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The Devil's River News

Serving Sutton County Since 1890

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SONORA, TEXAS

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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Doc's Marines: Vietnam Veteran Has a Reunion With His Brothers In Arms



Left to Right: John "Paladin" Shockley, Ernie Soliz, Juan "Doc" Sanchez, Jim Bollers, Greg "Chief" Fragua, Luis Martinez and Ed Nunez pose for a picture.

By Ben D. Taylor

Sonora native Juan Sanchez's birthday this year was at least 30 years in the making. As with most birthday parties he was surrounded by his family and friends, but this one was a bit different. Juan was joined by a group of men that he referred to as his brothers and while none of them share a common lineage all of them share a bond. It was a bond formed in Vietnam where Juan "Doc" Sanchez served as a Navy Corpsman and his brothers were Marines. According to Doc, they were and still are "his Marines".

Juan served in the Combined Action Program (or CAPS) during his two tours of duty for the U.S. Navy. It was important to Juan that people know about all veterans, but even more so about the

veterans that served in the CAPS. On hand at the gathering he had a hand-out that explained the program that he served in.

"The CAPS was conceived and operated by the United States Marine Corps from 1965 to 1971. It was designed as a pacification program. In its six year history the program was rarely known outside of its own members and a few Marines fortunate enough to have had some contact with it. Following the end of the War, the program was all but forgotten, except, of course by its survivors.

Of the approximately 5,000 Marines who went into this program, less than half survived. Of the survivors, it has been estimated that 70% were wounded once, 40% were wounded twice, and approximately 65% received

decorations for heroism." That heroism was something that Juan was quick to attribute to his fellow veterans.

"My Marines came down here to Sonora so we could see each other again. They are my brothers, and they are some of the best men you will ever meet".

His friends came to Sonora from as far as Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri and New Mexico. They came not because it was a friends birthday, or an old war buddy reunion. They came because their Doc needed them to. The man that had been there for them overseas needed to see his brothers again and he couldn't make the trip himself.

Story Continues in
Next Weeks Edition
of The Devil's River
News.

Main Street Traffic

Val Verde Winery is one of the four vintners attending the Sonora's Premier Wine Tasting that will be held at the Mercantile on Main on September 21st. Tickets for this event will available for purchase at our office, Hodge Podgees, Gypsy Chix Boutique and the Mercantile on Main. Please contact us for more information and ticket sales.

The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program 105 N. Concho Ave. * 325-387-2248 * fhsmainstreet@verizon.net

We would like to introduce to you Val Verde Winery.

Val Verde Winery was established by Italian immigrant Frank Qualia in 1883. He began making wine for family and friends from the

Lenoir grape and eventually made the wines available for purchase. After his death, his son, Louis Qualia took over the vineyards and began expanding production.

Today, the winery is the full time business of third generation vintner Thomas Qualia. He respects the efforts and expertise that preceded him and continues the Qualia family legacy of offering various wines of excellent quality.

2013 marked Val Verde Winery's 130th year of continuous winemaking. It is the oldest bonded winery in the state of Texas and received the Texas Farm Century Award from the Department of Agriculture for single-family ownership of the vineyards for over 100 years. Because of the rich history and family tradition, the Val Verde

Winery is a Texas landmark and an innovative presence in the growing Texas wine industry. Its survival and prosperity are a testament to its past and an inspiration to its future.

Val Verde Winery is located in historic Del Rio at 100 Qualia Drive. Visitors can enjoy a tour and wine tastings. Business hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Our wines are primarily sold at the Winery, but please ask if they are available in your area.

Val Verde Winery
100 Qualia Drive
Del Rio, Texas 78840
(830) 775-9714
Now on Facebook!

Sonora ISD Meets State Accountability Rating:

Multiple "Distinction Designations" for Excellence Given

AUSTIN - The Texas Education Agency released the 2013 state accountability system ratings for more than 1,200 school districts and charter schools on Thursday, and Sonora ISD fared extremely well. All Sonora ISD campuses and the district were rated as "Met Standard," the desired rating in the new accountability system. In addition to meeting all required standards, Sonora High School and Sonora Middle School also earned multiple "Distinction Designations" for excellence in specific performance areas. Sonora High School earned two Distinction Designations for Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics. Sonora Middle School also garnered two Distinction Designations for Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics; as well as a third Distinction Designation for Student Progress. James Hartman, SISD Superintendent, shared his perspective on the ratings release; "We are very pleased with the progress being made at all campuses and look forward to even greater emphasis on academic achievement district-wide in the 2013-2014 school year. We appreciate the tremendous support that our community provides and will do our very best to honor the trust placed in us," he concluded.

All school districts, campuses and charter schools receive one of three ratings under the new accountability system: Met Standard; Met Alternative Standard; or Improvement Required. "A transition to a new accountability system comes with a great deal of uncertainty," said Commissioner of Education Michael Williams. "The 2013 ratings confirm that the vast majority of districts and campuses are meeting the state's standards and providing a quality education for our students."

The 2013 ratings are based on a revised system that uses various indicators to provide greater detail on the performance of a district or charter and each individual campus throughout the state. The performance index framework includes four areas:

- Student Achievement - Represents a snapshot of performance across all subjects, on both general and alternative assessments, at an established performance standard. (All Students)
 - Student Progress - Provides an opportunity for diverse campuses to show improvements made independent of overall achievement levels. Growth is evaluated by subject and student group. (All Students; Student Groups by Race/Ethnicity; English Language Learners; Special Education)
 - Closing Performance Gaps - Emphasizes improving academic achievement of the economically disadvantaged student group and the lowest performing race/ethnicity student groups at each campus or district. (All Economically Disadvantaged Students; Student Groups by Race/Ethnicity)
 - Postsecondary Readiness - Includes measures of high school completion, and beginning in 2014, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) performance at the postsecondary readiness standard. (All Students; Student Groups by Race/Ethnicity; English Language Learners; Special Education)
- Districts and campuses with students in Grade 9 or above must meet targets on all four indexes. Districts and campuses with students in Grade 8 or lower must meet targets on the first three indexes (excluding Postsecondary Readiness).

For eligible campuses that achieve the rating of Met Standard, distinction designations in the following areas have also been assigned: Top 25 Percent Student Progress; Academic Achievement in Reading/English language arts; and Academic Achievement in Mathematics. These distinction designations are based on campus performance in relation to a comparison group of campuses.

Complete results for Sonora ISD, as well as all other schools in Texas, can be found at on the Texas Education Agency web site at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2013/index.html>.

Senior Center Activities

Thurs. July 18- Shopping w/Elsa 325-387-5657
 Fri. July 19- Exercise w/video
 Mon. July 22- BINGO
 Tues. July 23- C.E.A.P. will be here 11am-3pm
 Wed. July 24- Birthday cake for July's birthday's at noon

Senior Center Menu

Thurs. July 18- Steak w/mushroom gravy, capri veggies, pea salad, wheat bread & apple crisp
 Fri. July 19- Smothered chicken w/ rice blend, broccoli/ cauliflower blend, wheat bread & pears
 Mon. July 22- Chicken strips w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed squash & fruit cup
 Tues. July 23- BBQ on a bun, potato salad, beans & apricots w/ topping
 Wed. July 24- Lemon baked fish, herbed rice, sweet peas, cucumber salad & jell-o w/ oranges

****ALL MEALS SERVED WITH 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).

Dove Season Looks Promising

AUSTIN –Texas dove hunters should see plenty of opportunity this fall as conditions are shaping up for an above average season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Dove season kicks off Sunday, Sept. 1 across most of the state.

Texas dove hunters number upwards of 250,000 and collectively bag between 5-6 million doves during the 70-day season. Thanks to new rules approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) this year, hunters can possess up to 45 birds — three times the daily bag limit. Previously, the possession limit was twice the daily bag. Daily bag limits still apply.

The USFWS also approved for this year an expanded Special White-wing Dove Area (SWWDA) in South Texas. The SWWDA will now extend eastward along its current boundary and continue south along Interstate 37 from San Antonio to Corpus Christi, effectively doubling its current size.

“For the last two decades, white-winged dove populations have steadily expanded both their numbers and their geographical extent,”

said Dave Morrison, Small Game Program Director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “We believe, and the Service agrees, an expansion is appropriate to take advantage of additional hunting opportunities.”

To take advantage of the earliest possible opening dates for the special area, the season will run Sunday, Sept. 1 through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2, and then reopen Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8. The daily bag limit during the combined four-day season is 15 doves in the aggregate to include no more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves and hunting during the early season in the SWWDA is permitted only from noon to sunset.

Dove season in the North and Central zones will run concurrent from Sept. 1-Oct. 23 and Dec. 20-Jan. 5. The South Zone dove season is set for Sept. 20-Oct. 27 and Dec. 20-Jan. 20, with the regular season in the SWWDA Sept. 20-Oct. 23 and Dec. 20-Jan. 20.

According to Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD's Dove Program Leader, hunters

can expect to see an increase from last year in dove numbers.

“It appears that breeding dove numbers have increased from last year in many regions of the state,” he said. “Increased precipitation helped improve dove production and generate ample food supplies. It should be a good season.”

Texas Governor Comments on Obamacare

Gov. Rick Perry today sent a letter to President Obama urging him to rescind the administration's decision to exempt Congress from parts of Obamacare.

Dear President Obama,

It is simply unconscionable that your administration is allowing members of Congress to escape the harshest economic consequences of Obamacare, while ignoring the plight of middle class Americans.

I have maintained from the start that forcing anyone to purchase a product they do not want creates a burden and a hardship. Allowing this exemption effectively amounts to an admission by you that this mandate will, indeed, have that impact on people.

However, it's hard to understand why the hardships of Congress are somehow more important than the hardships of hard-working Americans and businesses throughout the country.

Who is looking out for those not in Congress? Why is it okay for working Americans to face skyrocketing premiums and more out-of-pocket costs and not okay for Washington politicians?


Since the ACA was passed, you have assured us that the more we get to know the ACA, the more we would like it. It's telling that the people who know the ACA best - members of our Congress - want nothing to do with it.

This is yet another example of how little to nothing about the ACA has gone as you said it would, as it becomes increasingly convoluted by steps taken by your administration to gain support for this misguided law.

I urge you to reverse this decision. Members of Congress must be treated just like everyone else in the country.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry



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	Casa Del Altarero Asamblea De Dios 306 W. 4th St 325-226-1789
Faith Apostolic Church 120 N. Concho Ave. 206-0277	

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Sonora ISD will be hosting a Mandatory Substitute Teacher Training on Friday, August 23, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. @ the Sonora High School Auditorium!

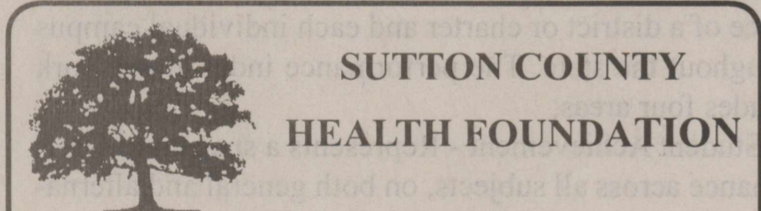
Substitute Training modules will include:

- Importance of Reinforcement
- Classroom Management
- Instructional Strategies
- Legal Issues
- Special Education
- Substitute Teacher Guidelines

This training is presented by Region 15 and hosted by the school district and all participants

will receive a Substitute Teacher Tool Kit and a Certificate of Completion for the training. For more information please contact Kim Gonzales at 325/387-6940 ext. 3003 or email

kimberly.gonzales@sonoraisd.net.



SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

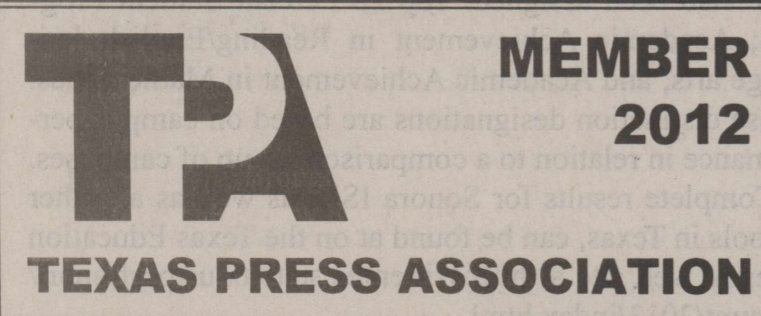
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Now's Time To Check Out 4-H!



By Pascual Hernandez,
Sutton County Agricultural
Extension Agent

With school starting back in a couple of weeks, families are busy preparing for it. There are supplies and clothes to buy, schedules to plan, and last-minute vacations. It's also a good time to check out 4-H program as the new school year starts. Check us out during "Meet The Teacher" Day!

4-H is for youth in 3rd -12th grade, and there are lots of projects to choose from. The main objective is to help youth acquire leadership skills and sense of duty; induce qualities such as commitment, determination, and patience; practice sportsmanship; and basically develop youth into responsible adults. However, record-keeping, time management and communication skills can also be acquired through participation.

So, if you'd like involvement in an activity that's fun, challenging, and provides learning experiences...here's your chance! Sutton County 4-H will be on-campus at the Middle School on August 22nd and the Intermediate School on August 23rd during "Meet The Teacher Day". Stop by to visit (we'll have "goodies" to give away).

In the meantime, let's look at a couple of examples of what 4-H can offer.

Livestock projects are some of the most popular. Some strong advantages include: it can be a short term project (3 to 5 months), it is usually very safe for young children and little equipment is needed. Participants can gain skill in the management of time, money, and other resources. In addition to exhibition, 4-H'ers can participate in record book competitions, public speaking, educational demonstrations, wool judging, and can develop breeding projects. The 4-H livestock project, because of this flexibility, has much to offer. Moreover, these activities promote family involvement. It is currently time for initiating sheep and goat projects.

The Food & Nutrition project helps participants learn to make healthy food choices, reduce disease and illness risks, and gain knowledge of nutrition. Major learning experiences are centered around nutrition, menu planning, food buying and preparation, food safety, careers, and cultural influences. The group meets once a week and provides a new learning experience.

Of course, 4-H has much more to offer. Possibilities include shooting sports, poetry, range science, comedy, drama, dance, outdoor education, clothing & textiles, horticulture, entomology, and MUCH more!

Want more details? Come see us at "Meet The Teacher Day" or contact Sutton County Extension Agent Pascual Hernandez at 387-3101.

M-44 Predator Workshop to be Held in Austin

AUSTIN — A predator management training program will be presented from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Travis County East Service Center, 6011 Blue Bluff Road, Austin.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the program to begin at 9 a.m.

"Predators such as coyotes, foxes and feral dogs cause property and crop damage, and can injure or kill livestock, resulting in economic loss for Texas farmers and ranchers," said Julie Ansley, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources, Travis County. "Predators also can serve as vectors for many diseases."

To help address predator concerns, the Texas Department of Agriculture works with AgriLife Extension to help Texans in the livestock industry find the most appropriate control method, said program coordinators. The training helps ensure the methods used to manage livestock predation are not hazardous to humans, non-target animals or the environment.

"This program covers training on available management and monitoring techniques and certifies applications for use of M-44 sodium cyanide — for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires special training for certification," Ansley said. "Before using these pesticides, applicators must have the appropriate TDA license and attend a predator management training."

The cost for the workshop is \$35 and includes breakfast. Participants must RSVP by Sept. 13. No cash will be accepted, so participants are asked to pay by check or money order made out to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service #280100-60020.

To RSVP and for more information, contact Sue Carrasco at 512-854-9610 or SACarrasco@ag.tamu.edu.

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, to obtain M-44 certification, participants must attend a TDA predator management training session, pass the M-44 Exam with a score of 70 or above and possess one of the following TDA applicator licenses:

- Private applicator certificate or license.
- Non-commercial applicator license with the predatory animal control subcategory or the regulatory pest control or demonstration and research categories.
- Commercial applicator license with the predatory animal control subcategory.

According to state agriculture department, M-44 certificates with numbers below 5000 are no longer valid.

Drought Continues: Implications for Cattle Producers

COLLEGE STATION — Texas beef cattle producers should plan for future periods of dry conditions as drought patterns exhibited in the 1950s continue to prevail in current models, according to an expert.

"We are still reliving the 1950s drought-producing pattern with periodic breaks," Brian Bledsoe, a weather forecaster who is featured monthly in Southern Livestock Standard, recently told 1,400 attendees at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course in College Station.

Bledsoe said when he speaks to young farmers and ranchers who are thinking about taking over operations from their fathers, he says, "have a drought plan...because we are going to have more dry years than wet years."

Bledsoe said computer models forecasted for the next 90 days are going to be "pretty status quo."

"At least through August, with the exception of tropical storm activity, the prospects of seeing significant rain in Texas aren't looking great."

Looking ahead, Bledsoe said come spring of next year, March through May, could "potentially be wet months." He said for now, it will be a drier and warmer-than-normal fall going into early winter, with potential for a possible El Nino trend in early 2014. However, Bledsoe said, "remember, we are still reliving the 1950s drought-producing pattern with periodic breaks."

The opening general session titled "Ranching Into the Future" featured presentations on weather, cattle market outlook and other industry issues.

Don Close, vice president for food and agriculture research with Rabobank, discussed the outlook for beef demand and trends in protein consumption across the U.S. He said thinking beyond the traditional mindset of beef consumption, eating habits are changing, especially as cultural diversification among the U.S. population continues. He cited Houston as the most diversified city in the U.S. per ethnic groups and how protein consumption differs compared to decades ago.

He said the beef industry has a great story.

"Go tell it," he said. "Beef production does not end at the ranch gate. Consumer interest in food and where it comes from is only going to increase. Nobody in the world can tell your story better than you can. Tell the story, please."

The short course, which continues through Wednesday, features more than 60 speakers from Texas and the U.S. It is coordinated by experts with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University department of animal science.

"We all know there have been some challenges and one of those challenges is from a rainfall perspective for the past 5 years," said Dr. Jason Cleere, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist and short course coordinator, during the opening of the general session.

Dr. Doug Steele, AgriLife Extension director, told the attendees, "Beef cattle are so important to our state. We have a vested interest in your success. That's why we continue to have the short course each year and give you the opportunity to come. I encourage you over the next couple of days to think about the future: where you are going with your practice, where the industry is going. We take our role in extending the great research in labs and in the field into the classroom and put that in (in a form of) education and outreach that is understandable to you."

This year's short course was dedicated to Dr. Randall Grooms, who retired in 1996 as professor and AgriLife Extension livestock specialist emeritus at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Overton. Grooms was recognized at the short course prime rib dinner.

The beef short course event showcases the latest research and educational programs offered by AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the department of animal science at Texas A&M. The annual event is one of the largest beef-education workshops in the country, and has become one of the largest and most comprehensive beef cattle educational programs in the U.S., according to organizers.

The cattleman's college portion provides participants with an opportunity to choose workshops based on their level of production experience and the needs of their ranch, Cleere said. This week's sessions feature information on introductory cattle production, retiring to ranching, management practices in the areas of forage, nutrition and reproduction, record keeping, genetics, purebred cattle, landowner issues and much more, he said.

In addition to classroom instruction, participants will be attending live demonstrations featuring fence building, chute-side calf working, cattle behavior, penning and Brush Busters.

"The goal of the short course each year is to provide the most cutting-edge information that is needed by beef cattle producers," Cleere said. "We think we have information for everyone to take home and apply to their operations."

F.Y.I

Sutton County Friends of NRA Safe Full of Guns raffle is 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

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.

76th LIONS CLUB AUCTION - October 22nd at Sutton County Civic Center. We need monetary donations and items for the auction. Lions Club supports community activities and offers student scholarships each year. Your help is greatly appreciated. For more information, call Janalyn Jones at 226-0067 or Jim Garrett at 206-1060.

Mark your calendars for our Back to School Bash Thursday, August 22nd 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Bank & Trust

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Texas A&M Develops a Computer Model to Predict Wildfire Risks

COLLEGE STATION — A burn-risk-detection modeling system in development by a consortium of Texas A&M University System researchers will help predict potential wildfire threats throughout the Lone Star State, according to its developers. The modeling system will be used by the Texas A&M Forest Service. Researchers with the Center for Natural Resource Information Technology, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, are developing the modeling program. One of those researchers, Dr. Richard Conner, also an AgriLife Research economist and professor in the department of agricultural economics at Texas A&M, said the system is a modification of several modeling projects developed a decade ago. "This current modeling system measures the amount of forage fuel load in a county and is used to predict potential fire danger," he said. The modeling system will provide real-time information on fuel loads using vegetation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather information for regions susceptible to wildfire.

"In the wildfire predictive services arena, one of the hardest things to get a handle on is herbaceous fuel load across the state," said Tom Spencer, head of fire predictive services, Texas A&M Forest Service. "It's challenging to determine the condition and amount of it. There's no good way to do that through remote sensing. It's always been the case where someone has to physically go out and look, then make a judgment call. "This project will help determine if it is possible or not. We think it is, but we still need to determine if the science supports it. Overall, we are looking forward to seeing how this helps us understand potential fire season severity, which will help us assist local governments to better plan ahead. It's a huge deal if this works out." The project has received \$125,000 in funding by a federal fire plan grant. So far, the project has been implemented in three counties — Stephens, Palo Pinto and Jack. In these counties, researchers have identified major plant communities and developed field monitoring sites to be included as part of an overall web

interface monitoring system. The team members working on the project include Wayne Hamilton, AgriLife Research range scientist, Jay Angerer, assistant professor at the Blacklands Research and Extension Center in Temple, Ed Rhodes, a research associate at Blacklands, and Jason Jones, an assistant research scientist with the department of ecosystem science and management at Texas A&M. "We will delineate land areas into ecological sites for an inventory to be used in the modeling system," Hamilton said. "Ecological sites are areas of the landscape that produce similar kinds and proportions of plant species and total annual yield. This will allow us to expand our field sampling information across similar areas (ecological sites) and save time and costs in the inventory process." Ecological sites also provide "state and transition models" that help identify plant communities and changes likely to occur from management inputs, he said. "What we are hoping to do is to provide vegetation information that the Forest Service

can use to monitor potential wildlife threats across regions of the state." Angerer and the center's team have developed the simulation model framework to run the monitoring system. It includes data such as types of vegetative plants growing in a county or region, soil data and historical weather data. "We are also using NOAA data with the other information on soils and plant communities we have collected to help predict how much vegetation is growing in a particular area," he said. Angerer said vegetation samples are clipped to help calibrate the model. A similar system was developed during a research project at Fort Hood. The collected data, along with remote-sensing information, will be used to identify similar sites in the county so that the entire county can be monitored. "Once we get the model working, the model will provide a base view of vegetative characteristics of a particular site, and can use this to see how many similar sites we have in an area," he said. "We then can model these points

and build landscape maps of potential fire threats." The plant community database is built by taking measurements of plant cover and clippings of vegetation in the field. "We take the basal area of grasses and measure the canopy cover of shrubs," Angerer said. The project uses the PHYGROW modeling system, which computes grass, herb and shrub growth, forage consumption by livestock, and hydrologic processes. The project also uses the Burning Risk Assessment Support System, or BRASS, which is a decision support tool that provides a continuous means for land managers to assess vegetation and weather to support decisions related to prescribed burning and/or the risk of wildfire by utilizing near real-time weather conditions and fuel loads. The PHYGROW model was first coded in 1990 and has undergone many enhancements since that time. The model's original computation algorithms are a mixture of formulas adapted from other plant growth models, as well

as biological relationships from grass-tiller-level research and livestock dietary selection conducted at Texas A&M University. "The PHYGROW model is capable of simulating growth of multiple species of plants subject to selective grazing by multiple animals on a soil with multiple layers for indefinite periods of time," Conner said. "The model is designed to be integrated with a wide variety of weather databases, vegetation databases and stocking rule databases, and provides output for a wide variety of data sources and formats including all relational databases." BRASS, they explained, is a web-based interface that allows users to examine fire risk for points using an interactive map interface. Simulation modeling of rangeland forage and grazing dates back to the late Dr. Jerry Stuth, an AgriLife Research scientist, who, working with Conner and Hamilton, started the initial Ranching Systems Group seeking research funds for information technology research.

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Sonora Academy of Arts Schedule

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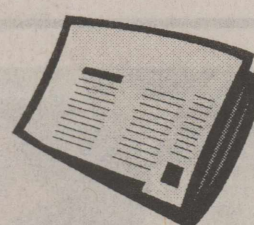
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Thursday
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
The Commissioners' Court of Sutton County, Texas, will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed budget for FY13 on Monday, August 26, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room of the Sutton County Courthouse Annex. Any citizen wishing to view the proposed budget may do so at the office of the Sutton County Judge at the Sutton County Courthouse Annex between the hours of 8:30 and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Public Notice

Sonora ISD will be hosting a Mandatory Substitute Teacher Training on Friday, August 23, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. @ the Sonora High School Auditorium!

Substitute Training modules will include:

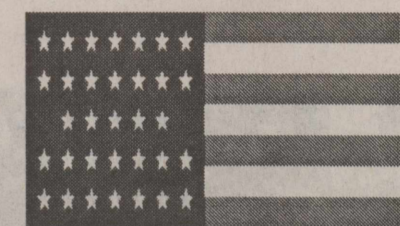
Importance of Reinforcement
Classroom Management
-Instructional Strategies

-Legal Issues
-Special Education
-Substitute Teacher Guidelines

This training is presented by Region 15 and hosted by the school district and all participants will receive a Substitute Teacher Tool Kit and a Certificate of Completion for the training. For more information please contact Kim Gonzales at 325/387-6940 ext. 3003 or email kimberly.gonzales@sonoraisd.net.

For Rent

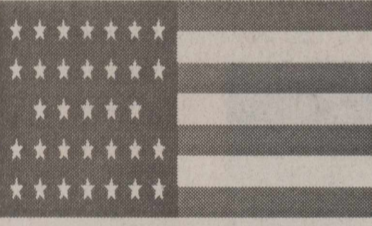
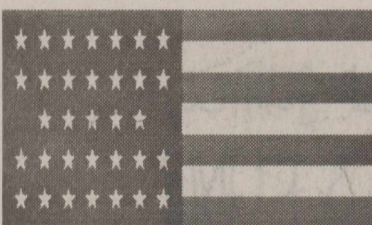
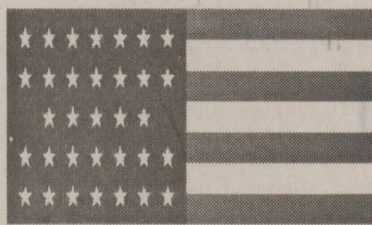
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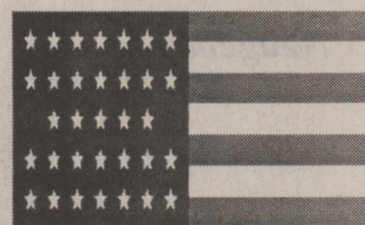
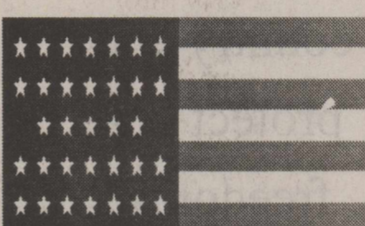
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New Residential Listings

124 E Castlehill Road  \$350,000	300 Scenic Drive  \$484,900
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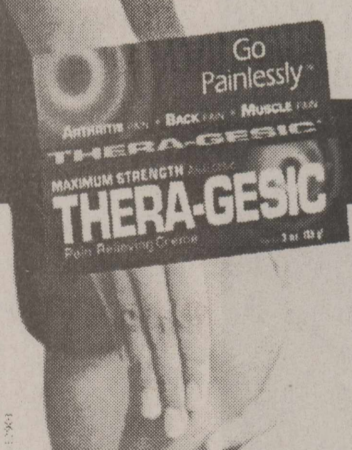
- 3BR/3 1/2 Bath - Brick home
- Recently remodeled w/wood floors
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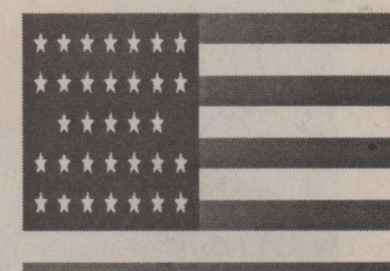
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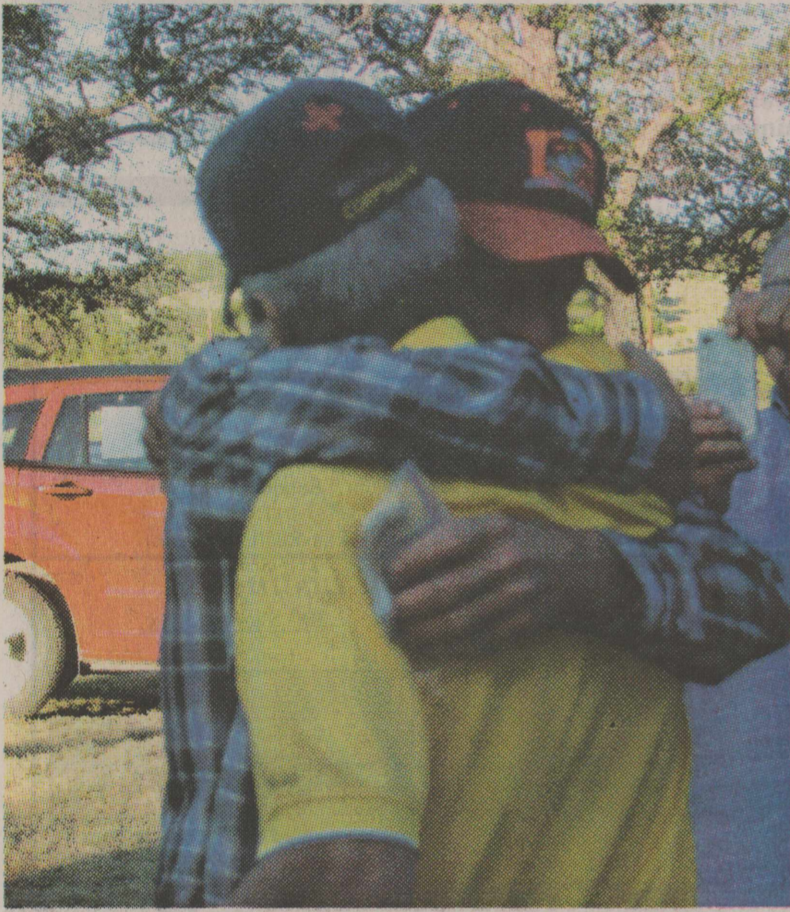
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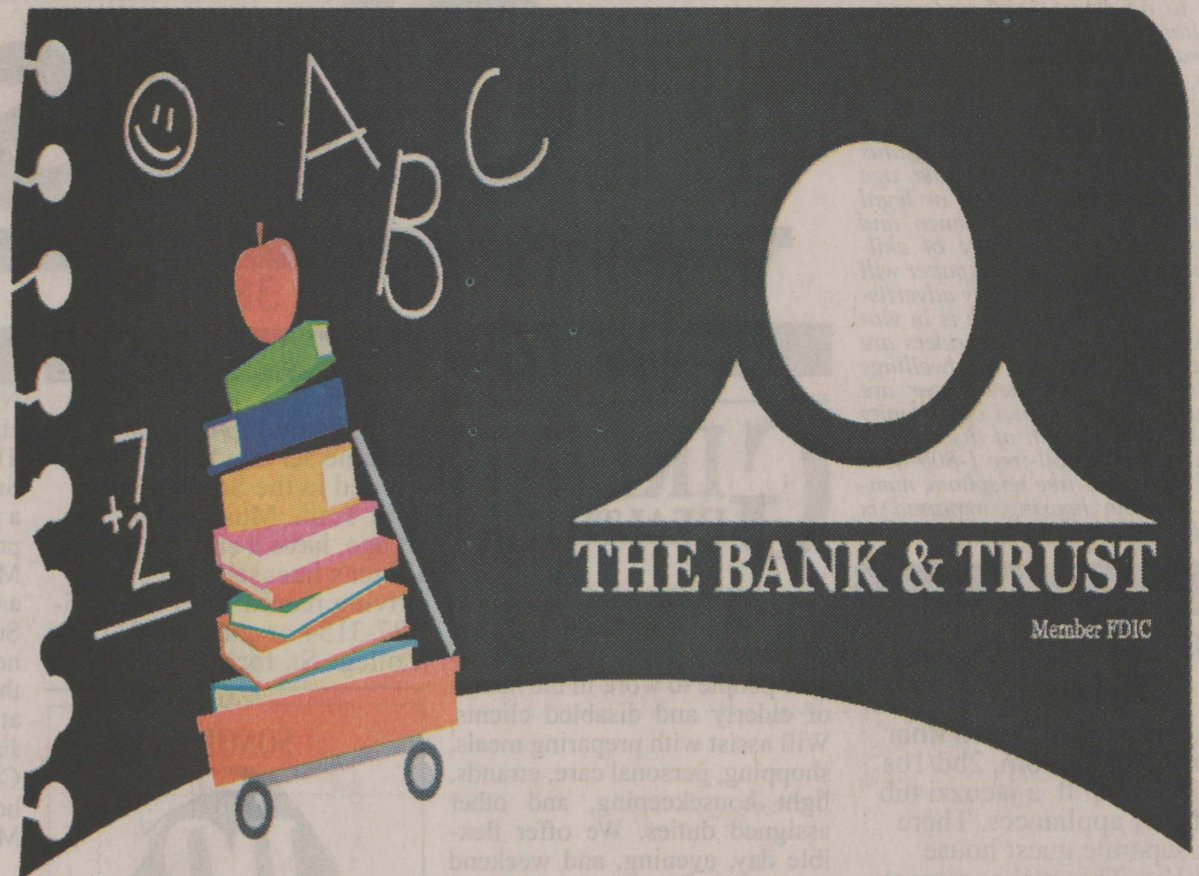


Juan "Doc" Sanchez made a presentation to each of his brothers in arms during a reunion held at Carver park in Sonora. Pictured above he embraces fellow veteran Jim Bollers and below John "Paladin" Shockley.



While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring our veterans, Americans must never forget the sacrifices that many of our fellow countrymen have made to defend our country and protect our freedoms.

Randy Neugebauer



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Sonora Bank welcomes Israel Pena to our Board of Directors.

Sonora Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Israel Pena to our Board. Mr. Pena is the Owner and President of Authentic Custom Homes, LLC and Israel Pena & Associates in Boerne, Texas. Authentic Custom Homes, LLC has been designing and building one-of-a-kind homes for individual clients since 1984. Israel Pena and Associates, Inc. is involved in land planning, designing and building in and around the Boerne area.

Mr. Pena is also very involved and active with many organizations and civic endeavors including: board member of the Schreiner University Board of Trustees, Life Director of the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington, D.C., Commissioner on the City of Boerne Planning and Zoning Commission, Chairman of the Facilities Planning Task Force for Spring Creek United Methodist Church and member of the Master Plan Task Force for the City of Boerne. Mr. Pena is a graduate of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas in Austin.

Mr. Pena and his wife Patricia have been married for 42 years. They have three daughters and four grandchildren. Mr. Pena enjoys raising Longhorn cattle, woodworking and model trains.



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