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August 25, 2016

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Volume 127
Issue 33



The Devil's River News

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

Judge Smith Appoints Brockman to Replace Wade as County Commissioner

Sutton County Judge Steve Smith appointed Bob Brockman on Friday, August 19th, as the replacement for John Wade, Sutton County Commissioner, Precinct 2.

"We've never had a rancher serve as commissioner, Smith said. "I think it will be good to have him in the court."

John Wade resigned his commission effective August 31st, two and one half years before his

most recent commission expires.

Wade served as commissioner for 23 years.

Brockman, a rancher and chairman of the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District, will begin serving upon swearing in, to finish out Wade's term. And, he will "most likely run again," he said.

"I look forward to being a voice for agriculture and representing the rural interests of

Sutton County," Brockman said. "I know all of the commissioners and they are after one thing - to help their county and that's the way it should be."

In addition to ranching in Sutton County, Precinct 2, Brockman presently serves on the Texas Conservation Association for Water and Soil, Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser Assoc., Texas Livestock Committee, Texas Animal Damage Control Association and

Hudspeth Hospital Ranch Board of Directors. He also served on the Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital Board of Directors.

Brockman does not intend to replace Wade. Instead he is continuing the good that Wade and his father before him sought for the citizens and community.

"We appreciate everything that John Wade has done for us," Brockman said. "And I hope that I am able to fill his shoes."

Brockman brings knowledge of the land, livestock, farm and ranching equipment and an understanding of budget and the workings of the county.

"I am really honored that Judge Smith thought enough of me to do this," Brockman said. "The commissioners look out for the good of all citizens in Sutton County. The goal is for everybody to benefit from the decisions that we make."

Broncos Look to 'Ice Out Ozona' to Open 2016 Campaign

It is no secret that the Sonora Broncos and Ozona Lions are long-time rivals on the field.

Despite their opposition Head Coach David T. Sine said he is looking forward to the new season and Friday's upcoming game.

"We are extremely excited about the 2016 season and can't wait for it to get started," Sine said.

Quarterbacks Kaden Cordell and Michael Solis are two of the key components to this season's success and leadership.

A total of nineteen seniors make up this season's roster - all necessary to the team's goal of a State title.

Friday's game against the Lions will be to see if the Broncos are in game shape.

Something that can't necessarily be determined during two-days or scrimmages.

Coach Sine said he is eager to see how his team performs in the fourth quarter.

"Ozona will be a huge challenge for us because they are a huge rivalry so we will definitely get their best game," Sine said. "Ozona's quarterback is a true threat so we need to do a good job of containing him."

Coming off of a 4-7 season, the Lions should be have been preparing for this week's showdown, according to the Lions' coach who is in his first season.

"Our guys have done a great job learning the new system we brought in," Coach Kyle Freeman told the Devil's River News on Tuesday. "We have been trying

guys out in different spots, and they are responding well to the change."

"We will spread the field some," Freeman said. "But it will be in an effort to get the ball into different playmaker's hands on the ground."

Sine said scout teams simulate their opponent every week. This week they are running Ozona's offense and defense to help prepare them for game.

Although it is difficult to simulate the speed of the game, players can polish their tactical skills.

Going from power to spread, the Broncos are better, faster and stronger this year.

Last year was a transition year. Returning players truly understand the concepts allowing them to play a lot faster than they were able to last year, according to Sine.

The team has a lot of skilled players but not a lot of proven linemen. So, staying healthy is crucial to the Broncos remaining in the fight this season.

As a result of hard practice and teamwork the starting front five do a really good job of protecting the quarterback.

"We are very blessed with a wonderful coaching staff that has worked very hard in preparing our kids," Sine said. "We felt like we had a starting point with the Mason scrimmage and now we look for another starting point starting the season and playing the game against Ozona."

The last time Sonora faced Ozona was in 2013 when the



Broncos football players work through plays during the Red & White scrimmage on Friday, August 5th at Bronco Stadium. KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

Broncos came away with a 34-6 win.

The Broncos hold an overall 52-36-4 record against the Lions.

Friday night's game will mark the Broncos' first step on the road toward the 3A Division II State Championship as the team looks to avenge last year's season-ending loss to the Eastland Mavericks.

Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m. and Bronco fans are encouraged to make the trip down Interstate 10 to cheer on the team.

The theme for the game is "Ice Out Ozona." Fans are encouraged to wear all white in a show of support for the Broncos.

Of course, the best place to follow the Broncos is in the stands, cheering for the team.

But, for those who are unable to make the trip, the game will be broadcast live on KHOS 92.1 FM, the Home of the Broncos, with Virgil Burge and Craig Leonard bringing you the call from the press box in Lions' Stadium.

A full report of the game will appear in next week's edition of The Devil's River News.

Sonora ISD Gets Passing Grade on State's Accountability Report

Sonora ISD and its campuses received a passing grade this week from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) which released the 2016 state accountability system ratings for more than 1,200 districts and charter schools, as well as, more than 8,600 campuses state wide.

According to scores on the state's report card, Sonora ISD received an overall "Met Standard" rating.

"I am very proud of the effort that our teachers and students put forth this year," Superintendent Ross Aschenbeck said. "We are always looking at ways to improve each year."

Sonora High School, Junior High School and Intermediate School received the "Met Standard" rating, while the Elementary School received a rating of

"Met Standard-Paired.

To receive a Met Standard rating districts and campuses must meet three of the four target indices. Targets include Student Achievement, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps and Postsecondary Readiness.

Ratings are based on measurements such as standardized test scores, graduation rates and student preparedness for college and the work force.

Sonora Elementary School did not receive a rating reflected on the indices indicating that it was paired with another district/campus.

"One thing everyone needs to understand is each year until 2022, the number of questions that a student must get correct to receive a passing mark will increase each year," Aschenbeck

said. "So it is difficult to compare previous grade level scores to current grade level scores."

Sonora Intermediate School received 86 points in Student Achievement (Target Score 60), 50 points in Student Progress (Target Score 32), 48 points in Closing Performance Gaps (Target Score 28) and 45 points in Postsecondary Readiness (target Score 12).

"I am very excited about the Intermediate School's rating," Sean Leamon said. "Everyone did an amazing job and worked hard. The results speak for themselves."

Sonora Junior High School received 78 points in Student Achievement (Target Score 60), 35 points in Student Progress (Target Score 30), 39 points in Closing Performance Gaps

(Target Score 26) and 38 Points in Postsecondary Readiness (Target Score 13).

Sonora High School received 75 points (Target Score 60), 28 points in Student Progress (Target Score 17), 38 points in Closing Performance Gaps (Target Score 30) and 82 in Postsecondary Readiness (Target Score 60).

Moving from Principal of the Intermediate campus to Principal of the High School campus, Sean Leamon said he is pleased with the rating. He will continue to strive to make improvements. Moving forward, Leamon has implemented steps, beginning with the start of the new school year, to ensure student achievements. For example, a longer school day, ending at 3:40 p.m., allowing

time for student tutorials during the regular school day.

Also, utilizing the Teacher Evaluation and Support System (TESS), to provide his faculty with necessary support, training, and technical assistance, ultimately helping student be more successful.

Overall, Sonora ISD outperforms the Region on the 2015-2016 Accountability Ratings, according to 2016 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and End of Course (EOC) data.

"Sonora dominated the region in 18 of 22 Tested Subjects. I cannot say enough great things about our Students, our Teachers, and our Administrators. We truly had a successful year last year and we look forward to even a better year this year."

SCHD Board Addresses Current Issues Regarding Rocksprings Clinic and Edwards' Physician Agreements

The Sutton County Hospital Board trustees addressed the continued uncertainty and public concern regarding the Edwards County/Rocksprings Clinic, as well as, activity between the doctors Mark and Kristy Edwards and Burroughs Healthcare Consulting Network during a special meeting on

Monday, August 22nd.

Following a lengthy discussion, in favor of finding a resolution and continue clinic operations, the board approved a motion to renegotiate the Inter-local Cooperation Agreement with a loss of no more than \$100,000, which to be notified in return by Edwards County no

later than September 14, 2016 of their decision to accept or decline. If both parties cannot reach a resolution by September 14, a 30-day notice of termination will be sent in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph B, "Without Cause." Further, the board approved an amendment allowing the CEO, John Graves,

to negotiate the Inter-local Cooperation Agreement.

The Board gave themselves 45 days to consider other actions if a resolution was not finalized. That 45th day has expired.

The application for rural health designation is suspended until it is decided to keep the clinic open. If resolution is

reached the application for rural health designation will resume.

As of July 31st, the Rocksprings Clinic is at break-even, according to John Graves, CEO SCHD.

He added, it is not expected the clinic without rural health designation will be in a net

SEE SCHD BOARD ON PAGE 10



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Texan Diagnosed with Zika Illness after Returning from Trip

AUSTIN — A Texas resident who recently traveled to Miami, Florida, has tested positive for Zika virus disease, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported on Aug. 15.

The traveler, an El Paso County resident, sought testing after becoming ill. This is the first Texas case to be linked to travel within the continental United States. The case will be classified as "travel-associated" and is being investigated for more details, the DSHS said.

While this is El Paso County's first reported case of Zika, Texas had 121 reported cases of the disease as of Aug. 19. The count includes three pregnant women, two infants infected before birth and one

person who had sexual contact with a traveler.

State health officials are urging citizens to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and to get more information from the website, TexasZika.org.

Texas adds jobs in July

Even with the addition of 23,600 non-farm jobs in July, Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.6 percent for the month, up from 4.5 percent in June.

The Texas Workforce Commission, however, in its monthly report issued Aug. 19, also noted that Texas' unemployment

rate remained below the national rate of 4.9 percent.

And, according to the TWC, the labor market in the Lone Star State has grown by an estimated 173,000 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year. Also, state has added jobs in 15 of the last 16 months.

"Texas employers continued to create jobs last month in a range of industries that are important to the Texas economy," said Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar. "TWC will continue to focus on the workforce needs of these crucial industries and build education and training partnerships that support job creation by Texas employers."

The Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock

Metropolitan Statistical Areas recorded the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs in July, with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 3.6 percent, followed by the Lubbock MSA with a rate of 4.1 percent.

Military helps economy

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 18 posted a bulletin with information about his "Good for

SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 8

Life of a Traveler

Recently, while talking to a group of friends, I made the statement that I had done it all and had not missed a thing in this life of eight decades.

After thinking about this, I decided to write down all of the things I have done while traveling

It Happened Out West



by Joe N. Brown

down this road of life.

This is not bragging rights, but only to record the life of one traveler.

So take a deep seat and let's ride.

Weed Chopper - 10 cents an hour.
Lanero - \$1 day.

- Dairy Hand - \$3.50 week.
- Day Ranch Hand - \$5 day
- Bronc Peeler - Experience
- Truck Driver - \$8 day.
- Sailor in the U.S. Navy - \$72 month.
- Doodle Bugger in the oilfield - \$200 month.

College Student on G.I. Bill - \$135 month.

Rancher, 25-years - No profit.
Smuggler - gold, mules, guns - Experience.

Feed Salesman - Various sale percentage.

Daddy - Priceless
Ranch Foreman - \$100 month
Pit Inspector, oilfield - \$2,500 month
Probation Officer - \$1,800 month.

Pistolero - General Electric - \$10 hour
Mason, Lodge Master - Proud Experience.

Rustler - No charges, no profit, not guilty.

Husband, 62 years - Made life worth living.

Killer - Accused in open court, 83rd District Court.

Elder at 3 different Presbyterian Churches

Trapper - Trying to survive in sheep business.

Disabled - the result of a fall during a hurricane.

Construction Hand - Brown and Root Construction - wages.

Arena Judge, 10-years - Volunteer, freebie

Waiter - self-satisfaction, no profit.
Actor - 3 scenes in "Dead Mans Walk" - \$65 day.

Clip & Brand Club President at Sul Ross College

Supervisor, Soil and Water District, 25-years - no pay.

Veteran Member American Legion, 62 years in Alpine, Texas

Helicopter Gunner protecting my own flocks - no profit.

Book Publisher of 3 good books - no profit.

Cowboy, made a wagon on P Ranch - \$75 month

Suspect, Marijuana Farmer while at Eppenhaur Ranch - not guilty

Cattle drive - drove 500 cows for 3 days to ship at Longfellow, Texas.

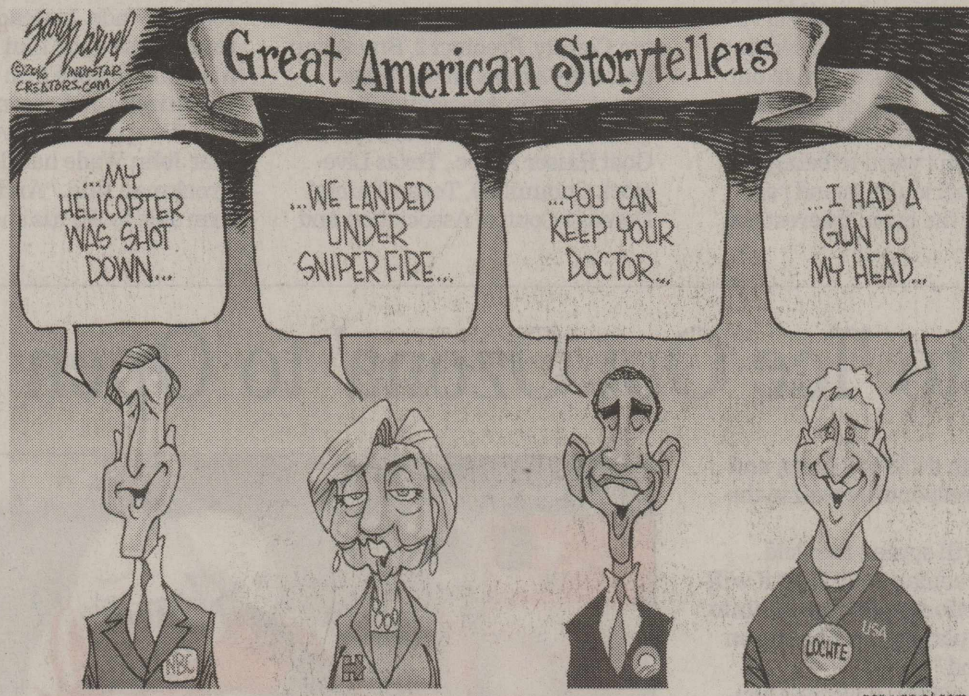
Posse member - once in Terrell Co. and once in Jeff Davis Co.

Foreclosed ranching - 3 times - Woolhouse, Bank, FHA - survived it all.

Hog business, 1-year - no profit.

Legend Maker - Sanderson Arena in 1975.

There are probably more, as it is hard to recall, after 80-years. So, this will do for now.



Uncle Mort is Ticked Off

We can all agree that dullness—particularly for the "Jacks" of the world—is a predictable result when we're wallowing in unending "work ruts." Such scenarios rarely crop up in my Uncle Mort's life, 'cause at first "scent" of toil, he "sniffs it out." Like a shifty football running back, his end runs and careful sidesteps usually work.

Sometimes, such vignettes occur in concession stand lines, where he runs into old friends who wind up paying. Shelling out, I mean, for everyone in the line which, of course, is in the shade. Mort, who urged us to let July 4 pass without any "to do" about his 104th birthday, may truly be bogged down with work on his new "invention." Whatever, it was his first visit to the thicket's general store in a month.

He says his nerves were in immediate free fall when a whippersnapper, sipping on a soft drink, asked, "Old-timer, how much longer do you think you can handle independent living?"

In a flash, Mort bristled—dead certain he was "set up" by friends—was "set off" for sure. His neck hair stiffened. As his nostrils flared, nose follicles unfurled like those little paper party favors kindergarteners blow into faces of others at birthday gatherings.

"First of all, it's none of your business," Mort fumed. "We'll stay in our home as long as Maude (his wife of some 85 years) can help with the 'heavy lifting.' When they try to remove us, check the depth of nail marks left by fingers, thumbs and toes on the doorstep. That'll be some measure of our resistance."

He claimed the old couple "looks for reasons to feel good" instead of complaining about occasional "twitching of body and twisting of mind." His rambles continued, mostly about the best use of days, proper diets and "enough work for it to count as exercise." As an afterthought that should have been mentioned first, he added, "Maude and I look out for our neighbors..."

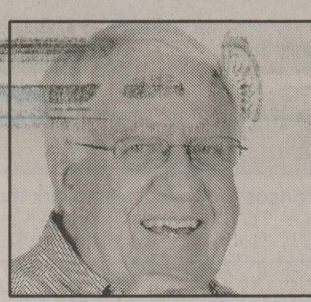
Then he added the stand-out reason worthy listing first.

"So far, Maude and I know who we

are and we know where we are. We don't take those little 'baby steps' yet, and twice each week, we visit the 'old folks' down at the care center. We wind up there on holidays, too."

As the youngster left, Mort yelled, "And we deliver Meals on Wheels on our golf cart..."

The Idle American



By Dr. Don Newbury

For decades, Mort has worn a Texas Rangers' baseball cap, hoping others will describe him as "the sporty little man wearing a cap" instead of "the little old gray-haired guy."

Mort and Archie McAfee, long-time Executive Director of Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, could strike up a quick conversation.

On the subject of men whose scalps are barren, McAfee opined that Robert Morrison, new principal at Abilene High School, is almost certain to pick up a new nickname there...

Morrison, former star football player at Howard Payne University and a valued Seattle Seahawks player until a serious knee injury forced him from the game after a year, now is a veteran educator. He has been honored by the principals' organization and by HPU, and is beloved by colleagues and students. They admire him for his outgoing, fun-loving countenance, and love to watch him as he places orders in restaurants. He never opens menus, always saying to waitpersons: "Surprise me."

He has heard all the jokes about baldness. He shaved his head—bald by choice—for a decade. About 10 years ago, he and his hair parted company for good; alas, he's been bald involuntarily ever since. McAfee predicts Robert's new nickname will first be whispered in the teachers' lounge, then "megaphoned" by students. (The youngsters may even say it out loud if they ever look up from their phones.)

Traditions run strong at Abilene High. When "Eagles" are mentioned, there's a hush in the room. So when Robert overhears his new nickname—"The Bald Eagle"—he should say thanks, face the flag and sing the National Anthem...

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Columns archived at ventureregalleries.com, newbury blog.

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Goodies Made with Mesquite Bean Flour

One of the benefits of being a reporter is you get to sample food products made by the people you interview. Such is the case with Guy and Patsy Hester in Ozona. They have a place called Ozona Flour Mill & Goods, The Home of Mesquite Bean Flour.

Patsy makes five different types of

breads with the flour they grind themselves. I brought home some banana nut and it was delicious. Guy and Patsy also make a line of jellies made with Texas fruit. Customers come from as far away as California and Michigan.

"A preacher's wife is the one that got me started in this," says Patsy. "She asked me if I put mesquite bean flour in my breads, which I have been making for lots of years. So, Guy suggested we go outside and get some beans and see what we can do. So, we got some and put them through our processor and made flour."

Guy says they have several ranches in the area where they pick beans.

"Then, we bring them back here and hang them up to dry. Before they get completely dry, we stick them in the oven and heat them to dry some more. Then, we take them out, let the cool off, then run them through our hammer mill. We come out with fine flour about the color of brown sugar."

The flour by itself is powerful stuff. You don't want to use it straight.

"You use one-fourth of mesquite bean flour and three-fourths regular flour, wheat flour or whatever kind of flour you like," says Patsy. "My breads are ten dollars a loaf. I've got pumpkin, banana, cranberry, zucchini and hummingbird, made with bananas, pineapple and cherries. Most of them have pecans. I put the flour in rolls, regular bread, even put it in my buttermilk pie. I make cornbread with it. That's my favorite."

Guy makes mesquite bean coffee by putting the beans in the oven until they turn completely black, then grind them, hulls and all. It makes a strong coffee. He suggests using it sparingly.

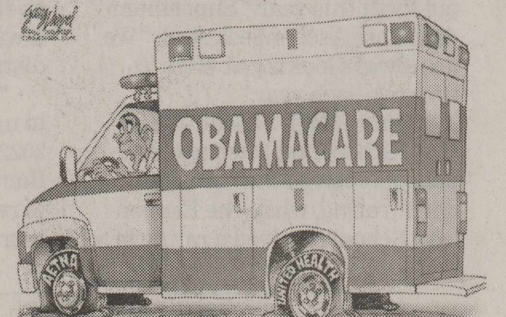
They pick the beans in July and August.

"You pick them when they're purple," says Guy. "I think the first year we picked a hundred and twenty pounds. Five pounds of beans make three pounds of flour."

The flour sells for ten dollars a pound. If you want to grind your own beans, that service is available.

"We'll mill them either for two dollars a pound or go on the halves. We don't want any beans off the ground. Nothing green. We want only beige, purple, red or brown beans. You can tell by the way they look and the way they feel that they're ready to be pulled. When you grab hold of that bean it just pulls right off."

The Hesters started their business four years ago and have a building dedicated to producing the flour. The equipment is state of the art.



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THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS newspaper, U.S.P.S. 155-920, is published weekly except the weeks of Christmas and the 4th of July by Masked Rider Publishing, Inc., at 105 N. Concho Avenue in Sonora, Texas.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS, 105 N. Concho Avenue, Sonora, Texas 76950.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions are \$29.95 per year in Sutton County and \$39.95 per year elsewhere in Texas. Out of state subscriptions are \$45.95. Periodical class postage paid at Sonora, Texas 76950.
DEADLINES: News articles and photos are due by Monday at 12:00 noon. Advertisements and

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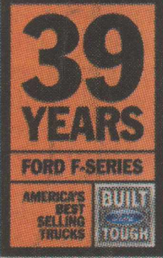
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Sutton Co. Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD) at Your Service

By Jim Polonis

On June 11, 1985 the Sutton County UWCD (District) was officially established by the State of Texas.

For the past 31 years, the District has served the people of Sutton County.

The District staff is devoted to making sure the groundwater we use daily is protected from contamination and that landowners outside the city limits have equal access to water.

Aquifer water levels are measured and documented, then analyzed by our hydrogeological consultant for changes in aquifer characteristics.

The District complies with state regulations [Chapter 36, Texas Water Code], and establishes rules that are guidelines for balanced management of this precious resource – our water.

Like the vehicle that you use to get from place

to place, so too the District is the vehicle, the staff operates it and the fuel that keeps it running is our county tax dollars.

For the price of a glazed donut you receive peace of mind that the water you use daily is of superior quality.

This source of revenue keeps a highly trained staff ready to assist the citizens of Sutton County with their water concerns and needs.

It also pays for the necessary instrumentation, software, vehicles, and materials and supplies needed to operate our laboratory. For example:

1. Collecting and testing water samples for bacteria, specifically E-coli; testing water samples for different constituents like alkalinity, total dissolved solids, sulfates, nitrates, pH, and hardness. Such testing can help a landowner determine if treatment to improve water quality is necessary.

These tests require chemicals and laboratory instrumentation to detect these constituents in water samples.

2. Monitoring the water quality of the aquifer by using meticulous methods of collecting water samples and sending them to a certified laboratory for analyses, then archiving the results in a database for analyses by our geochemist consultant.

The certified laboratory has sensitive instrumentation, beyond our capabilities which can detect very small amounts of chemical constituents and contaminants.

3. Adding new water wells, as they are drilled, to our existing water well database and maintaining that information to populate our digital map. Not only does this help the District, but the landowner as well, for example;

information about the depth to water in a particular location can be beneficial when planning to drill a new well in the same area. The database and mapping program require skill and knowledge to accurately archive and plot this data.

4. Conducting research projects, using dye trace methods, we can determine where our groundwater comes from, where it goes, how fast it flows and how much storage capacity there is.

This information is important. If there is ever a contaminant introduced into the aquifer we can act quickly and decisively knowing the flow patterns within the county and alert those well owners whose wells could be affected. We can monitor the wells possibly affected to ensure water quality is maintained. If a problem is detected, swift notification to landowners

and proper authorities can be made in order to prevent widespread contamination in the aquifer.

5. Monitoring the aquifer water levels by measuring those levels monthly in certain wells located throughout the county; plotting those measurements on maps to visualize the rise and fall of water levels within the aquifer.

These measurements aid in determining if the District needs to implement restrictions during extreme drought.

6. Participating in rain enhancement projects with other districts to obtain a greater percentage of rain for the land and aquifer recharge. This takes a team that includes a trained meteorologist knowledgeable of identifying candidate clouds for a skilled pilot to fly to and seed the cloud with reagents formulated for cloud seeding.

The State has given the District responsibility to manage the water in the aquifer under Sutton County, which includes developing fair and impartial rules.

We are also charged with cooperating and working with our neighboring Districts within the Groundwater Management Area – 7, which oversees the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) aquifer and four other major aquifers and nine minor aquifers.

Our staff continues their education by attending conferences, seminars, and training classes to increase their skills and knowledge of test techniques, aquifer hydrogeology, mapping and state legislative efforts.

Your tax dollar is at work within the District to provide you these services, assistance and management of our most precious resource – Water.

Team Kids
First Baptist Church
Ages Pre-K through 5th grade
starts
September 7, 2016
6-7 p.m. *Wear clothes that you can get wet and bring a towel*
Sprinkler Games
FMI call 387-2951



BIRTHDAYS
Look Who's Celebrating!

AUGUST

26th Fran Pennington, Debra Hobbs, Adam Faye, Bennie King, Katy Kinder, Robin Downing, Anthony Mungia
27th Carl Johnson
30th Brad Holmes
31st Ronnie Cox, Sharon Holman, Florie Gonzales

SEPTEMBER

1st Molly Morriss, Smith Neal, Clint Cearley

Send us your birthdays to production@devilsriver.news

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DPS Reminds Drivers to Obey Traffic Laws, Watch For Children As New School Year Begins

As the start of the new school year approaches, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) cautions Texans to watch for children who are walking to and from school or waiting for buses.

Drivers should be especially alert and careful around school buses – which make frequent stops – and always follow traffic laws regarding school buses and school zones.

“DPS is calling on

drivers to do their part in keeping our children safe this school year by always obeying school zone speed limits and stopping for school buses,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw.

“Individuals who disregard the law and illegally pass stopped school buses not only face significant traffic fines, but they needlessly put children in harm's way – and we take these violations very seriously.”

The moments when students are entering or exiting a bus can be one of the most dangerous times during a child's trip on a school bus.

Accordingly, DPS urges drivers to slow down and pay attention in school zones, since children may unexpectedly step into a roadway without checking for oncoming traffic.

State law requires that approaching drivers stop when a bus is stopped and operating a visual signal – either red flashing lights or

a stop sign.

Drivers should not proceed until the school bus resumes motion; the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed; or the visual signal is no longer activated.

A driver does not have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if it is on a highway with roadways separated by an intervening space or physical barrier. (If a highway is divided only by a left-turning lane, the roadways are not considered separated, and drivers must stop for school buses.)

Drivers who illegally pass school buses face fines up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

For individuals convicted of this offense more than once, the law allows the individual's driver license to be suspended for up to six months.

A ticket for illegally passing a school bus cannot be dismissed through defensive driving.

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 - August 29th Breakfast
Breakfast Strudel w/ Cheese Stick or Cereal/ Toast, 100 % Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety

Lunch
Corn Dogs & Tots or Stuffed Baked Potato

Roll, Baked Beans, Broccoli Bites, Apple-Pineapple D'Lite, Milk Variety

Tuesday - August 30th Breakfast
Mini Pancakes w/ Yogurt Or Cereal/ Toast, 100 % Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety

Lunch
Nachos Grande w/ Refried Beans, Salsa, Lettuce & Tomato Garnish or Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Soup

Cucumber Dippers, Tiny Tomato Cup, Pears, Lime Sherbet, Milk Variety

Wednesday - August 31st Breakfast
Sausage Kolache w/ Yogurt Or Cereal/ Toast, 100 % Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety

Lunch
Chicken Sandwich w/ Oven Fries or X-Treme Burrito w/ Salsa

Seasoned Corn, Fresh Veggie Cup, Lettuce & Tomato Garnish, Mandarin Oranges, Milk Variety

Thursday - September 1st Breakfast
Breakfast Strudel w/ Yogurt Or Cereal/ Toast, 100% Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety

Lunch
Country Pot Pie or Salisbury Steak

w/ Biscuit, Brown Gravy, Roasted Potatoes, Garden Salad, Fruity Gelatin, Milk variety

Friday - September 2nd Breakfast
Breakfast Burrito Or Cereal/ Toast, 100% Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk Variety

Lunch
Pizza Choice or Hot Dog

Corn Chips, Baby Carrots, Crunchy Broccoli Salad, Fresh Grapes, Cookie, Milk Variety

Texas Economy Adds 23,600 Jobs in July

State Sees Job Growth in 15 of Past 16 Months

Texas' labor market grew by an estimated 173,000 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year with the addition of 23,600 non-farm jobs in July.

The state has added jobs in 15 of the last 16 months. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.6 percent in July, up slightly from 4.5 percent in June, and remained below the national rate of 4.9 percent.

“Texas employers continued to create jobs last month in a range of industries that are important to the Texas economy,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. “TWC will continue to focus on the workforce needs of these crucial industries and build education and training partnerships that support job creation by Texas employers.”

The Professional and Business Services industry recorded the largest private industry employment gain over the month with 10,000 jobs added. Construction employment expanded by 7,800 jobs in July. Education and Health Services employment increased by 7,600 jobs.

“Private-sector employment was strong over the year with the overall job growth of 134,000 and 24,500

jobs added in July,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “Texas employers continue to strengthen the job market by providing employment and training opportunities.”

The Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) recorded the month's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 3.6 percent, followed by the Lubbock MSA with a rate of 4.1 percent in July.

“The Texas workforce has much to offer and there are resources available to find the perfect occupational fit,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. “I encourage all job seekers to contact their local Workforce Solutions office for assistance with job training and placement.”

Audio downloads with comments from Commissioner Alvarez on the latest labor market data are available on the TWC website press release page. Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit tracer2.com.

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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS	54. Cabbage like vegetable	69. Fire	8. "Exodus" man
1. Kind of cycle	55. LBJ daughter	70. Miller rival	9. Fan ____ (literary genre)
6. Preliminary text	57. "Dear God" band	71. Justice Kagan	10. Try
11. Director Lee	59. Door sign		11. OK'd
14. Freight	60. Angst punk	DOWN	12. Malt beverage
15. Creepy	61. Cuban bodybuilder nicknamed "The Myth"	1. Row	13. Became peeved
16. Graphic intro?	66. Oysters ____ season	2. Stockpiled	18. Judge's title
17. Summer 2016 sports event	67. Spring sign	3. Worn away	23. Night spot
19. Dirty dog	68. Passed bad checks	4. Kind of trip	25. Made out
20. Continue		5. Opinion tester	27. Cadavers
21. London lav		6. Fiend	28. Bee movie name
22. Levels		7. Kind of theater	29. Dresses down
24. Dock			32. Eastern
26. Full-length			34. To pieces
30. Biblical peak			38. Like some pancakes
31. Take to one's heart			39. Comprehensive
33. Ornamental shrub			40. "Beetle Bailey" dog
35. Tough wood			41. Clock sound
36. Take in			42. Intestinal ailment
37. Golf peg			46. Supplied
38. Ham			48. Grandson of Noah
42. Animation frame			49. One after another?
43. Some queens			50. "Gracias" reply
44. ____ Lanka			53. Take up space
45. Music sheet mark			56. "By yesterday!"
47. Had a yen			58. Pepsi rival
51. Comics canine			62. Prohibition ____
52. Al of the '50s Indians			63. Sticking point?
			64. Some appliances
			65. Rapper ____ Kim

100

See solution on Page 8

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by

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WWW.DEVILSRIVER.NEWS

Ozona Family Mourns Loss of 13-Year-Old Son

BY MELISSA PERNER
THE OZONA STOCKMAN

An Ozona family is mourning the loss of their 13-year-old son, Anthony Hester-Smith.

The family says their son was playing the black-out, or "choking game."

Anthony's mother, Susan Armstrong, said she found her son Friday afternoon in their house with a rope around his neck that "looked like it slipped."

Local emergency officials did everything they could to try and save Anthony, but it was too late.

Crockett County Sheriff Robert Rodriguez said the body was sent for an autopsy and that the death is still being investigated. He also said the Texas Rangers were involved with the investigation.

"He was trying to kill himself," Armstrong said. "I don't know if he's done it with friends before or he thought he would do it by himself."

Funeral services for Anthony are held Wednesday, Aug. 3, at the First Baptist Church of Ozona.

A community candlelight vigil was held Monday night.

At Ozona Middle School Monday counselors were present to speak to any student Principal Tammy McWilliams said school officials also spoke to the seventh and eighth grade students.

Anthony would have been in the eighth grade.

"Anthony was the first student in our building ever to watch him walking in the front door each morning," McWilliams said. "Anthony loved school, his friends and school activities. He will be greatly missed at Ozona Middle School."

His kindergarten teacher Allison Vasquez called him "a blessing."

"His laugh and smile was contagious," she said. Also known as "Jet," Anthony especially enjoyed playing football for the Lions. He could be seen at the high school games and loved wearing purple and gold.

The Ozona Youth Football League will wear Anthony's number on their helmets this year.

"He was an amazing young man. I shared many Pee Wee and Heavy Weight football games with

him and my son Carlos, as well as many little league baseball games. When you lose someone that close in your community, you lose a family member. We will surely miss his smile," said Pastor J.C. Cantu.

"I coached Anthony in baseball. The kid had a huge heart and always gave 110 percent on the field. He was a great athlete," added Blake Morrow.

Classmates also remembered Anthony as a fun young man.

"He was one of my best friends. I saw him every day. We played basketball all summer and he made us happy," said Colby Mendez. "We played at the elementary school and I can still feel him there."

OHS Freshman Lexi Montgomery said she remembered the good time they had on their school Washington DC trip "picking on each other."

"We used to be really good friends when we were younger. I had always meant to make friends again with him. I was shocked when I heard the news and mostly sad because I'm not happy with the last conversation I had with him," she said.

Annie Luna said Anthony never judged her son Skylar for being different. She also said he was a hard worker on so many levels.

Around Ozona, people saw Anthony helping his grandparents, Guy and Patsy Hester, with their lawn service, as well as hanging out with neighborhood children.

"He never met a stranger. He would talk to everyone," said Sandy Montgomery, who gave Anthony his first haircut.

"I knew he spent a lot of time with friends. Every time I would see him on his bike he would wave and smile so big at me," added Irma Ortiz. "It is devastating to see such a young child gone."

Neighbor Diane Womack said Anthony was "always outside playing, riding his bike, skateboarding, running on the hill and jumping from rock to rock."

Womack said she saw Anthony a few days before his death. She said she could tell he had recently been to the beach with his shell necklace and bracelet and a sunburned nose.

Womack also said

SEE OZONA ON PAGE 8



Anthony Hester-Smith
COURTESY PHOTO

Card of Thanks

Thank you to all who came near and far to help celebrate Petra's 100th birthday. Petra would like to thank everyone for all the cards and gifts.

A special thanks to all those who help with the food and preparation for the celebration.

And a extra special thanks to the Avila and the Gonzalez family.

Sincerley,

Mary Munson

Council Members Re-consider Tax Rate, Set Public Hearing

When approving City Manager Ed Carasco's recommendation of a new property tax rate, city council members didn't consider last year's sales tax increase and its effect on the proposed tax rate.

During a special meeting on Friday, August 19th, the council re-considered their options and approved setting a new tax rate of .611000, 61 cents, equaling the rollback allowance.

The city added about 92 thousand dollars to their revenue as a result of the sales tax.

Carasco said decreased property values and mineral values are affecting the city's revenue.

Further, the tax rate increase will levy about 829 thousand dollars for the city of Sonora.

Council members agreed to keep workshop and meeting dates previously set. A budget workshop and public hearing, allowing citizens to share their concerns or comments regarding budget items including the tax rate is slated for Monday, August 29th at 6 p.m. at City Hall. A second public hearing is slated for Tuesday, September 6th.

Mayor Wanda Shurley presided over the meeting. Council members Doug Chandler, Juanita Barrera, Todd Munn and Norm Rousselot were present.

The next regular meeting is slated for Monday, September 19th, at City Hall.

The regular meeting will include adopting the proposed budget.

What Can 4-H Do for You?

It is that time of year again when you are getting geared up for the new school year. Along with a new year also starts a new year for the 4-H Club. Texas 4-H is a club that is for youth that are ages 3rd grade - 12th grade.

Members of the club are involved in different projects throughout the year based on the student's interests. These projects teach kids different skills that can be used throughout their entire lifetime. There are also contests that are offered as well for the children to show off what they have learned. Some projects in the Family & Consumer Science fields are Foods & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, & Photography.

The Foods & Nutrition project teaches youth cooking skills, food safety, and nutrition. These learning objectives are especially important for youth to learn because of the rise of childhood obesity. Students will gain knowledge on how to develop a healthy nutritious meal. Contests youth may

enter in for these projects are Food Show, Food Challenge, & Nutrition Quiz Bowl.

Have an interest in the fashion industry, shopping, or just want to learn a basic sewing? The Clothing & Textiles project is excellent for those who enjoy being creative in their work. 4-H'ers can compete in a Fashion Show, Duds to Dazzle, & Fashion Storyboard.

Photography is another project that allows creativity to flow. Youth get to have fun while learning about cameras and how to take great photos. There is a District Contest that would showcase all photos taken within the district.

Overall, the long-term effects of participating in the 4-H Club no matter the project can result in lifelong friendships from across the state, leadership skills, community service, and scholarship opportunities. To enroll and to become a member of the 4-H Club visit <https://texas.4honline.com/> the fee is \$20 for the whole year. For more information on Family & Consumer Sciences projects contact Jessica Stapper CEA-FCS at 387-3604.

Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report			
August 1-23	1.74 in.	August 1-23	3.28 in.
July	.19 in.	July	.00 in.
June	3.16 in.	June	3.97 in.
May	2.70 in.	May	5.31 in.
April	2.58 in.	April	2.96 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	14.89 in.	2016 Year-to-Date TOTAL	19.55 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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SONORA WEATHER FORECAST				
Thu 8/25	Fri 8/26	Sat 8/27	Sun 8/28	Mon 8/29
88/69	86/68	86/69	85/69	84/65
Sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 60s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 60s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 60s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:13 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:12 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 8:10 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 8:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:17 AM Sunset: 8:08 PM
To Sponsor the Weather Report Call 325-387-2507				

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Advertising Events Portraits Sports

The Lillian M Hudspeth Hospital District Board of Directors invites you to attend

Town Hall Meeting

September 15th at 6 p.m.

Sutton County Civic Center

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"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." - Galatians 5:22-23

<p>St. John's Episcopal Church</p> <p>404 East Poplar St. (325) 387-2955 Sunday Services @ 10:30 am</p>	<p>First Baptist Church</p> <p>Matt Killough, Pastor 111 East Oak Street (325) 387-2951 Sunday School @ 9:45 am Sunday Worship @ 10:45 am Wednesday @ 6:00</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church</p> <p>Bill Harris, Pastor 205 North Water Ave. (325) 387-2466 Sunday Worship @ 10:55 am</p>
<p>Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd</p> <p>Lewis Allen, Pastor 401 East Mulberry St. (325) 387-2616 Sunday Services @ 11:00 am and 5:30 pm</p>	<p>St. Ann Catholic Church</p> <p>Rev. Terry Brenon 311 W. Plum St. (325) 387-2278 Saturday Mass 6:00 pm English Sunday Mass @ 8:00 am Spanish and 10:30 am English</p>	<p>Church of Christ</p> <p>Roy Smalling 304 North Water Ave. (325) 387-3190 Sunday Worship @ 11:00 am and @ 5:30 pm KHOS 92.1 Radio 8:00 Sundays</p>
<p>Hope Lutheran</p> <p>417 Southeast 2nd St. (325) 387-5366 Sunday Worship @ 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Lighthouse</p> <p>Don Longoria, Pastor 1705 North Crockett Ave. All Services Start @ 10:30 am (325) 387-9100</p>	

To sponsor this directory call 325-387-2507

City of Sonora

Senior Center

MONDAY August 29
Smothered Pork Chop, Mix Veggies, Wheat Roll, Orange Zephyr Whip, Milk

TUESDAY August 30
Taco Salad w/Cheese, Salsa, Dressing, Seasonal Fruit, Milk

WEDNESDAY August 31
BBQ Chicken, Squash, Pinto Beans, Coleslaw, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, Milk

THURSDAY September 1
Beef Pepper Stk. w/Gravy, Mash. Potatoes, Capri Veggies, Wheat Roll, Fresh Fruit, Milk

FRIDAY September 2
Chicken Salad On Lettuce, Chunky Fruit, Macaroni Salad, Crackers, Choc. Chip Cookie, Milk

Transportation to and from the center may call 325-387-3941.

Holmes

We Can Tow Anything

325-387-3470

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DRN Comics

Daddy's Home

by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni



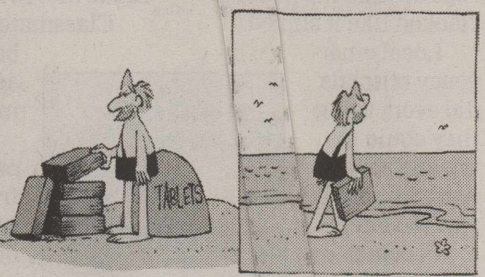
Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



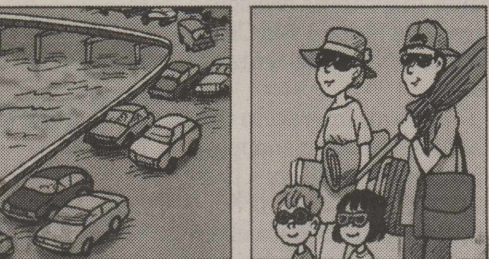
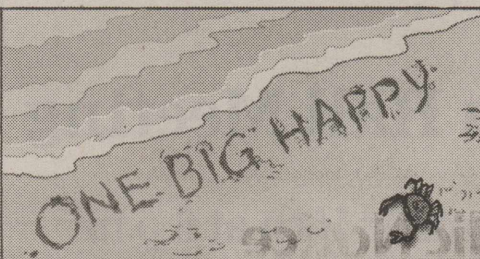
Strange Brew

by John Deering



Strange Brew

by John Deering



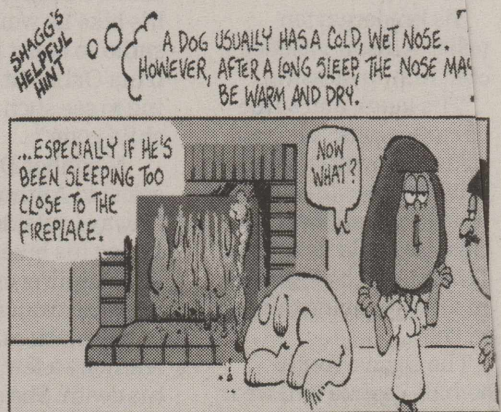
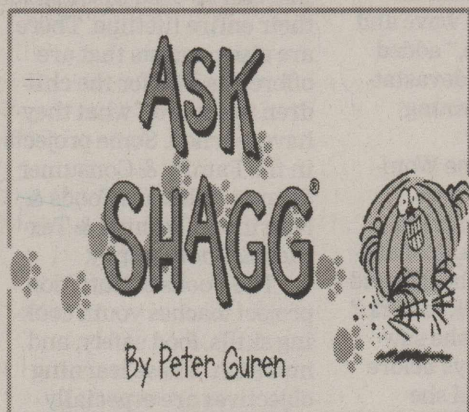
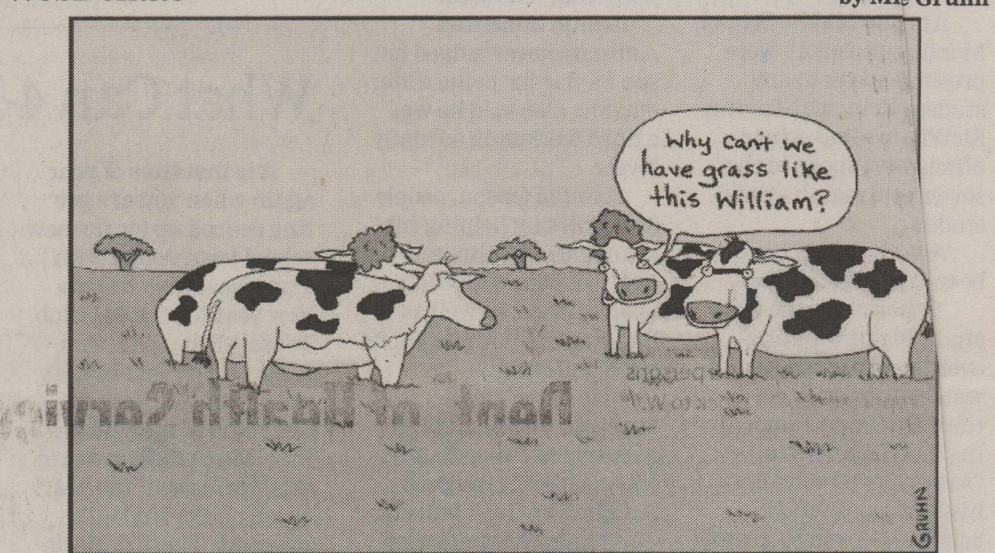
Nest Heads

by John Allen



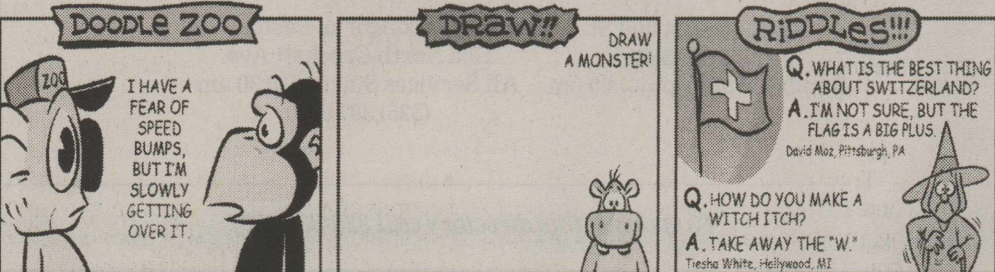
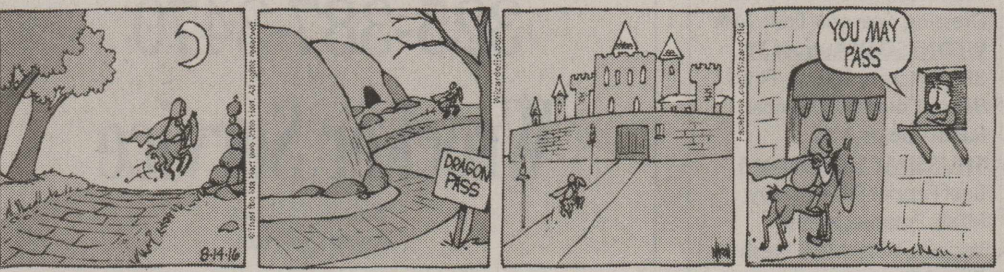
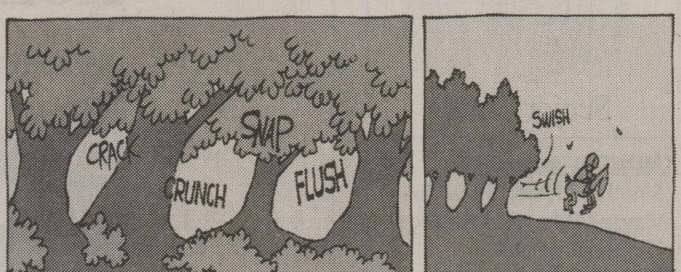
WebDonuts

by Mia Gruhn



Wizard of ID

by Parker and Hart





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

AUGUST 21 • Cody R. Van Winkle 32 year-old male arrested for assault offensive/provocative nature.

INCIDENTS

AUGUST 15 - 12:50 AM • Rattlesnake reported on 800 block of St. Ann's. Officer responded.

10:47 AM • Accident/wreck reported at 200 block of N. Crockett Ave. Officer responded.

AUGUST 16 - 12:52 PM • Suspicious person reported on 100 block of Hwy 277 N. Officer responded.

9:50 PM • Suspicious person reported on 500 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

7:30 PM • AIRMED requested traffic control. Officer responded.

AUGUST 17 - 1:17 PM • EMS requested assistance on 1900 block of Tayloe Ave. Officer responded.

5:48 PM • Animal reported on 100 block of Crockett and Main. Officer responded.

8:00 PM • Hit and run reported on 700 block of Sutton. Officer responded.

8:31 PM • Theft reported on 500 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

AUGUST 18 - 10:40 AM • Illegally parked vehicle(s) reported on 900 block of S. Concho. Officer responded.

10:44 AM • Assistance requested at Holiday Host. Officer responded.

4:03 PM • Accident/wreck reported on 500 block of Hwy 277 N. Officer responded.

8:58 PM • Suspicious persons reported on 400 block to W. 8th. Officer responded.

AUGUST 19 - 9:42 AM • Funeral escort requested. Officers responded.

11:39 AM • Officer requested for a civil matter on 500 block of W. 1st. Officer responded.

2:57 PM • 9-1-1 call for accident/wreck at mile marker 397 I-10. Officer responded to assist.

8:53 PM • Reckless driver reported at north bound 277 S/600 block of S. Crockett. Officer responded.

9:08 PM • Officer requested for civil matter on 400 block of W. 1st. Officer responded.

10:35 PM • Suspicious activity reported on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

11:56 PM • Caller requested welfare check on 700 block of St. Ann's. Officer responded.

AUGUST 20 - 2:15 PM • Theft reported on 300 block of W. 2nd. Officer responded.

9:08 PM • Suspicious activity called in at Bronco Trailer Park. Officer responded.

9:45 PM • Animal reported on 100 block of Lorene. Officer responded.

AUGUST 21 - 4:09 AM • Suspicious activity reported on 100 block of Martin. Officer responded.

1:42 PM • 9-1-1 call on 300 Paseo del Norte. Officer responded to assist.

DEATH NOTICE

Francisco G. "Shorty" Torres Garcia

Francisco G. "Shorty" Torres Garcia, 55, of Sonora died Wednesday, August 17, 2016 in Sonora.

Funeral services were held Friday, August 19, 2016 at St. Ann's Catholic Church and burial followed

in Sonora Cemetery.

Arrangements were made with Love Funeral Home.

Survivors include brothers Jesus Torres of Sonora and Manuel Torres of Ozona.

No More Accrued Leave Reimbursement for County Employees After September

County Commissioners approved the payment of compensatory time and carry over vacation for 6 employees, in the amount of \$55,288.50, during a special meeting on Monday, August 22nd. Existing policy allowed county employees to bank accrued leave time opting for payment instead of utilizing it. In an effort to resolve budget issues, Commissioners agreed to payout this expense and consider adopting changes to the current policy prohibiting employees from leave rollover entitling them to payment.

"We are taking steps to prevent this from happening again," Judge Steve Smith said.

Commissioners will vote to adopt the new policy during their next regular meeting on September 12th.

In other business, Commissioners listened to a presentation by Eric Sanchez, Chief Executive Officer for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley. Sanchez asked the court to consider their support

through a donation or pledge to help fund the construction of a Detox facility. Sanchez is reaching out to all neighboring counties for their support in turn helping in the treatment and recovery of individuals in need.

No action was taken.

Additionally, Commissioners approved the contract renewal with Xerox to supply a copier and maintenance for used by county employees.

In regular business, the court approved the minutes from the August 8th regular meeting and accounts payable, as presented.

Without further comments or discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Commissioners Carl Teaff, Mike Villanueva and Fred Perez were present. John Wade was absent.

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners Court is slated for Monday, September 12th at 9 a.m. in the County Annex Building.

Dept. of Health Services and Sonora Clinic Offers Health Care for Residents

Submitted by Jackie Falcon

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Region 9 Sonora Health Clinic is available manage a variety of health care needs.

Jackie Falcon, Human Services Tech I, said the mission is to improve the health and promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Sutton County and surrounding counties through education, prevention, research, and service.

The Clinic is a participant of the Texas Vaccines for Children Program, which immunizes children (birth-18 years of age) free for those who meet the eligibility requirements.

Additional health care support includes women and children's health services, primary healthcare services, STD testing, specialized health services,

nutrition, as well as, obesity prevention services, and tobacco prevention and cessation.

Collaborating with local organizations, schools, and community leaders the TDSHS and Sonora Health Clinic focus on building a healthy Texas.

As an added effort to promote safety and reduce injuries in children they have teamed up with Safe Kids San Angelo to provide car seats and bike helmets.

"We care about you and your family and are proud to serve the community of Sonora," Falcon said.

Everyone is welcome to visit the clinic located at 103 E. Main St. (second floor) in Sonora.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Clinic hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10a.m. until 3 p.m.

Judge Denies State's Request to Toss STAAR Suit

by Kiah Collier, The Texas Tribune

After a group of parents sued the Texas Education Agency over the 2016 administration of STAAR exams, state lawyers argued this summer that the parents had no standing and asked the courts to drop the case.

This week, the first day of school for many Texas children, Travis County District Court Judge Stephen Yelenosky denied their request in a one-page order with no further explanation.

The decision, which comes after a recent hearing, means the lawsuit brought by parents from Houston, Wimberley,

Austin and Orangefield — whose children were in the third, fifth and eighth grades last school year — will be able to proceed.

The lawsuit, filed against the education agency in Travis County district court, argues that spring 2016 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness scores are invalid because the exams were not administered under parameters laid out in House Bill 743. The legislation, passed last year with bipartisan support, requires the state to design STAAR exams so that a majority of elementary and middle school students can complete them within a certain period of time (two

hours for third-through fifth-graders and three hours for sixth-through eighth-graders.)

In court filings, state lawyers said the agency complied with the new statute and also asked the court to toss the suit due to lack of "harm" to students.

Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Ratcliffe said the agency hadn't seen Monday's order and so could not comment.

Education Commissioner Mike Morath, listed as the primary defendant in the suit, threw out all grade promotion consequences for fifth and eighth graders this year because of score delays under a new testing vendor, SEE STAAR SUIT ON PAGE 10

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Sonora Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The City of Sonora will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by -0.163993 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 29, 2016 at 6:00 PM at CITY HALL.

The second public hearing will be held on September 6, 2016 at 6:00 PM at CITY HALL.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: DOUG CHANDLER, JUANITA BARRERA, WANDA SHURLEY, TODD MUNN, NORM ROUSSELOT
AGAINST: NONE
PRESENT and not voting: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in City of Sonora last year was \$96,359. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.551806 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$531.71.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in City of Sonora this year is \$91,813. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.633755 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$581.87.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.610000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$560.06.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 104(g), Tax Code

***"New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code

***"Taxable value" is defined by Section 104(10), Tax Code

City of Sonora Public Notice Budget Hearing

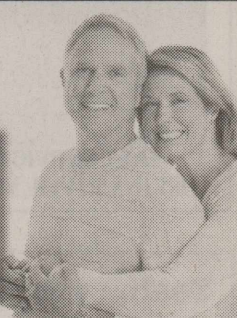
The City Council will hold a public budget hearing on September 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the council with comments and ask questions concerning the city's proposed 2016-2017 Budget. The public can inspect the proposed budget at City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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Nexium™ \$874.58 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 40mg x 100</small>	Esomeprazole \$82.00 <small>Precio genérico por 40mg x 100</small>	Advair™ \$985.38 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 250-50mg x 100</small>	Salmeterol & Fluticasone Propionato \$145.00 <small>Precio genérico por 250-50mg x 100</small>
Actonel™ \$735.28 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 35mg x 12</small>	Risedronate \$48.00 <small>Precio genérico por 35mg x 12</small>	Evista™ \$694.32 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 40mg x 100</small>	Raloxifene \$76.00 <small>Precio genérico por 60mg x 100</small>
Abilify™ \$2,936.61 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 15mg x 90</small>	Aripiprazole \$75.90 <small>Precio genérico por 15mg x 90</small>	Lipitor™ \$920.43 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 20mg x 100</small>	Atorvastatin \$67.00 <small>Precio genérico por 20mg x 100</small>
Flomax™ \$1,007.14 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 4mg x 90</small>	Tamsulosin \$141.00 <small>Precio genérico por 4mg x 90</small>	Prevacid™ \$322.58 <small>Típico precio de marca de USA por 30mg x 84</small>	Lansoprazole \$100.00 <small>Precio genérico por 30mg x 84</small>

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Sweet Thank You



Comfort Inn employees Angie Torres and Laura Garza greet Sonora Police Officer, Gabriel Arredondowith waffles and coffee during a special Community Thank You event Friday, August 19th.

COURTESY PHOTO

Comfort Inn Offers Community Members A Sweet Start to the Day

Dripping with sweet appreciation for special members of the community, the Sonora Comfort Inn, franchised by Choice Hotels International, Inc. invited local teachers, law enforcement, fire, military, churches and community leaders to enjoy its signature brand breakfast waffles free on Friday, August 19th.

The event, in conjunction of National Waffle Day 2015 theme, "Say Thank You with Waffles" honored those who give of themselves for the betterment of the community and its citizens.

During the week of August 16th through National Waffle Day on August 24th, 2016

participating Comfort Inn and Comfort Suites hotels throughout the United States are serving waffles to various groups that make a difference in local communities.

"Although we are in the travel business, the Comfort brand also has strong roots in the local communities we serve," said Anne Smith, vice president of brand strategy for Choice Hotels International. "This iconic brand has had incredible staying power because we understand the importance of doing more than just setting up shop in town. Going above and beyond is the essence of Comfort hospitality and our franchisees are excited to express their appreciation."

Money In Ranching?

We might hear about the livestock markets when they're up and get the idea that agriculture is a pot of gold. But is it?

This week, I thought we'd talk about some of the income as well as expenses that agricultural producers incur.

I'd also like to feature a resource for checking what some of the going rates are for ag services.

Since we're in ranch country, let's start by taking a quick look at what recent sale barns have offered for sheep, goats, and cattle.

In aea sheep sales, 70-79 lb. lambs have averaged \$190.10/CWT (or \$1.90/ lb.) which translates to about \$152.32 per lamb. Ewes weighing 120-169 lbs. averaged \$66.42/CWT, while bucks weighing 170-179 averaged \$107.18/CWT.

These are averages, so obviously some brought more and others made less.

A quick look at goats shows that kid goats weighing 40-49 lbs. averaged \$2.21 per pound.

Steers weighing 400-600 lbs. were bringing \$1.35-\$1.55 per pound.

The sun shines a little brighter when markets are positive, and income is also generated from hunting.

But what are some of the expenses, and what do they cost?

That's where the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Agricultural

Custom Rates Survey can be helpful.

The survey is developed to provide information regarding typical prices paid/charged for custom agricultural services.

Surveys are mailed to individuals who are asked to voluntarily provide information on only the custom

rates which they provide.

Valid responses are collected and analyzed for publication. Data are presented on a regional and statewide level only.

For example, let's say wanted to check the cost

of brush control in the west region.

We'd find that hiring a bull dozer would cost in the vicinity of \$100/ hr. Rot plowing might be \$125/hr, while grubbing would average \$150/hr.

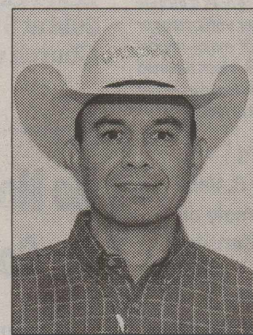
Again, these are just the results from common answers by survey participants so costs vary.

A couple more examples. Shearing in our area costs around \$3 per head, while day labor runs \$125-\$150 per day.

You could also look up fencing, hay hauling, artificial insemination of livestock or other tasks.

The 2016 Agricultural Custom Rates can be found on the Sutton County Extension website at <http://sutton.agrilife.org>.

For more information, contact the Sutton County Extension Office.



Pascual Hernandez

It's a Girl!

Girls, Girls, Girls!
Leddy Cresson 8lb 6.8 oz, 19 1/2" long
Born July 18, 2016 in San Angelo, TX.
Proud Parents Thomas and Brooklyn Bloodworth of Mertzon.
Proud sister Dylann and Sawyer.
Grandparents Lee and Darlette Bloodworth of Sonora
Ann and Arlin Woehl of Wall
Brenda & Dwain Halfman of San Angelo
Great-Grandparents Grace Ramsey of Sonora and Marcella and Herbert Woehl of Wall.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: Military Boost

TEXAS TOUR: Military Edition" — an official excursion that included visits to nine of the 15 military bases in Texas.

Those bases, he said, generate \$136.6 billion in economic activity each year, add \$81.4 billion to the state's gross domestic product and pay \$48.1 billion in personal income annually. The military helps support more than 800,000 Texas jobs, he said.

"It's an important part of a strong, diverse and growing Texas economy," Hegar added.

Last fall, Hegar traveled on his first Good for Texas Tour, visiting with people across the state to learn about strengths and weaknesses of local economies.

Goal is safe, sober travel
Leading up to the Labor Day holiday, the Texas Department of Transportation on Aug. 16 urged drivers to make a plan for a safe and sober ride home.

"Drinking and driving remains a big problem in Texas," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "If you plan to drink, you must plan ahead for a safe and sober ride home. It's a plan that could save a family — even your own — from the heartbreak of losing a loved one."

The department's "Plan While You Can" campaign

kicked off Aug. 16 in San Antonio and runs through Sept. 5 to coincide with Labor Day and increased DWI enforcement in Texas. During the Labor Day holiday period in 2015, there were 359 alcohol-related crashes that led to 12 fatalities and 36 serious injuries.

TxDOT suggested Texans visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking and driving.

DPS: Watch for children
With the start of the new school year ahead, the Texas Department of Public Safety on Aug. 17 cautioned Texans to watch for children who are walking to and from school or waiting for buses.

State law, TxDOT said, requires that approaching drivers stop when a bus is stopped and operating a visual signal, either red flashing lights or a stop sign. Drivers should not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed, or the visual signal is no longer activated.

A driver does not have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if it is on a highway with roadways separated by an intervening space or physical barrier. Roadways are not considered separated if divided only by a left-turning lane, and drivers must stop for school buses.

Ozona Family Mourning Loss of 13-Year-Old Son

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Anthony helped find her lost dog.

"Bottom line is he walked by my house almost every day on his way to somewhere to do something. I heard some dogs barking today and I thought of Anthony and knew they weren't barking at him. I saw some kids playing, riding bikes and it caught my breath as Anthony would normally have been with them, but he wasn't. It's very sad that his life ended so soon," Womack said.

A GoFundMe account has been set up by family members in the name of "Anthony David Hester Smith Fund" for those wanting to help pay for funeral expenses and set up a scholarship fund in Anthony's name.

As of Tuesday morning, the account had raised around \$700.

The family is also asking for everyone to spread the word about the "choking game."

The "choking game" is not new, but with social media and YouTube videos portraying it, the game is becoming more common among teenagers.

Adolescents cut off the flow of blood to the brain, in exchange for a few seconds of feeling lightheaded. Some strangle themselves with a belt, a rope or their bare hands; others push on their chest or hyperventilate, according to

GASP (Games Adolescents Shouldn't Play). When they release the pressure, blood that was blocked up floods the brain all at once. This sets off a warm and fuzzy feeling, which is just the brain dying, thousands of cells at a time.

According to an article from the Washington Post, various surveys have found that 5 to 10 percent of middle schoolers have played the choking game.

Many parents don't know the game exists and there is little research on the game, the Post article stated.

The Post article also stated that there is limited and little consistent evidence about the game because many of the deaths have been ruled suicides, unless the police or parents are aware of the game.

GASP has counted 672 choking game deaths in the past 10 years, more than twice as many than occurred in the decade before that.

The victims are almost always teenagers trying it alone, the Post article stated.

"Everyone has asked me if there is anything they could do for me. There's one thing, please tell about how dangerous the 'choking game' is. I hope and pray that all and every child of every age learns from what happens. I want my son back. I hope all kids learn from this and don't try these things they see on YouTube," Armstrong said.

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SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 4

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Texas Tech University Establishes New Campus in Costa Rica

Texas Tech University officials announced last week the start of an exciting new chapter in the university's growth: an expanded global presence in the form of its new international campus, Texas Tech University Costa Rica.

Upon approval of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges, the new campus in San José, Costa Rica, will offer students in Central America an opportunity to earn credits necessary for undergraduate or graduate degrees. With instruction in English, programs will be offered by the Rawls College of Business, the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, the College of Arts & Sciences and the Department of Hospitality and Retail Management within the College of Human Sciences.

"This collaboration with our partners in Costa Rica will increase access to a Texas Tech education for students in Costa Rica and Central America. This project also supports the internationalization efforts at Texas Tech and advances our reputation and competitive position by preparing our graduates to live and work in different cultures," Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec said. "Beyond the educational programs offered at Texas Tech University Costa Rica, there

will be opportunities for our students and faculty to engage in international partnership and internships, research and study abroad."

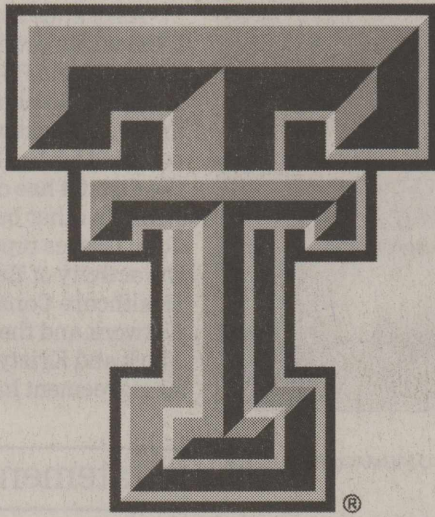
Texas Tech University Costa Rica will be completely self-sustaining and self-supported through revenue generated by student enrollment and revenues collected from Promerica Group, a highly reputable multinational conglomerate of companies operating throughout Central and Latin America.

"In Promerica, we believe the future of Costa Rica and Central America requires vision, leadership and 21st century skills in order to take our region to the next level," said John Keith, director of Promerica Group. "The Texas Tech campus in Costa Rica will be a catalyst for progress, development and innovation. U.S. higher education engaging in Latin America can

have a significant impact on the future growth of our emerging economies. We see Texas Tech as a leader in this regard and we are proud to be their partner."

Initial program offerings include:

- B.S. Electrical Engineering
- B.S. Industrial Engineering
- S. Computer Science
- B.S. Mathematics
- Dual B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics
- B.S. Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management
- Undergraduate certificate in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management
- Graduate certificate in Essentials of Business



The Texas Tech University center in Seville, Spain, facilitates Texas Tech students to study abroad, but Texas Tech University Costa Rica will be the university's first degree-awarding international campus primarily serving

students in that region.

In the last decade, international engagement increasingly has been a focus of Texas Tech. The university's mission statement, adopted by the Board of Regents in May 2010, states: "The university is dedicated to student success by preparing learners to be ethical leaders for a diverse and globally competitive workforce. The university is committed to enhancing the cultural and economic development of the state, nation and world." Texas Tech's five-year Quality Enhancement Plan also focuses on international engagement with the theme "Bear Our Banners Far and Wide: Communicating in a Global Society."

"Our flagship institution was founded with a vision of thinking on worldwide terms, and this endeavor strengthens Texas Tech's mission of preparing global leaders and enriching cultures around the world," said Texas Tech University System Chancellor Robert Duncan. "I congratulate and thank Dr. Schovanec and his team as well as our partners in Costa Rica for making possible this exciting expansion that will raise our international profile and increase opportunities for our students, faculty and higher education in a great country."

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611 S. Prospect Ave.	2BR/2B	\$109,000
1302 Tayloe	3BR/2B	\$125,000
1103 Glasscock Ave.	3BR/2B	\$127,500
901 E. Poplar St.	3BR/1.5B	\$135,000
908 St. Ann's St.	3BR/2B & 1 Acre	\$149,500
2469 SCR 106	3BR/2B & 10 Acre	\$149,500
904 E. Poplar St.	4BR/2B	\$150,000
702 S. Crockett	4BR/2B	\$165,000
107 Draw St.	4BR/3B	\$169,500
505 E. Poplar St.	6BR/3B	\$175,000
208 E. Main St.	2BR/1 1/2B	\$177,500
2493 SCR 104	4BR/2B	\$180,000
103 Manor St.	3BR/2B	\$210,000
119 Manor St. SOLD	3BR/3B	\$225,000
2529 SCR 106	3BR/2B & 9.291 ac	\$295,000
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A sword tip found at the Alamo in August, 2016, COURTESY PHOTO | REIMAGINE THE ALAMO

Tip of Mexican Sword Discovered at Alamo Dig Site

BY KIRBY WILSON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas revolutionaries and Mexican soldiers may not have buried the hatchet after the Battle of the Alamo, but somehow, they buried a sword.

Archaeologists in San Antonio announced Thursday, August 11th, that a week earlier they recovered the tip of a Mexican sword, likely used either in the famous 1836 battle or in the construction of the Alamo's southern wall fortifications in 1835.

"We're really excited to have evidence of military action here at the south wall," archaeologist Nesta Anderson said at a news conference. "We didn't

expect it."

Anderson said the French-manufactured briquet sword, discovered near the south wall, could have been used by noncommissioned Mexican infantrymen during the 1836 battle for the Alamo.

Sam Nesmith, the director of The Texas Museum of Military History, originally identified the sword's Mexican origin, Anderson said.

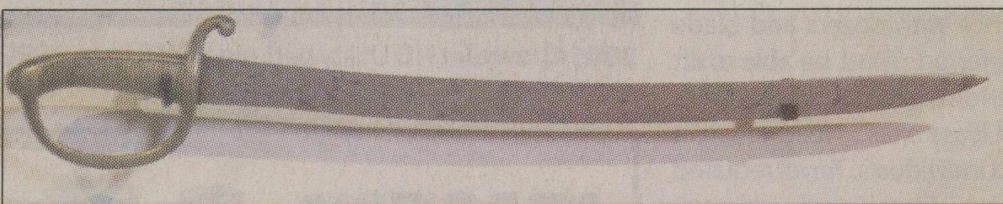
The sword also could have been used as a construction tool. In 1835, Mexican Gen. Martín Perfecto de Cos looked to shore up defenses of the Alamo mission's southern wall. His efforts to secure the building were ultimately unsuccessful; Texas forces led by

Stephen F. Austin captured the mission in December of that year after a lengthy siege.

Mexican forces eventually retook the Alamo in the 1836 battle.

The archaeological dig is part of the "Reimagine the Alamo" effort, a comprehensive renovation project commissioned by state officials, including Land Commissioner George P. Bush, the City of San Antonio and the Alamo Endowment.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2016/08/11/tip-of-mexican-sword-discovered-at-alamo-dig-site/>.



The artifact is thought to be from this type of sword, known as a briquet, used by Mexican soldiers in the early 1800s. COURTESY PHOTO | REIMAGINE THE ALAMO

STAAR SUIT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the filings note. They also say that students could have been advanced to the next grade by a graduation committee regardless of Morath's decision, and that there are no such consequences for third-graders. The filing also says there is "no allegation any of the plaintiffs failed or were specifically harmed by the allegedly noncompliant test—or even that the length of the test affected the child's

performance in any way." But the parents would like to see all scores thrown out. Their lawyer Austin-area lawyer, Scott Placek, who hailed Monday's decision as a "big victory," said they will keep fighting until that happens.

"The judge said without qualifications they have the right to be there and they have the right to have their case heard, and so we're in the position now where the case can really go forward,"

he said. "I think we'll look to move the discovery expeditiously and get to trial as quickly as we can because kids are being impacted already as they head back to school."

The decision comes the same day the crowd-funded plaintiffs, members of a grassroots group called The Committee to Stop STAAR, announced they had secured an education agency report via an open records request showing STAAR administration did not comply with the law.

Their lawsuit was filed amid a fresh and fervent wave of dissent against the STAAR exams, a more rigorous series of tests first introduced in 2012. It was fueled by widespread logistical and technical issues with this year's administration under a new testing vendor, New Jersey-based Educational Testing Service, which has declined to comment on the issues.

Read more of our coverage related to STAAR exams:

More Texas school districts and charter schools are failing in 2016, though the number of individual campuses that received that label decreased.

A special panel recommending changes to the state's public school testing and accountability system has stopped short of proposing that Texas scrap the controversial assessment regime known as STAAR.

Disclosure: Educational Testing Service has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune. A complete list of Tribune donors and sponsors can be viewed here.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2016/08/22/judge-denies-states-request-toss-staar-suit/>.

SCHD BOARD:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

positive position. Efforts continue to network with providers to increase clinic revenue, as well as, efficiently and effectively meet the needs of patients in the area ensure the overall success of the clinic.

As of June 2016 the Medical Director, Mark Edwards and Physician Assistant Stephen Alexander, in Rocksprings are certified with all payers the district has contracts with. In other business, John Graves reported on the activity of Burroughs Healthcare Consulting Network and the doctors Mark and Kristy Edwards. An agreement has been

executed with Burroughs and the Edwards have agreed to work with Dr. Burroughs to resolve the issues regarding their physician employee contracts.

Both parties have agreed to full transparency and Dr. Burroughs deems it a positive way forward to resolution.

"We are looking forward to resolution," Graves said. "To meet to resolve all of the issues that we have."

Board President Sharon Holman provided a detailed overview of the financial stability, Rural Health Clinic status, employment agreements and Legality of Title for CEO vs. Administrator. She issued

a statement asking that, if printed, it be printed in its entirety.

Finally, trustees adopted an employee health benefits package as presented by Zesch & Pickett Insurance LLP.

Board President Sharon Holman presided over the meeting, Board Members Edward Earwood, John Henry Strauch, Mary Humphrey, Don Longoria and Adalita Alvarez were present. Lenora Pool was absent.

The next regular board meeting of the Sutton County Hospital District Board of Directors is slated for Monday September 12th, at LMH Memorial Hospital.

Statement by Sharon Holman, SCHD Board President

This hospital board and the Chief Executive Officer have a responsibility to ensure public policy compliance with federal, state, and local laws. Since the Fall of 2013 there have been concerns raised regarding several issues where many of our programs were out of compliance and needed immediate correction.

With hard work all but two issues have been resolved to ensure compliance with public policy. These two issues are maintaining the Rural Health Clinic Designations for the Sonora Medical Clinic, also known as Clinic B, and the employment agreements with Drs Mark and Kristy Edwards.

Why are these important? Because they have significant influence on our financial stability and a viable healthcare system for Sutton County.

Financial Overview: Over the last three years the district's total revenue has declined an average of just over \$1M each year.

The \$1M or so we receive in tax revenue represents only eleven percent of the district's total income.

The rest must come from patients, other operating and non-operating revenues to meet or exceed total expenses for a positive outcome.

The days of counting on another government funded program or grant are gone as are most of the programs we have come to count on each year. So we have to make sure we stay compliant with what we have left, such as our Rural Health Clinic status:

Let me clarify, the term "rural health clinic" means a primary care clinic that is Federally qualified to receive special Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, or CMS, provides advantageous reimbursement as a strategy to increase rural Medicare and Medicaid patients' access to primary care services.

In 2015 the loss for Clinic B was just below \$700,000 when considering direct and indirect costs validated by the cost report submitted to CMS and compiled by our auditor. Remember that this large negative number included the lucrative reimbursements for the Medicare/Medicaid patients seen. So without RHC designation, that \$700,000 loss would have been closer to \$1,000,000.

Reality is Clinic B's

Medicare/Medicaid population only represents 24% of all patients seen in the clinic.

Remaining revenue must come from other sources.

It is also important to note less than 2% of clinic patient charges present the indigent.

To continue to qualify for rural health clinic designation specific criteria must be met. In regard to Clinic B, the Rural Health Clinic's status is in jeopardy for a couple of reasons.

First, the Department of Health and Human Resources requires a Rural Health Clinic meet the conditions for either a Health Professional Shortage Area (HSPA) or a Medically Underserved Area (MUA)

The Health Professional Shortage Area Score is dated 2011 and is considered out of date until a more recent score can be obtained. We have asked this score to be updated.

The Medically Underserved Area Score is a total of four weighted scores. In order to qualify for Rural Healthcare Clinic the MUA score must be at 62 or below. The current score of 50.5 is dated 1978, which is considered outdated. When calculating the four weighted score for today's conditions considering poverty, the over 65 population, infant mortality, and number of physicians per 1,000 population, the total scores results in 71.5, nearly 10 points above the threshold.

The second concern for maintaining the rural health designation is each type of provider, either a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, is required to meet a minimum standard for patient visits.

The physicians have failed to meet the minimum standard by more than 20% the last three years.

The PA/NPs have exceeded their minimum standards but when combined with the physicians the clinic have failed to meet the overall standard.

To date the clinic has lost approximately \$50,000 in federal reimbursements.

I am hopeful these issues can be resolved so that our community can keep the Rural Health Clinic designation. As I am sure you gathered from the information you just heard, it will not save the day, but it will help keep the doors open so the district can provide access to healthcare for our citizens.

The other issue with compliance problems are the physician employment agreements.

The board has engaged with Burroughs Healthcare Consulting Network, specifically with Dr. Jon Burroughs who has agreed to work with the board of directors, physicians, and administration to hopefully re-align the employment agreements for legal compliance but more importantly to ensure longevity of the physicians in the community.

The Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer have made it clear to both Drs. Edwards our intent is to keep the relationship in tact understanding the importance of community needs and desires.

It must be stressed the hospital board of directors and the CEO have a legal obligation to ensure all contracts meet federal, state, and local public policies. Legal counsel and other consultants have advised the Board of Directors the agreement in their current state may violate federal law and other public policies.

Speaking of things legal, the Special District Local Laws Code, states: "The board may appoint a qualified person as district administrator"; however it does not say the Board cannot hire a CEO.

The Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 4, Chapter 282 states: "The board shall appoint other district officers the board considers necessary." And in paragraph (b) of the same Chapter states "A person appointed under Subsection (a) serves at the will of the board and is entitled to receive compensation as determined by the board."

This applies to any manager employed with and compensated by the district.

I am looking forward to hearing the report from Richard Hoeth at the regular September board meeting concerning our current staffing and possible adjustments to make us more efficient and cost effective.

As a citizen of Sutton County, I am appreciative to all who serve selflessly on this board. As a member of this board, I appreciate the citizens who support the ideal of a strong hospital district for Sutton County and our employees who dedication to their profession make this healthcare system one of the best.

Commissioners Wrap up 2016-17 Budget Woes

Sutton County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the proposed 2017 budget during a special meeting on Tuesday, August 23rd.

They also a proposed tax rate of .680127 consisting of .566659 in the General Fund and .113468 in the Farm to Market Fund.

The proposed rate of 68.0127 cents, will bring in \$257,143.74 in additional property tax revenue and help offset the current

budget deficit.

A public meeting on the proposed tax rate is slated for 9 a.m. on September 9th at the County Courthouse Annex Building. A second public meeting is slated for September 13th at 9 a.m. at the County Courthouse Annex Building.

Following the public hearing, adoption of the 2017 budget and tax rate will take place during the regular meeting on September 26th.

With no further discussion or comment the meeting adjourned.

Judge Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Commissioners Carl Teaff, Mike Villanueva and Fred Perez were present. John Wade was absent.

The next regular meeting of the County Commissioners Court is slated for 9 a.m. on Monday, September 12th, at the County Courthouse Annex Building.

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Photo Credit: Sonora High School

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