Perry Released The Following Statement Regarding Comptroller Susan Combs' Biennial Revenue Estimate:

"Today's revenue estimate is more evidence that we made the right decisions two years ago by budgeting carefully to meet the challenges of the national recession. The Texas formula of low taxes, reasonable regulations, fair courts and a quality workforce is the best way to continue creating jobs and growing our economy. Even as we head into the 83rd Legislative Session with higher revenues, we still need to focus on separating our wants from our needs, and continue to follow the conservative fiscal principles that have led to Texas' ongoing success and will keep Texas strong."

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F.Y.I

The Old Ice House Ranch Museum needs an old oak ice box to display in the Museum! Can you help?

Art Classes the 1st or 2nd Monday of each month from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. \$36.00 per class, lunch included. FMI call Ken Rowland 432-238-3121, Lori Stricklan 325-226-2526 or Anita Spiller 325-387-5266.

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

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Public Notice

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS
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TxDOT CSJ 1207SONORA

A Notice is issued for sealed proposals for the construction of airport improvements at the Sonora Municipal Airport. Proposals need to be addressed and delivered to Ms. Edie Stimach, Grant Manager, TxDOT Aviation, 150 E. Riverside Drive, 5th Floor, South Tower, Austin, TX 78704. Proposals will be received until 2:30 pm, February 21, 2013, then publicly opened and read. Any proposal received after closing time will be returned unopened.

In general, the work consists of: Install temporary erosion and sedimentation controls; repair apron pavement; construct airport drainage improvements; relocate and replace fuel station; and install concrete barrier wall; Replace and relocate airfield electrical services; replace and relocate existing wind cone with 12 foot LED wind cone; install 100 foot segmented circle; replace and relocate existing beacon with new rotating beacon and tower; Construct concrete pad; Replace existing REILS (constant voltage) with new L-849 LED REILS (constant current); and replace existing 4-kv constant current regulator with new 7.5kw 3-step CCR-ferroresonant regulator; and install metal barrier wall in lieu of concrete barrier wall. Please visit the

TxDOT Aviation website or contact the engineer of record for a current EOPC.

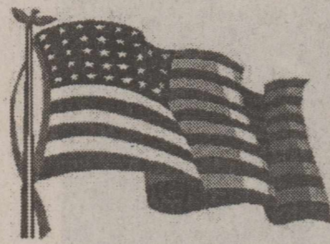
Bidding documents may be examined at the area Clearing Houses; the office of O'Malley Engineers, 203 S. Jackson Street, Brenham, TX, 77833; the office of TxDOT Aviation, 150 E. Riverside Dr., 5th Floor, South Tower, Austin, TX 78704; and at Sonora Municipal Airport, 1601 Airport road, Sonora, Texas 76950.

Bidders may view and obtain plan sets, free of charge, from Plans Online <http://www.txdot.gov/business/plansonline/plansonline.htm> on the TxDOT website. Or bidders may buy plan sets from the Reproduction companies that are listed on the website. Bidders are responsible for checking this website regularly for any changes to the bid documents, such as Addendums. TxDOT can only guarantee the accuracy of information on its Aviation Projects website, at <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/aviation/projects.html>. If another agency or construction data website references this project, please also refer to the TxDOT Aviation website mentioned above to verify the accuracy and completeness of the data.

To be placed on the Bidders List for this project please fax or email your company name, mailing address, and your phone & fax number to Edie Stimach at (512) 416-4510 or email AVNRFQ@txdot.gov.

Technical questions concerning the specifications and plans should be directed to Ed Addicks, O'Malley Engineers, LLP, at 979.836.7937 or eta@omalleyengineers.com. For questions concerning the bid document or other information please call Edie Stimach at 512-416-4518.

There will not be a pre-bid conference concerning this project. Site visits can be arranged by appointment only. Please contact Leonard Leinfelder, City of Sonora, at 325.387.2558.



Oil From Algae Closer to Reality

COLLEGE STATION – A team of researchers that has been working on getting fuel-grade oil out of algae may be within four years of a near-commercial-scale production level. The team, with a combined expertise from agriculture to engineering, has received a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to help hasten the process, according to Dr. Tim Devarenne, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research biochemist and collaborator on the project. The challenge is to help the oil-laden alga, *Botryococcus braunii*, live up to its potential, Devarenne said. Known by scientists for more than 100 years, *B. braunii* is the shirker of the algae world, seemingly floating aimlessly in bubbling tanks of water in no hurry to grow up and be pressed into oil. Other algae go through life as self-starters on a fast-track to success but don't produce oil like *B. braunii*. The researchers want the useful traits from each to commingle. "We're interested in taking the genetic information out of the slow-growing alga – the genetic information for producing the hydrocarbons

**Night Work By Fisheries Biologists
Sheds Light On Honeyholes**

ATHENS—In reservoirs scattered throughout Texas, under the black skies of cool, fall nights, loud generators drone and bright lights beam from strange-looking boats built to transmit electrical current into the water to catch fish. Crews from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries district offices use these electrofishing boats to collect information on fish populations, including Texas' most popular fish—largemouth bass.

Bass anglers are always searching for hot lakes, for bass populations that are primed for great fishing op-

portunities. With this in mind, TPWD's Spencer Dumont used electrofishing information collected from over 4,800 adult bass (8 inches and longer) in 78 hours of electrofishing effort at 935 different shoreline sites from 62 reservoirs in Fall 2012 to rank the top ten bass populations in terms of small bass, keeper bass and quality bass.

What he found may simply confirm what you already knew. But more likely it will surprise you.

Top Ten Lakes for Small Bass

- Small bass were defined as those from eight to 13 inches long. Sprawling Sam Rayburn Reservoir was ranked No. 1 for small bass at 161 bass collected per hour of electrofishing effort. Rounding out the top ten were:
- Sweetwater (143/hour)
 - Proctor (120/hour)
 - Toledo Bend (90/hour)
 - Walter E. Long (86/hour)
 - Eagle Mountain (84.6/hour)
 - Ray Hubbard (81.5/hour)
 - Leon (77/hour)
 - Lake o' the Pines and Lake Raven (75/hour)

The average number of small bass caught per reservoir in 2012 was 44/hour.

Top Ten Lakes for Keeper Bass

- Keeper bass were defined as those from 14 to 17 inches long. Lake Raven took the top spot for keeper bass with a whopping 75 bass collected per hour of electrofishing. The rest of the top ten were:
- Bastrop (64/hour)
 - Walter E. Long (62/hour)
 - Sam Rayburn (35.5/hour)
 - Amistad (29.5/hour)
 - Sweetwater (26/hour)
 - Amon Carter (25/hour)
 - Coleman, Gibbons Creek and Toledo Bend (21/hour).

The average number of keeper bass caught per reservoir in 2012 was 13 bass per hour of electrofishing.

Top Ten Lakes for Quality Bass

- Quality bass were defined as those 18 inches or longer. Walter E. Long had the most quality bass with an impressive 18 bass collected per hour. The remainder of the top ten were:
- Bastrop and Raven (10/hour)
 - Jacksonville, Houston County, Ray Hubbard, Sam Rayburn and Sweetwater (7/hour)
 - Mackenzie, Murvaul, Proctor and Stamford (6/hour)

The average catch of quality bass per reservoir in 2012 was 3 bass per hour of electrofishing. The best overall reservoir, based on a combination of small, keeper and quality bass caught during electrofishing samples in 2012, was a tie between Walter E. Long and Sam Rayburn. Raven was No. 3, followed by Sweetwater (No. 4), Bastrop (No. 5), Ray Hubbard (No. 6), Toledo Bend (No. 7), Lone Star (No. 8), Houston County (No. 9) and Amistad (No. 10).

Dumont cautioned that anglers should not expect to catch bass in the same numbers as the electrofishing boats. "Electrofishing gives an indication of how abundant bass of different sizes are in a reservoir," he said. "Also, electrofishing does not generally collect very large fish. There may well be larger fish in a reservoir than show up in electrofishing surveys. Falcon would be a good example. We know that lake has lots of big bass, but it's very hard to collect them with electrofishing."

If your favorite lake is missing from the lists above, it may be due to the fact that not every reservoir is sampled every year. And, Dumont noted, electrofishing is not an exact science. "Lake Fork did not show up on any of the lists, but sometimes you don't get a good sample. That happens with electrofishing."

Dumont also pointed out that reservoirs are not all the same. "Electrofishing rates are not always directly comparable from lake to lake, so we typically monitor trends in the same lake from year to year."

– and transferring that into a faster growing alga," Devarenne said. "Then maybe we can more economically produce these oils." Another key aspect to these studies is encouraging *B. braunii* to live life in the fast lane, Devarenne explained, using a device invented by Dr. Arum Han, lead researcher on the project and a professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M University. "If we harvest algae and process them into fuels, we don't emit any excess carbon into the atmosphere that is currently being emitted from petroleum fossil fuels," he said. When the fast-growing traits have been combined with the hydrocarbon-producing capabilities in one alga, team member Dr. Tzachi Samocha with AgriLife Research in Corpus Christi will help determine how to grow it on a large scale.

Upon completion of those studies, Devarenne said, the team may work with the fuel industry to scale up production even farther. "If we can produce an alga that produces high amounts of oil and grows fast," he said, "an industry partner could grow large amounts of it, extract the oil, convert that oil into gasoline or diesel fuel and sell it just like a normal gasoline pump." The product could also be doubly helpful for the environment, he said. "What is somewhat beneficial about growing algae is that you can use municipal wastewater to grow algae and they'll clean up the wastewater," Devarenne noted. "A lot of people have an idea of growing their algae ponds next to coal-burning power plants where they'll take the CO2 emissions from the power plant and feed it to the algae."

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House for sale by owner: 604 Orient Ave. - 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, with connected shop and restroom facilities. Call 325-277-2216 or 325-949-7790.

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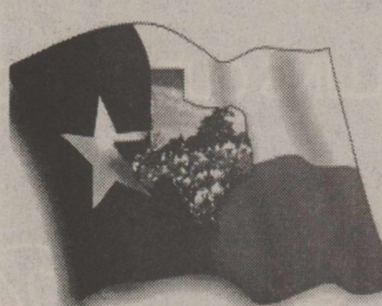
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EOE

Let It Snow!!

Photo by James Ricks

Photo by James Ricks



The Sutton County Courthouse lawn blanketed in snow.



Looking like a Rockwell Painting, the snow covered visage of the Rock Schoolhouse stands in relief against a hill.

Photo by James Ricks

Photo by James Ricks



The Courthouse adds a bright flash of color in a white landscape.



Jesus and Francisco Chavez enjoy the late start to the school day.



A West Texas Snowman may be small, but definitely carries as much character as his larger cousin Frosty.

Photo by James Ricks

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The Ricks boys enjoying a little snow fun.