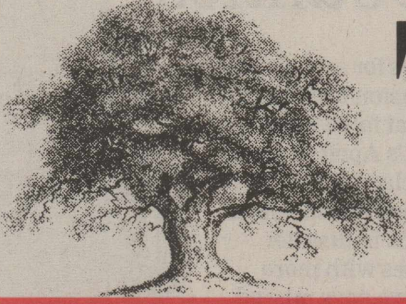


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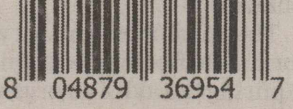
The Devil's River News

OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP & STRONG • COVERING THE NEWS IN SONORA AND SUTTON COUNTY SINCE 1890

April 28, 2016

\$1

Volume 127
Issue 17



Scouts Display Lots of Downhill Speed

Pinewood Derby Captures Scouts' Imagination

Local Boy Scout Troop 19 spent the morning racing cars and playing games on the courthouse lawn during their annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday, April 23rd.

For the second year the troops' six members, Tiger Cubs and Boy Scouts showed up with their finest sedans, coupes and sports cars, crafted from pinewood to participate in the annual race.

Scout Master Ryan Gill said the experience is one of many that helps foster leadership as well as camaraderie among the boys.

"It teaches them to follow rules and good sportsmanship," Gill said.

Eyeing the trophies, Justin Gonzales, a Cub Scout, said he intends to win first place.

Gonzales said he and his dad, Edgar spent weeks fashioning his car to look "just like a real car."

He said he added features like exhaust pipes and wheels

to help it go faster.

Six boys participated in Saturday's race. Also, the boys competed against a handful of local residents who signed up in the open division.

Everyone earned a trophy ranging from most realistic car to funniest car.

"Do your Best," is the motto of Troop 19, according to Gill, and all of the boys strive to do their best in every event.

Throughout the year, boys take part in a variety of events including camping, archery and the pinewood derby earning belt loops to show for their hard work and accomplishments.

Gill said it's easy to get involved with Boy Scouts. Sign up is in the fall at the same time that school begins. Information is distributed to students and parents and everyone is invited to participate.

"I liked making a car but camping is my favorite part of Boy Scouts," Gonzales said.



Scout Master Ryan Gill (ABOVE) helps members of Troop 19 position their cars for the first of three heats during the annual Pinewood Derby, Saturday, April 23rd. Six boys, Tiger Cubs and Boy Scouts participated in the event featuring a race, games, food and fun. DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Kellen Norrell (RIGHT) is one of six boys to compete in the annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday, April 23rd. Scout Master Ryan Gill spent time with each participant getting details about their cars. DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

AgriLife Research Station Celebrates Centennial

Station's Celebration Theme: 'The Next 100 Years - You Be Involved'

"You be Involved for the Next 100 Years," is the new mantra. The old sign located at the entry of the Texas A&M Agrilife Research Station was removed and sold at auction Saturday, April 23rd, during the facility's centennial celebration.

For 100 years the Agrilife station has been home to research for the purpose of improving the quality of livestock and plants for ranchers and farmers in West Texas, the state, as well as, the country.

More than three-hundred, mostly West Texas ranching-based, folks participated in a full day of activities including morning talks regarding past accomplishments as well as

future objectives of the station and its contributors.

Additionally, patrons enjoyed food, dancing, lamb cooking demonstrations, tours of the station, wool and grass judging contests, and an auction featuring ten Super Juniper eating goat billies and the old research station sign.

Dr. John Walker, Texas A&M Agrilife Research resident director at San Angelo and a celebration coordinator, recognized people who have worked, studied or conducted research on the ranch.

Featured speakers included Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor, Dr. John Walker, Dr. Mort Kothmann, ecosystem science and management professor at Texas

A&M University, College Station, Dr. Fred Smeins, ecosystem science and management visiting professor, Texas A&M, College Station, Dr. Sam Fuhendorf, natural resource ecology and management regents professor, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma and Dr. William Edmiston, D.V.M., Eldorado.

Special guests included Congressman Will Hurd as well as Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and Dr. Mark Hussey, Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture for the Texas A&M University System.

Hurd, recognized the Sonora station for its century of service with a special congressional certificate.

"This station is a leader in research for the broader community," Hurd said. "I hope that it will continue to be a leader for the next one-hundred years."

Stating that his goal is to continue to make grants available to help with the station's financial support, the Texas A&M Graduate said he supports all of Texas A&M programs and extensions.

Further, Hurd said he is helping smooth out the process to acquire grant funding for the purpose of continuing the station and its work.

Founded in 1916, at the request of area ranchers and the then newly formed Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association the station focused on concerns on treating animal diseases and eradicating breed specific enigmas

Founding fathers in research, Basil M. Halbert, Virge A. Brown, R.E. Taylor and J.B. Murrah launched the research station, investing their time, money and faith to its success.

Initially, the goals of the station were to study diseases, reproduction and management of sheep and goats raised in the

dry, rocky and rough west Texas terrain.

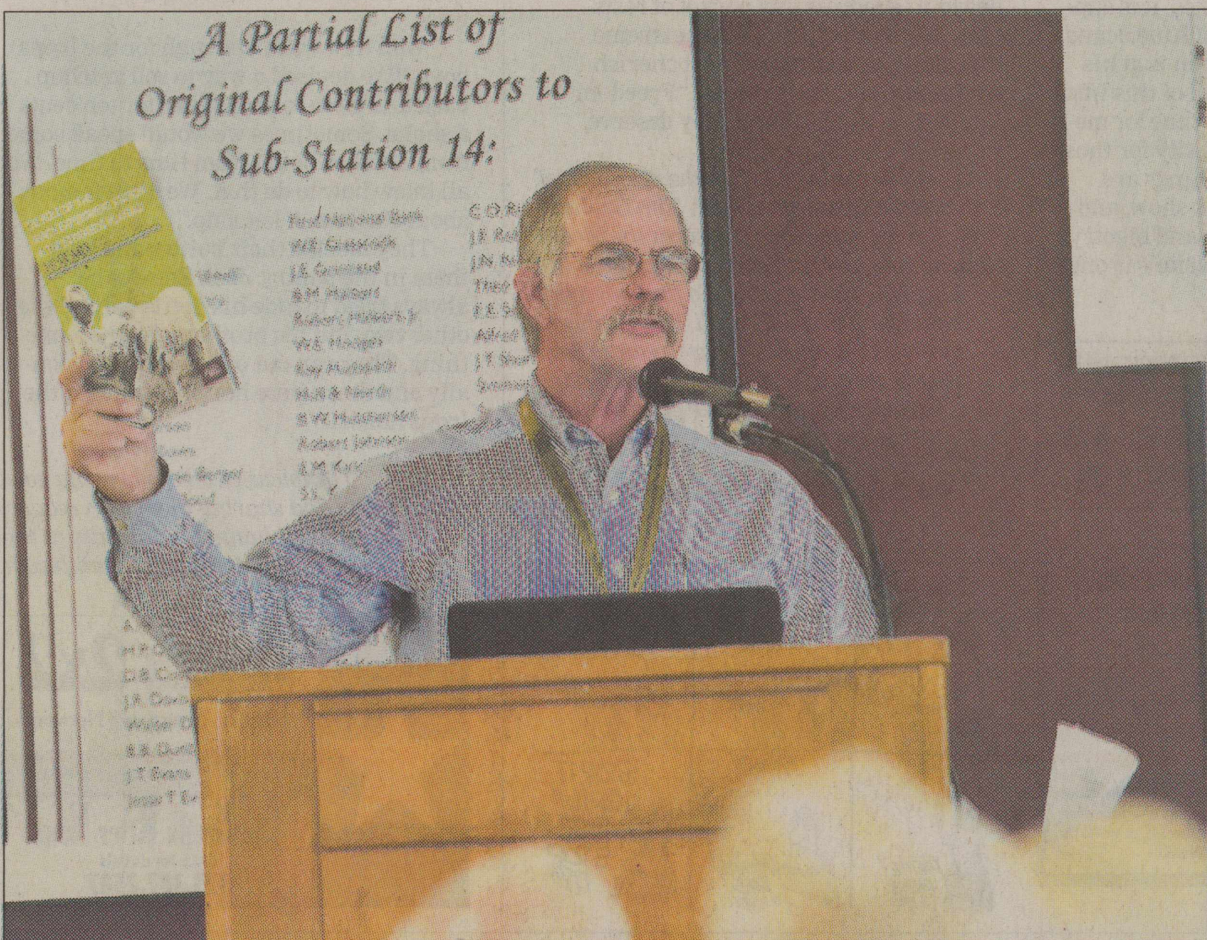
Over the years, the station has broadened its research and staff to help meet the changing needs of ranchers, including controlled burns and other areas related to land management.

Recent research includes other livestock, whitetail deer, hydrology and issues resulting from Juniper over growth.

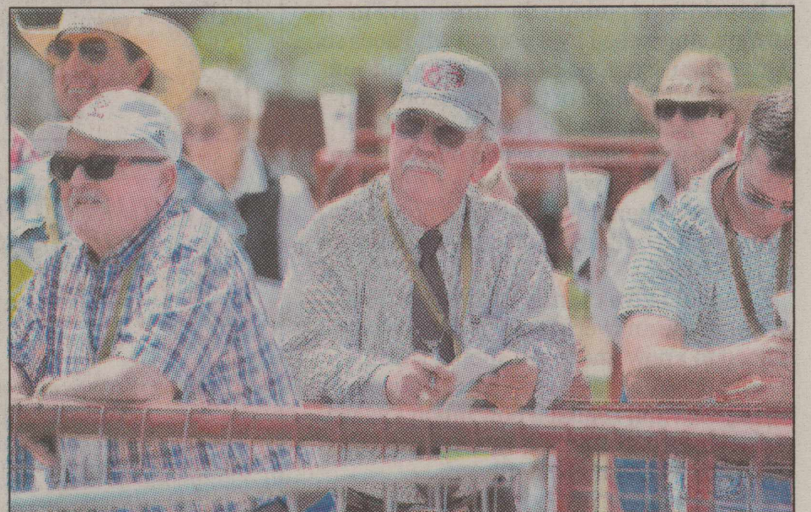
Further, the Sonora Endowment Auction, established by ranchers and supporters was established to help ensure the continued success of the station. Proceeds from Saturday's auction helped fund this endowment.

The goal of the centennial celebration was to welcome the public to share in a day of fun, socializing and learning about the past, as well as, present day works of the station and its personnel, serving West Texas ranchers, according to Walker.

Now, a new sign welcomes guests to the Sonora substation located on Hwy 55, less than 30 miles south of Sonora and a new motto carried throughout the crowd on Saturday, "The next 100 years - YOU Be Involved."



Dr. John Taylor welcomed guests to the Texas AgriLife Research Station Centennial celebration on Saturday, April 23rd. People from all over Texas came out to share in the festivities and help recognize station founders, staff and present researchers at the facility. DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Dr. Charles "Butch" Taylor joined a crowd of bidders, Saturday during the auction of Super Juniper eating goats at the Texas AgriLife Research Station. About 300 people came out to show their support during the facilities centennial celebration. DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

www.devilsriver.news

Sonora News Online, All the Time

Abbott Proclaims Flooding Disaster, Adds More Counties

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on April 18 declared a state of disaster for Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Montgomery, Waller and Wharton counties.

Those counties were hit with severe storms and flooding beginning April 17, requiring the aid of emergency responders over many days.

Abbott authorized the use of "all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster" and suspended any statute that would prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster, pending written approval

of his office.

On April 22, Abbott added the counties of Bosque, Fayette, Liberty, Milam, Palo Pinto, Parker and San Jacinto to his April 18 disaster declaration. The governor's office said even more counties could be added later.

On April 24, Abbott requested federal "individual assistance" for Harris, Fayette, Grimes and Parker counties. If his request is granted by President Obama, affected citizens would be able to apply for grants of up to \$33,000 and low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"As Texans recover from the severe

flooding that inundated several areas of Texas, it is crucial they receive the financial assistance needed to restore their communities," Abbott said. "In facing these challenges, Texans have displayed enormous courage, with more than 1,000 rescues from the rising waters. With much-needed financial assistance, I am confident Texans will continue to overcome the challenges before them as they begin to rebuild their lives."

TEA grants waivers

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath on April 20 announced he would grant two missed instructional day

waivers for school systems in Houston-area counties that fall within Gov. Abbott's April 18 disaster declaration.

Morath said school systems in disaster counties with more than two days missed due to flooding will not have to make up those two days on the remaining school calendar, but they will need to work with the Texas Education Agency on options for

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 8

All the Answers, Now What Was the Question?

I wish I had all the answers. I know some people who do. I'm pretty sure you do, too — know someone who is smarter than the rest of us. Maybe you are even lucky enough to be one of them.

I think maybe I used to be one of them. Although I can't be sure because I'm not

Slices of Life



By Jill Pertler

sure of most things. I have a hazy memory of a younger me who used to know it all — or at least a lot of it. Then I blew out a few more candles on the birthday cake and realized how little I really knew and how much more

there was to learn. I saw how my opinions about different subjects changed and evolved over time, making me even more knowledgeable than I was when I thought I knew so much, but didn't, really.

But back to the good folks who really do know it all (it goes without saying, you know who you are). One would think, I think, that a person with all the answers would experience a certain, perfect form of inner and outer peace. Being all-knowing would bring with it a heightened tranquility and sense of serenity. There would be no need to be adamant or pushy about one's opinions if those opinions were always 100 percent spot-on correct. Especially the political ones. Yes, especially those.

That's why it's puzzling that the people with all the answers are also the ones who are often outspoken regarding their absolute and infinite knowledge. It would seem if you are unquestionably assured of your correctness that you could whisper and be heard. You wouldn't need to shout or scream the truth — often in CAPITAL LETTERS — because that tends to turn people away, not recruit them to your cause.

Shouting often comes across as anger (just ask my kids). When I shout I'm not doing a very good job of listening because I am so busy being right that I forget there may be another way to look at things. Shouting most often does not work and is not advisable — unless you are in a burning building, doing the laundry or for some reason find yourself holding a megaphone. If that's the case, by all means, go right ahead.

To be fair, being around a bunch of uninformed people who don't know as much as you must be frustrating for those enlightened few. Perhaps that's why they hit the caps lock on their keyboards while signing on to social media to share non-fact-checked links. I wouldn't know, since I'm on the negative side of the omnipotent and deep knowledge pool. But I can only imagine (which I'm probably not very good at, either).

Other techniques used by people with all the right answers include applying feigned humor or mockery to make fun of opposing opinions. What they lack in kindness really knowledgeable people make up for in clever. LOL. This is especially compelling when sarcasm, belittling and name-calling are utilized in tandem. It takes skill to combine the three and I'm always impressed by a person who does so. I give them extra points if they include an unattractive photo of the person or politician they are intending to debate. These effective techniques work on me and I am immediately drawn to the other side of an argument when it is illustrated how silly my original opinion was anyway. I've got a lot to learn.

I should give thanks for the good folks with all the answers. They tell me what I need to know and how I should think. I used to be one of them. Then I figured things out and realized how much I've yet to learn and no matter how hard I try I'll never be able to know it all.

Which might just put me one step ahead of those who think they already do.



The Bathroom Freedom Fighters

Back in the 1980s, Bruce Springsteen and other rock stars formed Artists United Against Apartheid and performed a song proclaiming "Sun City" that referenced an entertainment resort in a region of South Africa. The song mocked the Reagan administration's constructive engagement policy to end apartheid. And rock stars also routinely performed in the totalitarian Soviet Union, believing that was incredibly constructive.

One wonders: Will these people ever stop complaining?

Today, Springsteen and other so-called artists of conscience have a burning desire to affront a new injustice: transgender people who aren't allowed to celebrate their chosen identity in the opposite sex's bathroom. The state legislature of North Carolina attempted to retain the silly old notion that "single-sex, multiple-occupancy bathroom and changing facilities" should be entered based on a person's biological gender, not what the one they imagine it to be. People on the left have gone berserk.

The most excitable cultural leftists at exotic publications like The New York Times argue that the rarest of rare exemplars of gender confusion having the liberty to use the wrong restroom is a human right on par with those who suffered lynching or racial segregation. This epidemic of "discrimination" — making those assigned a penis at birth use the men's room — is apparently everywhere. Outside the most liberal cities, it is supported by a large number of Americans.

On this issue, Springsteen is at his most ridiculous: "Taking all of this into account, I feel that this is a time for me and the band to show solidarity for those freedom fighters. ... Some things are more important than a rock show, and this fight against prejudice and bigotry — which is happening as I write — is one of them."

Go to Dallas or Pittsburgh or Memphis or Detroit and read that quote to people. They will burst out laughing. But go to New York City and watch some saddle up their horses.

The media in Manhattan are lionizing Springsteen for being a gender identity guerrilla. ABC's sappy Steve Osunsami reported: "Bruce Springsteen, the rock legend who honors veterans and stands up for heroes, is refunding concert tickets today in protest of the new North Carolina law that rolls back protections for gay families and stops transgender residents from using the bathrooms they need." They can't go to the bathroom without Bruce? News writers have called it a "transgender bathroom ban," as if the gender-confused are banned from restrooms altogether.

Springsteen's not alone. This past Sunday, 80s rock star Bryan Adams canceled a show in Biloxi, Miss., due to the state's new religious freedom legislation. The hypocrisy is delicious. It was quickly revealed that Adams performed in Egypt just last month. And he toured other predominantly Muslim destinations in 2010, including Damascus, Doha, Dubai, and Beirut. We're pretty certain those sites don't have transgender bathrooms either.

The cultural left won one battle — like the imposition of gay marriage on all 50 states — and now it's using every liberal instrument of corporate and celebrity power to suppress any pocket of resistance to the next new sexual extreme, especially in states that most cherish traditional religious values. "Freedom fighters" is the last label they deserve.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center. Tim Graham is director of media analysis at the Media Research Center and executive editor of the blog NewsBusters.org. To find out more about Brent Bozell III and Tim Graham, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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A Fierce Love of Ketchup

When our oldest son went to France on a Rotary Youth Exchange visit, he told us the family he was living with served ketchup from a silver bowl at mealtimes. Now we're talking about an upscale family that resided on an estate and had a yacht on the Mediterranean, a chalet in the Alps and upstairs and downstairs maids. They just had a thing for ketchup and considered it special. We thought it strange to find that in a country known for its culinary delights. Sure enough, when the youngster from France came to spend a few weeks with us to complete the exchange, he had ketchup at every meal.

Rolling Along



by Tumbleweed Smith

I have a friend who grew up thinking ketchup was a delicacy. His name is Jack Ed Irons and he lives in Dallas. He grew up on Big Spring's north side where his father ran a cotton compress. His dad also ran a compress in Stanton and occasionally Jack Ed would ride over there in the mornings with his dad. When his dad needed to stay in Stanton to tend to business, he gave his son train fare and Jack Ed rode the train the 18 miles back to Big Spring.

"Growing up in Big Spring was kind of a Normal Rockwell kind of experience. My dad would come home from work and we'd have lunch and listen to Paul Harvey. We sat at a counter my grandfather made. We all had our special places. After lunch my dad went back to work and my brothers and I went back to school."

Jack Ed admired his mother. A plaque on her wall carried the phrase: "There's a special place in heaven for the mother of three boys." Somebody added some more words: "Especially your three boys." Jack Ed, the oldest of the three, says he was lucky to have the two brothers he had.

Ketchup was a big deal among the three Irons boys. "My brothers and I loved ketchup," says Jack Ed. "We put it on everything, much to the chagrin of my dad. He really didn't like that too much but he put up with us. We used lots of ketchup. My parents must have bought it by the case. Finally they started rationing our ketchup. They came up with a plan to give each of us one bottle of ketchup a week. And that was it. We would not get any more until the beginning of the next week."

Well that wasn't enough for the Irons boys. "We devised a way to sell ketchup back and forth to each other for ten cents a shake. Sometimes we would sneak some from another bottle from time to time. We all knew how to do that. We were famous about our love of ketchup."

They labeled their bottles and kept them in the pantry. Jack Ed says he always tried to hide his bottle behind the other two. But his brothers did the same thing. They ran out of ketchup occasionally and those were horrible times at the Irons house.

Tumbleweed enjoys hearing good stories and sharing them with readers of his column. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.

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Girls Doubles Win Regional

Heading into the tournament as the number one seeded team Tyler Hampton and Sky Jennings proved their worth earning the win during the Region 1-3A tournament on April 18th and 19th.

Starting off, the ladies faced Nguyen and Ho from Amarillo Highland Park in the first round.

They came away with a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

Next, the team defeated Sanchez and Velasco from Crane, 6-1, 6-1.

In the semi-final round, Sonora suffered defeat by Wall, 6-1, 6-2, placing them in the finals on Tuesday.

Despite the rain delay at the start of Tuesday's match, the girls beat Mireles and Boyd from Brownfield, 6-2, 6-1 controlling the match with every swing of their racket.

Advancing to the State meet, Hampton and Jennings will compete in College Station on May 16th and 17th.

In girls' singles, Shelby Aschenbeck moved into the tourney as the number 3 seed.

Aschenbeck earned the first round match against Farmer from Brady 6-3, 6-3.

Unfortunately, she was defeated in the second round 3-6, 7-5, and 6-4 against and unorthodox player from Denver City.

The only athlete to come within a few points of victory, Aschenbeck never backed down from her challenger.

In boys, Sergio Solis and Adrian Garcia fell to Lomeli and Taylor from Kermit at the end of three sets 4-6,

Bronco Tennis Excels at Regional



Sonora Broncos and Lady Broncos tennis players participated in the 2016 Regional Tennis Meet on April 18th and 19th in Abilene. Advancing to State, Tyler Hampton and Sky Jennings will compete on May 16th and 17th in College Station. (L-R front) Tyler Hampton and Shelby Aschenbeck, (L-R back) Dylan Taylor, Esteban Marin, Adrian Garcia, Sergio Solis, Sky Jennings, Carlos Mendoza and Brian VanWinkle. | COURTESY PHOTO

6-3, 6-4.

Both, the Broncos and Lady Broncos enjoyed a rewarding season finally competing among sixty-four other teams at the Regional tournament.

Coach Cash Jennings said he applauds all of the participating athletes including the alternates Esteban Marin, Dylan Taylor, Carlos Mendoza, and Brian VanWinkle.

"I especially want to thank all of the parents and family who came out to show their support for the athletes during Regionals," Jennings said.

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MS Tennis Takes Gold

The Sonora Jr. High tennis team didn't have to go far to earn first place on Saturday April 16th because the tournament took place in Sonora.

Every athlete deserves commendation for their hard work and improved skill on the court.

Earning first place Blayze Sykes and Wilson Johnson took home the gold for the 8th grade boys doubles.

Brock Aschenbeck was awarded second place in boys singles.

Aldo Deluna earned the consolation bracket in boys singles.

Aleasha Smith was awarded fourth place in 8th grade girls singles.

Harley Daniel and Sarah Kimbrell earned fourth place in 8th grade girls doubles.

As well, the 7th grade girls took home gold.

Aislin Nixon was awarded first place in singles.

Sianna Alviso and Esmeralda Salazar earned second place in girls doubles.

Madalyn Fischer and Rashel Deluna were awarded third place.

The 7th grade boys netted gold as well.

Michael Creek was awarded first place, Brady Vyvleka earned second

place, and Elias Perez was awarded third in boys singles.

Coach Cash Jennings said he appreciates the great show of support for the students.

"I am very proud of how everybody played and am looking forward to the rest of the season," Jennings said.

The teams go on the road to compete in Ozona and Reagan County before returning to Sonora for their District Tournament on May 7th.

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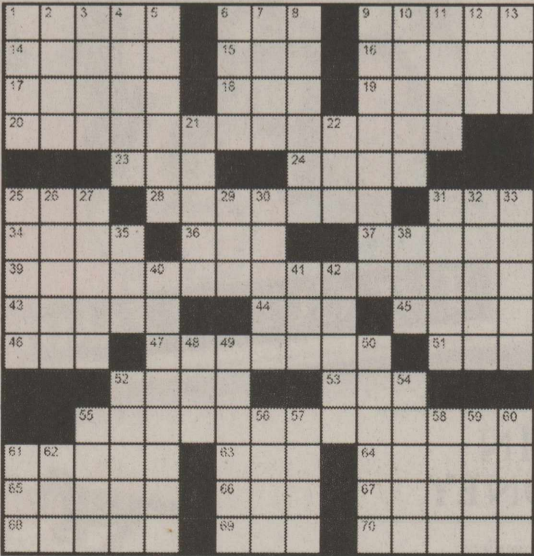
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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1. Country album?</p> <p>6. Holiday quaff</p> <p>9. Dodger Pee Wee</p> <p>14. Gettysburg victor</p> <p>15. Way to go?</p> <p>16. On in years</p> <p>17. Rousseau work</p> <p>18. Battering device</p> <p>19. Unclouded</p> <p>20. Young person</p> <p>23. The facts of life?</p> <p>24. No votes</p> <p>25. Tax collection grp.</p> <p>28. Capital of Georgia</p> <p>31. Pitches</p> <p>34. Zip</p> <p>36. Brown, e.g.</p> <p>37. Network pro, say</p> <p>39. Take care of at the restaurant</p> <p>43. Lava forerunner</p> <p>44. Prefix with natal</p> <p>45. Ballet attire</p> <p>46. Iris's place</p> <p>47. "Good Will Hunting" director</p> <p>51. Drench</p> <p>52. Java neighbor</p>	<p>53. Dupes</p> <p>55. What clocks do once a year</p> <p>61. Novelist Calvino</p> <p>63. Past time</p> <p>64. Gumption</p> <p>65. Like a shoutout</p> <p>66. Space</p> <p>67. Mountain ridge</p> <p>68. Click or clack</p> <p>69. "Delicious!"</p> <p>70. Closet wood</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Iowa State home</p> <p>2. Office fill-in</p> <p>3. Hangout</p> <p>4. Off-the-cuff</p> <p>5. "Not that again!"</p> <p>6. Drug cop</p> <p>7. Moonfish</p> <p>8. Twins in the sky</p> <p>9. 1982 Stallone flick</p> <p>10. French females</p> <p>11. First home</p>	<p>12. Main</p> <p>13. Goof up</p> <p>21. Pull out all the stops</p> <p>22. "___ in cat"</p> <p>25. "Here I am!"</p> <p>26. Indemnify</p> <p>27. Boot camp boss</p> <p>29. Test tube baby operation, briefly</p> <p>30. Saone city</p> <p>31. "___ Dei"</p> <p>32. Because of</p> <p>33. Pancake topper</p> <p>35. Lip</p> <p>38. Explosive stuff</p> <p>40. "The Guns of ___"</p> <p>41. Actor Stephen</p> <p>42. "Tiny Bubbles" crooner</p> <p>48. Actress MacGraw</p> <p>49. Oft day-shift start</p> <p>50. Airport area</p> <p>52. In the high 80s</p> <p>54. Cursed</p> <p>55. Delhi wrap</p> <p>56. Like film noir</p> <p>57. Kind of team</p> <p>58. Fired</p> <p>59. Actress Moreno</p> <p>60. Stags and does</p> <p>61. Room offerer</p> <p>62. Likewise</p>
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GOTTA BOUNCE



See solution on Page 8

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Broncos Ground RC Owls 12-5

The Sonora Broncos added another point to their district standing following their win Tuesday, April 19th at Reagan County.

From the get-go, contributions came from every player including an RBI by Caleb Galvan, a walk by Henry Ramos, an RBI single by Louie Castro, an error, a fielder's choice, and an RBI single by Noah Sanmiguel - all for six runs in the first inning.

Additionally, Wesley Dutton racked up two RBIs on two hits for the Broncos. He singled in the third inning and tripled in the seventh inning.


Although he allowed five runs over seven innings, Sanmiguel struck out seven, walked three and surrendered four hits to help with the Broncos win over the Owls.

Wrapping things up, a triple by Dutton ushered in Michael Campos and Netza Estrada. Next a single by Ramos carried Dutton across the plate.

Finally, the Broncos added four more runs in the top of the seventh toping things off with two routine ground balls and a strikeout.

The Broncos moved into their next game against Coahoma which they won 9-1. They have 6-3 district standing. They are working towards second in district.

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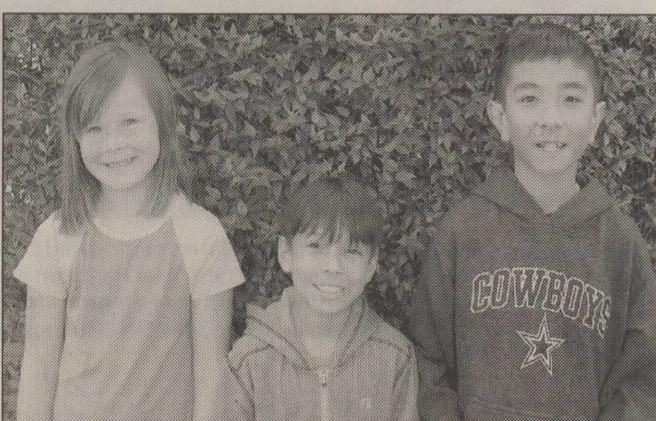


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Sonora Elementary Students of the Week- Sylas Robles, Pre-K, Payten White, K, Beau Blackbird, 1st, Chase Day, 2nd, |COURTESY PHOTO

Elementary and Intermediate Students of the Week



Sonora Intermediate School Students of the Week - Jorge Leija, 3rd, Johanna Dooley, 4th, Justin Prather, 5th |COURTESY PHOTO

Sonora Outruns Bulldogs 9-1 in District Play

Sonora put the Bulldogs in the kennel with a 9-1 win during Friday's district game in Coahoma.

It was a busy day at the plate for Noah Sanmiguel.

He homered in the first inning, singled in the third, doubled in the fifth in addition to collecting two extra base hits.

Atop the mound, Michael Campos controlled the Bulldogs, striking out eight batters. Campos allowed one earned run on four hits and two walks over seven innings.

Following a team effort by Sanmiguel and Caleb Galvan with five hits and two RBIs, the Broncos continued bringing in the runs.

A run in the third inning was scored on an RBI single by Isaiah Lira on a hit by Michael Mungia. The run total was matched in the fourth

inning. The Broncos went on to bring home three runs in the fifth inning, matching that run total in the seventh.

In the fifth, they scored on an RBI single by Galvan, bringing home Lira.

Three final scores were earned in the seventh on a sacrifice fly by Wesley Dutton, an RBI single by Adrian Garcia and a ground out by Louie Castro.

From here the Broncos begin the Bi-District round during the week of May 5th-7th.

The JV finished their district play with a loss against Reagan County and a win against Coahoma, displaying some great hitting by nine players and fine pitching by Logan McDonald.

The Broncos finished their season 6-1 in district.

County Commissioners Approve Sale of Fireworks for Memorial Day Holiday

County commissioners handled a light agenda during a special meeting held on Monday, April 25th approving the sale of fireworks for Memorial Day and the advertising for a jailer.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to the sale of fireworks for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. The sale of fireworks is permitted from May 25th through Midnight May 30th.

As well, the court approved publicly advertising for a Sutton County jailer to replace a current jailer who resigned his position.

Additionally, the court approved hiring three augmentees to assist the Sheriff's Office. Salary compensation for these officers will be paid through the Stone Garden Grant and their services used to assist Border Patrol agent requests.

In other business, Commissioners approved the Tax-Assessor Collector report as presented by Erica Berry.

Next, Commissioners discussed further options to acquire asphalt to supply the Road and Bridge Department. To date, and

although advertised, the county has not received any bids for asphalt.

A request, by the Chamber of Commerce, to waive the rental fee for the pavilion was tabled until the next meeting on May 9th.

Further, the court approved a request for the re-plating of Rancho de los Vistas as well as the final presentation of the Owensville Ranch Subdivision.

In closing, Judge Steve Smith reported on the possibility of using grant funding available through the Department of Agriculture to benefit residents needing assistance for specific home repairs. Also, he asked the court to consider addressing, in the next regular meeting, issues regarding improvements to the Civic Center 4-H barn.

Judge Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Commissioners Mike Villanueva, John Wade and Fred Perez were in attendance.

Commissioner Carl Teaff was absent.

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners is slated for Monday, May 9th, at 9:00 a.m., in the County Annex Building.

Sonora Scholars Participate in Regional UIL Meet in Abilene on April 23rd.

Thirty Sonora High School students participated in the Regional UIL Meet in Abilene on April 23rd.

Every student deserves recognition for their hard work. As well, each student acquired additional knowledge having participated.

Results:
Calculator Applications: JD Garza, Jill Buitron, Henry Ramos, Kristin Garrett.

Computer Science: Tate Shannon, 4th, Tate Shannon, Kaden Cordell, Sky Jennings, Kristy Sanchez, 3rd (The team tied for 1st in the programming part of the test).

Feature Writing: 4th, Shayna Edwards (Alternate to state)

Literary Criticism: 2nd, Tate Shannon (Going to State!)

Dalton Morris, 6th, Tate Shannon, Dalton Morris, Darby Ramsdell, Danny Pechacek, 3rd.

Number Sense: Tate Shannon, 6th, Tate Shannon, JD Garza, Kaden Cordell, Cip Tobias, 4th.

Poetry: Layla Burke, 6th

Sonora ISD Menu

PK-5th : Free Breakfast & \$2.45 lunch
Middle & High School: \$1.95 Breakfast & \$2.85 lunch

Choice of 1 of 2 entrees or salad

Menu Subject to Change

Monday - May 2nd

Breakfast
Chicken and Waffles or Cereal w/ Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety

Lunch
Meatloaf or Country Fried Steak

Gravy, Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Fruit, Milk
After School Meal: Fruit, Raisins, Milk

Tuesday - May 3rd

Breakfast
Breakfast Club or Cereal w/ Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety

Lunch
Spaghetti Bowl w/Breadstick or Pepperoni Pizza w/Baked Potato Chips

Garden Salad, Tuscan Vegetables, Fruit, Pudding, Milk
After School Meal: Fruit, Raisins, Milk

Wednesday - May 4th

Breakfast
Texas Toast and Sausage or Cereal w/Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety

Lunch
Teriyaki Beef Sandwich w/Baked Potato Chips or Chili w/Corn bread

Broccoli Bites, Garden Salad, Fruit, Milk
After School Meal: Baked Chips, Juice

Thursday - May 5th

Breakfast
Sausage Kolache or Cereal w/ Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety

Lunch
Mexican Combo Plate or Chicken Quesadillas

Spanish Rice, Mexicali Corn, Charro Beans, Salsa, Fruit, Milk
After School Meal: Chex Mix, Juice

Friday - May 6th

Breakfast
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal w/ Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk Variety

Lunch
Popcorn Chicken w/Roll or Sloppy Joe Sandwich

Sweet Potato Fries, Cucumber Dippers, Fruit, Cookie, Milk
After School Meal: 1/2 Ham Sandwich, Juice

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City Council Approves Purchase of Dura Patcher

City Council members approved the purchase of a Dura Patcher following a presentation by Peter Duran. The machine cost of \$39,500 will be paid for with street sales tax monies that are currently available.

The Dura Patcher is used to dispense road patch materials for the purpose of repairing streets, roadways and parking lots.

Council members agreed to purchase a 32 hour life refurbished machine including a six-month warranty.

In regular business, a lack of attendance resulted in many agenda items being tabled.

Agenda items tabled included future issuance of laptops and e-mail addresses for council members, and the Sonora municipal swimming pool needs

and hours of operation.

Other items included a notice of agreement to accept land from Mike and Janey Dillard, as well as, a notice of agreement to accept land from Stanley and Clara James.

Last to be tabled was a new income survey to determine if Sonora falls within the median household parameters to be eligible for grants.

Council members approved a motion to adopt an ordinance on parking heavy duty trucks on residential areas with the change of the weight limit.

The acceptable weight limit of heavy duty trucks is under 26,000 pounds to park in residential areas. Violators will be cited with a fine not to exceed \$2000.

The council approved the publicity and tourism

agreement with the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and the Sutton County Historical Society.

The trustees approved no changes to the current 2016 consumer price index(CPI) adjustment to municipal telecommunications right-of-way access line rates.

Council members approved the Chamber of Commerce quarterly HOTS tax's financial reports as presented by Donna Garrett.

Trustees approved the motion to keep the depository bid with Sonora Bank.

Additionally, they approved the Sonora tourism committee's budget for HOT fund proceeds for the fiscal year beginning April 1st through March 31, 2017.

The council approved the SEDC quarterly report

and a memorial donation for the Senior Center in the amount of \$25.

Without further comments or concerns council members went behind closed doors for an executive session.

No action was taken following the executive session.

Belia Fay stated that she would like more help when it comes to early voting. She said the early voting for School and Hospital Board was tough and she requested another clerk to assist.

Also, Fay requested budgeting for a new voting system for future elections.

In closing, Jeremy Dawson thanked everyone for their support during his tenure as a council member. Dawson resigned his position.

Councilman Todd Munn presided over the meeting. Mayor Wanda Shurley was absent.

Council members present were Jeremy Dawson, Terri Johnson and Doug Chandler were present.

The next meeting of the Sonora City Council is slated for May 16th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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Sine Sets Sights Broncos' Next State Title

Spring football practice is already underway in Bronco Nation and everyone's sights are set on bringing home the state title. Athletic Director and Head Football Coach David Sine said he is certain that Sonora is the best place to be to reach that goal.

"I think the community is hungry for a state championship," Coach David Sine said.

Sine said his vision of the future of Bronco Nation has been clear since before his return to Sonora in April 2015.

"Our ultimate goal is to win the Lone Star Cup," Sine said.

Across the board in the district, sights are set on bringing home a sixth state championship, according to Sine.

Further, Sonora ranks No. 1 in the 2016 Best High School Sports in the state of Texas, according to Niche.com, formerly known as College Prowler, a reputable source that offers rankings and site reviews for the best schools and colleges throughout the United States.

Currently, Sonora offers a wide variety of sports including Football, Volleyball, Track and Field, Softball, Baseball, Basketball, Cross-country, Powerlifting, Tennis and Golf. Tennis, golf and powerlifting were added when Sine came to Sonora in 2009.

Sine said he coined the name "Bronco Nation," as an alteration of the moniker of the Los Angeles Raiders.

Of course, going into the fall and standing on the state championship path, football is at the top of the list for Sine.

Although Sonora is ranked in the top 5 in the region and top 10 in the state of Texas in division 2-3A, Sine said the real focus is on the Broncos instead of worrying about everyone else.

Collectively, they share a single philosophy heard in a chant off the field as well as on the field, "Who are we? Broncos. How far? All the way. What's the goal? Next level."

For Sine, his coaches and players, the next level is better than the year before.

"We have been talking about a state championship in the fall, Sine said. "If you don't talk about winning, it's not going to happen."

The blueprint is there according to Sine. Growth and team work over the summer dictates how far they will go in the fall. As well, it is important to stay healthy.

Upon his return in 2015, Sine took the Broncos to a season ending 8-1. This fall, the Broncos will once again, pursue their state dream.

"The toughest year is the first year," Sine said.

Twenty-five lettermen are returning to the field in the fall with 8 players returning on offense and 8 players returning on defense. This year, accountability is a key adjustment to helping the Broncos reach their goal.

Sine requires discipline and accountability of his team. From respect, uniform and commitment, every player must hold the other one accountable for everything from athletics to academics.

Participating in other sports throughout the year also benefits the players making them what Sine calls, "bigger, faster, stronger." Any time athletes are competing they are getting better according to Sine.

Sine believes that well rounded athletes are more likely to get a college scholarship than those who specialize in one sport. He said if a player is athletic enough to be recruited they will want to know how many sports that player participated in.

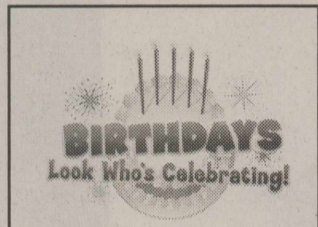
"It's a direct reflection of what we do," Sine said. Sine's return and resolve to take the Broncos all the way to state didn't come easy.

Following his best year ever as a coach, in 2011, Sine left Sonora to accept an opportunity that he thought was too good to pass up.

Life was good – for a short time until he realized that he couldn't bring the spirit and resolve of the players, coaches, parents and community of Sonora with him to create his own winning team in his new hometown of Columbus.

It would take one more move to Bandera before Sine realized his real home was in his own Bronco Nation.

SEE SINE ON PAGE 7



APRIL

29th Angela Crittendon, Candise Perez
30th Nancy Davis, Jayce Martinez, Ryan Mungia

MAY

1st Chris martin, Jaime Wardlaw
2nd Phillip Stephens, John Downing, Clayton Sarr
3rd Keeley Moore, Rudley Bryan
4th Hillary Lawson, Joe Andrews, Tommy McKisack
5th JoAnn Wilkinson, Bill Renfro, Peter Doran, Dr. Mark Edwards, Darby Ramsdell, Bill Basil

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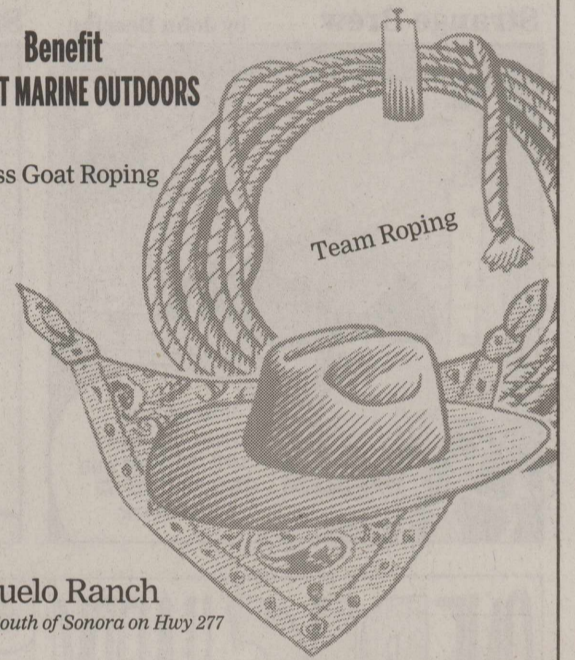
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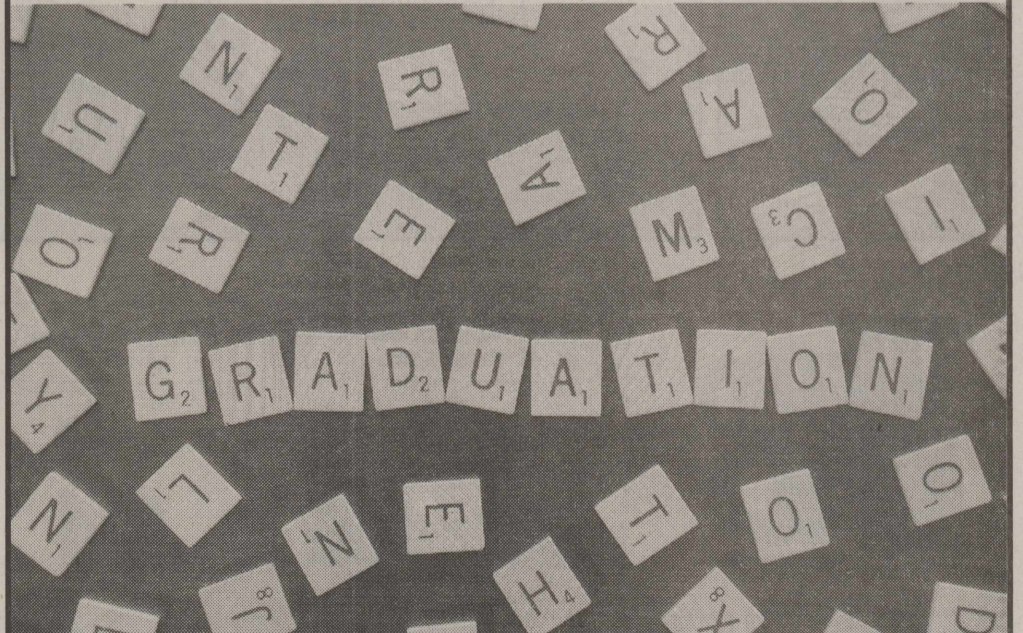
Lion's Roar



(L-R front) Johanna Dooley, Jorge Leija and Justin Prather stand with Queen Shayna Edwards and Sonora Intermediate School Principal Sean Leamon during their recognition for outstanding academic and extracurricular performance during the Lion's Club Meeting, Tuesday, April 26th. Leamon, was recently appointed Sonora High School Principal for the 2016-2017 school year according to a recent e-mail dated April 25th, from Superintendent Ross Aschenbeck. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

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by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni

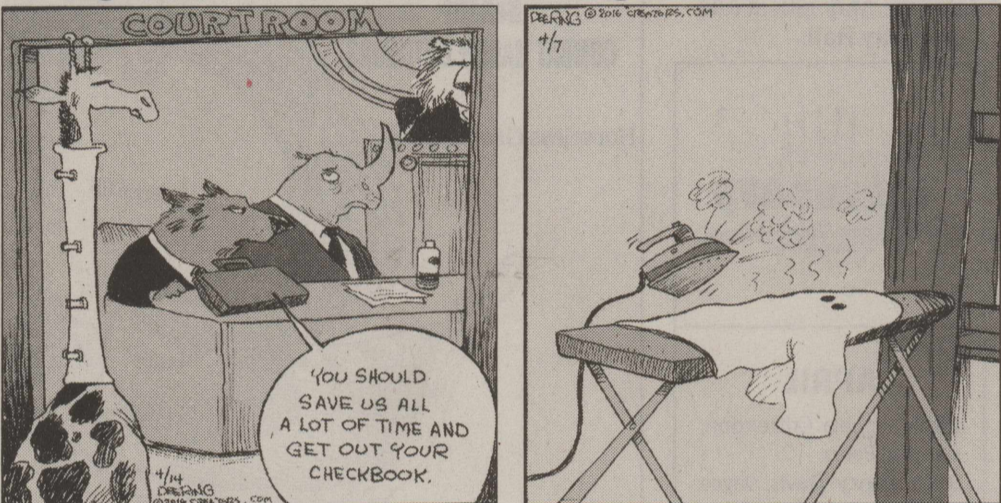


Strange Brew

by John Deering

Strange Brew

by John Deering

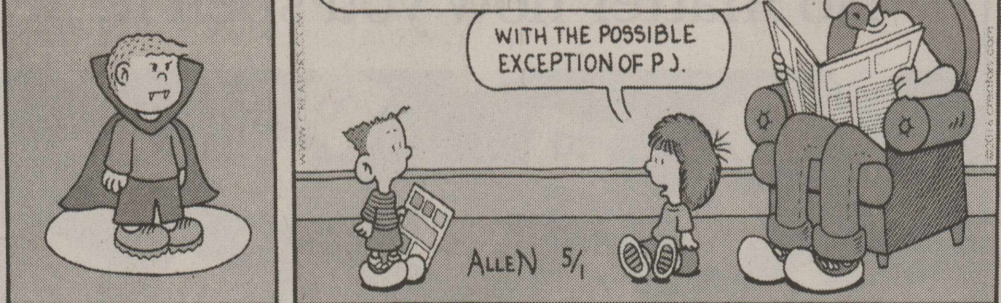


ONE BIG HAPPY



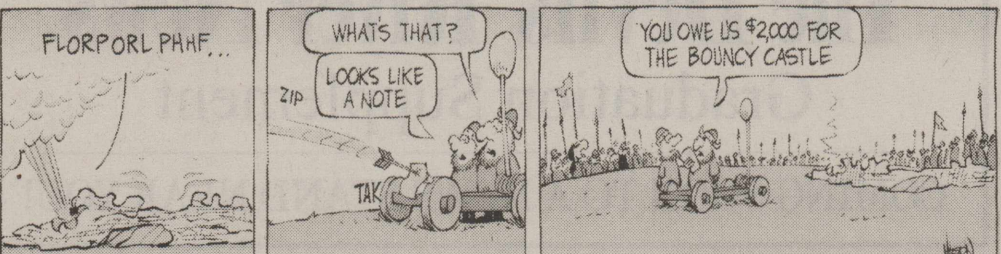
Nest Heads

by John Allen



Wizard of ID

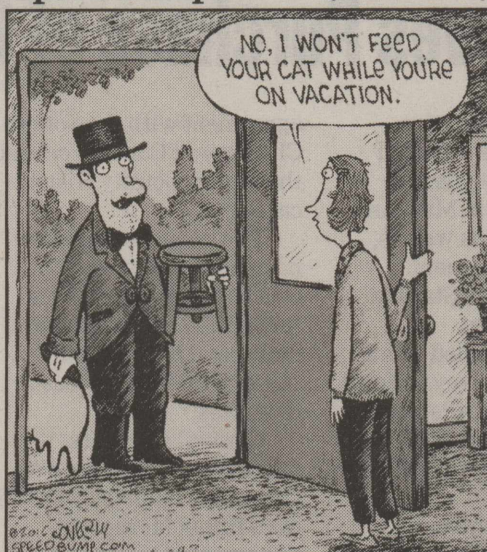
by Parker and Hart



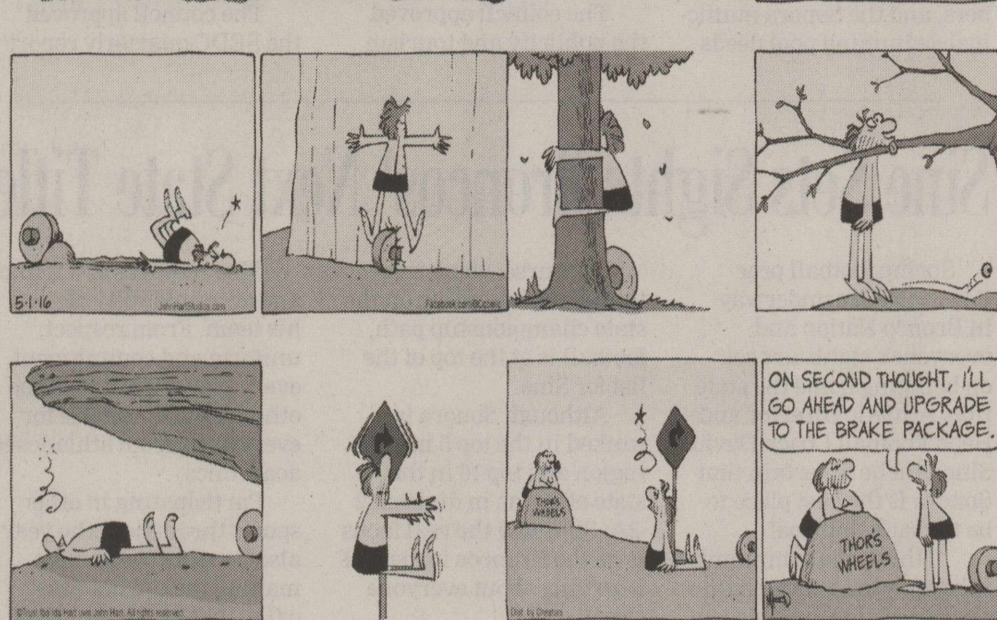
Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly

Speed Bumps

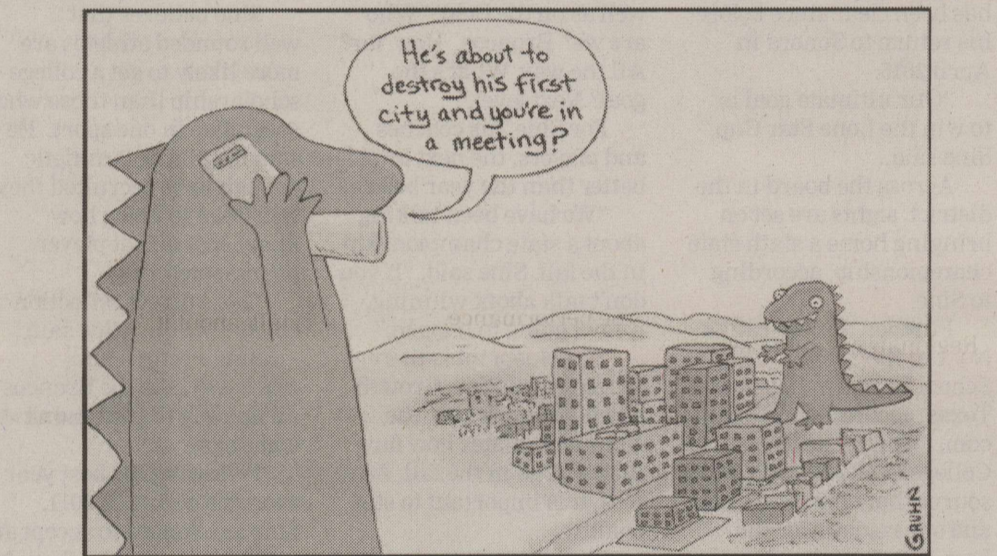


BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



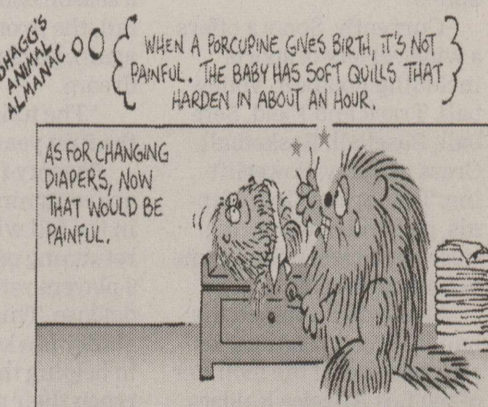
WebDonuts

by Mike Gruhn

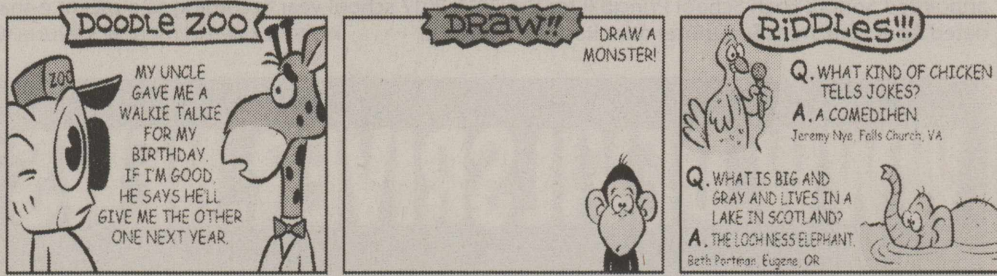
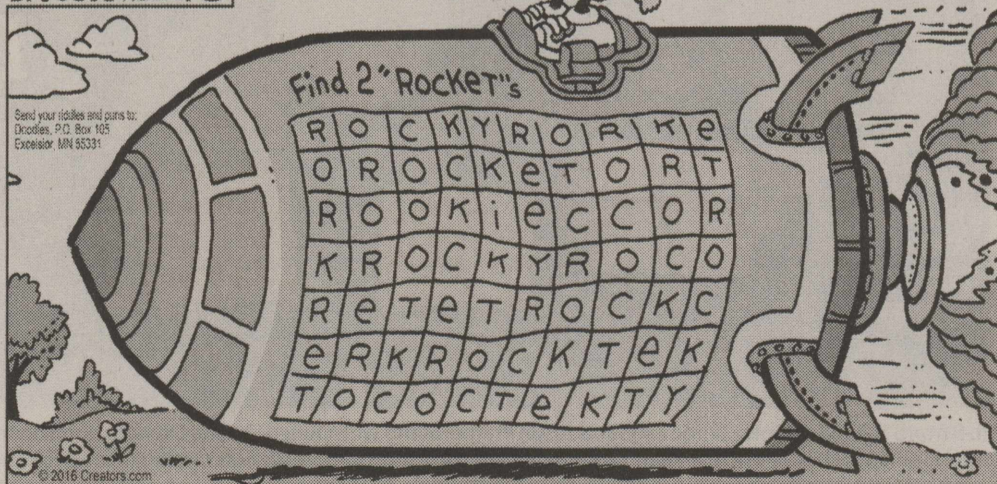


ASK SHAGG

By Peter Guren



DOODLES



DEATH NOTICES

Raquel Ramos Navarrette

SONORA — Raquel Ramos Navarrette, 44, of Sonora, died Friday, April 22, 2016 in Sonora. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 23, 2016 at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial followed in Sonora Cemetery. Survivors include her mother Amelia

Ramos of Sonora, son Abraham Manuel Navarrette of San Angelo, daughter Isela Nicole Navarrette of San Angelo, brothers Rodolfo, Fernando, and Ezequiel Ramos, and sisters Claudia Gloria Gutierrez, Connie Castilleja, and Diana Virgen.

Sonora OAP Students Bow Out at Regionals

The cast and crew of the Sonora High School One-Act Play took their last bow on stage ending their production, "Anatomy of Gray."

Theater instructor Kaci Chavarria said her pride in the students, their hard work as well as their talent goes beyond words.

The drama team advanced from District to Bi-District with numerous accolades including: All Star Crew & Best Stage Manager, Autumn Ayala; Best Sound Tech, Molly Taylor; Overall Best Crew, Sonora; Honorable Mention All-Star Cast, Avery Leamon & Shayna Edwards, All-Star Cast, Dalton Morris, Best Actor, Straton Rushing and Best Actress, Iris McAfee.

From there they advanced to Area. Again the team acquired honors including: Best overall crew, Honorable Mention All Star Cast, Layla Burke; All Star Cast, Iris McAfee & Straton Rushing and Best Actor, Dalton Morris.

The team moved on to Regionals earning Best

Tech crew; Honorable Mention All Star Cast, Dalton & Straton and All Star Cast, Iris McAfee.

Sadly, the curtain closed at Regionals retiring their performance but not before earning four additional honors including: Alternate play to State; Best sound Tech, Mollie Taylor; Honorable Mention All Star Cast, Tanner Cain & Straton Rushing and All Star Cast, Iris McAfee.

Chavarria said her team began at the end of December 2015 with the cast list up until Regional meet on April, 22nd.

"They have worked extremely long late nights to put together some great theatre, traveled on week-ends to prepare for competitions, and humbly competed at every level," Chavarria said.

Students will perform their drama, for the public, on May 12th, 2016 at 7pm at the Sonora High School.

Chavarria said she hopes everyone will show their support by attending the performance.

SINE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Sine said Sonora's spirit, existing for decades, isn't something that can't be transferred. Instead, it is part of the culture and it either exists or not. And, fortunately, it's a tradition that never graduates.

"You either have it or you don't and Sonora has it," Sine said.

Sine said part of the beauty of being a Bronco is that he and his family are part of that tradition. He and his wife enjoy living and working in a small town where their children have an opportunity to play any sport they choose.

Comparing the spirit and success of Sonora to larger schools in the area, Sine said Sonora equals the Odessa Permian and mojo magic of old – just a little bit smaller.

From pep rallies, homecoming festivities and early releases for Friday football games, other places don't allow it to be as big as Sonora. And, it's proven the No. 1 school district and best sports in the state of Texas

"It's big because we make it big," Sine said.

From the players to the community, the blueprint is there according to Sine.

Players, coaches, parents and the community have to be on the same page for a team to win. Sine said he believes that he is supported by the school, trustees and the community.

Sonora cares and wants to do what's best for students according to Sine. And the students are what this is all about

"It's an honor to be the Athletic Director at Sonora ISD and my family and I are truly grateful," Sine said. "It makes me smile just to talk about it."

City of Sonora



Senior Center

MONDAY May 2nd

Grilled Chicken on a Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Bake Beans Apple Rings, Bananas and Strawberries, Milk.

TUESDAY May 3rd

Meatloaf w/Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Texas Toast, Rocky Road Pudding, Milk.

WEDNESDAY May 4th

Potato Crisp Fish, Fiesta Corn, Seasoned Spinach, Wheat Bread Oatmeal Cookie, Milk.

THURSDAY May 5th

Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Flour Tortilla, Bread Pudding, Milk.

FRIDAY May 6th

Swiss Steak, w/Tomato Sauce, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Peas, Wheat Bread, Apricots, Milk

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Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report

April 1-26	2.27 in.	April 1-26	2.76 in.
March	3.39 in.	March	2.62 in.
February	0.77 in.	February	1.04 in.
January	0.36 in.	January	0.38 in.
2016 Year-to-Date TOTAL	6.79 in.	2016 Year-to-Date TOTAL	6.80 in.
2015	23.87 in.	2015	25.31 in.
2014	14.32 in.	2014	12.72 in.
2013	25.12 in.	2013	25.00 in.
2012	16.06 in.	2012	17.82 in.
2011	11.50 in.	2011	10.49 in.
2010	20.37 in.	2010	17.94 in.
2009	21.67 in.	2009	28.44 in.

Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 14 miles southeast of Sonora. Rainfall data collected at LCRA weather station located 17 miles east-northeast of Sonora.

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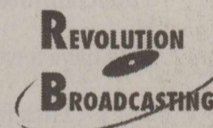
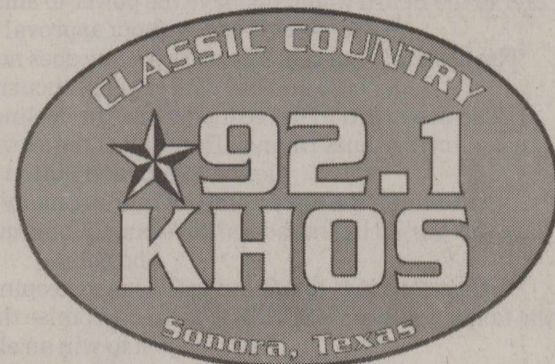
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Ruth Wallace (325)387-6504

SONORA WEATHER FORECAST

Thu 4/28	Fri 4/29	Sat 4/30	Sun 5/1	Mon 5/2
88/65	86/58	84/56	87/55	71/52
More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	A few t-storms possible. Potential for severe t-storms. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	Scattered t-storms possible. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 7:01 AM Sunset: 8:19 PM	Sunrise: 7:00 AM Sunset: 8:20 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 8:20 PM	Sunrise: 6:58 AM Sunset: 8:21 PM	Sunrise: 6:57 AM Sunset: 8:22 PM

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VOTE to RE-ELECT Preston Faris

for
Sutton County Hospital
District Board of Directors
(At Large Position)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I am Preston Faris, a 36 year resident of Sutton County. Sonora is my home and I am dedicated to maintaining the Highest quality health care possible for myself and all of the residents of this area.

I currently serve as president of the Sutton County Hospital Board and am seeking re-election to the Board in the At Large position.

During my tenure we have developed a health care facility that is nationally highly ranked as a Critical Care Hospital serving the needs of a rural community.

WE MUST KEEP IT!

I am not a politician and so I refuse to make false claims just to win election to a Board on which I serve voluntarily, for no financial benefit.

I am a tax conservative and a taxpayer. Gossip in our community is suggesting that the Board is moving toward a considerable tax increase.

First let me say that during my tenure we have endeavored to always keep any tax increase to a minimum and have stayed within the effective rate for many years.

Any move to go beyond that rate would trigger a rollback election or according to existing district by-laws an increase of over 4.99% would require voter approval and so the Board would not have the power to automatically increase the tax rate in a large measure without approval from you the voter.

The hospital's current total tax revenue does not even offset one half of the charity care and bad debt expense incurred by the hospital.

The downturn in the economy and the decline in the tax base have certainly created trying times financially for all of the services provided by taxing authorities in Sonora and Sutton County.

In addition the uncertainty of funding many services due to the Affordable Care Act passed by the federal government has multiplied the problems facing our hospital.

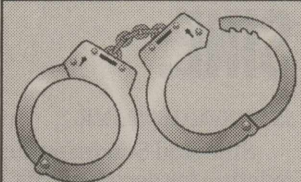
I, therefore vow, to remain judicious in keeping taxes as low as possible for we the taxpayers, but I REFUSE to make a promise that I cannot keep of absolutely no tax hike just to win an election.

I am committed to ALL of the employees of LMH and believe they are our true strength.

We have a wonderful health care team and each and every member is a vital part to the whole.

I ask for your vote and promise to serve to the best of my ability.

Political ad paid for by Preston Faris



The Blotter

The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Sonora Police Department. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the police department, nor does it include routine security checks, minor traffic stops or routine patrols. Accidents of major impact may be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ARRESTS

APRIL 18 • Frausto, Myrna, 42 year old female from Del Rio, arrested for Driving While License Invalid and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

APRIL 23 • Bennet, Tiffany Diane, 33 year old female from Sonora, arrested for Public Intoxication.

• Love, Clayton Shane, 27 year old male from Sonora, arrested for Public Intoxication.

• Ramos, Shaun, 29 year old male from Sonora, arrested for Warrant out of Sutton County.

APRIL 24 • Conger, Sandra Elaine, 40 year female from Sonora, arrested for Driving While License Suspended and Failing to Maintain Financial Responsibility.

INCIDENTS

APRIL 18 - 4:12 PM • Caller reported kids playing in flood waters on Menard and Tom Green. Officers responded.

APRIL 19 - 7:08 PM • Caller requested assistance on the 100 block of Uno. Officer responded.

8:27 PM • Caller requested patient transport from LMH. Officer responded.

APRIL 20 - 2:02 PM • Caller reported a burglary of a building on the 1100 block of Glasscock. Officer responded.

8:44 PM • Caller reported an open door at local business on the 600 block of Crockett. Officer responded.

APRIL 21- THERE ARE NO CALLS TO REPORT.

APRIL 22 - 10:09 PM • Caller reported a TxDOT sign knocked down on the 600 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

APRIL 23 - 10:51 AM • Caller requested a funeral escort. Officer responded.

10:27 PM • Caller reported a disturbance on the 1000 block of N. Central. Officers responded.

10:34 PM • Caller reported an intoxicated pedestrian on the 100 block of N. 4th. Officer responded.

APRIL 24 - 12:56 PM • 9-1-1 call on the 200 block of Rock. Officer responded.

6:17 PM • Caller reported a disturbance at 57 Stadium Road. Officer responded.

8:26 PM • Caller reported criminal mischief on the 400 block of Del Rio. Officer responded.

9:02 PM • Caller reported loud music on the 1100 block of Orient. Officer responded.

10:51 PM • Caller reported loud music on Cactus and S. Crockett. Officer responded.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: TEA Waivers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
any additional missed days beyond two.

Paxton warns of scams

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on April 20 advised Texans in disaster-stricken counties to protect themselves against scams and be ready to report possible price gouging.

"Unfortunately, people who have already been through so much also need to be wary of bad actors taking advantage of their circumstances," Paxton said. "To that end, I'd like to caution everyone in any area affected by storms and flood to be extremely careful with people offering to help you rebuild or reconstruct."

Texans in affected counties who believe they have been scammed or encountered price gouging may call the attorney general's toll-free complaint line at (800) 621-0508 or file a complaint online at texasattorneygeneral.gov.

TxDOT advises caution

With more rain and flooding in the weather forecast, the Texas Department of Transportation on April 21 posted a recommendation to drivers to "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

TxDOT implored drivers to "heed all warnings and never drive around barricades or cross roads that are either closed or submerged with water."

Flash flooding, according to TxDOT, is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in Texas. Highway officials noted that as little as six inches of water can float some vehicles.

Budget challenges ahead

Texas House Speaker Joe Straus last week encouraged members of the House Committee on Appropriations to consider a number of budget challenges that will face the Legislature when it convenes in January.

In an April 19 letter to the committee, Straus, R-San Antonio, identified the need to address the state's foster care system and a shortfall within the state's health care system for retired teachers. Straus also mentioned that the state's school finance system is still under court review. The matter is pending before the Texas Supreme Court.

"Any of these issues individually would pose a challenge," Straus wrote. "Yet they come at a time when our state continues to grow rapidly, bringing more children in our schools, more cars on our roads and an overall greater demand for state resources. At the same time, we do not want to abandon the commitment to low taxation and overall fiscal discipline that has put our state in such a sound budgetary position."

Jobless rate stays same

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate maintained a 4.3 percent rate in March, matching the state's revised 4.3 percent unemployment rate in February, the Texas Workforce Commission reported on April 15.

In contrast, the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics pegged the national average unemployment rate at 5.0 percent for March.

Distinguishing Honey Bees Swarms from Colonies

Spring rains have produced quite a few wildflowers and there is much in bloom. Springtime is also when honey bees become more active and sometimes swarm. Honey bees are beneficial by producing honey, wax, and pollinating crops, but we should distinguish between swarms and colonies, so we can stay safe.

What is a swarm?

Swarms are produced as a part of the colony's reproductive process. An established colony produces a new queen, causing the old queen and half the worker bees to leave the colony to search for a new nesting location. Honey bee swarms look like a large clump of bees clustered together. The swarm may stay in a location from a few hours up to a week.

Swarms are not protecting their home, food or offspring. Therefore, swarming honey bees are usually gentle and unlikely to sting. Scout bees are sent out from the swarm to search for a

nesting site.

Colonies, on the other hand, produce comb and honey and are defensive. Bees from a colony are more likely to sting as they are guarding their home, food and offspring.

Of course, we want to prevent a swarm from forming a colony in our home. To keep bees from entering a home, seal any holes found in walls where pipes enter the home, cracks in window framing,

knotholes, weep holes, or cracks between wood and brick junctures.

Sometimes, however, honey bee colonies can be found in wall voids, chimneys, attics or sheds. If bees are in a wall void, DO NOT block their entrance; this makes them search for another way to exit and could lead bees into the structure.

While many people enjoy having honey bees around, some people are severely allergic to their venom. This, along with other situations, such as bees located near playgrounds may require removal or extermination of the bees.

People should NOT try to remove or exterminate bees on their own. Beekeepers and pest control companies have equipment to carry out these jobs in a safe manner. For more information, or a list of bee removal services, contact the AgriLife Extension Office.



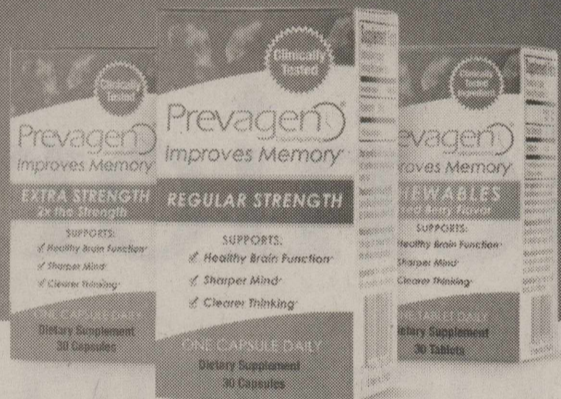
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Texas Leading the Way on Testing for CWD in Deer

For the past decade, deer ranchers in Texas have led the way in CWD testing and preventive measures. Years before the index herd positives last summer, the deer industry in Texas readily participated in CWD monitoring programs conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to ensure responsible management of our herds.

Industry in Texas now has a reason to celebrate. For the first time, in a watershed moment for deer ranchers across the country, live testing has been used to officially confirm a CWD-positive through the use of a tonsil biopsy on a live white-tailed deer. Texas regulators are the first to accept live testing as an alternative to testing brain tissue from deer that have been killed for testing, as was the standard practice in CWD testing across the nation prior to agency initiative in Texas.

Over the past nine months, deer ranchers in Texas have overwhelmingly

supported ante-mortem testing, also known as live testing, for quarantined herds or CWD-exposed scenarios. Live testing for CWD is performed by removing small segments of the animal's lymph nodes, tonsils, or rectum. There has been extensive research of these methods, indicating high degrees of accuracy, specificity, and sensitivity in each test.

The recent finding of CWD in Texas hit rural communities the hardest, impacting hard-working agriculture and wildlife families more than ever. In many cases, rural Texans committed their savings, their livelihoods, and their time building successful business models surrounding white-tailed deer. Initial increases in surveillance through post-mortem testing across the state had lasting emotional, physical, and financial impacts on many Texas families.

State regulators from both the TAHC and TPWD answered the cries from industry to provide much needed relief to post-mortem surveillance for

Chronic Wasting Disease. The Texas deer industry has continuously worked alongside state regulators to set a positive example for other industries across the nation, working with scientists, biologists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists in the hopes of developing a live testing plan that would protect both deer herds and deer ranchers. Industry in Texas worked in collaboration with the Texas Animal Health Commission, the USDA, Texas A&M University, and others to pave the way for live testing of CWD-exposed herds.

There have been significant developments in live testing procedures over the last nine months. The CWD Live Testing Symposium, held in January of this year, was a tremendous positive for our industry - with researchers, regulatory agencies, and leaders in the veterinary and epidemiological communities coming together to seek answers to the questions surrounding the best practices in CWD testing. "The CWD Symposium was an extraordinary forum that

facilitated bringing ante-mortem testing to Texas. With the recent CWD confirmation in a white-tailed deer using tonsillar biopsy, the Texas Animal Health Commission is optimistic and remains committed to utilizing and evaluating ante-mortem testing procedures and results to monitor, control and mitigate CWD in Texas," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, interim executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Texas has truly taken the lead in the development and practice of live-animal testing. Regulators listened to industry's concerns over the unnecessary death of healthy deer. Last October, the Texas Animal Health Commission, speaking at the United States Animal Health Association Annual Meeting, promised that Texas would lead the way in live animal testing. "TAHC officials truly went out on a limb at the national level with this pledge, and we as an industry are grateful for how they have followed through with that promise," said Patrick Tarlton, the

Texas Deer Association executive director.

Research institutions across the state have also answered the call for live testing. Most notably, veterinarians such as Dr. Walt Cook from Texas A&M University have been instrumental in developing the confidence needed to accept live-testing procedures in Texas. Without the commitment, determination, and expertise of Dr. Cook, industry and state regulators would not have been able to accomplish such phenomenal developments in the applicability of live testing in quarantine and exposed scenarios.

Regulators have taken immense steps in managing the quarantine scenarios to minimize destruction of full herds. Now, one of the largest challenges facing industry and regulators is the reduction in federal indemnity money. Indemnity money has been used in previous cases across the country to euthanize and test full herds for CWD. With the reduction of federal money, Texas is meeting this challenge head on

- using specific live testing herd plans at each facility to reduce the effects of the disease in Texas.

In the end, it is inevitable that we may find more positives. This is a reality that Texans must face. However, ante-mortem testing - used in quarantine and trace in/trace out situations - can be our most effective tool for the future management of both the disease and the wildlife economy in Texas. The better we can position ourselves to take a science-based approach, the more solid the foundation of our industry will be in the years to come.

"The deer industry in Texas contributes nearly \$1 billion to the Texas economy each year", said Patrick Tarlton. "The acceptance and utilization of live testing by our state regulators in cases of direct CWD exposure will help protect that investment in our state. The Texas Deer Association is extremely grateful for the leadership of the Texas Animal Health Commission for their commitment to live testing."

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Sonora Athletes Recognized During Annual Banquet



Sonora High School Super Bronco Award recipients took the stage for their awards during the annual Sonora Sports Banquet on Monday, April 25th at the Sonora High School auditorium. Super Bronco Award winners were recognized for lettering in four or more sports. Award recipients include (L-R) Wesley Dutton, Kade Creek, Carly Brown, Evan Shannon, Audrey Nolen, Liam Yourgalite, Sky Jennings, Janelle Vasquez, Mary Kyle Johnson and Tyler Hampton.

DPS Seeks to Help Drivers with Communication Impairments

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), along with the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and Aspergers101, today announced initiatives designed to assist Texans who have communication impairments. In an effort to facilitate effective communication, DPS first reminded Texans of the communication impediment option that drivers may select to be reflected on their driver licenses/ID cards. DPS also announced that it has recently coordinated with Aspergers101 to allow them to provide training and education to DPS officers about autism spectrum disorders, other disabilities and potential communications challenges associated with those disorders. In addition, the department announced that it is working with Aspergers101 to develop a Driving With Autism camp that will help increase driver confidence and practical skills.

"At DPS, our mission is to serve and protect the people of Texas," said DPS Assistant Director for the Driver License Division Joe Peters. "This optional notice on the driver license and ID card puts important information in the hands of our law enforcement officers, which will help them better serve and protect individuals

with a communication impediment." "Protecting and enhancing public safety for all Texans – on and off the road – is paramount for DPS," said Major Jason Hester, DPS Education, Training and Research Division. "We are pleased to offer these new training initiatives, which will be powerful tools in enhancing understanding of law enforcement as well as help prepare and build confidence in potential drivers."

Individuals diagnosed with certain medical conditions – such as autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, stuttering or hearing impairment – who experience challenges when communicating with others, may (but are not required to) request a communication impediment notice be placed on their driver license/ID card. Printed on the back of a driver license/ID card, the voluntary designation informs officers of a communication challenge – this awareness can help facilitate better communication during any encounter with the individual.

Working in conjunction with Aspergers101, DPS has expanded trooper recruit training to include segments that raise autism awareness among officers, and advise them on how best to approach and respond to

an individual with autism during traffic stops and in other instances.

Once the program is developed and launched (later this year), the Driving With Autism camp will feature classroom instruction and hands-on driving practice for eligible drivers with a communication impediment. Camp attendees will also participate in role-play scenarios about what to expect during a traffic stop.

"Our committee is devoted to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in all areas of life – one of those being transportation freedom," said Ron Lucey, executive director of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. "We commend DPS for these initiatives that will put that opportunity within reach for more individuals within the autism and disability communities."

"These initiatives are truly groundbreaking. I have peace of mind knowing that I'm protected with the communication impediment driver license notice," said Sam Allen, a Texas driver with autism and the son of Aspergers101 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jennifer Allen. "The ability for me to drive is a stepping stone toward a life of independence; and I am grateful that initiatives like the ones announced

today are changing the way law enforcement interacts with those with autism or other communication challenges."

"Much of my fear about my autistic son driving has been eased thanks to the Texas Department of Public Safety. I deeply appreciate that DPS responded to our efforts to raise awareness and seek meaningful policies that accommodate those with a communication challenge related to autism, Asperger's syndrome, brain injury or other speech impediments," said CEO Jennifer Allen. "These initiatives set the stage for powerful well-rounded programs that other states hopefully will emulate."

Founded by Jennifer Allen, Aspergers101 is a non-profit organization that provides information regarding high-functioning autism and Asperger's syndrome, and advocates for the autism community. Aspergers101 consists of a team of professionals, doctors, therapists, educators and individuals with autism. For more information, visit www.aspergers101.com.

April is National Autism Awareness Month and represents an opportunity for communities, organizations and individuals to promote understanding, inclusion and acceptance.

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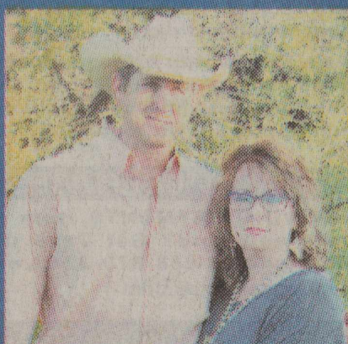


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Early Voting is April 25th - 29th and May 2nd - 3rd at City Hall.
Election Day is Saturday, May 7, 2016, at the Sonora ISD Admin Building.