



Happy New Year

The Devil's River News

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

January 5, 2017

\$1

Volume 128 Issue 1



Sheriff Joe Fincher Retires Badge



Judge Steve Smith invited the public to a special retirement celebration honoring Sheriff Joe Fincher Tuesday, December 27, 2016, at the Sutton County courthouse. Fincher served in law enforcement for more than five decades. He is known and appreciated for his devotion to helping people as well as upholding the law in Sutton County and Sonora.

Fincher Hands off Duties after 51-years in Law Enforcement

There is something to be said about those who serve in law enforcement. But, to wear the badge for more than fifty years – that is extraordinary. That is how some describe Joe Fincher. He is, after all, the man who has maintained law and order in Sonora and Sutton County for the past four decades. He is the Sheriff. "Joe is a lawman," Judge Steve Smith said. "He is not a politician and that makes holding the position of Sheriff difficult." That all changed this past Sunday, December 31, 2016, when Fincher turned over his badge to a new Sheriff, Oscar Chavez. Chavez himself is a seasoned

officer of the law and served as deputy under Fincher for the past 23 years. Now, Fincher can focus on a new lifestyle. Retirement. He traded his uniform for civilian clothes and his marked SUV for an R.V. Camper. A few days before leaving office, his family, friends and fans all gathered together for a fitting retirement ceremony at the Sutton County courthouse, to honor him for his years of service. It all began in February 1965 when Fincher joined the Odessa Police Department working patrol and later as a detective. He doesn't recall the reason

why he chose law enforcement. Perhaps it was the subtle influence of his uncle who held a special commission from the Texas Rangers. Fincher admired him simply because he helped people. That desire to help others is exactly what has kept him loyal to his profession for so many years. "Once you start in law enforcement and you see how you can help people - that's what keeps you going," Fincher said. "Everyone has problems of some kind. But, when they run afoul of the law or have been injured or wronged and you can help them - well, that's what keeps me going. Maybe I can help them recover

what was taken or prevent something from being taken or get a thug or crook off of the street. I think that is the best way to help people." Following the lead of a fellow officer, Fincher moved to Sonora during the 1970's where he helped establish the city's police department. That may even be where his love for Bronco football began as well. The first home game of the season Fincher worked traffic in front of the stadium. He hasn't missed many games since. His wife, Karen, is a loyal Broncos fan as well. She has

SEE FINCHER ON PAGE 8

SCHD Board of Directors and Edwards Agree to Separation and Settlement

The Sutton County Hospital District has agreed to pay Dr. Mark Edwards and Dr. Kristy Edwards a combined lump sum of \$500,000 under the terms of a settlement agreement obtained by the Devil's River News. As part of the agreement, District Board of Directors and the Edwards issued a press release upon signing the settlement on December 22, 2016. The news release was also provided to the DRN. The settlement was reached as a result of a mediation in Dallas, on Thursday, December 15, with mediator Cecilia Morgan according to the release. "The terms of the agreement were approved by the SCHD Board of Directors the following day, Friday, December 16, 2016, and have since been memorialized into a formal, written separation agreement that has been executed by both the District and the Drs. Edwards," according to the news release. Board President Sharon Holman, Board Vice President Edward Earwood, and District Chief Executive Officer John Graves attended as representatives of the Sutton County Hospital District. Under the terms of the settlement agreement all issues regarding the district and Drs. Edwards have been resolved and it cannot be disputed in the future.



A closed sign and public notice are displayed in the front windows of the Sonora Medical Center Rural Health Clinic B Monday, January 1, 2017. The Drs. Mark and Kristy Edwards are no longer employed by the Sutton County Hospital District as part of a separation and settlement agreement between the SCHD Board of Directors and the Edwards. Both doctors resigned from their employment positions and are no longer seeing patients in the clinic as of December 31, 2016. DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

As part of the settlement the District will pay Mark Edwards \$45,408.35 for regular employee compensation through December 31, 2016 in addition to a lump sum of \$250,000 on or after January 1, 2017 but not later than January 6, 2017.

Likewise, the District will pay Kristy Edwards the same compensation under the same terms as outlined in the settlement. The Edwards and the District are responsible for their own attorney fees and costs.

The District has agreed to pay the outstanding balance owed to Mediator Cecilia Morgan. Also, part of the settlement, the Edwards agreed to provide services through December 31, 2016. At which time, they

SEE SETTLEMENT ON PAGE 5



Joseph Clay Hudson | COURTESY PHOTO

Sonora Resident Arrested for Multiple Burglaries in Community

Joseph Clay Hudson, 18, was arrested Thursday, December 29, 2016 in Sonora. An Arrest Warrant was obtained by the Sonora Police Department to take Hudson into custody for Burglary of a Building. He was charged and booked into the Sutton County jail where he remains on a \$10,000 bond. A search also uncovered evidence identifying Hudson as being involved in recent vehicle burglaries in the community. "During the arrest for Hudson, at an address where he was listed as residing, items from multiple vehicle burglaries were found," Chief William Dudley said. The Sonora Police Department has received about six reports from citizens, in the past month, regarding vehicles being broken into and items stolen. Sonora Police Department Administrative Assistant, Melissa Fuentes said the increased incident of theft is a combination of both the time of year and inattentiveness of citizens by leaving doors unlocked and valuables in vehicles. "I know sometimes we don't think about it or we think it is safe to leave our homes and cars unlocked," Fuentes said. "But it isn't safe. I applaud our officers for diligently searching for and finding this offender." A thorough investigation helped officers in locating Hudson, his arrest and the recovery of stolen property. Additional warrants are being obtained which could result in further charges and possibly more arrests, according to Fuentes. To date, Hudson has not been charged with any of the vehicle burglaries. Due to the fact that these multiple vehicle burglaries are still in an open investigation status, according to Dudley, no further information is available. Hudson could be facing additional charges and other individuals may be charged, according to authorities. The Devil's River News will continue to follow this story and report new information as it is made available.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Patrick Applauds Action Preserving North Carolina's 'Bathroom Bill'

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has applauded the North Carolina legislature's refusal to repeal a law banning individuals from using public bathrooms designated for the opposite sex.

Patrick, who has made the passage of similar legislation in Texas one of his priorities, said in a Dec. 22 statement: "Legislation like this is essential to protect the safety and privacy of women and girls, and is simple common sense and common decency."

"Legislation to protect women's privacy and business is essential to assure that sexual predators, like those who exploit the internet, will not be able to freely enter women's restrooms, locker rooms

or showers and that businesses are not forced by local ordinances to allow men in women's restrooms and locker rooms."

The filing of legislation proposing new bathroom access laws is certain in the Texas Legislature's upcoming 85th Regular Session, beginning Jan. 10. Several bills have already been filed by Democratic state lawmakers, all proposing a prohibition on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in regards to employment, access to public facilities, etc.

TAB chief decries NC bill
Chris Wallace, president of the Texas Association of Business, issued a statement

taking the opposite position on the North Carolina bathroom bill.

"After months of debate and an unprecedented special session by the North Carolina Legislature, it's unfortunate to see that the state chose not to repeal the discriminatory law created by HB 2. North Carolina and states that embrace discriminatory legislation will continue to suffer dire economic consequences, losing revenue and major events and disrupting job creation and investment."

"That's why the Texas business community has made clear that discriminatory laws like HB 2 have no place in Texas. We can't afford to slam the door on the Texas Miracle and create an environment hostile

to business, unsafe and unwelcoming for citizens and harmful to our larger economy and prosperity. Keep Texas Open for Business will continue to press our own Texas lawmakers to roundly reject discriminatory bills, no matter how they're phrased or what they're named."

New case of Zika confirmed
The Texas Department of State Health
SEE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGE 7

New Year Traditions

New Year's Day is perhaps the most celebrated holiday around the world. There's a universal appeal to newness, so the first day of a new year is a natural cause for a party.

People have been celebrating the beginning of a new year for at least four millennia (or 28,000 dog years). Some of the first recorded celebrations were in Babylon. Then, the holiday was observed in March, during the first new moon following the vernal equinox. It was an 11-day celebration, making it New Year's Week-and-a-half, as opposed to New Year's Day.

During those 11 days partying and parading in the streets (as I'm assuming the Babylonians did) they made promises to the gods in order to earn their favor. Thus, the concept of New Year's resolutions was born.

Julius Caesar gave a lot of deep thought to the concept of calendars and is credited with moving New Year's Day to January 1 somewhere around the year 46 B.C. Romans celebrated by exchanging gifts, decorating their homes, attending raucous parties, offering sacrifices to Janus, who was the Roman god of beginnings, and of course wearing togas.

Different countries have different New Year's traditions. Some are logical. Others not so much.

In some South American countries the color of your underwear is thought to determine your fate for the upcoming year. Red indicates love. Gold brings wealth. White signifies peace. Brown or yellow means it's time to change your underwear.

In Switzerland they drop ice cream on the floor. I'd rather just eat it. Less mess to clean up and less waste of a good scoop of ice cream. In Siberia, people jump into frozen lakes while carrying tree trunks (and presumably wearing swim trunks). Sounds logical. Residents of Denmark throw plates at the front doors of the homes of friends and family to bring everyone good luck. Going barefoot in Denmark on January 1 would be bad luck. In Spain they eat grapes to ward off evil. I wonder if drinking fermented grapes counts.

Here in the U.S. we celebrate the new year with various traditions including waiting for the ball to drop in Times Square, popping a champagne cork at midnight, engaging in a midnight kiss, watching college football and staying up past our bedtimes.

Eating black-eyed beans is a New Year's tradition in many homes, especially in the south. The beans are thought to symbolize coins and are eaten to ensure economic prosperity in the coming year.

We don't eat black-eyed beans at my house. We make oyster stew. I think my husband initiated the practice. He likes oysters. I'd never tasted them before meeting him. Now it's become our own tradition. In the U.S. it's more common to eat oyster stew on Christmas Eve. I suppose we could do both, but I'm not sure we're quite that fond of oysters.

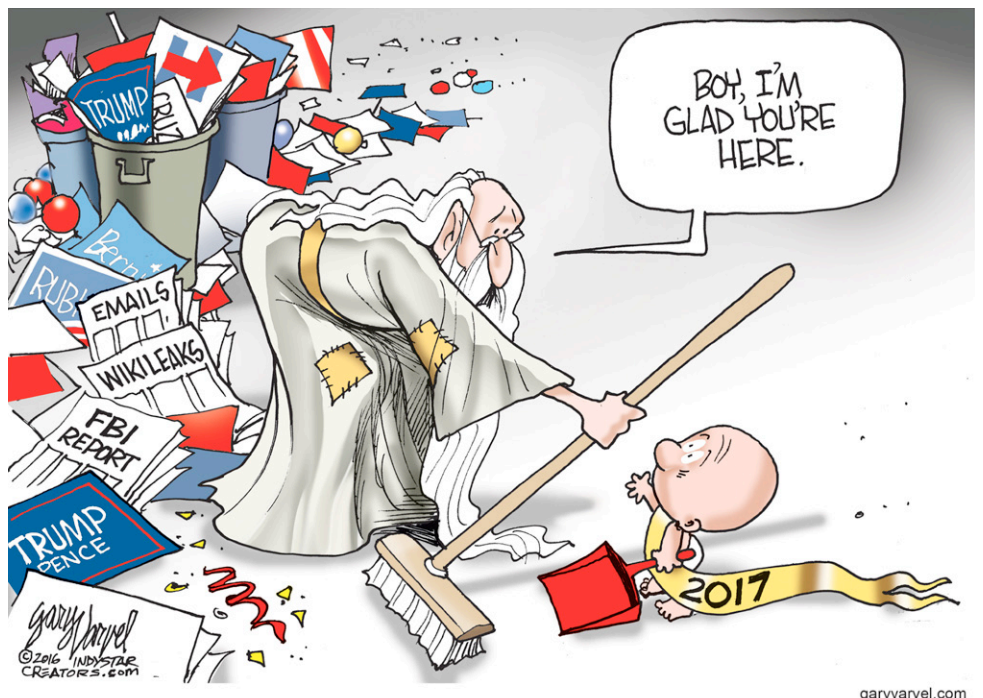
January 1, 2017. We are ushering in a new year, with new possibilities. We tend to like things that are new. A new car. New phone. New house. New look. A new tradition — like oyster stew on New Year's Eve.

I'm willing to try just about anything, including drinking fermented grapes, kissing at midnight and wearing bright underwear. All's new that ends new, as they say. But I draw the line at jumping into a frozen lake with a tree trunk.

I'll save that one until next year. Or maybe the next.



By Jill Pertler



2017 Begins Another Legislative Session in Austin

Howdy and Happy New Year. As we head into 2017, we are also approaching the beginning of the next session of the Texas Legislature. Unlike the U.S. Congress which meets year round, our state legislature meets for just 140 days every two years. That means we have to get down to business right away, pass a state budget and address as many of Texas' challenges as possible, before going back home to tend to our families and businesses.

In my first legislative session in 2015, we passed a state budget that held spending below the rate of inflation and population growth, while also prioritizing additional funds for public schools, transportation, border security, and child protection. We identified \$3.8 billion in tax cuts, including property tax relief and a franchise tax cut. We reformed the Department of Transportation and developed the nation's strongest border security plan. We also passed new protections for religious freedom, the Second Amendment, and the right to life.

By all measures, the 2015 legislative session was one of the most conservative in Texas history, and my goal this year is to build on those legislative successes. During the interim period, our committees have been busy studying key issues, holding hearings and town hall meetings, and gathering input from local elected officials and civic leaders to develop proposals which will be turned into legislation in the coming weeks.

I intend to continue pushing the state to do more with less and to delegate as much decision-making authority as possible to counties, cities, school districts and other local entities. As a former county judge, I know first-hand that sometimes good intentions at the state level places unnecessary burdens on our local

communities.

Unfunded mandates and other natural resources often disproportionately impact rural Texas in a negative way. As our population continues to shift towards the suburbs, the amount of rural representatives is on the decline. That's why it is vital we have strong voices in Austin working to pass meaningful pieces of legislation to protect private property rights and to defend our ability as rural Texans to govern ourselves locally, rather than having to conform to policies designed to meet the needs of urban or suburban communities.

We have many challenges facing us over the next five months, but I am confident that we will rise to the occasion and deliver solutions that benefit hard-working Texas families. As always, it is an honor to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives, and I welcome your comments and opinions. Please visit my website at www.AndrewMurr.org or contact our District Office in Kerrville (715 Water St.) at 830-257-0432 and let me hear from you.

My Opinion



By State Rep. Andrew Murr

Rep. Andrew Murr is a rancher, attorney, small businessman and former Kimble County Judge who has represented District 53 in the Texas House since 2015. House District 53 includes Bandera, Crockett, Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, Medina, Menard, Real, Schleicher and Sutton Counties.



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Seminole Has a New Watering Hole

If you drive along Seminole's Main Street you notice a building with an upstairs open-air patio. It's a place to drink and dine called Perica's Terrace. Perica in Spanish means parakeet or small parrot.

"Perica is my wife," says Mike Diaz, who built the place. "Her name is Anna, but she got the nickname Perica because as a young child she was always talking loud. Her parents jokingly called her Perica."

Perica's Terrace serves food and alcohol.

"Anna and I have always wanted to own a place like this. We thought about buying one or building one. We thought about locating further east, but since we were raised here, our kids and parents are here, we have good friends here, so we decided that it would be a good thing for Seminole."

Perica's Terrace has a dining room downstairs and a covered patio in back, which has a colorful plastic parrot on a stand. A stairway takes customers to the upstairs area that has a comfortable atmosphere with cushioned chairs and couches. Waitresses don't seem to mind the climb when they're delivering orders of food or drink. From the upstairs terrace, patrons get a view of the town.

"We pretty much established it as a wine bar," says Mike. "You know, try to serve a good variety of wines. We also wanted to offer a good variety of cocktails and beer. We serve food, but it's not a full service restaurant. We try to make something different every day for lunch. We have a salad bar. In the evenings we have an entrée for every different day."

Seminole is not completely wet when it comes to serving liquor in restaurants, so if customers want a drink, they have to buy temporary memberships. Mike says when he opened this past summer, customers filled the place.

"It was a very popular response. We had a certain amount of yearly memberships which sold out the first week."

The structure housing the establishment was originally built around 1940 and was home to an eating-place called Master's Café. Mike has a construction company and he got a crew together to re-do the building. He and Anna had no experience whatsoever in running a restaurant or bar.

"It's very exciting and we enjoy it. We traveled around the country visiting places like this. We saw one in San Francisco that had a unique entrance and we sort of copied it."

Mike is a musician.

"My five brothers and I had a band and did some recordings. Sometimes we'll play some of our stuff over the speakers in the restaurant."



Rolling Along
by Tumbleweed Smith

Heard Around Town

I resolve to do in 2017 all of the things that I set as goals for 2016, but never got around to doing.

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2017 Elected Officials Sworn into Office



The Honorable Laurie K. English, 112th District Attorney, was sworn in for a fourth term during a formal ceremony Sunday, January 1, 2017. Sutton County Judge Steve Smith presided over the ceremony held at the Sutton County courthouse.
DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Kathy Sanchez Marshall, Sutton County Tax Assessor-Collector, officially accepted the duties of office during a formal ceremony, Sunday, January 1, 2017 at the Sutton County courthouse. Judge Steve Smith presided over the ceremony.
KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



David Wallace, Attorney-at-Law, was sworn in for his ninth consecutive term as Sutton County Attorney, during a formal ceremony at the Sutton County courthouse, Sunday, January 1, 2017.
DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Bob Brockman, Commissioner Precinct 2, was sworn in to office during a formal ceremony, Sunday, January 1, 2017. Brockman was appointed to complete the unassigned term of Commissioner John Wade.
KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Mike Villaneuva, Commissioner Precinct 1, officially accepted another term in office during a formal ceremony, Sunday, January 1, 2017 at the Sutton County courthouse. Villaneuva has been serving as a commissioner since 1983. Sutton County Judge Steve Smith presided over the ceremony.
DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Oscar Chavez, Sutton County Sheriff, was sworn into office Sunday, January 1, 2017, by the Honorable Judge Steve Smith. Chavez begins his newly elected term with 23-years of law enforcement in Sutton County.
DANNY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



Members of law enforcement for Sutton County and Sonora were officially sworn to duty by Judge Steve Smith during a formal ceremony on Sunday, January 1, 2017, at the Sutton County courthouse. Front Row (L-R) Jessica Lopez, Marcus Guajardo, Jr., Alma Quiroz, Lourdes Chavez, Oscar Chavez, Will Allison and Betsy Rodriguez. Back Row (L-R) Petra Hernandez, DuWayne Castro, Jody Harris (not pictured) Cody Gann, Matt Routh, Robert Hartman and Garrett Douthit.
KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS

CORRECTION

A story about the SCHD Board of Director's in the December 22, 2016 issue of the Devil's River News incorrectly reported the date for the next regular meeting of board.

The next regular meeting of the SCHD Board of Directors is slated for January 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center at LMH Memorial Hospital.

The Devil's River News regrets the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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DEATH NOTICES

Esther Samaniego April 2, 1920 - January 2, 2017

Esther Samaniego, 96, of San Angelo, passed away Monday, January 2, 2017. She was born April 2, 1920. She is survived by her son, Sosimo Loya, of Houston, daughters Felicitas Vasquez and Teresa Vasquez, both of San Angelo, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Friday, January 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Sonora Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at lovefuneral-home.net.

Robert Lopez Sosa June 7, 1943 - December 26, 2016

Robert Lopez Sosa, 73, of Midland, passed away Monday, December 26, 2016. He was born June 7, 1943. A rosary and funeral mass was held Friday, December 30, 2016 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Midland. The inurnment followed at Resthaven Memorial Park. Survivors include children, John Sosa, Norma Ramon and Cynthia Doerfer.

OBITUARIES

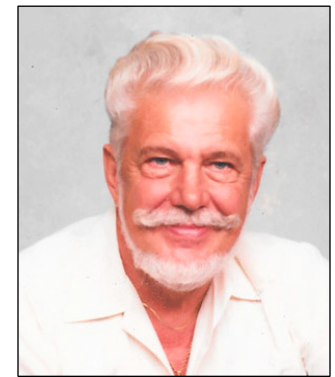
Guadalupe P. Sanchez October 29, 1914 - January 2, 2017



Guadalupe P. Sanchez of Sonora, Texas, age 102, went to be with Our Lord on January 2, 2017. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Ernestina Sanchez, and his sisters Victoria Gonzalez, Elisa Valdez, Amada Castaneda, and Eva Castilleja. He is survived by three daughters, Arcelia

Carrasco and husband Edward, Noelia Hernandez, and Nanette Stephens and husband Robert, six grandchildren, Leslie Kasahn, Scott Hernandez, Edward Lee Carrasco, Kimberly Hernandez, Camille Martinez, and Hilary Sanchez, and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial followed in Sonora Cemetery. A Rosary was held Tuesday, January 3, at Love Funeral Home Chapel. Special thanks to Shannon Home Health staff, and Shannon Hospital staff. Online condolences may be made at lovefuneral-home.net

Robert "Bob" Louis Tench April 19, 1929 - December 24, 2016



Robert "Bob" Louis Tench, 87, received the best Christmas present of all time, Saturday, December 24, 2016, getting to meet his Lord and Savior, after a brief illness and hospice stay in Sonora, Texas. Bob was born in East Orange, New Jersey on April 19, 1929.

from those who saw him perform. Bob spent forty years clowning for the Shrine Circus, never missing a single performance and delighting both children and adults with his "larger than life" personality. In 1982 he won Top "White Face" Clown in the Nation. Bob also clowning for the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital in Houston and the Shriner's Burn Institute in Galveston. He rarely spoke about his visits to the Burn Institute where he saw children in incredible pain; attempting to distract them for a brief moment. Each floor at this hospital requires a stronger stomach and thicker skin due to the fact that the higher the floor the more severe the burn. Bob took with pride that he was able to finally entertain the children on the fourth floor of this hospital. When Bob moved to Comfort in 1985, he held a variety of jobs while becoming acquainted with the people of the area. He was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, for Kerr County in 1992. He was well suited for this position as Bob had a natural curiosity about people and a sense of fairness which he brought into his courtroom. The American Legion presented him with the Outstanding Service Award for the Community of Kerrville for 1995-1996. He served at the pleasure of Kerr County for 10 years. Although he visited all fifty states and several foreign countries in his life, Bob considered Texas his home. He liked to tell folks he "lived in Comfort just above Welfare" where he resided for the last thirty-one years. Bob was a Father, Grandfather, Brother, Patriot and Friend. He is survived by his son, Ross Tench and wife Karen of Stephenville, three daughters, Sally Bruno and husband Nick of Turner, ME, Susan Hall and husband Stephen of Sonora and Sheri Kennedy and David Smith of Houston and nine grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Barbara Evans and Ruth Tasa, both of Cottonwood, AZ, and a brother James Tench of Wickenburg, AZ as well as his long-time and best friend, Richard W. Schultze of Centerpoint. Services were held Friday, December 30th, at St. Johns Episcopal Church, Sonora and a Masonic Service followed. We will miss our Purple Pirate, until we see him again.

Asian Lady Beetles Coming Indoors

You may have noticed big ladybugs coming indoors. They may be congregating in corners. It turns out they are Asian lady beetles. These lady beetles look similar to other lady beetles, but their color can vary from tan to orange to red. Some have noticeable spots on their wings, but others may not have spots or the spots may not be fully formed. Most of the beetles have an M-shaped mark on the whitish area behind the head. Asian lady beetles were brought to the U.S. to prey on populations of agricultural pests such as aphids and scales insects. We don't mind these beetles when they are outside hunting pests. However, when they come inside homes, they can become a nuisance. How do they enter? The beetles are drawn to

light and tend to cluster on parts of the home that get afternoon sun. Once on a building, they seek shelter in cracks and crevices which can lead them inside. When they are disturbed, Asian lady beetles secrete a foul-smelling fluid. It is not only unpleasant, but may stain surfaces. Though they do not sting, they can bite when they perch upon a person. Some people may experience allergic reactions to the beetle. If an allergic reaction occurs, seek medical attention. If you have the beetles inside your home, it's best to use a vacuum to dispose of them. To prevent them from entering, seal the outside of the building. Use sealant in any cracks and crevices and around pipe penetrations. Cover any vent openings with stainless steel mesh screening. Also, keep window screens and weather stripping in good repair. Agrilife Entomologists tell us that while Asian lady beetle invasions are uncommon for Texas, they are common in areas of the Midwest.

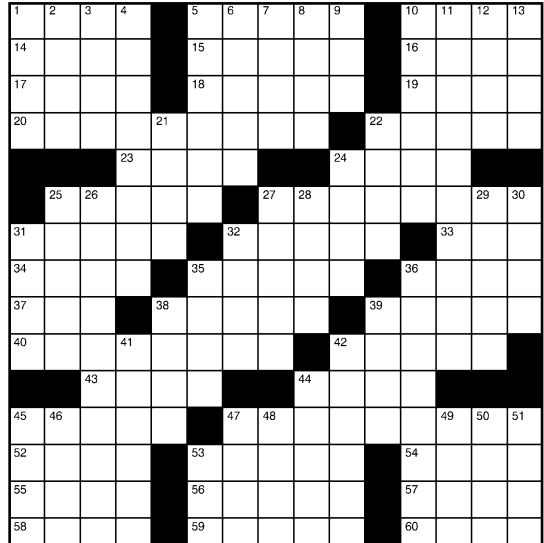


Pascual Hernandez

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1. Tea or apple carrier</p> <p>5. Street, in Seville</p> <p>10. Issue forth</p> <p>14. Regan's dad</p> <p>15. Long, and namesakes</p> <p>16. Like Mr. Apley</p> <p>17. Met highlight</p> <p>18. Franklin or Maude</p> <p>19. Bauxite and galena</p> <p>20. U. of Michigan player</p> <p>22. Docks</p> <p>23. Jason's vessel</p> <p>24. Express disapproval</p> <p>25. Suggested umbrella</p> <p>27. Sham</p> <p>31. What the Knave of Hearts did</p> <p>32. Spa adjunct</p> <p>33. Something to lend</p> <p>34. Containers</p> <p>35. Fetters</p> <p>36. ___ spumante</p> <p>37. Lodge member</p> <p>38. Very wet</p> <p>39. A Shaw</p> <p>40. Missouri college</p> <p>42. Furze</p> <p>43. Votre</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Feline feature</p> <p>2. Dynamics preceder</p> <p>3. Complain bitterly</p> <p>4. Hardships</p> <p>5. Fee</p> <p>6. TV adjunct</p> <p>7. Slant</p> <p>8. Old ___, CT</p> <p>9. Curvy letter</p> <p>10. Abelard's lady, in Soho</p> <p>11. Hoaxes</p> <p>12. Way, for Cato</p> <p>13. Hardy girl</p> <p>21. Perry's creator</p> <p>22. Cordage fiber</p> <p>24. Layers</p> <p>25. Elevator shoe?</p> <p>26. Formal evening dress</p> <p>27. Aches</p> <p>28. Mr. Vallee</p> <p>29. Composer Erik</p> <p>30. Pennsylvania port</p> <p>31. Agnes and Joan, e.g.</p> <p>32. Indicator</p> <p>35. South African</p> <p>36. Halted</p> <p>38. Eschew</p> <p>39. First-rate</p> <p>41. Somewhat ill</p> <p>42. Blew</p> <p>44. At ___ ends</p> <p>45. Projected Pelion topper</p> <p>46. Bellow</p> <p>47. John Irving protagonist</p> <p>48. Woodwind</p> <p>49. Late Belgradian</p> <p>50. Verve</p> <p>51. Hide</p> <p>53. Thos. Dorsey's brother..</p>
---	---

"ANIMAL TALK"



See solution on Page 8

City of Sonora



Senior Center

MONDAY January 9
Glazed Ham, Sweet Potato, California Mix, Wheat Bread, Chunky Fruit, Lemon White, Chocolate Cookie, Milk

TUESDAY January 10
Hamburger Stk. w/Gravy, Corn O'Brien, Baby Carrots, Wheat Roll, Orange- Bavarian Jell-O, Milk

WEDNESDAY January 11
Baked Chicken, Augratin Potatos, Green Peas w/Red Peppers, Wheat Bread, Angel Food Cake, Milk

THURSDAY January 12
Mongolian Beef, Rice Pilaf, Brussel Sprouts, Wheat Roll, Escaloped Apples, Milk

FRIDAY January 13
BBQ Beef on Bun, Pickles & Onions, Steak Fries, Pineapple Coleslaw, Fruit Cobbler, Milk

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

This crossword puzzle is sponsored each week by

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A Buck for Christmas

Christmas came early this year for Kimberly Benefield.

Benefield who was helping hunters claim their own trophy buck happened upon her own dream early Wednesday morning, December 21, 2016 while hunting in a low fenced area at the Benefield Slow Lane Ranch outside of Sonora.

"I've been seeing this Buck on the game cameras for 2 years now, Benefield said. "I finally saw him about 3 weeks ago, and shot and missed."

Accompanying her guest who was trying to hunt a wide 8-point buck also seen on camera, Benefield said Murphy's Law came into play.

It seemed as though the morning was sliding down hill fast when suddenly she spotted the big buck and grabbed the opportunity to change her luck.

She took another shot and succeeded in downing the elusive creature. Weighing 150 pounds the massive buck scored a B&C 157 2/8 with a spread of 16 inches.

"I did inform the hunters if I saw the Buck I missed a few weeks ago, I was going to use her gun to shoot it," Benefield said.

While watching several does, spikes and 4 points, the big buck appeared.

"I looked at the young girl hunting with me and said, 'Honey, I'm sorry but this is the Buck I've been after. So, you're not getting your buck this morning.'"

Benefield took her time, aimed behind the shoulder and shot. He jumped and ran off.

Sitting patiently, like she advises her hunting guests to do before going to look for the animal, she waited for her husband to show up and help scout for the buck.

Within thirty minutes they all set out to find the

buck.

They located the buck in the woods not far from where Benefield shot.

"All I heard my husband say was, 'I found him and there is no ground shrinkage.' Benefield said. "He was way bigger than we thought he was. This was the most exciting day for me. I love hunting and this was a big bonus."

About three years ago, the Benefield's came to the area for the first time to hunt.

Their hunting guide at the time, told them about a ranch for sale with exotics and a high fence.

They considered commuting to and from their home in Brazoria but they decided to relocate here instead.

"My husband had recently sold his business and we were looking for something else we would enjoy doing in our retirement years, Benefield said.

"Originally, we planned on driving back and forth and keeping both our places, until we saw that the animals needed us to be here. We sold Brazoria and moved here permanently. I'm so glad we did. We've met some of the nicest people and we have wonderful neighbors."

Benefield admits that before moving to West Texas, they knew nothing more than feeding and shooting the animals.

But, with the help of those who are willing to share their knowledge of the wildlife and with time they now have a better understanding and appreciation for the animals.

She also said that she considers her life to be filled with many blessings which she is thankful to count every day.

"I love my new life, new friends and I'm happy to be in West Texas," Benefield said.



Elementary School Students for the week of January 2-6, Neno Estrada, Pre-K, Aaron Galvan, K, Jack Rogers, 1st, Kendall Thorp, 2nd.

| COURTESY PHOTO

Sonora ISD Students of the Week

Brought to you by:



Intermediate School Students for the week of January 2-6, Angela Acevedo, 3rd, Justin Lozano, 4th, Cheyenne Rivera, 5th.

| COURTESY PHOTO

It's a Boy!

Greyson Presler Bloodworth
November 19, 2016
9:08 p.m.
9 pounds., 21 inches

Graham and Laura Bloodworth are proud to announce the birth of their son Greyson Presler.

Greyson is welcomed by his big sister, Lainey.

He is also welcomed by his grandparents Lee and Darlette Bloodworth, of Sonora, Gaylene Sleeth and the late Lewis Sleeth, of Comanche, and his great grandmother, Grace Ramsey, of Sonora.

SONORA WEATHER FORECAST

Thu 01/05	Fri 01/06	Sat 01/07	Sun 01/08	Mon 01/09
57/30	46/29	56/31	57/29	64/41
Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 7:40 a.m. Sunset 5:55 p.m.	Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 7:40 a.m. Sunset 5:56 p.m.	Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 7:40 a.m. Sunset 5:57 p.m.	Cloudy Sunrise 7:40 a.m. Sunset 5:58 p.m.	Clouds/Sunshine Sunrise 7:40 a.m. Sunset 5:59 p.m.

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Downtown at 220 E. Main. St

Devil's River News Weekly Rainfall Report

January 1-3	1.11 in.	January 1-3	0.70 in.
2017 Year-to-Date Total	1.11 in.	2017 Year-to-Date TOTAL	0.70 in.
2016	25.10 in.	2016	29.22 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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Kimberly Benefield shows off a big Buck that she shot Wednesday, December 21, 2016. Benefield shot the Buck while hunting in a low fenced area at the Benefield Slow Lane Ranch outside of Sonora.

| COURTESY PHOTO

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BIRTHDAYS

Look Who's Celebrating!

January

5th Robert Hughes
6th Martha Perez, Melissa Freeman
7th Beth Wallace
8th Michelle Lipham, Lisa Mitchell
9th Mark Holman, Dorothy Jimenez
10th Jacob Lopez, Andrew Mata
11th Krystal Gibbens, Ty Fincher, Michelle Lopez, Brenda Johnson, Dr. Charles Pajestka, Ronda Walsh
12th Marty Lipham, Hector A. Mendez, Kaitlyn Lopez, Felicia Farley, Pete Bradley

Send us your birthdays to
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SETTLEMENT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resigned from their employment with the District and their employment agreements were terminated according to the settlement.

However, both of the Drs. Edwards will retain admitting privileges at the Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital.

Any future review of their privileges will be in accordance with the normal policies and procedures of the hospital and medical staff.

Finally, the District and the Drs. Edwards have released any potential legal claims as a part of the separation agreement. Thus, Board members and the Edwards have agreed to resolve any and all ongoing disputes between them.

Doctors Mark and Kristy Edwards were employed by the district March 11, 2012. Due to

economic issues affecting the district financially, the district and the Edwards entered into employment negotiations in October of this past year.

The reason for the separation has not been made public and it is not likely to be revealed in the future because all parties have agreed not to disparage one another.

Additionally, all sides have agreed to keep confidential the details of the settlement not disclosed to the public.

It should be considered that none of the parties involved in the settlement have been held to any wrongdoing.

"The District nor the Drs. Edwards will be giving any further public comment at this time, but they wish each other well in their future endeavors," the news release stated.

Official hospital of: covering all the bases in prostate health.



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Board-Certified Urologist
West Texas
Medical Associates

If you're a man over 50 years of age, it's time to talk about prostate cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, one in six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. Early detection offers a better opportunity for successful treatment. San Angelo Community Medical Center urologists provide comprehensive care for men with conditions such as prostate, testicular and bladder cancers. Brian Bradley, M.D., a board-certified urologist, offers minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery for treating prostate cancer.

He is now seeing patients in Sonora.
Visit SACMC.com/urology for more information.



The hospital of wow.



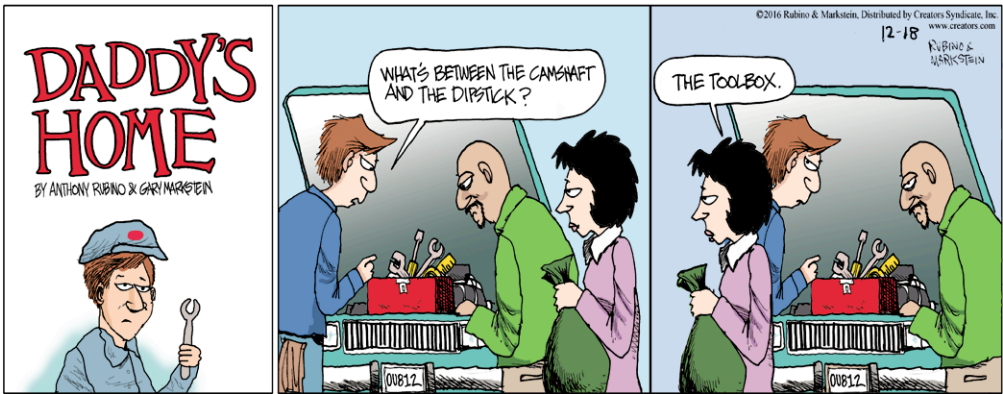
SACMC.com/urology

Dr. Bradley is an Independent Member of the Medical Staff at SACMC. SACMC is owned in part by physicians.

DRN Comics

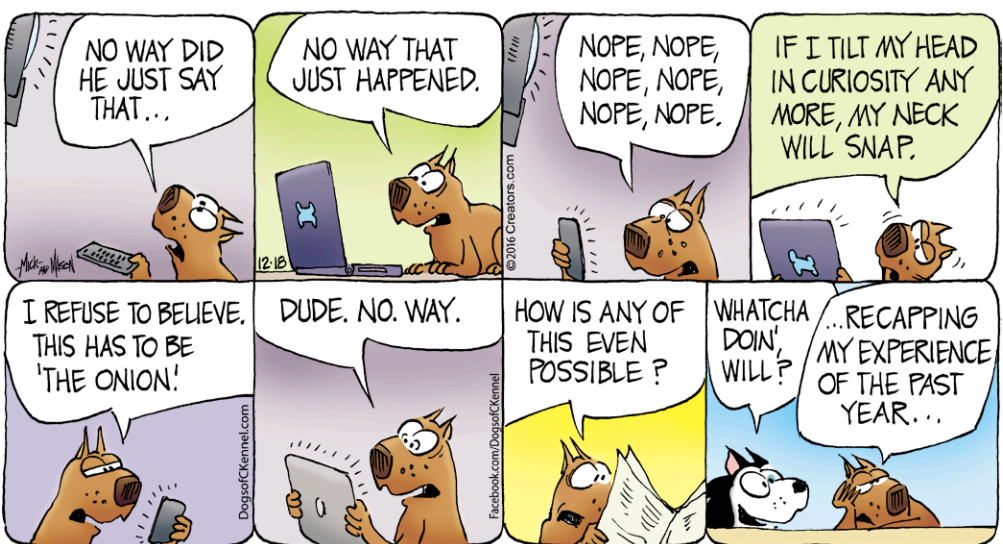
Daddy's Home

by Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



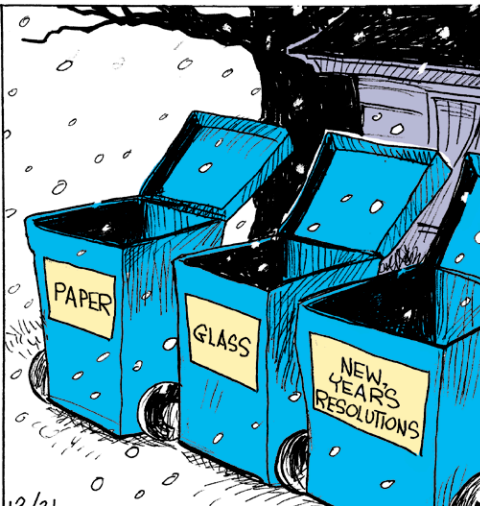
Dogs of C-Kennel

by Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Strange Brew

by John Deering

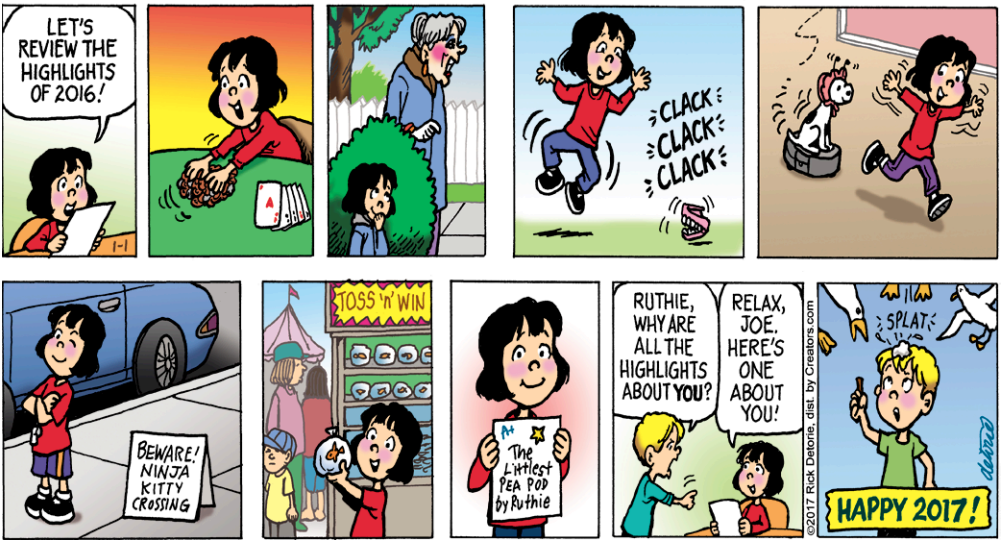
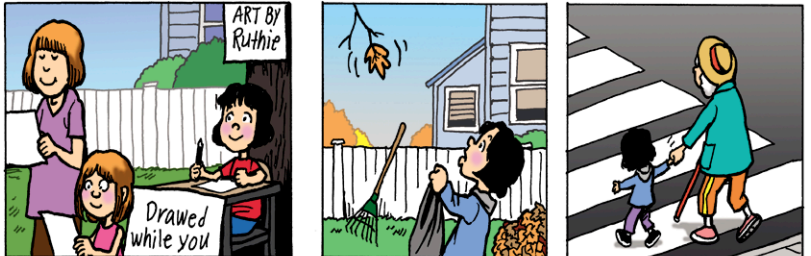


Strange Brew

by John Deering

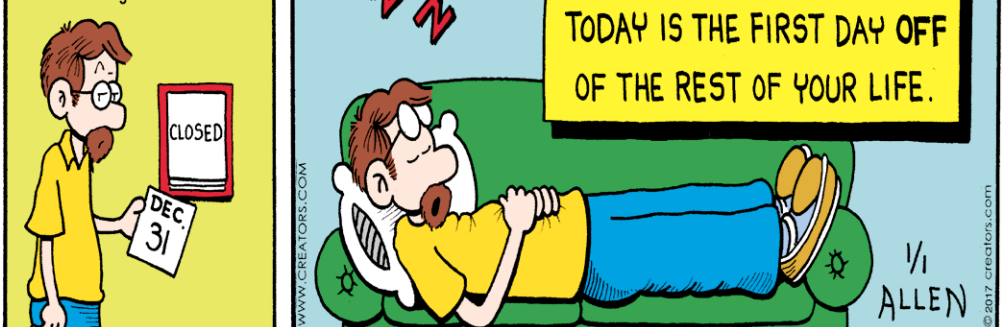


ONE BIG HAPPY



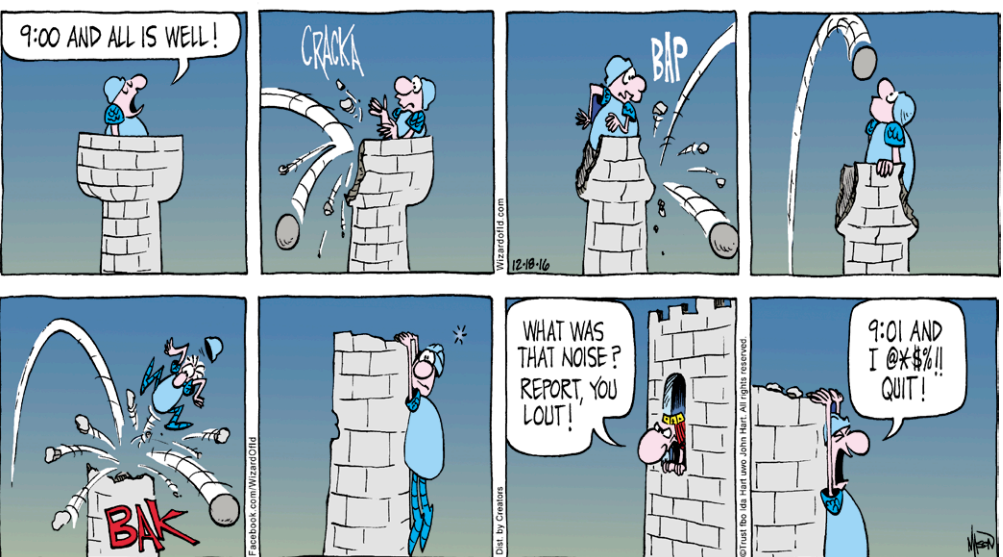
Nest Heads

by John Allen



Wizard of ID

by Parker and Hart



Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



Speed Bumps

by Dave Coverly



BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



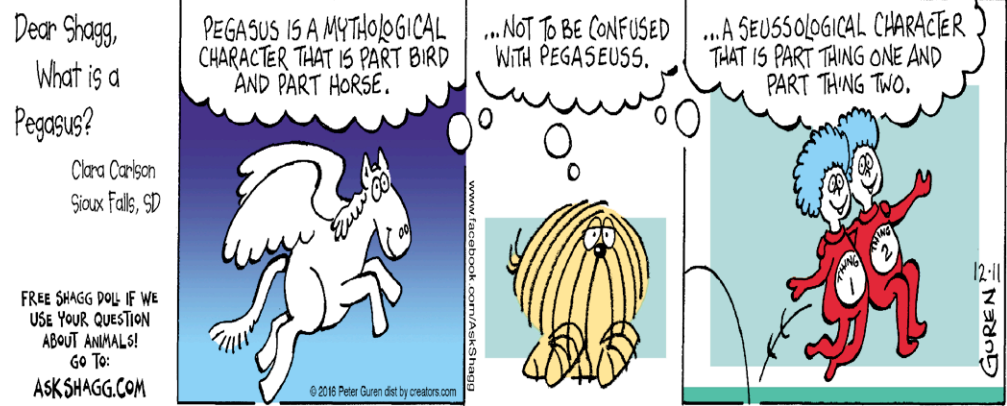
WebDonuts

by Mike Gruhn

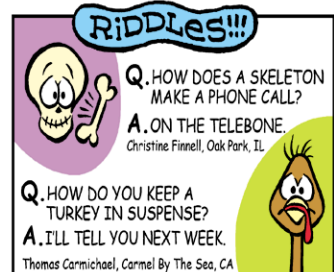
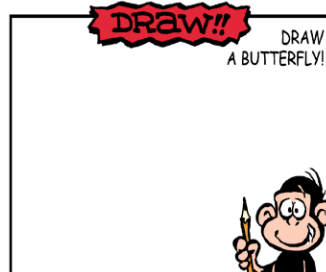
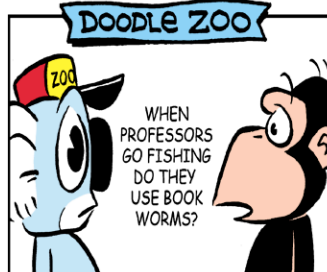
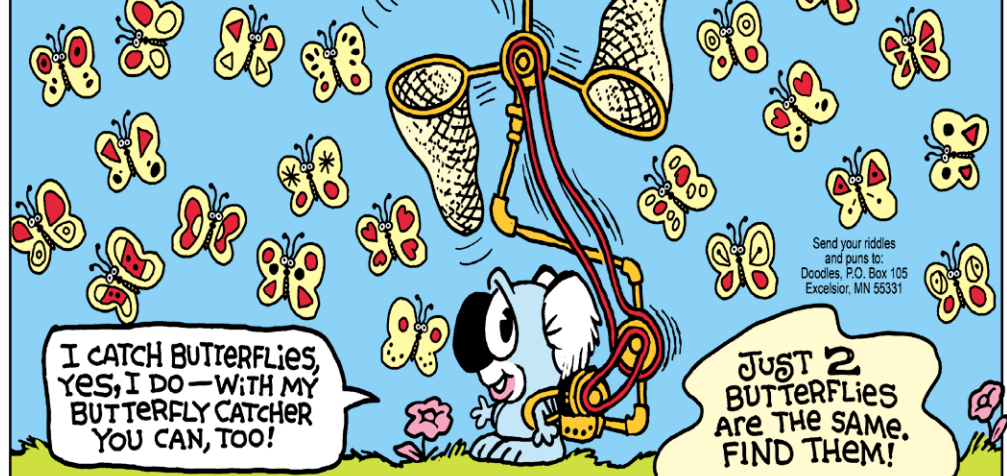


ASK SHAGG

By Peter Guren



DOODLES



Lock It or Lose It

Due to a recent increase in burglaries in the community, the Sonora Police Department is reminding everyone to lock their vehicles as well as their homes at all times during the day and night.

A number of burglarized vehicles around town have been reported.

Additionally, do not leave valuables and firearms in vehicles while parked.

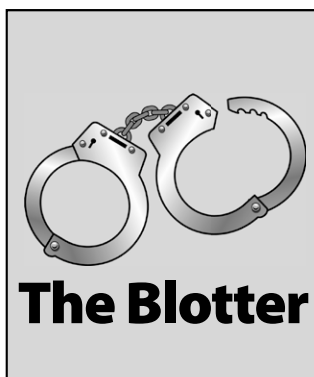
"Someone may walk by a vehicle and see gifts, purses, wallets, etc. and will or may try to see if

doors are unlocked," Chief William Dudley said. "They will take what they see or find anytime day or night."

Although neighborhoods seem safe from crime, unlocked doors are an invitation for theft.

Dudley advises that preventing these types of crimes starts with locking and securing your vehicles and homes.

If you are a victim of a burglary or have any information regarding a crime, please contact the Sonora Police Department at 325-387-3888.



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

DECEMBER 29 • Joseph Clay Hudson, 18 year old male, from Sonora, arrested on a Warrant for Burglary of Building.

INCIDENTS

DECEMBER 19 - 10:07 AM • Criminal mischief reported on 1200 block of Orient. Officer responded.

10:58 AM • Officer requested on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 21 - 4:44 PM • Animal reported on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

9:42 PM • Runaway reported on 100 block of E. College. Officer responded.

10:28 PM • Officer requested on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 22 - 1:01 PM • Criminal mischief reported on 600 block of Hwy 277 S. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 23 - 4:02 PM • Animal reported on 1200 block of Orient. Officer responded.

11:48 PM • Disturbance reported at Bronco Trailer Park. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 25 - 12:41 AM • Loud music reported at Lorene and Tayloe. Officer responded.

11:58 AM • Animal reported at E 3rd and S. Crockett. Officer responded.

1:20 PM • Accident/wreck reported at Del Rio and Savell. Officer responded.

2:04 PM • Civil standby reported on 400 block of E. 2nd. Officer responded.

2:23 PM • Burglary of vehicle reported on 400 block of E. 2nd. Officer responded.

8:49 PM • Alarm reported at St. Ann's Church. Officer responded.

11:59 PM • Alarm reported at Sonora Golf Club. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 26 - 12:05 AM • Caller reported a welfare concern on 1000 block of E. Poplar and 1200 block of Orient. Officer responded.

1:58 PM • 9-1-1 call on 1900 block of Tayloe. Officer responded to assist.

5:26 PM • Indecent exposure reported on 600 block of S. Crockett Ave.

7:18 PM • 9-1-1 call requesting assistance at Stadium Trailer Park. Officer responded.

10:29 PM • Caller reported stolen hand gun at 500 W. 2nd. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 27 - 9:22 AM • Suspicious person reported on 600 block of Hwy 277. Officer responded.

9:33 AM • Burglary of a vehicle on 200 block of Martin. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 29 - 12:39 PM • Burglary of 2 vehicles on 500 block of E. 2nd. Officer responded.

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12:39 PM • Animal reported on 400 block W. 3rd. Officer responded.

7:23 PM • Agency requested assistance on 500 block of E. 2nd. Officer responded.

DECEMBER 30 - 11:50 PM • Disturbance reported on 800 block of St. Ann's.

DECEMBER 31 - 12:31 AM • AirMed requested traffic control at LMH. Officer responded.

9:17 PM • Officer assist call 900 block of N. Crockett Ave; Officer responded

JANUARY 1 - 2:09 PM • Violation of City Ordinance – Fireworks – reported on 1000 block of E. Poplar. Officer responded.

3:54 PM • 9-1-1 call at 900 S. Crockett. Officer responded to assist.

5:48 PM • Officer requested on 100 block of Deerwood. Officer responded.

JANUARY 2 - 1:07 AM • Residential alarm reported on 100 block of Edgemont. Officer responded.

1:08 AM • Business alarm reported at 206 US Hwy 277 N. Officer responded.

4:23 PM • 9-1-1 call on 400 block of W. 8th. Officer responded to assist.

6:39 PM • AirMed requested traffic control at LMH. Officer responded.

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Thank you, School Board Members

(Austin)— January 2017 is School Board Recognition Month, a time to honor the more than 7,200 locally elected leaders who step forward to serve without pay on local boards to ensure Texas students have the best schools possible.

Each year the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) encourages Texans to show appreciation to these men and women for their unfailing commitment to our state's future.

"Please join me in recognizing the service of local board members as they dedicate themselves to providing excellent public schools," said James B. Crow, TASB executive director.

"The long hours and responsibilities of school board service make it a task that only a few are willing to bear. However, those who serve as local trustees embrace the challenges, demonstrating their desire that every student have the

best opportunities to succeed. Trustees work closely with parents and educators to develop sound education policies in their districts and set high standards for student success.

In communities across the state, school board members volunteer their time and talents to see that Texas schools provide excellent education experiences for all of our children.

We urge every community to thank local board members and support them as they tackle this important job.

Join us in applauding their service to our students, our communities, and this state," he said.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school boards. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state.

The districts they represent serve approximately 5.3 million public school students.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: Zika News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Services and Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services on Dec. 22 announced that an additional Brownsville resident has contracted the Zika virus locally, bringing the total to six in Cameron County and Texas.

Work is ongoing to identify and offer testing to anyone with possible Zika symptoms and to all pregnant women in the area with or without symptoms. Efforts include environmental assessments to help reduce mosquito habitats. Recent cold temperatures, combined with mosquito control efforts, have reduced the mosquito population in the area. However, on warm days, residents should continue to use mosquito repellent and wear long sleeves and pants. It is also important to dump out containers that hold standing water in and around homes to deny mosquitoes a place to lay eggs.

Eco-minded actions urged

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Dec. 21 posted its annual plea to be eco-friendly during the holidays and into the new year:

"Whether we try to save money, lose weight, or quit certain habits, one habit worth breaking is throwing away items that can be reused or recycled. Every year, landfills take on more and more things we no longer want or need. In fact, in 2015, Texans added about 33.5 million tons of stuff

to them. That's more than six-and-a-half pounds of trash per Texan per day! If recent trends continue, that number will have increased for 2016. And at this rate, we only have enough landfill space to last another 56 years."

Among things the TCEQ asks of Texans:

- Use and re-use gift bags;
- Serve meals on reusable plates and use cloth napkins;
- Use rechargeable batteries and recycle them when they no longer hold a charge; and
- Sell, donate or recycle old electronics.

Also, because more than 80 billion pieces of junk mail are delivered each year and most of it ends up in landfills, the TCEQ suggests that Texans opt out of unwanted catalogs, prescreened credit and insurance offers remember to recycle junk mail.

Last but not least, the TCEQ recommends: "Consider reusing holiday cards in craft projects instead of tossing them in the trash."

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- Bathing, Grooming, and Hygiene
- Speech Therapy
- Mobility Assistance
- Medication Reminders
- Toileting and Incontinence Care
- Rehabilitation

Home health care services are covered by Medicare.

Hospice Services

Hospice services offered by Alvis F. Johnson Home Health & Hospice include medical services provided under the guidance of the medical director, who is a licensed physician. Volunteers provide additional services.

Services provided under the guidance of the medical director:

- Palliative care
- Medication reminders
- Social services
- Family support and education
- Spiritual counseling and support services
- Family bereavement counseling

Services provided by volunteers:

- Grocery shopping/errands
- Transportation to doctor appointments
- Light housekeeping
- Grooming
- Meal preparation
- Laundry
- Conversation and Companionship

Hospice services are covered by Medicare.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC OPERATIONS

As of December 31, 2016, Drs. Mark and Kristy Edwards will no longer provide services at Clinic B, also known as Sonora Medical Clinic or Rural Health Clinic. You may continue to seek care from other physicians at the clinic and/or you may obtain a copy of your medical records from the Clinic. Certain changes allowed by Texas laws and rules may be applicable to any record requests.

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SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 4

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County Commissioners Approve Resolution Opposing SearchTX

Sutton County Commissioners approved a resolution opposing changes made by Search TX during a special meeting Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

The resolution opposes a proposal by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to the supreme court to provide court documents and other information through e-filing.

The new e-filing system makes information available through portals and that information remains available once it is published.

The information may be accessed, free of charge. Thus, it takes away county revenue collected by the County Clerk's Office. The Clerk's office collects a fee to provide public information, including county court documents. The permanent availability of information online, once it is published, also limits the county clerk from information updates and management.

Some personal and sensitive information is redacted by the county clerk before documents are made available to the public.

Currently, the Sutton County Clerk's office charges a fee to provide public information, including certificates, vital records and county court documents.

"We have paid the money to be able to have the software to make it accessible to our constituents and our attorneys," County Clerk Rachel Duran said. "But, we need to collect a fee to be able to maintain that. This will take that away."

Commissioners unanimously approved

a resolution opposition stating, "It is in the best interest of Sutton County and our taxpayers to oppose any change to the current statutes regarding care or custody and control of any records held by the county and district clerk and to any actions that would result in the records being centralized within any other entity, be it public or private and be it further resolved we are opposed to the amendment that would repeal current statutes or rules that authorize local control by commissioners court in the administration of our duties concerning records held by the county and county district clerk and how the county chooses to offer those records to the public we oppose any diversion of existing county revenue collected concerning records held under local control and statutes."

In other business, the court approved a bid from Hunt Energy Enterprises for the county's electric service. Hunt Energy secured a rate of .03842 per kilowatt hour for service provided by Green Mountain Electric Supply over the next 36 months.

The new rate includes nodal charges and reflects a significant savings in electric costs for the county over the next three years.

Additionally, Commissioners also approved Dr. Charles Patjeska as the local healthy authority. Patjeska will continue to serve as the local health authority as he has over the past years.

In regular business commissioners approved the minutes of the December 12 regular meeting and the December accounts payable

report as presented.

No auditor's report was made available and no business was reported by the commissioners.

Before wrapping things up, commissioners participated in an open discussion regarding the Office of the County Treasurer and its future.

Judge Smith presented the option to abolish the office of the treasurer upon the retirement of the current treasurer Janalyn Jones. Jones has made it known her intentions to retire at the end of her term in two years.

Presently, 9 out of 54 counties in the state of Texas have done away with county treasurer positions according to Smith and Jones.

Since the State Legislature is set to meet in 2017, this is the time to present such a change in the county's infrastructure.

If they choose, the court may present for the passing of a legislative bill, voted on by the state, for a Constitutional amendment abolishing the office of the Sutton County Treasurer.

Without a separate office, the duties of the county treasurer would be transferred to the County Auditor's office.

No action was taken. Without further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Judge Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Carl Teaff, Fred Perez, Mike Villanueva and Bob Brockman were present.

The next regular meeting of the Sutton County Commissioners Court is slated for January 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sutton County Annex Building.

FINCHER:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spent many hours on the road with him, driving behind a bus of football players, traveling to and from out of town games.

When W. W. "Bill" Webster was elected Sutton County Sheriff, in 1977, Fincher joined him as a deputy.

Their first big case involved a nation-wide manhunt for a man who robbed and shot another man, leaving him for dead.

Fincher recalls the incident happening around the start of deer season. Hunters found a victim by the side of the road where he lay severely wounded and paralyzed from a gunshot wound.

He crawled to the location after spending three days in the woods.

Fincher and Webster searched and finally located the fugitive. They both flew to Casper, Wyoming to bring him back to Sutton County where he was found guilty and sentenced to the Texas State Penitentiary. Later, that person was also found guilty and sentenced for a similar crime that he committed in California.

"That's a bad guy," Fincher said. "That's what I refer to as a crook or a bad guy. It's good to get them off the street."

Following in Webster's footsteps, Fincher eventually ran for office and was elected Sheriff in November of 2000 and began his duties as Sheriff in January 2001.

Through the years, he has nurtured the office, helping it grow on many levels including technology, equipment and personnel.

"A lot has changed since my first time with the Sheriff's department," Fincher said. "In 1977, when Sheriff Webster and I walked into the Sutton County Sheriff's office, located at the old jail, we had a manual

typewriter and two worn out patrol cars total. And, pile of keys sat in the middle of the table. It's come a long way since then."

Fincher has earned grant monies to help fund necessary equipment and supplies for the department. He also kept a close eye on the budget. Spending money on things that the department needed instead of just wanted.

Of course, like any job, Fincher admits that this one has drawbacks too.

"Low pay, Fincher said. "And, not being too popular when you have to enforce the law."

He also confesses that there have been a few times when he was scared. Just a few.

Aside from that, Fincher said he would do it all again.

Of course, none of it would be possible without his wife, Karen. He said he owes her a debt of gratitude for her unconditional love and support throughout the years. He said he thinks the hardest part of all must be, "just putting up with him."

"I couldn't have done it without Karen," Fincher said. "It just wouldn't have worked. She has kept me on the straight and narrow. She steered me along in the direction that I was supposed to do things - the right way."

Fincher and his wife have been married almost 30-years and together, they raised five children.

Karen said she admires her husband describing him as a good person and a man of strong integrity. "I knew he worked in law enforcement when I married him," Karen Fincher said. "I wouldn't have done it if I didn't want to. He is a good man."

They have countless good memories to name just one. However, she remembers the year 2000 as

one of the best. That year Fincher was elected Sheriff shortly before the Broncos won the State Football Championship.

"That was a good year," Fincher said.

As for the long hours and worrying about his safety from time to time, Karen said she didn't mind his demanding schedule of long hours and unpredictable events.

"He is the perfect person for this job," Karen said.

"Anybody who knows him knows that. I am proud of him and the respect that so many people have for him."

And, although he didn't encourage any of his children to follow in his footsteps, they did.

Three of Fincher's sons perform duties in law enforcement.

Ty Fincher works as a jailer for Sutton County. Tracy Fincher is the Assistant Police Chief for the San Angelo Police Department and Joel "Tate" Fincher also works for the SAPD as a K-9 officer.

His stepson, Kent McNally, is an oil field worker and lives in Sweetwater and his stepdaughter, Kendra Vyvlecka, lives in Sonora.

As for anyone looking at a career in law enforcement, Fincher said, "It's going to be a challenge. The pay is poor. You're not going to get rich or advance quickly. And, it's going to be a hard road trying to keep up. But, it would be rewarding for the right individual."

As for him and the future, Fincher said he will continue to go to the Sonora Broncos football games, take his grandson fishing and even go to the grocery store once in a while.

Mostly, Fincher is looking forward to days when life is a little less demanding and he can do whatever he wants to do whenever he wants to do it.

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

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Sunday Worship @ 10:45 am
Wednesday @ 6:00

St. Ann Catholic Church

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311 W. Plum St.
(325) 387-2278
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Sunday Mass @ 8:00 am
Spanish and 10:30 am English

Church of Christ

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(325) 387-3190
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@ 5:30 pm
KHOS 92.1 Radio 8:00 Sundays

St. John's Episcopal Church

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(325) 387-2955
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First United Methodist Church

Bill Harris, Pastor
205 North Water Ave.
(325) 387-2466
Sunday Worship @ 10:55 am

Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd

Lewis Allen, Pastor
401 East Mulberry St.
(325) 387-2616
Sunday Services @ 11:00 am
and 5:30 pm

Hope Lutheran

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(325) 387-5366
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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The City of Sonora is taking applications for an Operator at the Wastewater Plant. Qualified applicant must have a Class C Wastewater Certification or a college degree. Applicant must be able to pass a physical exam and drug screen. Benefits include Retirement, Health and Life Insurance, Vacation, Sick Leave and Holiday pay. All applicants are subject to a criminal background check. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For further information, applicants can call City Hall at (325)387-2558. The City of Sonora is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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3 Positions Open
Duty Station: Rocksprings, Texas
These positions will be 40 hours per week for a period of six months.
Housing will be furnished and pay will be at a rate of \$7.50 per hour or better depending on funding. Applicants will be required to have graduated High School or have completed a GED.
Applicants will be required to pass a background check and to have a current Texas Driver's License. Since this is a career training position, in cooperation with Texas Workforce Services there are some special requirements as to present income and government assistance to be eligible.
Duties: Trainees will receive detailed classroom instruction on wildlife damage identification, wildlife control techniques and methods, such as how to use various types of traps, snares, toxicants, and support of aerial operations. When trainees have reached a level of competence they will be assigned to assist local wildlife specialist in the daily operation of their duties. They must accomplish an acceptable level of accomplishment and will be evaluated as they progress through the program. Upon completion of the program they will receive a certificate of completion which will give them special consideration if they chose to continue a career in the field of wildlife damage management. Full time positions are regularly advertised in most states on a regular basis.
Applications/Resumes will be accepted by the following locations: Uvalde District Office 122 North East Street, Uvalde, TX 78801. Tel. 830.278.4464 Fax. 830.278.1472

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Mary Tatum Classic



Avery Leamon cuts around a player on her way to the net during a game between the Lady Broncos and Christoval on December 9, 2016. The Lady Broncos participated in the Reagan County Mary Tatum Classic during the holiday break December 29 and 30.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



LADY BRONCOS
DECEMBER 30, 2016

Sonora 03 - 07 - 12 - 13 = 35
Ozona 18 - 13 - 04 - 13 = 48

SCORERS: Angela Gonzales 2; Audry Nolen 1; Carly Brown 1; Keeley Moore 8; Riley Walker 21; Rivers Martinez 2.


Sonora 05 - 07 - 12 - 07 = 31
Grape Creek 12 - 10 - 10 - 22 = 54

SCORERS: Angela Gonzales 2; Audry Nolen 17; Carly Brown 2; Keeley Moore 6; Riley Walker 4.



Jackilyn Sykes goes for a lay-up and 2 points during a game between Sonora and Brackett on December 9, 2016. The Lady Broncos competed against area high schools in the recent Reagan County Mary Tatum Classic December 29 and 30.

KIMBERLEY MEYER | THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS



LADY BRONCOS
DECEMBER 29, 2016

Sonora 04 - 08 - 09 - 08 = 29
Pecos 08 - 13 - 10 - 18 = 49

SCORERS: Angela Gonzales 1; Audry Nolen 10; Carly Brown 2; Keeley Moore 4; Riley Walker 12.

Sonora 11 - 06 - 05 - 05 = 27
Stanton 25 - 23 - 16 - 14 = 78

SCORERS: Angela Gonzales 1; Audry Nolen 2; Carly Brown 4; Keeley Moore 5; Riley Walker 15.



Annslee Ramseyer was awarded first place for her coloring art in the children 1-5- years category of the Sonora Bank Christmas Coloring Contest.

| COURTESY PHOTO

Sonora Bank Hosts 1st Annual Christmas Coloring Contest

Younsters in the community ranging in age from one year to eighteen years participated in the first annual Sonora Bank Christmas coloring contest this past December.

The winners in each of three categories were announced on December 21st. All three received a \$25 gift certificate in addition to a bag full of goodies from the bank.

First, Annslee Ramseyer earned the top award for her coloring talent in the ages 1-5 years competition.

Next, Melissa Mota

showed up her competitors taking first place in the ages 6-11 years category. Finally, Fernanda Gonzales wowed the judges with her coloring talent in the ages 12-18-years group.

The three categories offered an opportunity for youngsters to compete at a level appropriate to their age group.

Sonora Bank Vice President Tonya Brown said although it is a new event this year for the bank to host, she is pleased with the turnout and she hopes that it will continue to grow in the future.

Hurd on the Hill: Priorities for a Second Term

Making Government More Responsible, Efficient and Accountable

As we welcome a new year and a new legislative session, my team and I are ready for another successful term.

The 115th Congress offers a fresh start for many legislative reforms that lawmakers have been working towards for years. Together, the new Congress has the opportunity to achieve major national benchmarks like replacing Obamacare with truly affordable patient-centered care; making our tax code fairer, flatter and simpler; and rolling back the overwhelming regulations that stifle job growth and innovation, among others. I'm hopeful and excited to work together with my colleagues to make government more responsive,

efficient, and accountable for all Americans.

It has always been my highest priority to keep Americans safe from harm. As our relationship with Russia becomes increasingly complicated, ISIS continues to terrorize the western world, and we become progressively dependent on secure online systems, the need is greater than ever to continue authoring national security and cybersecurity legislation to keep Americans safe.

I am also committed to continuing to offer my constituents the Gold Standard when it comes to two-way communication and the services that my office provides. As evidence of this, in the last two years I responded to over 50,000

constituent letters, helped over 1,000 constituents with casework, and hosted over 400 public meetings throughout the district. My constituents can expect this standard as long as I have the honor of representing you, and I look forward to thousands more opportunities to interact, hear your opinions, and help you with federal agencies.

In addition to those continued goals, the 115th Congressional session offers an opportunity to improve trade deals and strengthen relations with Texas's number one trading partner—Mexico. My district includes over 800 miles of the Texas-Mexico border, and I am dedicated to finding ways to upgrade NAFTA so

that border communities from Eagle Pass to El Paso can continue to thrive economically.

On top of this, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to make healthcare affordable by empowering patients, not bureaucrats; to provide regulatory relief for millions of Texas businesses; and to clean up the VA so that our veterans can count on receiving the care that they have earned.

We certainly have our work cut out for us, but we are armed with a new Congress and a clean slate. I am optimistic for the progress we will make over the next two years with a united government, and excited for what we will accomplish together.

Statewide Poll Shows Nursing Homes at Tipping Point

Funding, other issues during legislative session to determine direction of long term care in state

(AUSTIN, Texas) — Texas nursing homes are underfunded and facing a crisis — but that's no surprise to Texans.

A recent survey conducted by Opinion Access, a NY-based polling firm, thru support from the American Health Care Association shows that 81 percent of Texans agree nursing homes in Texas are facing a crisis because the state is not adequately funding them.

"These results are alarming, but not surprising," said Kevin Warren, president and CEO of the Texas Health Care Association, which advocates for better skilled nursing care. "Texas has shortchanged seniors now for nearly 20 years, and the strain is really starting to show."

To the 41 percent of Texans who reported visiting a skilled nursing facility in the last year, the issue is personal. The evidence of

the state's chronic underfunding of long term care, is abundant.

High staff turnover — as much as 94 percent for registered nurses — means there's always a new face taking care of loved ones. Current funding levels make it difficult to invest in facility renovations or new equipment. And a recent in-depth study of nursing home inspections shows as nursing home care continues to improve across the nation, Texas is lagging. Texas posted a nearly 20-percent increase in the total number of health deficiencies cited in nursing home surveys and a 3-percent increase in severe deficiencies from 2010 to 2014.

"Texas can do better than that," Warren said. "The good news out of this poll is that 74 percent of Texans say funding for nursing homes to care for low-income seniors is just

as important as spending on transportation, water and education. We've got the will to fix this."

The poll also revealed 80 percent of Texans say they support lawmakers who oppose additional Medicaid cuts to nursing homes and that the state should look elsewhere to balance the budget. "Texans are fiscal conservatives, but they think it's important to look after the elderly and most vulnerable among us," Warren said.

Other findings from the survey include:

- 58 percent of Texans say they would be less likely to vote for a legislator who voted to cut millions in Medicaid payments to nursing homes and skilled nursing centers
- 79 percent would support a proposal to allow Texas nursing homes to receive additional funding from the federal government without costing the

state budget

- 65 percent say insurance companies should not be allowed to discontinue contracting with nursing homes possibly forcing residents covered by these companies to move to another facility

- 70 percent believe a nursing should be allowed to correct errors before being fined
- And 53 percent oppose changing the law to allow someone with a concealed handgun license to carry a concealed handgun in a nursing home

Warren said his organization will use this new data as they prepare for the start of the 85th Texas Legislature in January. "We've got innovative plans to improve the quality of care in Texas nursing homes that won't cost a penny of the state's general fund," Warren said. "This is a crisis that Texas can easily avoid."



Melissa Mota was awarded first place for her coloring art in the children, ages 6-11 years, category for the Sonora Bank Coloring Contest.

| COURTESY PHOTO



Fernanda Gonzales, was awarded first place for her coloring art in the youth ages 12-18 category for Sonora Bank Coloring Contest.

| COURTESY PHOTO