Devil's River and

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

75¢

Volume 125 • Issue 20

SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Regular Meeting of the Hospital Board

By Ben D. Taylor

liam M. Hudspeth Hospital then opened the discussion bad debt." Board met for their regular regarding the Sutton Counmeeting at the Sutton County ties Apprasial Districts report. approve George Reichel MD Health Center. Board presi- "2013 estimates are in and it's a and Michael Kim MD to the dent Prestin Faris called the significant drop from last year. consulting staff as was recmeeting to order at 6:00p.m. It's a drop of 182 million dol- ommended by the medical and then led those in atten- lars (3.5 cents on the effective staff. Other action taken by dance in a prayer.

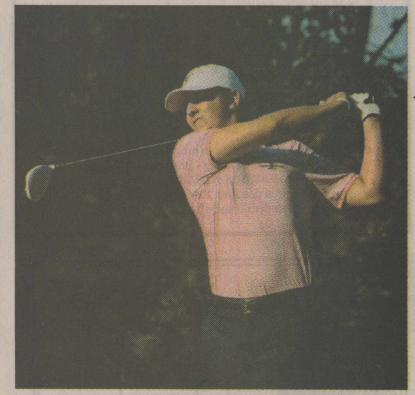
which passed unanimously.

On May 13th, 2013 the Lil- Hospital CEO Keith Butler goes to pay for charity and The first action taken by and Natural Gas is depressed." executive session was to apthe board was to approve the He added that, "Our effective prove the May 2013 expendiminutes from their regular rate goes up and down over the tures. meeting on April 8th and the years but it's important to note special meeting on May 6th. that the hospital district hasn't cused the audience in order to Gary Leonard made the mo- raised taxes in year. The low- go into executive session in tion to approve the minutes est it has been has been .06 order to discuss personnel ac-(after a few suggested changes cents and the highest is .20 tion, if any, in regard to hosby board members) and Lance cents. Our tax dollars makes pital administrator Keith Castro seconded the motion over one million dollars a year for the hospital. That money

The board then went on to rate), mineral values are down the board before closing into

At 6:30 p.m. the board ex-

Continued on Page 3



John Duke Hudson Leaves Charleston on a High Note

ANNIVERSARY AND RAIN

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SONORA

LIONS CLUB

CELEBRATES

85TH

Grandson of Sonora **Residents Wins** State At Pole Vault

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Study Compares Recent **Drought To** 1950s On **Woody Plant** Dieback

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The Two Faces of

Prickly Pear

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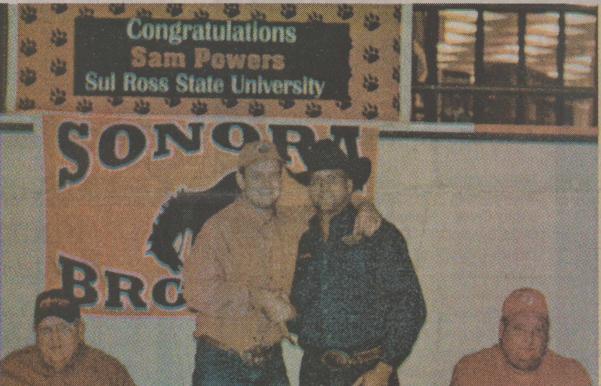
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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Sam Powers Signs with Sul Ross Rodeo Team



TX to compete in the Region thank everyone who attended

On April2, 2013, Sam Pow- II Finals. Sam won the steer Sam's signing especially Mr. ers signed his letter of intent wrestling for the year and the Chavarria, Coach Phillips, for Sul Ross University to All-Around saddle. Sam will Sara Friemel and her drama compete on the men's rodeo be competing at the state rodeo students, Mitzi Friend and team. Powers will be compet- competition in June in Abiline, Marylin Woods. Thank you ing in three events: tie down TX and will be competing in all for making this day so roping, steer wrestling, and tie-down roping, steer wres- special. team roping. On April 5,2013, tling and team roping. The Sam Powers went to Andrews, Powers family would like to

The Powers Family

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Senior John Duke Hudson (Sonora, Texas) has played in nearly every golf tournament for the College of Charleston men's golf team over the last four years

and is someone CofC head coach Mark McEntire said is a big part of the program. Hudson won the Invitational at the Ocean Course tourna-

ment his sophomore year and had seven top-10 performances during his career. Following his junior year Hudson was honored by being named a Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar, an award that combines athletic and academic per-

On his experience at the College of Charleston?

"It has been a blessing to me and my family and everyone around me. It's been unbelievable and I've met a lot of great people and made a lot of friends. Charleston is a special place. It is really breathtaking just walking through the city right now. It's been a special experience living here and getting to play golf here."

On his future plans?

"I'm moving back to a town in Texas close to my hometown and am going to turn professional, something I'm looking forward to doing. I was a double business major, so I'm going to get my real-estate license and help my swing coach out. He owns a golf management company. I'll be doing that and looking forward to the opportunity to play professional golf. I feel like the College of Charleston and everyone here have helped prepare me for success in the future."

CofC head coach Mark McEntire on John Duke Hudson

"I think John Duke Hudson has done a tremendous job for our program. He is going to leave here second in all-time wins in the history of our program. It has been a lot of fun to coach him and I know we will stay in touch and continue to build our relationship in the future."

State Track Meet



By Tiffany Weston

home from Odessa. We were the first time since their freshall broken hearted about not man year, they both left Ausadvancing anyone to State. tin, Texas with a medal around Together we vowed to change their neck. Jaye placed 3rd in that! It is truly amazing how the long jump with a jump of much the program and the 18' 2.5" and Avery ran a new girls have improved since personal and school record then. I couldn't have asked time of 44.4 in the 300 hurdles for a more perfect end to this to earn 3rd as well. Along with trials and triumphs that have couple of under classmen who

In 2010, when the class of team. Avery out with a knee 2013 were freshman I remem- injury in 2011 and Jaye in ber crying the whole way 2012. Back together again for season. Everyone knows the them at the state meet were a been set before Jaye and Av- get to continue this Lady Bron-

Oh my, where to begin??? ery. Both together on the 2010 co Track & Field tradition. Our sprint relay ran a season best time of 49.8 to finish 7th in the State. This relay was run by Macie Friess, Abby Nolen, Jacinda Sanchez, and Avery Nolen. The 800 relay also finished 7th in the state with a time of 1:45.8, run by Avery Nolen, Jacinda Sanchez, Abby Nolen, and Jomayra Gutierrez. The present and the future look bright for these Ladies. Im proud to say that both Jaye and Avery plan to continue their athletic careers at the college level.

Savannah Leonard **Outstanding Student**



Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources held their Honors Banquet on April 26, 2013. Savannah Leonard was named the outstanding student for the agricultural communications department. She was also recognized for completing a congressional internship for Representative Mike Conaway (TX-11) this past summer in Washington, D.C. Savannah is a candidate for graduation in May.

Senior Center Activities

Thurs. May-Fri. May-Mon. May-Tues. May-Wed. May

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. Fri. Mon. Tues. Wed.

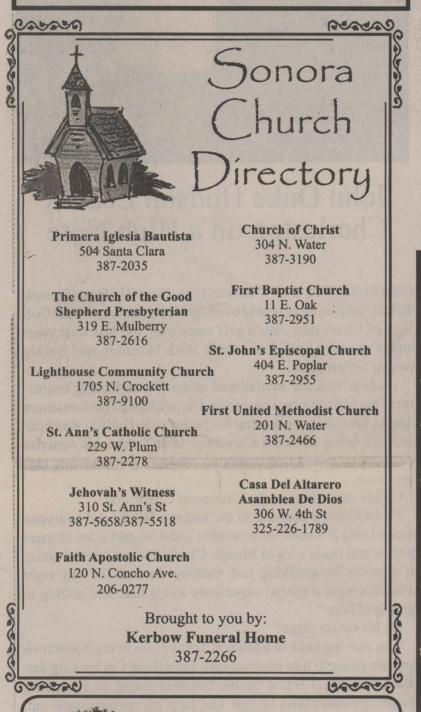
Participants in the senior nutrition program must be 60 or older.

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).



The Devil's River News

www.suttoncountyhealthfoundation.org

SUTTON COUNTY

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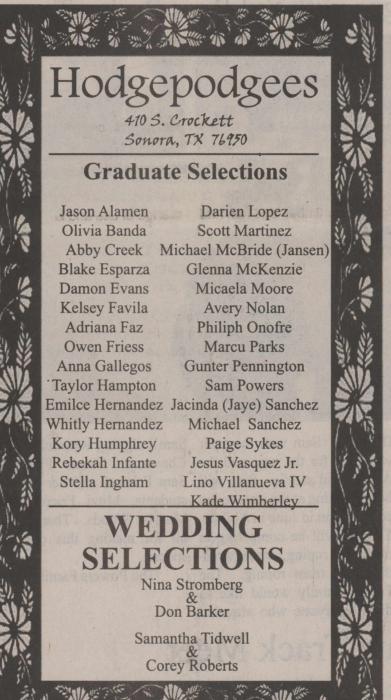
MEMBER 2012

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Night Golf Thank You

Sonora 8th grade Washington DC kids would like to say a HUGE thank you to the community. The first annual night golf tournament was held on April 20th and turned out great! None of this would have been possible without the support from everyone. We had 71 golfers participate and over \$6500 was raised! This money will go directly to the 8th graders that will be visiting Washington DC and New York, June 2nd-6th. The Sonora Golf Club graciously allowed us to use the course. Tee-off was at 5:30 for the daytime golf and the 4-man teams played nine holes before coming in to eat a tasty chicken, sausage, and bean meal provided by Genaro Marin and Nabors Well Service. After eating and bidding on some great silent auction items, the night golf balls were handed out to the teams to begin their night-time adventure. When all was said and done (around 1:30 AM), the team of Clint/Heather Cearley and Cole/Heather Cearley came out on top. A good time was had by all!

The students would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the following silent auction donors: Clint Roepke, Sonora Golf Club, Jet Specialty, Grandma's House, Nabor's Well Service, Jerry Jimenez, Comfort Inn, Consuelo Ranch, Kristy Edwards, Sarah's Hair Design, La Mexicana, Parker Lumber, Pedro Rodriguez, KJ's BBQ, RLO Partnership, Hudspeth Hospital, Best Western, Henry's Diner, State Farm Insurance-San Angelo, JMC Transport, Rafter W, Sonora Wool House, Brownwood Country Club, Sonora Bank, Sonora Contractors, Randy and Janell Sparks, Mercantile on Main, X-Chem, High Mount, HodgePodgees, National Oilwell Varco, Leo's Tire Service, AJ Hernandez, Emma Galvan, and Creek Swabbing. Thank you!



Engagement

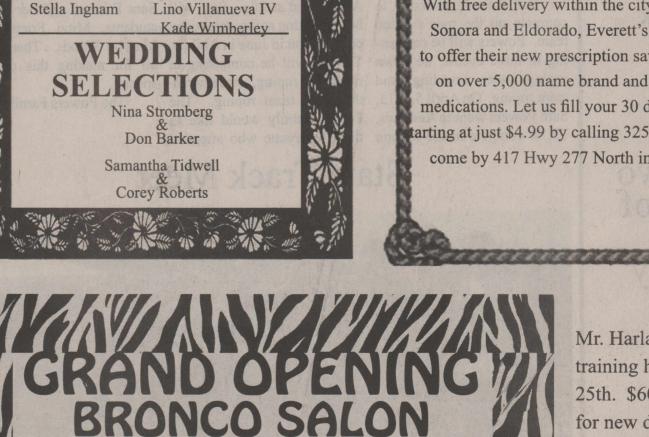


Kent and Donna Payne of Lubbock, Texas are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashley Payne, to Cody Mason both of Dallas, Texas. Cody is the son of Steve and Susan Mason of Brownfield, Texas.

Ashley is the granddaughter of Wilton and Dixie Payne of Tahoka, Texas and the late Dorman and Naomi Ruth Thomas. Cody is the grandson of Bill and Betty Stewart of Sonora, Texas and Novella and the late Weldon Mason of Meadow, Texas. The bride elect graduated from Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She is employed by the Mesquite Employee Health Center Pharmacy. The future bridegroom graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He is employed by Texas AirSystems Inc.

The couple will marry July 6th at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.





206 E. Main St

Thursday May 16, 2013

10:30 am- 6:00 pm

Ribbon Cutting at 12:30 pm

Mr. Harlan Winter's training here on May 25th. \$60.00 per dog for new dogs; dogs trained last year can get a refresher without charge. For an appointment call John Creek at 325-206-0858, David Smith at 325-206-3240 or Betty Smith at 387-3078 and get your name on the list. Appointments will be scheduled subsequently by telephone.

Study Compares Recent Drought To 1950S On Woody Plant Dieback

University and Texas A&M Wonkka, examining the ef- ous woody plant species. AgriLife Research had a fects of severe drought on In 2011, during the most seunique opportunity to com- woody plants in Texas will be vere drought on record since pare recent patterns of featured in the international the 1950s, the study was redrought-induced woody plant journal, Applied Vegetation peated in the same long-term mortality on the Edwards Pla- Science. teau in Texas to the extended "This is one of the first assess- in 1948. The primary species drought of the 1950s.

professor in the Texas A&M vegetation," Rogers said. "It per oak, persimmon, and Ashe ecosystem science and man- is also particularly novel be- juniper or blueberry juniper. agement department, said it cause we are able to compare Twidwell said the study, in etation.

These shifts can alter semi- The research site was the Tex- the 1950s, was designed to backs, carbon and water cycles, and disturbance dynamics, Rogers said.

A recently completed study led by two doctoral students

Continued from Front Page: Hospital Board

Butler. About an hour later the board re-convened into open session where no action was taken on anything discussed in closed session.

The board then went on to discuss and approve the chain of command policy regarding the CEO, COO and department heads. Lance Castro made a motion to accept the new policy as stated and Edward Earwood seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-3 vote and was effective immediately.

This new policy lays out the specific authority relationship between the Hospital CEO, COO, and department heads. Specifically that the CEO has authority over the COO in all departments with the exception of the EMS as long as the EMS employs family members of the CEO. In that case the COO will report directly to the Hospital Board on matters pertaining to EMS. A full copy of this policy will be printed in next week's edition.

Next on the agenda were visitor comments, where the board called Stacy Fisher to speak. She expressed her disappointment in the board's availability, "I am extremely disappointed. I only contacted 3 of you. I would request that the hospital district set up email so that people can contact you. It would be nice if all the board members contact info were listed. I am not asking for personal information (as you all have lives and jobs) just for some way for us to get in touch with you." She then went on to express her displeasure over an incident she heard about where Hospital CEO had used her name (among others) in a derogatory fashion while in a conversation with hospital employees.

Board President Faris called for the meeting to be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

ments of the effects our recent they looked at were southern Dr. Bill Rogers, an associate drought has had on native live oak, scrub oak or sandpaof the 1950s."

arid ecosystems, potentially as A&M AgriLife Research determine if composition of affecting the abundance of Station in Sonora, managed the woody plant community forage and browse available by Dr. Charles "Butch" Tay- shifts consistently across the for livestock and wildlife, as lor. Following the drought landscape following dieback, well as land/atmosphere feed- from 1951-1957, a study was or if shifts depend on differ-

the following issues to the ARB:

subject to a rollback tax:

COLLEGE STATION - Sci- from Rogers' research lab, conducted at the site to quanentists with Texas A&M Dirac Twidwell and Carissa tify rates of dieback for vari-

grazing treatments established

is important to understand our findings to a study that addition to comparing the how climatic extremes such was conducted at the same re- patterns of drought-induced as drought cause shifts in veg- search site during the drought woody plant dieback to that from the extended drought of

Property Owners Can Protest Property Appraisal Values

Property owners who disagree with the Sutton County Appraisal District's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

A property owner must file a written notice of protest before June 1, 2013 or within 30

whichever is later. The ARB will begin hearing taxpayer protests on July 08, 2013.

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property tax appraisals, local

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district and are appointed by the

appraisal district's board of directors, except in Harris and Fort Bend Counties where a

local administrative judge makes the appointments. Property owners may protest any of

unequal appraisal of the taxpayer's property compared to similar property in the

denial of special appraisals, such as agricultural or timber productivity appraisal;

determination that agricultural or timber land has had a change of use and is

identification of the taxing unit or units in which the property is located;

any other action of the appraisal office that adversely affects the owner.

The ARB schedules a hearing and sends the protesting property owner written notice of

procedures for both the owner and the ARB throughout the appraisal protest process.

These are detailed in the state Comptroller's publication, Property Taxpayer Remedies.

Copies are available from the SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT at 300 E. Oak

website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling (800) 252-9121 and press

the date, time and place of the hearing. The law contains specific timelines and

St., Ste. 2, Sonora, Texas. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's

"2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team.

governments will use these appraisals to set 2013 property tax rates.

the appraised or market value of the property;

inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;

denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;

determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property; or

days after the appraisal district mails the taxpayer a notice of appraised value,

ences among species, soils, land use and plant demography.

The study showed the recent severe droughts across Texas resulted in high levels of woody plant dieback in areas that have for decades experienced woody encroachment, he said. Periodic drought events since 2000 killed nearly 25 percent of woody plants and decreased woody plant cover 18 percent.

However, measurements taken after the 1950s drought ended showed woody plant cover had decreased 44 percent compared to pre-drought estimates taken in 1949, Twidwell said.

Continued in Next Weeks Edition

Sutton County Friends of NRA Safe Full of Guns raffle in underway! Tickets are \$10 each with one winner taking home four firearms, to include an AR-15, and a 10 gun fire resistant safe. Tickets may be purchased at Buck N Bass/Sonora Air Cooled Engines, by contacting Tonya @ 325-206-0454 or by contacting any committee member. The winning ticket will be drawn during our 6th Annual Auction/Banquet, Saturday, September 21, 2013. Your support is appreciated!

PROJECT GRADUATION-Graduation is THIS month!! The all-night lock in party held at Sonora High School for Seniors and Juniors after Graduation.. To provide an alcohol/drug free place to celebrate one of the most exciting times of their lives. Our community plays a vital role in the success of the programs for our youth. We appreciate any and all contributions to help plan this event. Please send your contributions to Project graduation P.O. Box 993 Sonora, TX 76950. Feel free to call if u have any questions Louise Dermody 325-226-3887 or Bonnie Lou Campbell 325-650-2062

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

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





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

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Grandson of Sonora Residents Wins State At Pole Vault

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10TH ANNUAL BENEFIT TEAM ROPING FOR **COMBAT MARINE OUTDOORS**

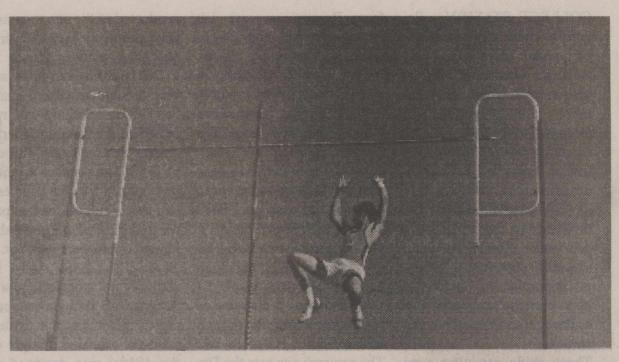
Would like to Thank all those that made made it a success

James & Amanda Babb & family **Tommy Burnup** Steve & Kelly Thorp Sam & Ginnifer Patterson Curtis & Lisa Lipham & family Freddie Walker Fred Walker Family Lisa Mitchell & Cody Cain Whitney Martin Wylie Wagoner & Caveman Bucking Bulls Feddy Falcon Jet Specialty, Inc. Sonora Chemical Kayla & Travis Davidson The Bank & Trust El Light Plant Sharon Burnup Roy. Buchanan Jim Winn family **Anonymous Donor** Sonora Bank **Bud &Tommy Whitehead** Mark & Mallory Rousselot Circle Bar Truck Stop Claire Jones Carl & Melissa Teaff Lee & Darlette Bloodworth Balch Ranching Randy Sparks Family Sam Dillard State Farm Don, Eda & Shane Elder

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Hunter Webb, Grandson of Wayne and Barbara Webb of Sonora, has taken the Texas High School Pole Vaulting world by storm. He has won 1st in his district, 1st in area, 1st in regionals, and first in state (with a height of 15'6"). In area he moved to the top spot among all class 3A pole vaulters by clearing 16-0 (breaking his school record).

Texas Comptroller's Office Helps Property Taxpayers Stay Informed of their Rights with Updated Publication

The Texas Comptroller's office has released the 2013 publication Property Taxpayer Remedies, a reference guide for property taxpayers which addresses property tax basics, providing a step by step guide on preparing for a protest hearing and what they can do if they are dissatisfied with an appraisal review board's decision.

"As a taxpayer, you should know your rights and understand the options available to you under the law," said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. "The Property Taxpayer Remedies publication is a resource of information for a sometimes complicated process."

Property Taxpayer Remedies also provides key dates so property owners know what they must do and when they are required to act to exercise their right to protest.

Property Taxpayer Remedies is available from the Sutton County Appraisal District at 300 E. Oak St., Suite 2, Sonora, Texas. The publication is also available from the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact Information Services Team or visit the Comptroller's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.



Canon

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY: 5:00pm June 21st

Wildlife (in the wild)

Plants in Nature

Natural Landscapes

Entered photos must be minimum size of 5"x7" and must be matted.

Entries will be accepted at Eaton

Hill NatureCenter - 500 City Hill

Road, Sonora, Texas and at the

Sonora Chamber of Commerce.

Makes Me Smile

Insects

Awards and Display during Sutton County Days Celebration - June 29, 2013 For more information please contact Rita Mae Frey at 325-387-2615 Eaton Hill Nature Center # 500 City Hill Road, Sonora, TX * Fri-Tues 10:00am - 5:00pm www.facebook.com/cocontillnaturecenter

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

the law gives properly 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

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 ARII 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 ser 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 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 ARD 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 proponderance 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

SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT 300 E. OAK ST., SUITE 2 SONORA, TEXAS 76950

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the bearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARH 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. Appeals to District Court. Binding Arbitration, or SOAH all require payment of certain fees

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

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal dis-

SUTTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT 300 E. OAK ST., 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 for 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

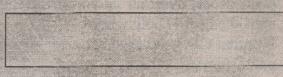
Lute protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good

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 profest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.



If you believe the appearsal district or ARH should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1) on no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a ray 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

The Two Faces of Prickly Pear



By Pascual Hernandez, Sutton County Agricultural Extension Agent

The warm weather and recent rain we've enjoyed have also meant a boost for prickly pear. The pads are in flower, and will soon bear fruit. This plant, common throughout much of Texas, is a mixed blessing.

Prickly pear cactus does have beauty. The flowers can be yellow, orange, or red in color and bloom from April to June. Prickly pear can be useful to a variety of animals. It provides cover for birds and wildlife feed on the pads and fruit. It is an especially good source of water for animals in Texas. People can also make use of the fruit, which is eaten raw or in preserves. Tender new pads called "nopales" or "nopalitos" in Spanish, can be eaten as a vegetable.

Prickly pear cactus has been utilized as a forage substitute for cattle and other grazing livestock. In drought conditions the spines are burned off to facilitate consumption. However, most research suggests that it is low in protein and phosphorus, but high in energy, water, and fiber. Therefore, feeding prickly pear will require additional supplementation of protein and phosphorus.

Many view prickly pear as a pest, however. Prickly pear may interfere with movement and handling of livestock and with forage utilization. It also competes with desirable forage plants. Cactus plants are extremely drought-tolerant and are protected from grazing animals by their spines. They have the ability to grow and to increase in abundance very rapidly.

Mechanical brush control efforts have inadvertently done much to spread cactus populations. This is because prickly pear easily roots from pads which are broken off. It is better controlled using herbicides or a combination of herbicides and prescribed fire.

So, is prickly pear friend or foe? That's another one of those "eye of the beholder" things.

For additional information or control methods, contact your Texas AgriLife Extension Office.

Tammy T. Fisher
Attorney at Law
&
Mediation Services,

Mediation Service PLLC



Sonora, Texas 76950 325-387-2244 325-387-2245 Fax David L. Smith, Of Counsel

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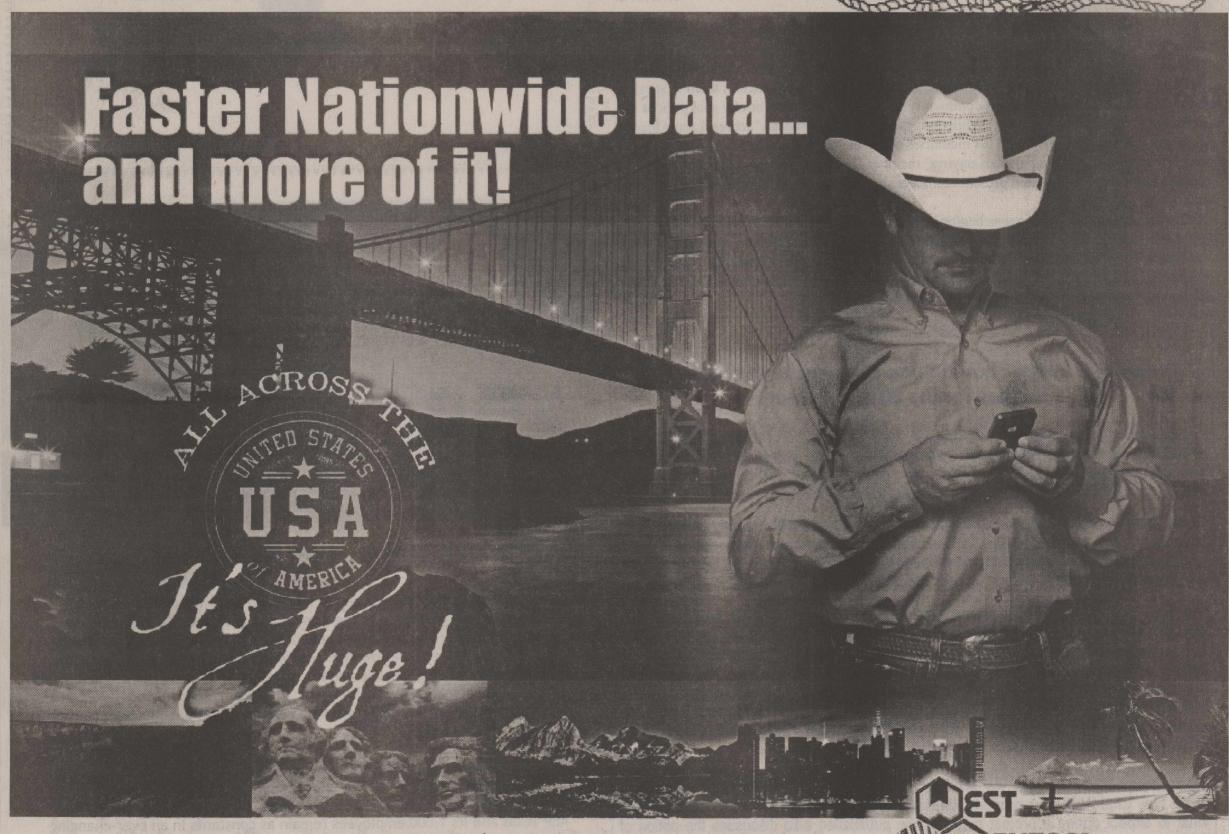
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4-H Sewing and Textiles Contest

Harmony Ramirez

Kassandra Lopez

Skylar Mogford

Jewelry - Participation

Jewelry - Participation

Accessory - 2nd Household - 3rd

Jewelry - 2nd

Embellished Item - 3rd

Jewelry - 1st

Embellished Item - 1st

Jewelry - Participation

Jewelry - Participation

Household - Participation

Jewelry - Participation

Household - 1st Alyssa Martinez

Accessory - 3rd

Jewelry - Participation

INTERMEDIATE

Haley Smith

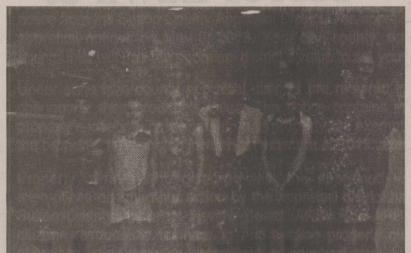
Christina Garcia

Jessica Smith

Kadee Petty

Madalyn Fisher

Taryn Mitchell



By Madalyn Fisher

On Saturday April 27, 2013 4-H had a district sewing and textiles contest. There were 11 girls that went to Comfort and 3 girls that sent their projects. Participants choose to do

jewelry, sewing, storyboard, embellishments, or buying clothes. We also had Share the Fun that is a contest to help kids with public speaking and performance. For instance you can

shows, or story telling, etc. For more information about these or any other projects please call the Sutton County Extension office at (325) 387-

do singing/music, poetry, slide

RESULTS - Textile Show JUNIORS Abby Bennie Household Item - Participation Jewelry - Participation

Household - 2nd Rivers Martinez Jewelry - 3rd Summer Hall Jewelry - 2nd

SENIOR Chanel Martinez Jewelry - 2nd

RESULTS - Fashion Storyboard JUNIORS Madalyn Fisher - 3rd Kadee Petty - 4th

RESULTS - Fashion Show (Construction) **JUNIORS** Abby Bennie **Dress** -Participation Jessica Smith Dress - Participation Kodi Davis Dress - Participation Skylar Mogford Dress - Participation Madalyn Fisher Dress - 3rd Alyssa Martinez Dress - 4th Kassandra Lopez Ensembles - 3rd Taryn Mitchell Separates - 1st

> **INTERMEDIATES** Summer Hall Separates - 2nd

SENIORS Chanel Martinez Dress - 3rd

Gov. Perry Renews Call for More Offshore Energy Development, Consistent Federal Regulation

Gov. Rick Perry today renewed his call for more offshore energy development and consistent federal regulations in order to help our nation reach its goal of energy the day when our nation can The governor also highlightspoke at the 2013 Offshore part of a panel of coastal gov-

in the Gulf is safer for our opthan ever before. Technological and procedural advances have opened up huge sources of energy, giving us the capa-

forward, we move closer to decreased. gimes to meet our needs."

"Today, energy exploration spite lifting the 2010 federal biomass. Texas continues to drilling moratorium, produc- be a leader in wind generation erators and our environment tion in the Gulf of Mexico capacity, with 12,214 megaremains down 18 percent, watts of installed wind cafor development. Increased double that of its next closest

bility to reach vast stores of attributable to technological energy reserves previously advances and drilling on prithought untouchable," Gov. vate land, while production on Perry said. "With every step federal lands and waters has

independence. The governor reach true energy indepen- ed the importance of an alldence and end our crippling of-the-above energy strategy Technology Conference as dependence upon foreign re- that includes both traditional and renewable energy sourc-The governor noted that de- es, including solar, wind and with only 15 percent of U.S. pacity - more than all but five territorial waters available other countries, and more than production in recent years is competitor, California.

Your are cordially invited to a retirement reception

11:00 AM

2:00 PM

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honoring

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Friday, May 17th

Come & Go

The Lions Roar

SONORA LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 85TH ANNIVERSARY AND RAIN

Sonora Lions Club and community members shared an opportunity to recognize the organization's 85th anniversary on May 9th at the Sutton County Park. The evening festivities were squeezed between bands of thunderstorms that resulted in an appreciable amount of rainfall. The event was marked with a barbeque meal that was prepared by John Henry Rivas and his staff. The brisket plates included camp bread prepared by Edward and Pam Earwood. Cliff and Danine Brister cooked peach cobblers for dessert. It is safe to say that no one left hungry.

While waiting to be served, those attending the event were entertained by "Blind Nello". Included in the band are local musicians Eddie and Diana Arteaga. Delaney Ramsdell joined the musicians as lead vocalists on some of the selections.

Incoming District Governor, Lion Frank Berthold was on hand to show his support for our local club. His term of office begins July 1st. He has much admiration for Sonora Lions Club and appreciates that the District Cabinet Meeting will be hosted locally in October. President Carl Teaff introduced the four queen candidates and asked each of them to speak about their families and school and community activities. They each briefly spoke about the meaning of "community service". While judges tallied the candidates' scores, Lion Albert Ward enlightened the crowd with his memories of the history and evolution of the local club. He can boast of being a "dues paying" member for over fifty years so he definitely has genuine knowledge of past and present members and the club's many projects throughout the

Just as another round of rain was beginning, President Carl Teaff announced that Kaitlyn Gibbens would be the 2013-2014 Sonora Lions Club queen. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Gene and Laurie Gibbens. Lion Beto Duran and a friend had driven from Kerrville to participate in this celebration. It should also be mentioned that he too was celebrating a May 9th birthday, and fellow Lions honored him with a birthday song.

Property Owners Should Soon Start Receiving Appraisal Notices for the 2013 Tax Year

If your property value increased in the last year, you will soon receive an appraisal notice from the Sutton County Appraisal District. The appraisal district mailed about 2775 appraisal notices on May 3, 2013. Your city, county, school district and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set your 2013 property taxes.

Under state law, county appraisal districts are required to notify property owners about changes in their property's value. The notice contains important information about the property's location, its ownership and property tax exemptions that have been applied to the property. It must also include an estimate of 2013 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 May 31, 2013 or 30 days after the appraisal district mailed your notice of appraised value, whichever is later.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' publication, Property Texpayer 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. 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) 252-9121and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team.



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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 discrimina-tion call HUD toll-free 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

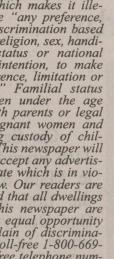
For Sale

FOR SALE- House/ Guest House & Workshop 1209 Meaquite

Large corner lot, open floor plan, sewing room, 2bd/1ba @ 1,600 sq. ft. a jacuzzi tub and nice appliances. There is a separate guest house 1br/1ba. This makes a great rental property. A large workshop, greenhouse and covered patio with tile floor. There is abundant covered parking for several vehicles including a RV/boat carport and a beautiful manicured lawn. Call 325-387-5349 or

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Sonora Independent School District is accepting proposals for Property and Casualty Insurance for the period of 09-01-2013 through 08-31-2014. Proposal packages may be picked up at the Sonora ISD Administration Building located at 807 South Concho Street, Sonora, Texas 76950, starting on May 14, 2013. The RFP is due back to the District prior to 3:00 PM on June 17, 2013, late proposals will not be accepted and no faxed or emailed proposals will be accepted. The contact person is Diane Jacoby, Business Manager Sonora ISD and she may be contacted at the address shown herein. The bid will be awarded July 15, 2013 at the SISD Board Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Vocational Bldg., 905 Prospect, Sonora, TX.



The Devil's River News



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Employment Employment

The Sonora Police Department is hiring a TCLEOSE certified Police Officer. Call the Sonora Police Department at 325/387-3888.

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Employment

The Sutton County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the position of Jailer. A thorough background investigation will be conducted and the chosen applicant will be required to attend a two week long jailer's school and must pass a state certification test. The position will include shift work and working alone in the jail.

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Applications may be obtained at the Sutton County Sheriff's Office, 309 N. E. Oak Street, Sonora, Texas, or by calling (325) 387-2288.

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geous pond, large metal barn w/living quarters, access to YO amenities, and some of the best wildlife the Hill Country has to offer. Turn Key! 5878 RR 1674 491 Acres - Perimeter fenced, nice oaks and a cozy metal cabin. \$1,850/ac.

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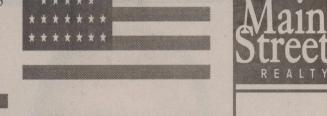
214 S. 14th St. - 3bed 2ba Ranch Style home with beautiful Hardwood floors and a master suite right out of a magazine! \$164,000 reduced to \$145,000

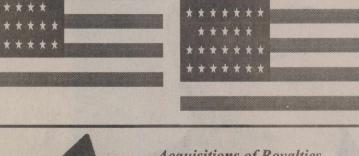
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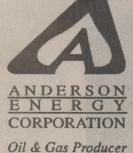
La Vista Motel - Located at 2040 N. Main St. is a 9-unit motel w/ office, 2/1 apt., laundry rm. and storage building. St. to St. access on N. Main & 16th lends this property for further development and all for only \$165,900.

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712 S. Concho 109 Draw Street

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105 Sawyer Court

308 Edgemont Road

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121 Edgemont Road

210 Mockingbird

1108 Ave. A, Ozona

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411 S Concho

1312 PR 2239 - Home w/ 10 acres

502 Martin Street

100 acres - Crockett County 110.47 acres - Crockett County 300 Acres - Crockett County 655 Acres W/house-Sutton County 600 Acres- Sutton County Approx. 1645 Acres Val Verde County 8357.9 acres - Terrell County

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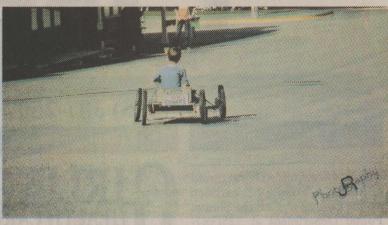
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Soap Box Derby







On Saturday May, 11th Friends of Historic Main Street hosted the first annual Soap Box Derby down Main Street. Children were able to enjoy a little bit of old time Americana as they raced the custom built (by a main street resident) Soap Box Car down main street.

The weather was perfect for racing and everyone enjoyed the simple pleasure of watching the competitors. Stay tuned for next weeks edition to see full results.

All photos by James Ricks. Top-a contestant leaves the camera man in the dust as he races to the finish line. Middle-Matthew Roque is wearing a smile as big as the American flag on his shirt while cruising down the hill. Bottom-Father Chris Roque gets some help making last minute adjustments to the cart.

Sonora Bank welcomes Ben Pool to our Board of Directors.

Sonora Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Ben Pool to our Board. Mr. Pool is the Founder of American Sales and Service, Inc. The company has been in the equipment and chemical business for over 30 years and is a proven leader in their industry. They now have thirteen locations, nearly fifty employees and service the Central United States. In addition to American Sales and Service, Mr. Pool is also a private investor in real estate and startup companies and a graduate of Sul Ross University with a degree in Business.

Mr. Pool and his wife Lenora have been married for 29 years. They have three adult sons, an adult daughter and seven grandkids that all live in Texas. In his spare time, Mr. Pool enjoys traveling and hunting.





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